

El Editor

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VOL. XXXI No. 48

Week of Sept. 18-24-, 2008

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock/West Texas Region

Liliana Cordero Crowned Miss Hispanic Lubbock Flores up to his Old Campaign Tricks

Liliana Cordero, a Texas Tech University graduate student, majoring in Clinical Psychology was crowned the 2008 Miss Hispanic Lubbock.

Cordero won the pageant competition during the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant which was held last Friday at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. She was selected from a field of 8 contestants.

Cordero says she feels "extremely grateful for this opportunity" and that the "sense of accomplishment and excitement" has not left her yet. She says that other than her family not being with her in Lubbock to be able to celebrate the honor with her, she is "enjoying every moment".

Cordero says that she has met "many wonderful individuals and I am looking forward to working with each one of them in order to enhance" the community.

Cordero told El Editor that she entered the contest after coincidentally running into last year's winner Amanda Salazar while taping a segment for the "Si se Puede" television show. She says she "got a really good feeling" about the pageant and the idea of entering appealed to her because she felt that the "pageant would be a great opportunity to endorse a very important message in the Hispanic community". That message also turned into her

platform. Each contestant is asked to select a platform on which they will work should they win and Cordero selected "Adelante con la Salud" or in English; "Moving Ahead with Mental Health" as hers. She says her platform "centers on educating the Hispanic community about mental health issues in an effort to reduce some of the barriers to obtaining adequate mental health care."

Cordero says that the issues surrounding mental health are "not at the forefront" in the Hispanic community and that she feels "a need to promote this health concern". When asked if she felt that mental health should be a concern in the Hispanic community Cordero says that "Mental health awareness is definitely something the Hispanic community should be concerned with since it is a health issue like any other, yet there is also additional stigma attached to it that must be addressed".

So what's next for the newly crowned winner? "After I finish my graduate studies at Texas Tech I plan on working at a community health center or other agency that works with underserved populations. I would like to take on a supervisory position in addition to seeing clients on a part-time basis. I am particularly interested in working with Spanish-speaking populations since there is currently a lack of Spanish-speaking professionals. I am unsure as to what part of the country I will end up in, so at this point I am looking at all my options."

Cordero is the daughter of Maria Ines and Enrique Cordero. She was sponsored by Solid Gold Wheels; the Texas Tech Going Band Color Guard and the Cordero and Vigil families.

Photo by John P. Cervantez



Cordero received a \$2,500 dollar scholarship for winning the competition. First runner up was Melissa Garcia who is a student at Lubbock Christian University studying Criminal Justice and who received a \$1000 dollar scholarship. Second runner up went to Alicia Montes who was awarded a \$500 dollar scholarship. Other contestants were Lora Baron; Rachel Flores; Ashley Leal; Lizette Bayona; and Valerie Onsurez. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Two weeks ago, El Editor reported that Democratic candidate for Lubbock County Precinct 3 Commissioner Gilbert Flores could have jeopardized the non profit status of a local relief agency.

The Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation is a local non profit agency which helps seasonal and migrant farm workers with food and other services.

In the previous story, we reported that Flores had placed an election sign on property owned by GESC. But because GESC is a non-profit corporation and enjoys tax free status by the IRS; it must adhere to certain regulations and requirements.

One of those requirements is to stay out of the political arena. As a non profit; GESC cannot endorse a political candidate nor do anything which implies they are supporting one political candidate over another.

This past week; sources provided additional photographs to El Editor which shows that once again; Flores may be jeopardizing the non profit status of the organization by using its facilities as a storage place for his election signs. The photographs were taken this past week and provided to El Editor.

After the first incident involving the sign on GESC property; El Editor asked current Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez for his thoughts on the matter. Gutierrez issued a strong condemnation of Flores' continued use of GESC to further his political ambitions.

Gutierrez said: "What Gilbert Flores did is no surprise to those who know him. His cunning is surpassed only by his selfishness. He cares nothing about jeopardizing the status of the non-profit organization as long as he gains something for himself. When the light of truth shines on Gilbert Flores he blames his supporters and campaign workers for the dishonest act while he scurries and hides in the dark to await the next opportune time".

For Flores; it seems the "next opportune time" is now. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



"Stop the Hate" Website Launched

Washington, DC—A revamped website launched by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) documents how hate groups in the U.S. have been reenergized by the immigration debate and how the growing intolerance fanned by these groups is leading to a record increase in hate crimes against Latinos.

The acclaimed website, www.WeCanStopTheHate.org spotlights hate in the immigration debate with analyses of the leading groups, spokespeople, and media allies of the anti-immigrant movement.

"Given that dozens of anti-immigrant talk show hosts and organizations have descended on Capitol Hill this week, it is especially important that information on what these entities are really all about is readily available to those interested in combating intolerance," noted Janet Murguia, NCLR President and CEO. "Regardless of how one feels about immigration policy, we can all agree that a hate-filled debate is not acceptable."

The website, originally launched in January of this year, has been redesigned to make it easier for visitors and users to find information, obtain the latest updates, and learn how to get involved. Its features include an extensive library of videos on the links between anti-immigrant and extremist organizations throughout the country; fact sheets on, among other topics, the code words of hate used in the debate and the most prominent media spokespeople from these anti-immigrant and extremist groups; and frequently updated posts, called "The Latest," on incidents of hate in the media, from policymakers and others.

The new website can be found at www.WeCanStopTheHate.org

News Briefs

Candidates Debate to be Held in October

A debate between candidates for the Lubbock County Commissioner's Court has been scheduled for October.

According to a press release; SPARTAN Tax Payer Association is hosting a candidate for commissioner debate Oct 14th at the YWCA located at 3101 35th St from 6:30-8:30 PM. This will be for all candidates in the Precinct 1 and 3 races.

Candidates in Precinct 1 are Republican incumbent Bill McCay who is going up against local Lubbock businessman and Democrat John E. Miller.

In Precinct 3; Republican Frank Gutierrez is facing Democrat Gilbert Flores.

A panel of media will ask questions of the candidates. The moderator for the debate will be Mikel Ward.

The YWCA will be set up for 200 attendees
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

LULAC Asks US Justice Department to Initiate Investigation into Hispanic Beating

Washington, DC—The last beating in July led to the death of a Mexican immigrant. And now the League of United Latin American Citizens in response to news that another young Latino boy has been beaten in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania calls on the United States Department of Justice to open a federal civil rights investigation.

The 19 year-old was allegedly waking home late Thursday night and was struck from behind. Reports mention that his eyes were bandaged up and he was abducted. He was then pushed out of the vehicle and left on the street. The boy was taken to the hospital and the authorities were contacted. He was struck with an item and his body and head blows require stitches and staples.

"LULAC will be monitoring this tragic incident closely working alongside the proper authorities to make sure that justice prevails. We have seen the increase of hate crimes against Latinos in recent years by 37 percent as documented by the FBI in a report that was released last fall," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "We cannot stand by as these atrocities are committed and ask the entire community to unite."

LULAC will be sending representatives to the area to meet with community members and authorities. LULAC also called upon the local U.S. Attorney's office to closely monitor the local investigation and prosecution.

The last beating incident in Shenandoah was on July 12th which led to the death of a Mexican immigrant who was attacked in a public park by a group of white teens yelling ethnic slurs. He died two days after the brutal beating.

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McCain missing as Obama Pitches Latino Advocates

By José de la Isla and Jackie Guzmán
Hispanic Link News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama hit hard at John McCain, his absent opponent, at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's gala at Washington, D.C.'s convention center Sept. 10.

He expanded on his reform theme to an audience of 2,300 political and social activists, tying it to Latino community concerns. He called the imperative for change "a debate I look forward to have" with the Republican nominee who serves with him in the U.S. Senate. The first of three scheduled presidential debates is set for Sept. 26 in Oxford, Mississippi.

McCain was also invited to address the gala, but his campaign declined, citing a scheduling conflict. Had he accepted, he would have most likely been confronted by a mostly Democratic audience. A preview of the narrowing themes expected in the presidential debates would have occurred.

As the flashpoint theme, immigration — in

its broadest considerations — increasingly is a central focus in making appeals to Hispanic audiences. Domestic economics, the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, policy experience and capacity for the job have dominated the national discourse. The topic of immigration reform has often been skirted.

Due largely to strident legislative efforts by some GOP members of Congress to launch legislation that would criminalize undocumented immigrants, the Republican Party isn't viewed favorably among pro-reform Latino elements within the party and among other sympathizers. A recent study by Sergio Bendixen shows the position in several critical states has the potential to cost the Republicans.

"There are many ways to describe Senator McCain's agenda," Obama told the audience, "but change isn't one of them."

He referred to immigrants who "come here with so little, but with big dreams, big hearts and a willingness to struggle and sacrifice." He related this to the experience of his own father, who came from Kenya to study when he met

Obama's mother.

The candidate referred to the oft-repeated line that McCain would be a continuation of the "failed policies of the folks in the White House."

He called for a "stop of the hateful rhetoric" about the 12 million undocumented people "living in the shadows."

About McCain's prior position on immigration reform, when he co-sponsored with Sen. Edward Kennedy a reform bill, then later rescinded his position, Obama said, "If you cannot trust him to stand up for reform in his own party, how can you trust him to stand for reform in Washington?"

Obama had been leading in national polls until recent polling suggested some weakening following the Republican Convention and McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate.

"I can't do this alone," he said. "So I'm here tonight to ask for your help." He said Latinos will make the election difference in Florida, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico and the

election outcome. "So I'm not taking a single Hispanic vote for granted in this campaign."

CHCI spokesman Scott Gunderson Rosa said both presidential candidates were extended invitations in early spring to address the gala audience. A day prior to his Sept. 10 scheduled appearance, McCain's campaign sent a letter to CHCI chairman Joe Baca and executive director Esther Aguilera saying "an unforeseen scheduling conflict" would prevent the senator's appearance.

That followed an Aug. 28 CHCI press release stating McCain had agreed to address the group. The McCain camp's letter was received 11 days later. Campaign spokesperson Hessa Fernández decried, "Sen. John McCain never confirmed that he would be attending."

In addition to the Sept. 26 debate, others are set for Oct. 7 and 15. Vice-presidential candidates Palin and Joseph Biden will debate Oct. 2. (José de la Isla and Jackie Guzmán report for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail them at editor@hispaniclink.com.) ©2008

GOP remarks on Hispanic Heritage month don't mention immigration

GOP remarks on Hispanic Heritage month don't mention immigration

Today, the anniversary of Mexico's declaration of independence from Spain, begins Hispanic Heritage Month in the US.

Hispanic voters are expected to vote in unprecedented numbers this year, driven largely by concerns about the US immigration system. Polling like this one from Gallup anticipates they will break strongly to the Democrats, possibly as much as 60% to 30%.

Obama and McCain today distributed statements praising Hispanics' contributions to American society and their military service. Obama also called for comprehensive immigration reform. McCain didn't mention it. That's curious because polling [pdf] from Democratic research group NDN shows that immigration is the top concern for Hispanic voters.

Obama's full statement: This month, I join all Americans in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. It's a time to honor the achievements and sacrifices of Hispanic Americans, from their

long and proud tradition of military service to the visionary leadership of César Chavez to today's ongoing struggles for opportunity and prosperity. It's a time to recognize all Hispanic Americans who have helped write the social, economic, and cultural story of America.

And after all the progress we have made together, we cannot turn back. We must march ahead. I've walked alongside the Hispanic community in Chicago, I've stood with you at immigration rallies, and I will fight for you in the White House. And now is the time for us to create good-paying jobs, reduce the student dropout rate, and finally enact the DREAM Act. It's time to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform, provide 15 million uninsured Latinos with affordable, high-quality health care, and end the war in Iraq. It's time to make sure the next four years don't look just like the last eight.

At this moment, in this election, we must pledge once more to always march ahead. What has always distinguished the Hispanic community — and what distinguishes us as Americans — is our belief

that in America, you can make it if you try. This month, and every month, we keep that promise. This November, we must renew it.

McCain said:

This month, we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the many contributions that Hispanic Americans make each and every day to the United States. Our country would be poorer were we deprived of the patriotism, industry and decency of Hispanic Americans who have made this country better and stronger. We honor those who have come here to live the American dream, we recognize those who have been here for generations, and we thank those who are serving our nation in uniform here and overseas.

Up until mid-2007 McCain was a strong proponent of comprehensive immigration reform, the short-cut name for a programme that would establish a path to legal status for the 12m illegal aliens already here and create some sort of guest worker programme for those who want to enter the country and take jobs Americans don't want. But he tracked to the right during

the Republican primary, when the candidates tried to out do each other with tougher rhetoric and policy pronouncements on the issue.

The Republican party also released a statement praising Hispanics' military service and dedication to our government through their "large participation in record numbers in the current Republican Administration. But no mention of immigration there either.

NDN President Simon Rosenberg said McCain is in a jam. He said McCain knows that Hispanics are a key bloc this year but can't buck the anti-immigration right. Rosenberg thinks that is why McCain didn't mention immigration in the statement.

He's in a very tough position. The position that he took the win the Republican nomination was to move away from his traditional advocacy for immigration reform, which may have helped him win the Republican nomination. But it's hurting him with Hispanics. He's going to have to live with those consequences.

Editorials

Adelante con Las Fiestas del Llano!

As we close out another year on the Fiestas del Llano; organizers and volunteers should be applauded for their hard work and dedication to this year's event.

From the opening act; the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant to the closing musical act and "El Grito de Dolores" held at Guadalupe Catholic Church this past Monday the 15th; our view is that all went well and organizers should be congratulated for all their success.

And when we take into account that the fiesta weekend came on the heels of a "one hundred year flood" as Mayor Martin referred to last week's torrential rains; we only appreciate their efforts more.

We recognize that some of the volunteers could have been adversely affected by the weather here and that some may have had relatives who live in the Houston or Galveston area who were in Ike's path. Yet they persevered and worked hard to make sure all went as smoothly as possible. And judging by what we hear; all events went on as scheduled.

The only suggestion that we would have for organizers is perhaps the board should try and find a way to do away with the individual entry fee. Yes; we realize that organizers must make money to offset the costs of the event; but many families are hard pressed to pay the \$5 per person entry fee. Add in the cost of the kids and the amount quickly adds up.

We would also acknowledge that the entertainment is diverse and just as good as one would see at any other Lubbock venue and alone may be worth the price of admission; but still we worry about the number of people who may not be able to afford to attend the events on consecutive days to enjoy all the entertainment and celebrate their heritage.

Perhaps the Board of Directors will make it their priority to find alternate sources of funding so that many more people can attend the fiestas next year?

The More Debates the Better

With less than 45 days left before early voting in the November General Election begins, we look forward to the Presidential and Vice Presidential debates which will take place between the respective party candidates.

We have always felt that debates are the most important part of the political process and serve to inform the voters as to which candidate is better prepared to serve. And we wholeheartedly say that if a candidate refuses to debate for political convenience reasons; voters should think long and hard before voting for that particular candidate.

That is why we are glad to hear that debates will be held in mid October between the candidates for the Precinct 1 and 3 Lubbock County Commissioner's seats.

We think the voters will be well served if the two candidates for Precinct 3; Republican Frank Gutierrez and Democrat Gilbert Flores; and the two for Precinct 1; Republican Bill McCay and Democrat John E. Miller engage in serious debate about the issues.

In fact; we would welcome as many debates as possible, otherwise the races will be based on election signs and personalities or perhaps voters voting for a political party rather than a candidate's qualifications or the issues.

Our Communities Health is at Stake

This week; we address the health of our community. In particular we would like to bring some attention to a debilitating disease which continues to touch the Hispanic community in disproportionate numbers for genetic reasons or lifestyle choices.

That illness is Diabetes. Diabetes is a debilitating disease which can lead to serious consequences if not cared for. It can have deadly consequences if not properly treated but can be managed and lived with if it is caught early and treated properly by a health professional.

In the Hispanic community for example many people are slow to react and often overlook the symptoms. Consequently, by the time they get to a medical professional; chances are that the disease has progressed to a serious point.

According to the National Institutes of Health; 10.4 percent of Hispanics ages 20 years or older have been diagnosed with diabetes. And 11.9% of Mexican Americans are part of that group.

So this is not something that should be taken lightly. According to the American Diabetes Association some diabetes symptoms include:

frequent urination; excessive thirst; extreme hunger; unusual weight loss; increased fatigue; irritability; blurry vision; these are just some of the symptoms we should be on the lookout for.

The American Diabetes Association suggests that "If you have one or more of these diabetes symptoms, see your doctor right away". You can also take their online diabetes risk test online and you will find the information at www.diabetes.org

If you don't have a computer, you can go to the public library and access the website there. But whatever you do, if you have experienced any of the symptoms described above, don't ignore them. Do some research and make an appointment to see your doctor before it is too late.

Change is Coming" – So Says John McCain

By Abel Cruz

The 2 operative words coming out of the Republican Convention were "change" and "liberal".

The word liberal I understand. After all it has been in the Republican's vocabulary playbook for umpteen years and it is used as sort of a call to arms to whip the Republican base into a frenzy and into doing whatever they can to keep a "liberal Democrat" from winning the White House. It's the word change that I have trouble with.

For example; in an election year when it is expected that the African American vote will be crucial; black delegates accounted for just 1.5% of the 2,380 Republican convention delegates. Only 36 delegates were African American and I believe the number of Hispanic delegates was also in the 30's. The 36 delegates represent the lowest number of African American delegates to a Republican convention in 40 years. That number is down from 150 from just 4 years ago.

How can John McCain say he represents change when all one sees is a sea of white faces during the televised portion of the Republican convention?

Sorry; but I just can't believe that someone like John McCain who is symbolic of old ways Washington can bring about change. Think about it; how many 72 year olds do you know who embrace change. Usually by that age they are set in their ways and change is the last thing on their mind.

Another thing that is being overplayed in the campaign is the war hero thing. Yes, I know McCain was a prisoner of war; I know that for Republicans it is almost sacrilegious to say anything bad about him in that regard.

My hat is off to John McCain for his military service and the 5 years he had to endure as a prisoner of war; that's all I heard during the speeches at the Republican convention.

They are banking on the American public buying into the hero thing; and that in itself is just not enough to make me want to vote for someone to be our President.

And speaking of Republicans; did you catch the recent NewsChannel 11 report about County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez switching political parties and becoming a Republican?

Gutierrez told the television station that "after I had a good chance to evaluate the platforms of the Republican Party, after this convention, I believe that I belong to the Republican Party".

I for one would be interested in knowing what in the platform made the commissioner switch. I would like to know what specifically he sees in the Republican Party platform that makes him think that he "belongs" in that party.

I have no problem with Commissioner Gutierrez switching political affiliation; just interested in what is in the Republican Party platform that initiated the change; that's all.

So when John McCain uses the phrase "lipstick on a pig" in reference to Hillary Clinton's health care plan its funny. But when Barack Obama uses the same exact phrase in reference to John McCain's economic policy; the McCain camp goes nuts and demands an apology. Nothing but pathetic politics.

Just because Palin used the lipstick reference during her speech at the Republican convention does not mean the word lipstick used by anyone else is an effort to insult her. Get real!

This is exactly why I grow more and more cynical about our political system and the way we elect our President. I can assure you that there will be more than a few voters who will believe this crap and not vote for Obama because they believe he has insulted Palin. Pretty sad really.

And speaking of Palin; I have watched her no less than 3 times in television reports in the past couple of weeks at campaign events and nothing has changed from when she gave her canned speech; filled with unfunny one-liners at the Republican convention. She still uses the same old lines which I have just about memorized; surely they can come up with something new.

The most annoying; "I told Congress thanks but no thanks on that bridge to nowhere" What she does not say is that she kept the over \$223 million dollars Congress had already sent the state to build the stupid bridge; pretty convenient huh?

And by the looks of things; aside from the interview with ABC's Charlie Gibson last week; she won't be giving any other interviews anytime soon. Unless maybe it's with FOX News; whose reporters and news show anchors would probably do everything but rub her feet. It's a shame she hasn't yet.

Another thing we heard non stop at the Republican convention was how the "surge" had worked and how wonderful things are in Iraq now. Question: if it worked so well; what in world are over 140,000 of our American troops still doing there.

Two things here; first, the surge worked in that it managed to decrease the level of insurgency and the violence. That was a given; it stands to reason that if you have more American troops engaged in combat; you are going to make a difference.

But the surge was also meant to buy time for the Iraqi government to establish and adopt an oil revenue sharing law and to establish the rules for the elections in the separate provinces. That has not happened; and therefore in my opinion the surge did not achieve its original goal of reconciliation.

Let's face it, the Iraqi government is in no hurry to see us leave or to see us stop spending American tax dollars for their reconstruction costs and their economy.

Think the Iraqi government is stupid? They may say they want us to leave but as long as we are willing to pour billions and billions of dollars into their country; the Iraqi government will find a place for us there.

Case in point; last month The New York Times reported that the Iraqi government would have a surplus of about \$79 billion dollars by the end of this year and that the Federal Reserve Bank had to pay \$435.6 million dollars in interest alone just for one of their bank deposits in 2007.

In addition to that; taxpayers in this country have spent approximately \$48 billion dollars in Iraq reconstruction costs since the war began. By our own government's figures; American taxpayers have spent \$23.2 billion in the "critical areas of security, oil, electricity and water" since 2003 according to the same report.

Contrast that to the amount spent by the Iraqi government; just \$3.9 billion between 2005 and 2008.

In this instance; the Iraqi's have become quick learners; and billions of American tax dollars and having their own private security military force of 140,000 has trumped their nationalistic attitudes and diminished their desire for us to leave anytime soon.

With that much money in the bank; would you be?
Email: acruzsc@aol.com

"Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Obama Slipping

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

Obama is slipping in the polls and he has no one but himself to blame. Since the campaign first kicked off, Obama has been the McCain campaign's best friend and much more so this week. Obama supporters are at the point of asking themselves, "Did we nominate the wrong guy?" These would be funny if the downward spiral in this week's poll wasn't so serious.

For political junkies, this year's campaign makes for great sport. We've seen more surprises than ever. Some of the biggest surprises were the Obama endorsement by Oprah and the Kennedy family. The Bill Richardson endorsement was also a big surprise not only to political junkies but especially to his longtime friends Bill and Hillary Clinton.

The biggest surprise of all was the defeat of Hillary. Hillary was the presumptive nominee long before anyone outside of Chicago ever heard of Barack Obama. Hillary assumed she would win easily. She was wrong.

Many pundits content that Hillary lost the nomination because of overconfidence. Her campaign assumed she would have everything neatly wrapped up by Super Tuesday. She didn't. In fact she was unprepared and unorganized for the primary fights that followed. Realizing the blunder she sent Bill to Texas and won, but her victories came too late in the game and she lost the nomination. For Obama, Hillary's victory in Texas became the precursor of things to come. Following Super Tuesday, Obama remained static in the polls at around 46% leaving room for John McCain to catch up.

This commentator has chronicled Obama's gradual downward spiral in the polls. At one point Obama was 15 points ahead of McCain. However, this week - for the first time ever - pundit poll watchers are predicting a McCain/Palin victory in November.

How could this happen? How is it possible for McCain to be ahead of Obama in Liberal havens like New York and New Jersey? There is only one answer. It is Obama himself who has helped McCain catch up and pass him.

The left wing liberals responsible for the nomination of Obama failed to heed the message that Hillary tearfully enjoined following her loss in New Hampshire - that she was the only Democrat with a chance to win a national election.

Unlike the stary eyed Obama-crats, the Republican electorate nominated what many pundits say was the only Republican who could win a national election - John McCain - a right of center moderate. All John McCain needed was a Vice Presidential running mate to solidify the conservative base. He found the perfect person - Sarah Palin who instantly energized the base.

This week, for the first time in the election season, the John McCain/Sarah Palin ticket has surpassed the Obama team in most polls. This development is not surprising nor would it be alarming if the drop wasn't in the proverbial swing states such as Ohio, Florida, and Minnesota. The problem for Obama is that even the "Blue States" are beginning to slide in favor of McCain.

El Hijo Del Alacrán

Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El

Pues, Ya que la ciudadno quiere hacer nada sobre "el puentencito", le deberian pedir a la Sra Palen que nos haga uno. Haber como les va!

Y me cuentan que a los de las fiestas haciendo un trabajo maravillos pero se oye por alli que la gente todavia no les gusta que le cobren en la puerta. Por quizas se va poder remediar eso el proximo año pero lo que me admiro yo es que ya llegaron los de la FAIR y la gente gasta 20 para entrar y paquiasse y bueno pero no repelan.

Por ultimo digo lo mismos que la semana pasada. Gibert Flores toda via no sabe que hay propiedad privada y que se miran muchos signs en casas vacantes y en parking lots. Ha y no deje de leer la historia de enfrente sobre sus pendejadas. Hasta anda tirando el periodico en la basura. Hasta la proxima.

El Editor

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet 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 or by calling us at 806-763-3841. Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

Publisher Bidal Agüero
Business Manager
Olga Riojas Agüero
Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz
Circulation: Daniel Peres and Maribel Perez
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Bush Orders 8,000 Troops Home from Iraq by Next Feb.

U.S. President George W. Bush said Tuesday that

the first half of 2009," Bush said.



he plans to withdraw about 8,000 U.S. troops from Iraq by next February and to send some 4,500 troops to Afghanistan next January.

In a speech at the National Defense University, Bush said that improving conditions in Iraq will allow a "quiet surge" of American troops to Afghanistan, where there has been a resurgence of the Taliban and a growth in violence.

The troop cut -- smaller than many had expected due to a desire not to jeopardize recent security gains made in Iraq -- was probably his final major decision on the Iraq war.

Bush said he is making the move based on a recommendation from top military officers, including David Petraeus, the highest-ranking U.S. military officer in Baghdad. "Petraeus and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended that we move forward with additional force reductions," the president said.

"Over the next several months, we will bring home about 3,400 combat support forces -- including aviation personnel, explosive ordnance teams, combat and construction engineers, military police, and logistical support forces. By November, we will bring home a Marine battalion that is now serving in Anbar province. And in February of 2009, another Army combat brigade will come home," he said.

"This amounts to about 8,000 additional American troops returning home without replacement. And if the progress in Iraq continues to hold, Petraeus and our military leaders believe additional reductions will be possible in

But any further troops will be made by his successor, and Bush will be out of office by then.

"While the enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, we have seized the offensive, and Iraqi forces are becoming increasingly capable of leading and winning the fight," he added.

Bush also said more work needs to be done in Afghanistan, where the number of U.S. forces has risen from 20,000 two years ago to 31,000 at present.

In November, a Marine battalion that had been poised to be sent to Iraq will instead be sent to Afghanistan and an Army combat brigade of several thousand fighters will go to Afghanistan in January, he said.

"They will help clarify a stark contrast in Afghanistan: While the terrorists and extremists deliberately target and murder the innocent, coalition and Afghan forces risk their lives to protect the innocent," he said.

But the president acknowledged the U.S. military is sometimes responsible for civilian deaths, which Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has complained bitterly about.

One analyst on Iraqi affairs said the plan announced Tuesday reflected concerns of U.S. commanders that any rush to force troop reductions could lead to instability.

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama wants all U.S. forces out of Iraq within 16 months of taking office while his Republican opponent, John McCain, also said there could be significant reductions of U.S. troop strength in Iraq within two years, though it is condition-based.

State Rep. Rick Noriega: Texas Needs Education Overhaul

Democratic Senate challenger Rick Noriega today said the federal government should give incentives for colleges and universities to "lock in" tuition and fees for a student's entire stay at the school.

Mr. Noriega, a five-term state representative from Houston, said he's read estimates that annual college costs for today's newborns will be at least \$50,000.

"How are Texas families going to do that?" he said, standing in front of an East Austin elementary school.

Mr. Noriega, noting many teachers in Texas middle schools and high schools weren't trained in college in the academic subjects they teach, also urged federal rewards for math and science majors who go into teaching.

He called for an overhaul of the No Child Left Behind Act so school districts aren't "cookie cut" and can meet goals following different

strategies. And he endorsed expanded federal funding of education programs, from Head Start and pre-kindergarten instruction in the early years to Pell grants and student loans in college.

"Washington is broken, especially in this policy area, and once again has failed to lead," Mr. Noriega said. "Our children's future is too important to send the same failed leadership to Washington for another six years."

Mr. Noriega trails in money and polls as he seeks to unseat Republican freshman Sen. John Cornyn.

Kevin McLaughlin, a Cornyn spokesman, said Mr. Noriega's education proposals are ill-advised.

"This is more federal government and John Cornyn is for more local control," he said. "Parents and teachers should decide what's best for kids, not the federal government."

Progreso en escuelas más no en colleges

El rendimiento de los estudiantes de educación primaria e intermedia ha mejorado pero los indicadores de la educación secundaria y college muestran muy poco progreso, dijo la secretaria de Educación, Margaret Spellings.

"Tenemos un largo camino por recorrer", dijo Spellings en una entrevista. "Ya hemos pasado lo peor. Hemos pasado de no progresar a tener un avance real".

Spellings citó algunos de los que calificó de indicadores básicos para hacer su análisis. Las cifras se presentaron en una conferencia sobre educación auspiciada por el Aspen Institute.

Los alumnos de escuelas primarias e intermedias han progresado porque ahí es donde se ha concentrado el trabajo, declaró Spellings.

La ley No dejar a ningún niño atrás --una propuesta de campaña del presidente Bush en el 2000 y que se firmó en el 2002-- tiene por fin asegurar que todos los alumnos lean y realicen las operaciones matemáticas que corresponden al grado que cursan para el 2014.

Este objetivo está todavía muy lejano, pero a los alumnos de cuarto y octavo grados les

va mejor. El año pasado los exámenes mostraron que 33 por ciento puede leer y hacer operaciones matemáticas del grado que cursan, en comparación con 25 por ciento en el 2000, según información del Departamento de Educación.

Los estudiantes de minorías también han mejorado. El porcentaje de estudiantes negros e hispanos con un rendimiento acorde con su grado fue 35 por ciento del nivel de los alumnos blancos no hispanos el pasado año, según el Departamento de Educación. Esto representó un aumento en relación con el 23 por ciento del 2000.

La ley exige que cada estado realice pruebas de lectura y matemáticas a los estudiantes de tercero a octavo grado y penaliza a las escuelas que no mejoren.

Spellings solicitó se realice el mismo tipo de fiscalización en las escuelas secundarias y los colleges, pues las cifras de estas instituciones no han cambiado en mucho tiempo.

El año pasado el por ciento de graduados de secundaria fue de 74, en comparación con 72 en el 2000.

La proporción de estudiantes

listos para tomar asignaturas universitarias fue de 42 por ciento, igual que en el 2000.

Spellings espera que las nuevas cifras significarán un mayor apoyo a la ley y a seguir desarrol-



Los trabajadores de 25 a 34 años con un un BA representaron 31 por ciento, en comparación con el 29 por ciento en el 2000.

"Graduarse de secundaria y estar preparado para entrar al college son dos cosas muy vinculadas, de la misma manera que graduarse de la universidad depende de la preparación que tenía el alumno antes de ingresar", dijo Spellings. "Nosotros apenas hemos comenzado a luchar por esto".

lando sus puntos principales. No será fácil. Las encuestas muestran que muchos ven negativamente la ley. Los sindicatos de maestros y otros critican con fuerza la ley.

Mientras tanto, el Congreso y el próximo presidente no tendrán prisa por prestarle atención a la ley, que el año pasado debió someterse a una revisión. Los problemas económicos, la guerra y los servicios médicos son asuntos mucho más urgentes.

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Covenant Health System to Host Diabetes Awareness Fair

LUBBOCK - Covenant Health System will host a diabetes awareness fair on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Knipling Education Conference Center, 21st Street and Louisville Ave. Jose Beceiro, M.D., endocrinologist, medical director for Covenant Center of Outpatient Diabetes Education, will speak on the latest updates in diabetes care.

Event schedule is as follows:

- 8-9 a.m.: Registration and informational booths
 - 9-9:30 a.m.: Light brunch
 - 9:30-10:30 a.m.: Keynote speaker, Dr. Jose Beceiro
 - 10:30 a.m.: Door prizes
 - 10:30-noon: Booths reopen for visitors
- The event is free of charge and open to the public. RSVP requested to



Big fights figure in Marquez's future

Juan Manuel Marquez was in danger of turning into boxing's Captain Ahab, obsessively chasing pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao through the years and across weight divisions in a futile quest for redemption.

After stopping the previously unstoppable Joel Casamayor on Saturday night, Marquez finally seems ready to move past his fixation on Pacquiao, who fought him to a draw in 2004 and earned a narrow split-decision victory in the rematch last March.

"That third fight isn't happening because of the people behind boxing," Marquez said. "But I went to 135 pounds to do better things, and I'm doing them. I did my part."

As Casamayor learned when Marquez sent him to the canvas twice in the decisive 11th round at the MGM Grand Garden, Marquez's preoccupation was no distraction in his 135-pound debut.

In fact, this Ahab just turned himself into the white whale for the rest of the loaded lightweight division.

Marquez became the linear 135-pound champion by beating Casamayor, and his combination of technical skills and drawing power will be a target for every other big-time lightweight's harpoon. Casamayor already wants a rematch, while Juan Diaz and Nate Campbell are likely to jostle for the next shot at just the fourth Mexican fighter to win championships in three divisions.

Even Vernon Forrest, who reclaimed his 154-pound title belt from Sergio Mora earlier in the night, wants a piece.

"Since De La Hoya is fighting Pacquiao, why not let me fight Marquez?" Forrest asked, drawing laughs even from the Golden Boy himself.

"We're leaving the doors wide open for any challenger for Juan Manuel Marquez," said Oscar De La Hoya, who has a day job as Marquez's promoter. "He jumped up to 135 (pounds) and made a huge statement in this division. I believe Juan Manuel Marquez will take a little break, and then we'll sit down with the champion and see what's in store for him, but I believe the future is very bright at 135 pounds."

Marquez would be wise to take on Diaz or Campbell - and perhaps both, to decisively clean out the division - instead of worrying another minute about Pacquiao, who has the WBC lightweight belt, but can make bigger money by getting bigger. His fight with De La Hoya on Dec. 6 is more likely to be followed by a brawl with Ricky Hatton than a dangerous third fight with Marquez.

"There's no way (Top Rank promoter) Bob Arum and Pacquiao are going to fight him again," Golden Boy Productions chief executive Richard Schaefer said. "I don't think Pacquiao wants anything to do with Juan Manuel Marquez any more. Juan Manuel Marquez will fight anyone. He's never turned down anyone. Have you ever heard him turn down any opponent?"

Marquez's most logical matchup is a fight with Diaz, the former three-belt lightweight champion who trounced Michael Katsidis last weekend in Houston. Diaz, who lost his belts to Campbell last March, fights with an aggression that would sell tickets - and Diaz also is a Golden Boy fighter, making the match easy for De La Hoya.

But Campbell also should be eager to risk those three belts. The 36-year-old veteran is overdue for a lucrative defense, particularly after Joan Guzman decided he didn't feel like fighting Campbell in Mississippi on Saturday, scrapping the champion's \$300,000 payday.

At 37, Casamayor finally is on his downslope, yet his long list of accomplishments will keep him on the biggest stages for a while longer. Though his sunglasses at the post-fight news conference hid obvious damage, Casamayor conceded little in defeat, saying he had taken more punishment in his previous losses to Acelino Freitas, Diego Corrales and Jose Luis Castillo.

"He's not as big a puncher as those guys, but he's a big combination puncher," Casamayor said. "He caught me with a good shot in there. He got my feet off the ground. It was a good, big-time shot."

Monday night lights up Texas Stadium for last time

Light shining out through the hole in the roof, the national audience watching on television and all the history.

The Dallas Cowboys' final home opener at Texas Stadium against Philadelphia also marked the last Monday night football game at the famed facility, which will be replaced next year by a gleaming new \$1 billion-plus glass-faced palace.

From Craig Morton throwing three touchdown passes in the first one to Herschel Walker's NFL debut, Emmitt Smith and Barry Sanders going head-to-head and Tony Romo getting his first extended playing time, there have been plenty of Monday night memories for the Cowboys at Texas Stadium.

For Romo, it was a Monday night game on Oct. 23, 2006 against the New York Giants, when the undrafted free agent from a small school replaced Drew Bledsoe after halftime. Romo has been the starter since and gone to two Pro Bowls.

Romo hasn't toured the new stadium yet. But he also isn't ready to get nostalgic about the

old stadium. "I'm definitely a nostalgic guy in the traditional sense of appreciating what was or what were great things," Romo said. "I love the history of this franchise and this organization and this stadium. I'm sure there will be a time to do that, but as of right now, I haven't done that."

Terrell Owens caught a touchdown from Romo during the quarterback's coming-out party, but Owens' most memorable Monday night at Texas Stadium came when he caught three touchdowns for the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 15, 2004.

As noticeable that Monday night, when the games were still on ABC-TV, was the cross promotion intro in which actress Nicollette Sheridan, a star of "Desperate Housewives", was dressed only in a towel and asked Owens to skip the game. She then dropped the towel and jumped into his arms.

Donovan McNabb, who threw a fourth TD in that game, also had a 14-second scramble in which he ran from one side of the field to the other before heaving a

60-yard completion.

"It was a great play. I was tired," McNabb recalled last week.

Tony Dorsett's 99-yard TD run, with only 10 Cowboys on the field, was on a Monday night, but that was at Minnesota on Jan. 3, 1983.

Dallas played only one Monday night game last year, when the Cowboys scored nine points in the final 20 seconds to win 25-24 at Buffalo, when Nick Folk kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired. Romo had a career-worst six turnovers (five interceptions, one fumble).

The final Monday night game at Texas Stadium was the 29th. Here's a glance at some of the memorable moments from the first 28:

-Oct. 30, 1972: Cowboys 28, Lions 24; Morton threw for 206 yards and three TDs in the first Monday night game at year-old Texas Stadium. The stadium had opened midway through the 1971 season, after the Cowboys' final home game at the Cotton Bowl was a 20-13 victory over the Giants on a

Monday night.

-Nov. 14, 1977: St. Louis Cardinals 24, Cowboys 17. Jim Hart threw two fourth-quarter TDs and the Cardinals handed Dallas its first loss after an 8-0 start. The Cowboys still went on to win their second Super Bowl title.

-Sept. 4, 1978: Cowboys 38, Baltimore Colts 0. Roger Staubach threw four TD passes in the most lopsided Monday night game at Texas Stadium. Dorsett had 147 yards rushing and 107 receiving.

-Nov. 9, 1981: Cowboys 27, Bills 14. Dorsett caught a 73-yard TD pass on the first play after halftime to break a 14-14 tie, and also ran for 117 yards.

-Sept. 9, 1986: Cowboys 31, Giants 28. Walker, who began his pro career in the USFL, ran for two touchdowns, including the winner with 1:10 left in his Cowboys debut.

-Sept. 19, 1994: Lions 20, Cowboys 17, OT. Smith had a touchdown while carrying 29 times for 143 yards, one of his eight 100-yard games in 11 Monday night games at home,

and Sanders had 194 yards on 40 carries. Smith is the NFL's career rushing leader and Sanders is third on the list behind Walter Payton.

-Nov. 18, 1996: Cowboys 21, Packers 6. Chris Boniol tied an NFL record with seven field goals. (Billy Cundiff matched that record on a Monday night game Sept. 15, 2003, when his seventh in overtime gave the Cowboys a 35-32 win at the Giants.)

-Sept. 15, 1997: Cowboys 21, Eagles 20. Boniol, then kicking for Philadelphia, couldn't make a 21-yard field goal on the final play because of a botched hold.

-Sept. 19, 2005: Redskins 14, Cowboys 13. Mark Brunell threw TD passes of 39 and 70 yards to Santana Moss in the final 3:46 to ruin the night the Triplets - Aikman, Smith and Michael Irvin - were inducted into the team's Ring of Honor.

-Oct. 23, 2006: Giants 36, Cowboys 22. Bledsoe threw an interception at the goal line with the Cowboys poised to take the lead just before halftime. Romo took over, was

Zambrano lanza un juego sin hit ni carrera

El venezolano Carlos Zambrano lanzo el primer juego sin hit de los Cachorros en 36 años, mostrando que está recuperado de un dolor en el manguillo rotador del codo, y Chicago derrotó el domingo por 5-0 a los Astros de Houston, en un partido mudado a Milwaukee debido al huracán Ike.

Zambrano, conocido por su expresividad en el montículo, conservó esta vez el control hasta que ponchó a Darin Erstad, para amarrar el doble cero.

El venezolano se arrodilló y señaló al cielo con ambas manos, luego de que Erstad abanicó. El derecho fue felicitado tumultuariamente por sus compañeros.

Los 23,441 espectadores ovacionaron al serpentinero y corearon "¡Vamos 'Z!'!" durante la última entrada.

El astro de Puerto Cabello maniató a los Astros, que no jugaban desde el jueves y debieron viajar a Milwaukee en el mismo día del encuentro. Ike obligó a las Grandes Ligas a mudar dos juegos de la serie de Texas al Miller Park, casa de los Cerveteros.

Zambrano ponchó a 10 rivales y caminó a uno, para el primer sin hit propinado por los Cachorros desde que Milt Pappas lo logró frente a San Diego en 1972.

Fue el segundo sin hit en las mayores en esta campaña. Jon Lester, de Boston, lo consiguió frente a Kansas City en el Fenway Park, el 19 de mayo.

Y la hazaña sería un buen augurio para los Cachorros, líderes del Centro de la Liga Nacional, cuyos aficionados se han acostumbrado a más pena que gloria en septiembre, durante los 100 años que la

franquicia lleva sin ganar la Serie Mundial.

Los Cachorros tomaron una ventaja de siete juegos y medio en la división, sobre los alicaídos Cerveteros, que fueron barridos en una doble cartelera por los Filis de Filadelfia.

Los Astros cayeron a dos encuentros de los Cerveteros y de los Filis en la puja por el boleto de comodín a los playoffs.

Por los Cachorros, los dominica-

nos Alfonso Soriano de 4-2 con una anotada y una producida, Aramis Ramírez de 4-1 con una anotada y una impulsada. El puertorriqueño Geovanny Soto de 4-1 con una empujada. Los venezolanos Ronny Cedeño de 3-1 con una anotada, Zambrano de 3-1 con una anotada.

Por los Astros, el dominicano Miguel Tejada de 3-0. Los venezolanos Humberto Quintero de 3-0, Fernando Nieve de 1-0, José Castillo de 1-0.






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Juan Gabriel celebra 58 años con concierto; recuerda a Rocío Dúrcal



El Divo de Juárez hizo vibrar por cuatro horas a sus seguidores en un espectáculo en el que homenajeó a la falda No podía ser de otra manera más que cantando como Juan Gabriel celebrara el pasado miércoles su cumpleaños número 58.

En un concierto ofrecido en el Auditorio Nacional de la Ciudad de México —el primero de los 20 conciertos que ofrecerá en este recinto—, el llamado Divo de Juárez entró a un escenario vestido completamente de blanco, con su coro de 20 integrantes y unos 70 mariachis, y juntos conmovieron durante cuatro horas a los miles de

seguidores.

El cabello le cubría la frente y era palpable que bajó de peso, según informa el diario mexicano La Jornada. “Gracias por darme esta muestra de amor; es recíproco”, agradeció cerrando los ojos y haciendo caravanas. “Como dijo Elvis: thank you”, apuntó.

El largo concierto tuvo un reconocimiento especial a la cantante española Rocío Dúrcal, con la que mantuvo una fuerte relación profesional y de amistad, pero que después se convirtió en enemistad, hasta el día de su muerte. Aún así, ahí estuvo la gran Dúrcal, en una pantalla gigante y en el corazón de muchos mexicanos.

Documentary ‘Border’ Delivers Rarely Seen Side of Illegal Immigration

“Documentary Border shows human cost of human smugglers who rape and enslave those seeking a better life in the US as limited enforcement

if they don't pay extortion money. Sometimes, this servitude can go on for years.

Burgard, a former bull rider and native of Wisconsin, decided



and porous borders enable the tragedy.

The shocking documentary ‘Border’ shows how a porous border and limited enforcement enables human smugglers and drug traffickers to extort, rape, murder and humiliate those seeking a better life in the United States.

Destroying the notion that those who want to secure the border are racist xenophobic bigots, filmmaker Chris Burgard shows how the predominantly Hispanic property owners and law enforcement personnel on US side of the border are fighting a war against drug cartels that move people and drugs across the unforgiving and desolate desert terrain.

Contrary to the talking points of the so-called ‘immigrants rights’ groups, Burgard shows how illegal immigrants are sometimes locked into indentured servitude to the smugglers who’ve delivered them to safe houses in cities like Tucson and Phoenix. The smugglers, commonly known as ‘Coyotes,’ threaten to kill the families of the newly arrived immigrants

to make the documentary after working with a group of laborers, who turned out to be illegal aliens. Shocked by the stories the immigrants told about their journey into the US, Burgard discovered that Coyotes would often sexually assault women in the migrant groups, and display the victim’s undergarments on ‘rape trees’ near the border. This sick display is a competition that human traffickers engage in to one-up each other.

The lack of a solid, border fence and limited enforcement actually contribute to the carnage that these smugglers have wrought. In the sector that Burgard covers in the film, border ranchers routinely talk about finding corpses of illegal immigrants on their vast properties. Some have died at the hands of the Coyotes while others die of dehydration after walking for days in the desert.

The Mexican government may be complicit in helping drug cartels smuggle aliens and terrorists into the US. An example Burgard cites is that para-military groups have violated US sovereignty and held American border patrol agents at gunpoint, preventing them from stopping the smugglers.

I’m interpreting Che, says Benicio

Benicio Del Toro has revealed his new film, Che, took on a life of its own before work even started on it.

“Every time I went south of New York City, for years before we even shot anything, people would come up and say, ‘Oh, a Che Guevara movie. It’s great!’ like they had already seen it,” he said at the film’s press conference in Toronto.

“I remember being in an airport in Buenos Aires and someone said, ‘Oh, a Che Guevara movie. It’s great!’ and we hadn’t even shot anything. I don’t think we even had a script.

“So the movie was taking over in a way. We had to find a way to do it. So in a way, the movie kind

of like was already in motion before we even stepped on the gas. That added pressure to it.”

The two-part film, which has already received early awards buzz, sees the Traffic actor portray the Argentinean revolutionary leader.

“I’m making an interpretation as other actors can make an interpretation of him,” the actor, who also produced it, explained.

“I knew a little about him but I didn’t know much about Che. I thought this could be

an interesting story - it’s got so many dimensions. In the end, he’s like an underdog and for

me, the fact that he was executed put a flame that this story should be told.”



Latin Grammy Nominations Announced

Powerful female artists and a perpetually radical Mexican band dominated the Latin Grammy nominations, which were announced Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Veteran Mexican alternative band Cafe Tacuba led with six nominations, including Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year, for their album Sino. They were followed by Colombian rock star Juanes, who earned five nods for La Vida... Es Un Ratico, including Album, Record and Song of the Year. Also getting five nominations was Juanes’ and Tacuba’s producer Gustavo Santaolalla, who could add wins for Album and Record of the Year to his many Grammys and two Oscars.

The Latin Grammy awards will be broadcast live on Univision on Nov. 13 from the Toyota Center in Houston.

Cafe Tacuba lead singer Ruben Albarran, reached in his Mexico City studio, said that even after 15 years of critical acclaim and awards, the recognition is still a thrill.

“We’re happy, grateful,” he said. “We keep doing what we’re passionate about, and in a way this helps us to keep doing what we’re doing.”

Tacuba’s six nominations seemed unexpected given its complex music. But Albarran said the growing variety of Latin music made categories like pop and alternative increasingly irrelevant.

“It has more to do with the idea of each artist, their message, the freedom to look for new formulas and new sounds,” he said. “Latin music is so eclectic and rich, alternative music is just part of an incredible quantity of music.” A number of often outspoken or nontraditional female artists were recognized. Spanish flamenco-jazz singer Buika, whose fervent performances have wowed critics and made her an unconventional star in Spain, was nominated for Album of the Year for Nina de Fuego. Puerto Rican singer-songwriter Kany Garcia’s debut album Cualquier Dia earned her nods for Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Best New Artist and Best Female Pop Vocal Album.

Buika, at the press conference where the nominations were announced, responded by bursting into tears. “They kept asking me how I feel and I don’t know how I feel,” the 36-year-old single mother said from Los Angeles. “I’m about to explode. I feel wonderful but very strange.”

Four of the Best New Artist nominees are women. The four nominations for MTV Unplugged, from Mexican singer-songwriter Julieta Venegas, who keeps raising the bar for Latin pop, include Record and Song of the Year. Miami’s Gloria Estefan received three nods for

90 Milas, her salute to Cuba and its music, including Traditional

tions, for Best New Artist, Best Alternative Song and Producer

Lucia was up for Best Contemporary Tropical Album for



Porro Nuevo, in an obscure Colombian folk style.

“It’s amazing that the industry is recognizing women’s work in all styles,” said Venegas, on tour in New York City. “I’m not the flag-holding type but I do enjoy and respect a lot of these artists. It shows the position of women in music is changing naturally.”

Garcia, who struggled to continue with her music career after a disfiguring car accident five years ago, said the female presence was a tribute to changing tastes and attitudes among audiences. “I think it says a lot about audiences, that they’re looking for

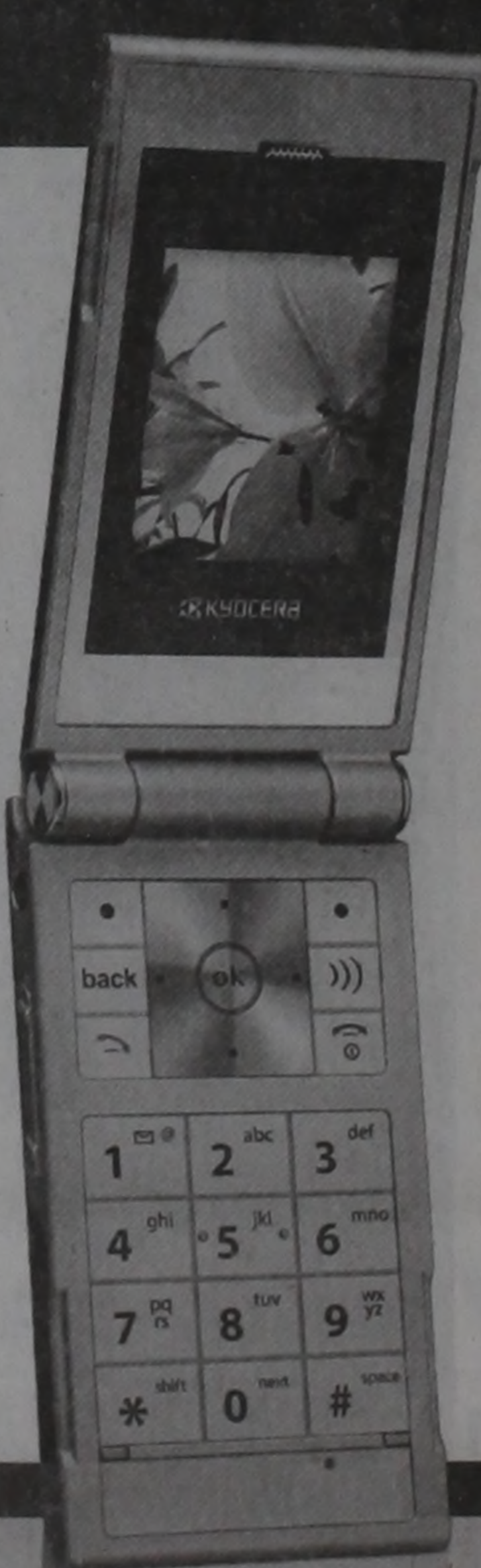
Tropical Album.

Ximena Sarinana, whose rock-pop debut Mediocre has made her the latest alternative Latin darling, also got three nomina-

of the Year. Miami singer-songwriter Alih Jey, a longtime local favorite, was nominated for Best Rock Solo Vocal Album, and Colombian newcomer Adriana

something new and different,” Garcia said. “We as musicians offer something different, and as women we have a lot to say.”

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