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Lubbock/West Texas Region

## Obama Envisions Immigration Reform Before "First Term" Ends

By Alex Meneses Miyashita  
Addressing hundreds of Hispanic activists during the 79th annual convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Washington, D.C., Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama promised to push to ensure that comprehensive immigration reform passes before the end of his first term as president.

Speaking on July 8, he criticized presumptive Republican opponent John McCain, who had spoken a few hours earlier, for "abandoning" a comprehensive immigration bill that McCain had cosponsored with Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) two years earlier.

At the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in the capital the week before, both candidates promised to make immigration reform

a priority in their first 100 days in office.

When the National Council of La Raza held its annual conference in San Diego July 10-14, both candidates spoke again. There, McCain responded to Obama's charge by emphasizing that he worked with Kennedy to try to get a comprehensive bill passed. At the time, he

said, "my campaign was written off as a lost cause. I did so not just because I believed it was the right thing to do for Hispanic Americans. It was the right thing to do for all Americans."

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, traveling to Washington, D.C., to promote the Democratic candidate, had pointed out that

any Clinton in the primaries but is now rallying Latino support for Obama, said McCain's policies are as full of "division and distraction" as those of the Bush administration. He added that if McCain is elected it will lead to "four more years of economic stagnation."

This November, analysts say the Hispanic vote could hit ten million, two million over that of the last presidential election. Obama wrapped up one of his speeches by beseeching the crowd, "Now is the time to vote." A Gallup Poll in June showed him leading McCain among Hispanic registered voters, 59%-29%.

The presidential race has one sure winner already. The nation's political leaders have finally recognized the importance of the Hispanic vote

(Alex Meneses Miyashita, based in Washington, D.C., is a correspondent with the daily El Universal in Mexico City. Reach him care of editor@hispaniclink.org.)©2008

### Guadalupe Association Sets Up Tests

After working on the project for over a year, the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association has realized another projected goal by having the railroad that runs through the Guadalupe Barrio to examine their policy of blowing the train's horn when approaching intersections. Much of the research concerning options about what could be done about the issue was done by recently elected officer Ray and Alice Lozada.

Many of the crossings where the train blows its horns are at intersections that go directly through the middle of residential streets and are blown late at night. On Wednesday the railroad conducted a test to test a new system of warning. Lile Medina Quirino, president of the Association, she said that she hoped new system seem would be quieter and also would provide excellent safety for oncoming traffic. The tests were conducted on the two major crossings on 2nd and Ave. P and 1st and Ave L and was monitor by both City and area elected officials.

In the past the Guadalupe Association has been responsible for the continuing cleanup of the Arroyo and the removal of steel fencing of Falcon Street located on Pave. P.

## Jackson Neighborhood: Possible Rezoning Still in Play

By Abel Cruz

A couple of years ago; Councilwoman Linda DeLeon organized a community meeting in the Jackson Neighborhood to inform residents of the possibilities of some rezoning initiatives along the northern border of the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

At the time; residents were surveyed about their preference to rezone or not rezone the area from Ave. Q to University Ave; located between the Sharp freeway service road north to 3rd street.

Since that time; residents have been wondering at what stage the process is in. After receiving some inquiries from some residents; El Editor contacted Randy Henson the Planning and Zoning Director for the city of Lubbock to get an update on the rezoning/redevelopment.

Henson says that the area was not rezoned from residential to commercial; a view which had been held by the residents we talked to. He says that certain things have to happen before any rezoning takes place.

What did happen last year is a "policy change" or future land use change which calls for the possible rezoning if private developers take certain steps and meet certain criteria.

According to Henson; "the city is not involved in the commercial development; but if a private developer expresses an interest in obtaining at least a full one or two block area then the city will enter into discussions about rezoning from residential to commercial.

But Henson was very careful to point out that the area in play is only from University to Ave Q between the service road and 3rd street. He says that all areas within University and Ave Q north of 3rd street are not impacted. Henson says that if a resident is approached about selling their property for commercial development that they should contact their council representative; in this case Linda DeLeon.

To explain the concept what the area might look like if rezoning does come about; Henson points to the area just east of the South Plains Mall. He says that prior to that development; the area was zoned residential. When a developer decided to develop the area commercially they bought up the residences and developed the areas bordered by Slide Road from the Loop north. The area is one block in width. Henson says that the corridor in the Jackson neighborhood might look similar to that if a developer expresses interest. In addition; there will be provisions made for fencing on the north side of the redevelopment if other criteria is met.

Neighborhood residents will also be pleased to know that Henson estimates that the construction of the Sharp Freeway is ahead of schedule and the completion date for that particular area may be as early as the end of 2009.

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## News Briefs

### Quirino Named VP of LCC Hispanic Business Division

Jorge Quirino was recently named Vice President of the newly organized Hispanic Division of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The new post came about as result of a merger earlier this year between the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Lubbock Chamber. The new division will be charged with supporting Hispanic owned businesses in Lubbock.

Quirino recently moved back to Lubbock with his wife and family; his wife Sonya Castro-Quirino is an executive with Covenant Hospital.

According to local media reports; Quirino has a Bachelors of Business Administration in marketing and general business. His work experience includes working for Toys R Us; Covergys; and Sam's Club. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

### One Bad Move is followed by another at Health and Human Services

When it comes to providing state services to individuals in need of healthcare or food stamps; Health and Human Services Commissioner Albert Hawkins just doesn't get it.

Now comes word out of Austin that the previous debacle by Hawkins when he signed a multi million dollar contract with Accenture to open call centers which led to over 900 state employees being let go; was not enough to convince him that if it isn't broken; don't fix it.

The previous move by Hawkins nearly decimated the HHS workforce and the Texans who depend on state services.

The latest news out of Austin; according to an article in the Austin American Statesman is that Hawkins plans to "switch one million or more needy people in the next year to a different application process for benefits; including Medicaid and food stamps".

According to the report: "The state says it intends to shift 953,000 elderly and disabled Medicaid patients into its problem-plagued "integrated eligibility" system by September 2009 - on top of its previously stated goal of moving in 288,000 more food stamp recipients by August 2009".

Representatives from the Texas State Employees Union; including local member Mike Torres, which has said an old mainframe-based system works much better than TIERS, denounced the plan.

"It borders on irresponsible behavior," said union spokesman Will Rogers. "They haven't worked out all the bugs with TIERS. You're playing with people's lives by doing that."

Mr. Hawkins has said the mainframe computer used for Texas benefit applications is one of only seven of its type left in existence. The old approach is outmoded and costly, while TIERS is being improved, he has said.

HHS Commission spokesman Geoff Wool, when asked by the Statesman whether the state was expanding TIERS too fast, said: "This proposal reflects a measured approach. We're going to monitor very closely the benchmarks that have been established and if there are indications of problems, we'll adjust the rollout."

Readers can see an open letter to Commissioner Hawkins in this week's "Freedom of Expression" section on Page 2 from the Texas State Employees Union.

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### LCCR CALLS ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO LEAD ON EDUCATION REFORM AND SUPPORT SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Washington, DC - The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) today called on Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, the major parties' presidential candidates, to take the lead on school reform by supporting the accountability provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and repudiating legislation that would scuttle them.

"Now is not the time to turn back the clock on accountability for results in education," said Wade Henderson, president and CEO of LCCR. "New research shows that since the passage of NCLB the achievement gaps have narrowed significantly in elementary and middle schools."

"While NCLB is a flawed law - and we have repeatedly called on Congress to make improvements through the reauthorization process - NCLB has been crucial in exposing the extent of the opportunity and achievement gaps plaguing chronically underperforming schools and creating an atmosphere conducive for fundamental education reforms," said Henderson. "Access to quality education is a fundamental civil right that should be guaranteed by the federal government for all children, regardless of their race, national origin, economic status, or disability, and since 2002, NCLB has been the primary federal law for ensuring that right."

having the contenders speak before NALEO, LULAC and NCLR showed "that the Hispanic vote is key."

It did that and then some. It validated Hispanic organizations as important conduits to carry political messages to the 50 million Latinos now residing in the United States.

During the give-and-take over the three major Hispanic events, Obama said the nation needs a president who "won't walk away from comprehensive immigration reform when it becomes politically unpopular." He said it is time to bring the 12 million undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and put them on a path to citizenship after they pay a fine and go to the back of the naturalization wait line.

McCain stated it is necessary to show to the U.S. public that "we can secure the borders first." After that occurs, there are "economic and humanitarian responsibilities as well," he added.

Republicans claimed Obama has yet to show any leadership on the issue of comprehensive reform the way McCain has.

Eric Rojo, national president of the Hispanic War Veterans of America, called McCain is the better choice for Hispanics because the GOP candidate knows the community well and shares its values.

Villaraigosa, who supported Hill-

## Will Lubbock County go to Four Day Work Week?

By Abel Cruz

According to Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez; the "most important reason to forego a change in the hours of operations of the Lubbock County Courthouse is "lack of public support".

For the past couple of weeks; county residents have seen a debate on whether the county should go to a 4 day work week. But Gutierrez says that "There is no public call or demand to change the hours of operation. The opposite applies in this matter. Citizens have expressed opposition to the change. Hours of operation should be in accordance with the will of the people of Lubbock County".

Nevertheless; this past week; County Commissioners appointed a committee to study the impact a 4 day work week; among other changes and how they might impact county residents and employees.

One idea being floated is the possible closure of the offices on Friday; and possible changes in hours of operation.

Gutierrez says that "Change in the hours of operation of the Lubbock County Courthouse is incompatible with the private sector. There are no indications of a move by the private sector to a 4-day work week".

"County Departments provide a wide-range of highly diverse services which are unique to each department. Many services are administered on a personal face-to-face manner. Change in hours of operation would detract from the flexibility of departments to perform their unique functions (example: Elections, Vehicle Registration)" adds Gutierrez.

"Emergency services such as a protective order for a battered spouse cannot wait until Monday".

Gutierrez's press release continues:

"The original purpose cited as justification to change the hours of operation is not valid. Savings on the Courthouse utility bill cannot be realized when there is no change to the total hours of operations. Any savings would be too small to justify such a radical change in current operations. Alternatives for energy savings are solar as LISD has proposed or wind power as Shallowater ISD has done. Both these technologies are proven for use on individual buildings. These technologies provide utility savings during all hours of operations (normal or curtailed)".

Gutierrez says a "public hearing is needed before this issue moves to committee. Stake holders have not had an opportunity to present evidence and state the facts on how the change would impact them".

Among the more adverse impact on city employees according to Gutierrez is as follows:

Child care would be more difficult for employees. It is already hard enough to get child care for an 8 hour day finding child care for a 10 hour

## NCLR Challenges McCain and Obama To Rein in Party Rhetoric on Immigration

San Diego, CA—The country's largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization today challenged presumptive presidential nominees Senators Barack Obama and John McCain to rein in offensive and charged rhetoric on immigration in their respective parties' congressional campaigns this fall. The challenge comes just days before they are both scheduled to address the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) Annual Conference in San Diego.

Senators McCain and Obama have both been leaders in the immigration reform effort and have urged a thoughtful and well-informed debate on this difficult issue," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "But others in their respective political parties are using inaccurate and inflammatory language to inspire fear and resentment against immigrants for the sake of advancing their political campaigns."

Murguía pointed to campaign brochures and television advertisements by both parties, including a Democratic Campaign Committee leaflet and a blog posting on the website of North Carolina Republican Senator Elizabeth Dole. The materials that Murguía found offensive include:

A charged leaflet by the Missouri State Democratic Committee, which shows a yellow traffic sign depicting a running family; the leaflet attacks Representative Sam Graves (R-MO), charging him with allowing five million "illegal immigrants" into the country.

A Republican television commercial by Senator Harri Anne Smith from Alabama's Second Congressional District, which condemns languages other than English and shows brown hands in handcuffs and shadowy images crossing into the United States.

A personal blog from the website of Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), which cites the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) as a source of information on the impact of immigration in North Carolina; FAIR has been designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group with ties to eugenics and white supremacy.

"Hate has hijacked the immigration debate," said Murguía whose organization—



through its website, www.WeCanStopTheHate.org—has been decrying the growing influence of hate groups and hate speech on television and radio and in political campaigns. "What passes for debate on this issue is often little more than a demagogic attack designed to inflame Americans rather than enlighten them. Our political leaders can stop it," she said. "They should stop it."

Murguía said that the inflamed rhetoric has serious consequences for the Hispanic community. She cited statistics showing a steep rise in the number of hate groups targeting Latinos as well as a spike in hate crimes committed against Latinos. She also referenced a study published by the Pew Hispanic Center in which nearly two-thirds of Latinos say that the atmosphere for their community has become more negative as a result of the immigration debate and one-half say that they have personally experienced

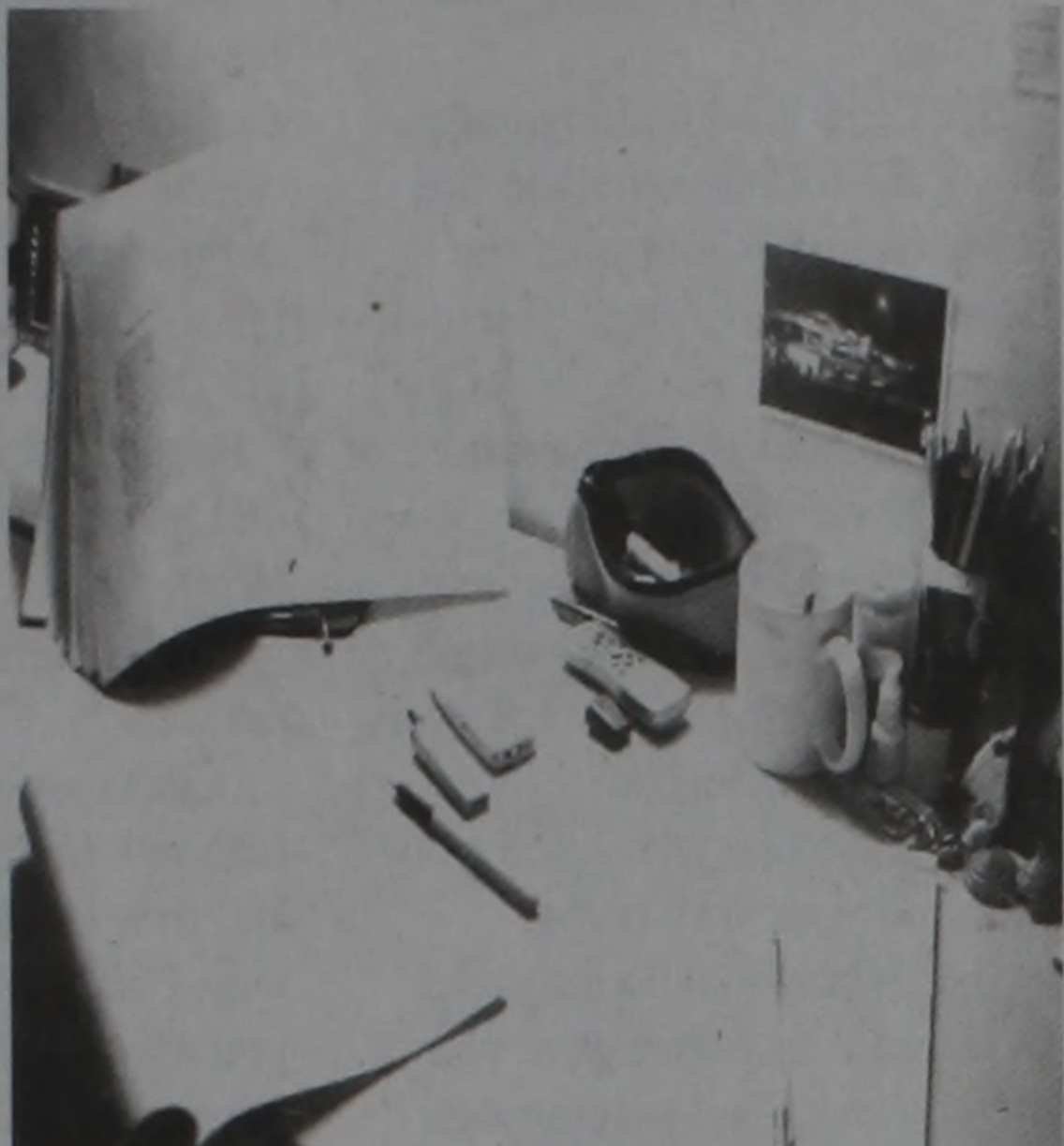
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# LULAC Receives \$1 Million Grant From AT&T

"The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T Inc. (NYSE: T) announced today that LULAC will receive a \$1 million grant from the AT&T Foundation's Aspire initiative, to implement LULAC's Adelante America program, which will provide academic classes, mentoring and student leadership development for underserved, at-risk Latino teens in grades eight through 10. "This important educational initiative in our community will help ensure that our nation's rich high-tech future and digital empowerment is within reach of our Latino youth," said LULAC president Rosa Rosales. "A good education is the key to a successful future. And as a long-time leader in broadband and mobile communications, and a long-term dependable partner of the Hispanic community, AT&T is once again demonstrating their corporate leadership by keeping the American Dream accessible to Latino students all across the country." The \$1 million grant will be spread out over two years and will serve a total of 910 at-risk participants in the eighth through the 10th grade. The Adelante America program will develop services and activities that will link classroom learning with the challenges that students face in post-secondary education and the workplace of the future. The goals include increasing rates of on-time promotion to the next grade; improvement of academic performance as measured by grades and test scores; improvement of interpersonal relationships between the children and their peers, teachers, family and other adults;

reduction of the dropout rate, delinquency and gang involvement; and achieving a higher graduation rate for its participants. "As one of the most well-respected advocacy organizations in the country, LULAC will help ensure that Latino students have the tools they need to live up to their maximum educational potential," said Susan Santana, assistant vice president, External Affairs, AT&T. "We are honored to play a small part in helping today's Latino youth become tomorrow's world leaders." The AT&T Foundation's Aspire program was launched earlier this year, in an attempt to address the fact that nearly one-third of U.S. high school students drop out every year, which amounts to one student dropping out every 26 seconds — a disproportionate number of whom are Hispanics. The \$100 million philanthropic effort announced in April reflects AT&T's commitment to help to strengthen student success and workforce readiness. Currently, Latinos are vastly underperforming when compared with other groups. The percentage of adults over the age of 25 that has earned a bachelor's degree or higher, is 27.2 percent. Among Latinos, that percentage is only 12.2 percent. In addition, Hispanic secondary school students have the highest dropout rates of any ethnic or racial group in the U.S.



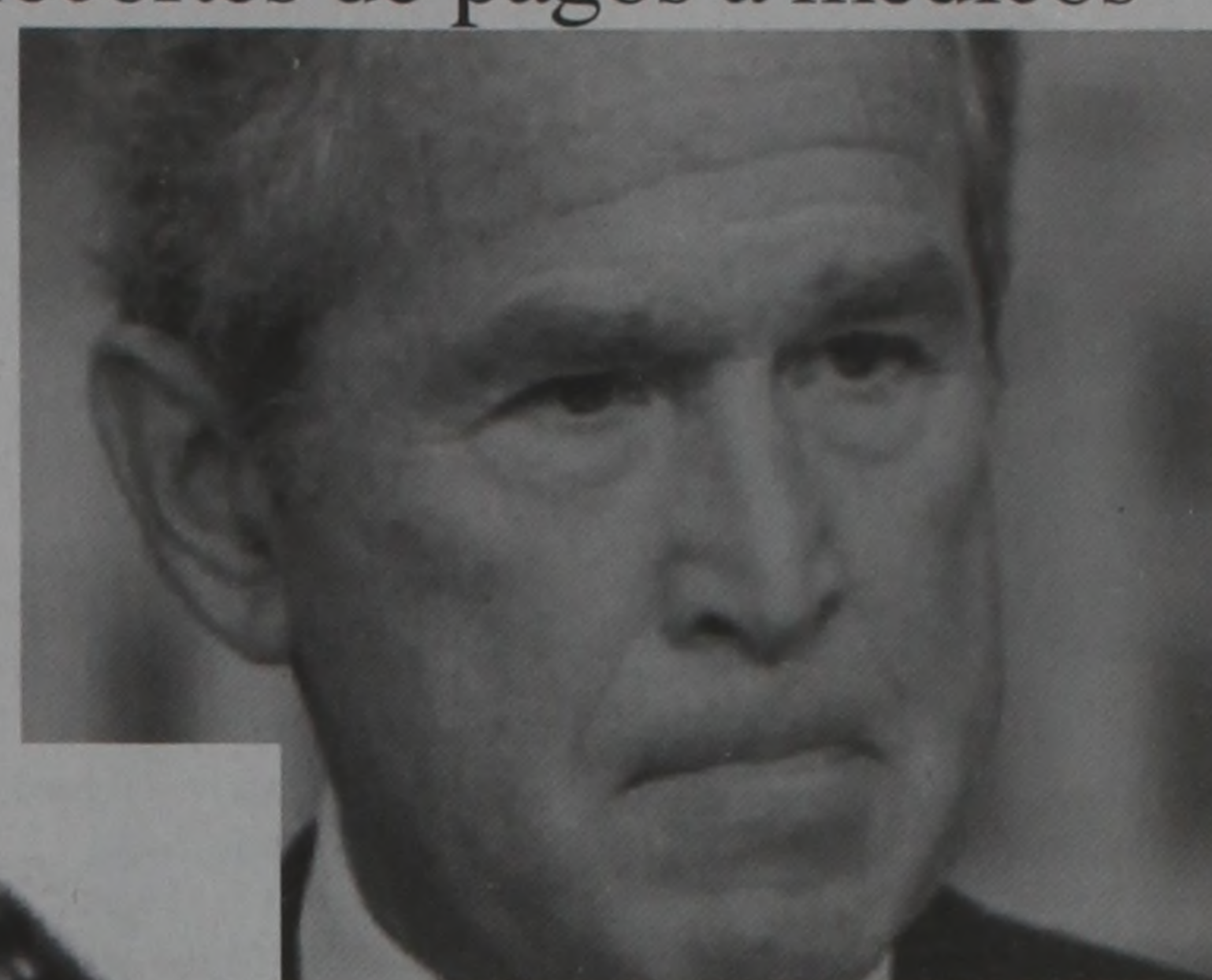
# Congreso revoca un veto de Bush

## Es una medida que bloquea recortes de pagos a médicos

WASHINGTON, D.C.— El Congreso revocó ayer el veto que horas antes formuló el presidente George W. Bush del proyecto de ley que bloquea el recorte de casi 11% a los pagos que reciben los aproximadamente 600 mil médicos que proveen servicios a beneficiarios de Medicare. Es la tercera vez que el Congreso anula un veto de Bush en el transcurso de su presidencia. Al anularse el veto, la medida se convierte en ley. Se supone que el recorte de 10.6% entrara en vigor ayer.

Bush vetó la medida porque contiene un aumento de 1% a las cuotas que reciben los doctores y para pagar por el alza, reduce los pagos a los médicos privados que aceptan los planes de Medicare Advantage. Se requieren dos terceras partes de los votos de ambas

cámaras para anular un veto. El voto en la Cámara Baja fue de 383 sobre 41 y en el Senado fue de 70 sobre 26. Año electoral. Se trata de un volátil asunto de año electoral y de hecho, los republicanos, conscientes de ello, se unieron a los demócratas primero para avanzar el proyecto y luego para anular el veto de Bush. Los beneficiarios de Medicare incluyen aproximadamente 44 millones de ancianos, discapacitados y militares. La medida bloquea la reducción de 10.6% a los pagos que reciben los proveedores de Medicare. El recorte automático surge de la ley de presupuesto balanceado de 1997 que exige las reducciones si los gastos por concepto de Medicare sobrepasan el tope impuesto por dicha ley. Cada año el Congreso aprueba medidas que impiden los recortes y que pueden resultar en que los médicos dejen de atender a miles de beneficiarios.



# MEDICARE

# Hispanics mixed on McCain's compassion for migrants

Republican John McCain made a dramatic plea for Hispanic votes on Monday, reading from a roll-call of some of the hundreds of illegal immigrants who die each year crossing the border from Mexico. "Maria Hernandez Perez was No. 93. She was almost 2. She had thick brown hair and eyes the color of chocolate," McCain said in an address to the Latino advocacy group the National Council of La Raza, in San Diego, California. "Kelia Velazquez-Gonzales, 16, carried a Bible in her backpack. She was No. 109. "John Doe, No. 143, died with a rosary encircling his neck. His eyes were wide open." Curbing illegal immigration has become a hot button topic in the United States in this election year, and striking the right note with Hispanic voters on the issue is tricky for both McCain and Democrat rival Sen Barack Obama. Both candidates need to

achieve a balance between reassuring many voters who want secure borders, while not alienating Hispanics, the fastest growing block who make up nine percent of the electorate. Latino voters in the fatal corridor of southern Arizona, which bears the brunt of the several hundred illegal immigrants who perish each year as they cross from Mexico, were mixed in their response to McCain's compassionate outreach on Monday. "If these people were horses dying every day on the border, they'd be doing something about it," said Lionel Urcadez, the proprietor of a bar a few yards from the rusty border fence in Naco, who welcomed the Arizona senator's words. "These are human beings, they are trying to better themselves. John McCain cares and that matters to me," he added. TRAILING SUPPORT McCain's support among

Hispanic Americans is lagging behind that of Obama, who backs comprehensive immigration reform and has attracted many Latino voters who had supported Democrat opponent Hillary Clinton. McCain got in trouble in 2007 with Republican hardliners for pushing a proposed immigration law that would grant millions of illegal immigrants a path to U.S. citizenship. He had to change his tune when the legislation collapsed in the U.S. Senate. McCain now argues for securing the U.S. border with Mexico first and then embarking on legislation to allow illegal immigrants to work legally in the United States, although some Hispanics in his home state said they are wary of him. "We are very grateful for his feelings. ... My only concern is that if he gets elected he is going to be surrounded

by people in his party who don't believe that," said Bob Fernandez, vice mayor of Douglas, a border town a few miles east of Naco. Fernandez, a former Republican supporter, said he now leaned toward the Democrats, who are less divided on the issue of immigration. Other Latinos in the sun-scorched corridor said worries over high fuel prices and the delicate state of the economy were more important to them when it came to choosing a candidate than compassion for illegal immigrants. "McCain is from Arizona, and I know he cares for Hispanics, but what I want to see are some changes around here," deliveryman Tony Pizano said at a gas station in the old mining town of Warren, a mile or so from the Mexico border. "Diesel is more than \$4 a gallon ... and I like Obama on the issues."

# Mogul Has Cure for 'Suicidal' Need for Oil

The "Pickens Plan" is the sort of thing that happens when gasoline tops \$4. America teetering on recession needs ideas like this. Boone Pickens, the Texas billionaire, proposes — and not for the first time — fueling millions more vehicles with natural gas, not gasoline. The latter derives from crude oil. And a shocking 70 percent now is imported. Eventually that will kill the economy, says Pickens, 80. Natural gas is domestic. America has plenty. It's under Western Pennsylvania. And under Texas, where Boone Pickens' BP Capital Inc. undoubtedly owns a piece of it. Under many other deserving states and counties, too. No need to import the stuff. Just switch the wheels of commerce from burning too much gasoline to much more natural gas. Pickens is right. But so are other schemes that would lessen our suicidal dependence on imported oil. We spend \$700 billion a year on it, hemorrhaging and cheapening the dollar. We should use more coal and nuclear power, drill for oil offshore and in Alaska, and refine oils from shale and tar sands not controlled by shifty foreign "friends." More wind and solar energy make sense here and there, too. Plus, less waste. But all those ideas are racing ahead now, thanks to \$4 gasoline and scary imports. Pickens — remembered in Pittsburgh as the guy who chased Gulf Oil Corp. out in 1984 with a takeover threat — actually favors quite a bit of wind. The center of America from Texas to the Canadian border has been called the "Saudi Arabia of the wind," he

said in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece last week. He'd plant the plains with windmills, thousands of them, to crank out electricity, enabling all the kilowatts now produced by natural gas-fired generators, 22 percent of the national supply, to be backed out. Then he'd use the idled gas for transportation. Fleets of trucks and buses could run on the invisible stuff, he said (though environmental purists would say that even the cleanest burnable fuel emits carbon dioxide "greenhouse gas"). His major claim, however, is that the wind-gas switcheroo could cut oil imports "by more than one-third in the next five to 10 years." Not clear is how he'd handle wind's worst defect as a power source: it doesn't blow all the time. Research on batteries and energy alternatives obviously is needed. OK, who pays? Pickens says equipping 25,000 U.S. service stations to fill 'er up with compressed natural gas (two tanks in an auto trunk) would cost \$10 billion. That sounds like the beginning of a subsidy plea, though he claims "private investment" principles all the way. It also can't be forgotten that the persuasive Texan touted natural gas-driven automobiles in Pittsburgh way back in the early 1990s. Gas was dirt cheap then and he was a prophet without honor and a lot of undervalued gas reserves. At \$4 gasoline, he looks smarter and smarter.



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# Obituary: Ramona G. Urive



Ramona G. Urive entered Eternal Life on Sunday July 13, 2008 at the age of 80.

Mrs. Urive was born on August 14, 1927 in Pflugerville, TX to Josefa Rendon and Santiago Gonzales; both preceded her in death. On December 28, 1944, she married the love of her life Guadalupe Urive Sr. and moved to Lubbock. She retired from Methodist Hospital after working for 19 years as a nurse's aide. Prior to that Mrs. Urive had worked at the Lauf Clinic and Porter Hospital; both historical Lubbock medical institutions. She was a longtime member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, a Guadalupana, Cursillista and Eucharistic Minister. In the early '60, she also served on the PTA board for Sanders Elementary. Rosary for Ramona G. Urive will be at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at Guajardo Funeral Chapels. Mass of Resurrection will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church with Celebrants Rev. Cornelius Ramirez, Rev. David Cruz, Rev. Ernesto Lopez, Rev. John Chero and Rev. Rudy Crasta.

Burial will be at Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park under the direction of Guajardo Funeral Chapels. Mrs. Urive was also preceded in death by three sons; Santos, Gilbert and Alfredo; a daughter, Janie; a brother, Ben Gonzales; six sisters, Dora Gonzales, Lucinda Gonzales, Rebecca Lozano Rutherford, and Margarita Lopez; and Virginia Cuebas and a grandson, Jaime Urive. Survivors include her husband Guadalupe; five sons, Lupe Jr. (Elida), Robert Sr. (Lupie), Jim (Yolanda), Jerry (Cynthia), Albert (Pat); three daughters, Linda Sosa (Joe), Terrie Herrera (Jessie) and Penny Morin (Deacon Joe) all of Lubbock; two sisters, Angelita Nava and Ernestina Medina of San Antonio; 25 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Tony Urive Sr., Harvey Sosa, Jeremy Garcia, Robert Urive Jr., Brandon Andrade, Marcelino Herrera and Jason Torres. We extend our love and thanks to the staff of The Plaza of Lubbock and Vista Care Hospice for their loving and tender care. Her family and friends will miss her beautiful smile and loving touch. The family suggests memorials to St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Lubbock.

By Abel Cruz

It is extremely difficult to write about death or the loss of a loved one.

Death is not something we seem to handle well for obvious reasons. For me; perhaps it's because I was once on the precipice. But that is a story for another day...

This past week has been one filled with emotion due to the loss of someone who made a difference in life. And after all that is something most of us strive to do while here on earth.

A couple of weeks ago we wrote an editorial about our greatest generation; it was about the loss of those who raised us and sacrificed their entire life so that we could enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Back in the 1950's and 1960's we were fortunate to grow up with parents who cared not only about our physical well being; but also our spiritual growth.

Tuesday evening; I witnessed the fruit that the tilled soil in them yielded.

In our Catholic tradition; when a loved one dies; we hold

a prayer service in which we pray a Rosary. A Rosary is our way of asking Blessed Mother Mary to intercede on our behalf with God and to ask Him to enjoin our dearly departed into His Kingdom as they enter into Everlasting Life.

As I sat there at the Rosary for Ramona G. Urive; a dear friend of my parents and by extension the siblings on both family sides; I was moved by the people around me. As we recited the prayers which we were all taught at an early age; at least those of us of an earlier generation; I couldn't help but notice the deep Faith coming to life; as we said goodbye to another blessed person of our greatest generation.

I watched as people recited the litany's and prayers from their hearts; never stumbling; never wavering; never having to look at a book. The words are engrained in their hearts and at the appropriate moment; the words come alive as they ask God to give comfort to the grieving family members. Every week; we seem to

lose someone who has made an impact in our life; someone who has contributed to our society in ways most people will never know. They are the ones who endured the struggles; they are the ones who made sure that life for us would be easier and fruitful.

That was their main focus; they were unselfish. And that can be seen in the way the people who came to the Rosary prayed.

It is never easy to lose someone you love and who has played a major role in your life; be it a friend; a spouse; a child or other.

But there is something unique about the loss of a mother. She is the one who bore you; she is the one who nourished you and quenched your thirst. She is the one, who healed your wounds; who stayed up late to make sure you were ok; she was the one who wrapped her arms around you and your heart and felt every pain you experienced.

She is the one who knew your soul and your very being.

She is the one who through God and your father gave you life and sustained you through your trials and tribulations and also the good moments in your life.

It is really an extraordinary experience when we stop and think about what our mothers do for us.

Ramona G. Urive will be

missed greatly by those who knew her and loved her; her children; her many grandchildren and granddaughter Ramona who I'm sure will carry her name in the same dignified way her Grandmother did. She too will teach her own daughter about her great-grandmother and prepare her for the future with the same values her mother and grandmother have taught her.

For it is the little ones; the young generation which represent our future's best hope.

The family will hurt; but perhaps they will find comfort in the fact that Ramona G. Urive was one of those rare individuals who definitely left this world a better place than when she entered into life on this earth.

She is resting and at Peace now; that much; our Faith teaches us all.

Email: lifelessons@clearwire.net

"LifeLessons" is a page 3 feature which addresses life issues and tries to do so in a meaningful way. I would love to hear what you think of the column; or just to get some ideas on what topics are of interest to our readers. Please email me at the above email address; all correspondence is confidential unless we agree otherwise and you allow me to use information in a future column or story. Have a good week!

A Cruz

## New Smokeless Tobacco Prevention Campaign Urges Texas Youth to Spit It Out

LUBBOCK, Texas—The Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control unveiled a new campaign July 15 called Spit It Out, designed to prevent the use of smokeless tobacco, sometimes referred to as dip. The new campaign launched at the Texas FFA Convention, which attracts about 10,000 teens from across the state.

The campaign targets teens because while only 4 percent of Texas adults use smokeless tobacco, 8 percent of Texas youth use it.

"Texas teens are susceptible to the intrigue of smokeless tobacco, and oftentimes it is tolerated as an accepted form of tobacco use, even though it's illegal for teens, and it can cause cancer just like cigarette use can," said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS Commissioner. "The average age a teenager in Texas begins using smokeless tobacco is 13, and Spit It Out was created to resonate with young Texans by placing an emphasis on health risks and how it negatively affects their social lives."

Spit It Out consists of TV, radio and online advertising, which will run in markets throughout the state in July and August. Additionally, a new Web site at SpitItOutTexas.org went live today that features interactive elements to engage teens, statistics and facts about smokeless tobacco. Texas youth will also get first-hand experience at an interactive outreach booth at the Texas FFA Convention today through July 17. The booth will feature live demonstrations every hour of the harmful ingredients in smokeless tobacco and their adverse health effects. Convention attendees can also receive prizes and play games, designed to reinforce messages about the consequences of using smokeless tobacco.

"Even though I saw friends using smokeless tobacco, it still seemed like a gross habit to me," said Austin Jung, a Lubbock high school sophomore. "At first I was concerned about bad breath and having it stain my teeth, but after I did an Internet search for smokeless tobacco, I found out that the health concerns were much more serious. I'd never use it."

While other areas of the state will receive the Spit It Out campaign message, it kicked off today in Lubbock. Speakers at today's event included Lubbock teenager Austin Jung; Barry Wilson, DSHS deputy regional director; and Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Association executive director.

Spit It Out conveys to teens that no matter its form, all types of tobacco contain nicotine, which is highly addictive. An additional key element of the campaign is to convey to teens health risks they may see early on as a result of smokeless tobacco use. Research

shows immediate health effects resonate with teens more so than long-term effects. Spit It Out will emphasize those immediate health effects, including that smokeless tobacco stains teeth a yellowish-brown color, gives you bad breath, and can cause bleeding gums and sores that never heal.

## EyeCare America Asks Hispanic Families to Share History of Glaucoma

Hispanics are at a disproportionately higher risk for developing glaucoma and Hispanic women are almost twice as likely as men to have glaucoma. In fact, approximately six percent of Hispanics 41 years of age and older have glaucoma and as high as 12 percent of Hispanics 80 years old and older. And among Hispanics with glaucoma, 38.8 percent are men and 61.2 percent are women.

In the fight against blindness caused by glaucoma in the Hispanic community, EyeCare America asks people to get their Family Glaucoma Snapshot by following these three, simple steps:

1. ASK: "Does anyone in our family have glaucoma?"
2. CALL: 1-800-391-EYES (3937) to see if you qualify for a FREE exam.

3. TELL: Your family if you have glaucoma.

The Family Glaucoma Snapshot campaign is intended to raise awareness about the risk factors for glaucoma among Hispanic communities. EyeCare America encourages people to call its Glaucoma EyeCare Program at 1-800-391-EYES (3937) to find out if they are eligible for a free glaucoma eye exam.

Additionally, EyeCare America is providing DVDs of the "Glaucoma: A Guide for Latinos" video, featuring boxing champion Oscar De La Hoya, free of charge to those interested. The 30-minute educational video has been developed to increase glaucoma awareness, diagnosis and treatment among Latinos. Those interested in receiving a DVD can call 1-877-887-6327.

**The Public is Invited to Come and Enjoy the Men's, Women and Mixed Slowpitch and the Fastpitch Girls Games**  
Upcoming Lubbock Softball Tournaments Lubbock Berl Huffman  
All Entry Deadlines are the Monday prior to tournament.  
All Entry fees MUST be sent to West Texas USSSA - PO Box 64564

- July 4-6 West Texas Fast Pitch Regional Championships USSSA \$250
- Texas Youth Slow Pitch State (All Texas State) USSSA \$250
- July 11-13 Texas Youth Fast Pitch State (West Texas State) USSSA \$250
- August 1-3 West Texas Men's D State/Women's State USSSA \$250
- Aug 8-10 West Texas Men's C State/Men's E State USSSA \$250
- Aug 22-24 4th Annual Cotton Pickin' Midwest National (Men's E) USSSA \$300
- Sept 5-7 1st Annual Lubbock Ironman - "Run Til Your Done" (6 Game Guarantee) USSSA \$300 (Men's Equalizer and Women's Equalizer)
- Sept 26-28\* 8th Fall Cotton Pickin' Fast Pitch Tournament (All age groups) USSSA \$300 (4 Game Guarantee - World Series Qualifier)
- Oct 31- Nov 2 8th Annual Monster Mash Fast Pitch Tournament USSSA \$350 (6 game guarantee) To Enter Call 792-7111 Are you ready for some SOFTBALL!

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Su Vida. Nuestra Energía. [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com)

## Texas Tech Institute Earns \$1.08 Million NIH Grant to Encourage Minority Groups

Three researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech recently received a \$1.08 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to implement the Plains Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program with South Plains College.

Institute researchers Jaclyn Cañas, Stephen Cox and Trey Brown received the five-year grant. The program will partner with educators and minority science students at South Plains College to help those students transfer successfully from the college to Texas Tech.

"Our goal is to help minority science students succeed in college and stimulate them to the point where they want to continue pursuing a career in science," said Cañas, who will serve as program director. "We want them to go to South Plains College, come to get their bachelor's degrees at Texas Tech, and then hopefully continue on to graduate school."

Cañas said institutes for higher education must develop programs to help minority students overcome the challenges they face in pursuing university degrees – especially in the sciences.

While African-Americans, American Indians and Hispanics comprised 13 percent, 1.5 percent and 12.5 percent of the 2000 U.S. population, the 2005 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Report found that they comprised only 12 percent, 1 percent and 7 percent of all graduate degrees.

Cañas hopes to encourage more minority students to pursue more science-based graduate degrees. They hope to have 48 students pass through the program in the next five years. The first 12 students in the program will begin this fall at South Plains College.

Jay Driver and Philip Anderson, professors at South Plains College, and Texas Tech faculty members John Zak, Jorge Salazar-Bravo, Juan Muñoz and Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz also aided in securing the funding.

## Pedro Fernández celebra 30 años de carrera artística con "Dime mi amor", su disco 37

Pasaron 30 años desde que el actor y cantante mexicano Pedro Fernández asomó al mundo de la farándula con su actuación en la película "La niña de la mochila azul", en la que su nombre era Pedrito. "Hoy día la mochila ya no es tan azul, se le está acabando el colorcito", dice Fernández entre risas. "Han sido años maravillosos y de éxitos. Sólo de pensar en otros artistas que duran uno o cinco años y después no se vuelve a saber de ellos, y yo he llegado a tres décadas haciendo lo que me gusta. Eso es para agradecer", agrega para el Daily News vía telefónica desde Miami, refiriéndose a la aparición de su disco número 37, "Dime mi amor".

El álbum con el que este artista de 38 años celebra su aniversario, tiene un estilo bastante romántico. "Es un sueño hecho realidad, en especial por la aceptación que ha tenido. La canción Dime mi amor es escrita por Tres Copas; Amiga por favor, que tiene tres meses

en primer lugar en las listas, es de Gilberto Gless; y Sana mi herida, con David Bisbal, ha sido bien recibida también", dice.

Al hablar sobre su familia, Fernández prefiere omitir que una de sus hijas, Karina, es la autora del tema Extraño tu mirar, incluido en el álbum. "Mi esposa y yo estamos felices por nuestras hijas adolescentes. Karina de 16 quiere ser compositora, Osmara de 19 cantante, y Gema de 13 actriz", agrega.

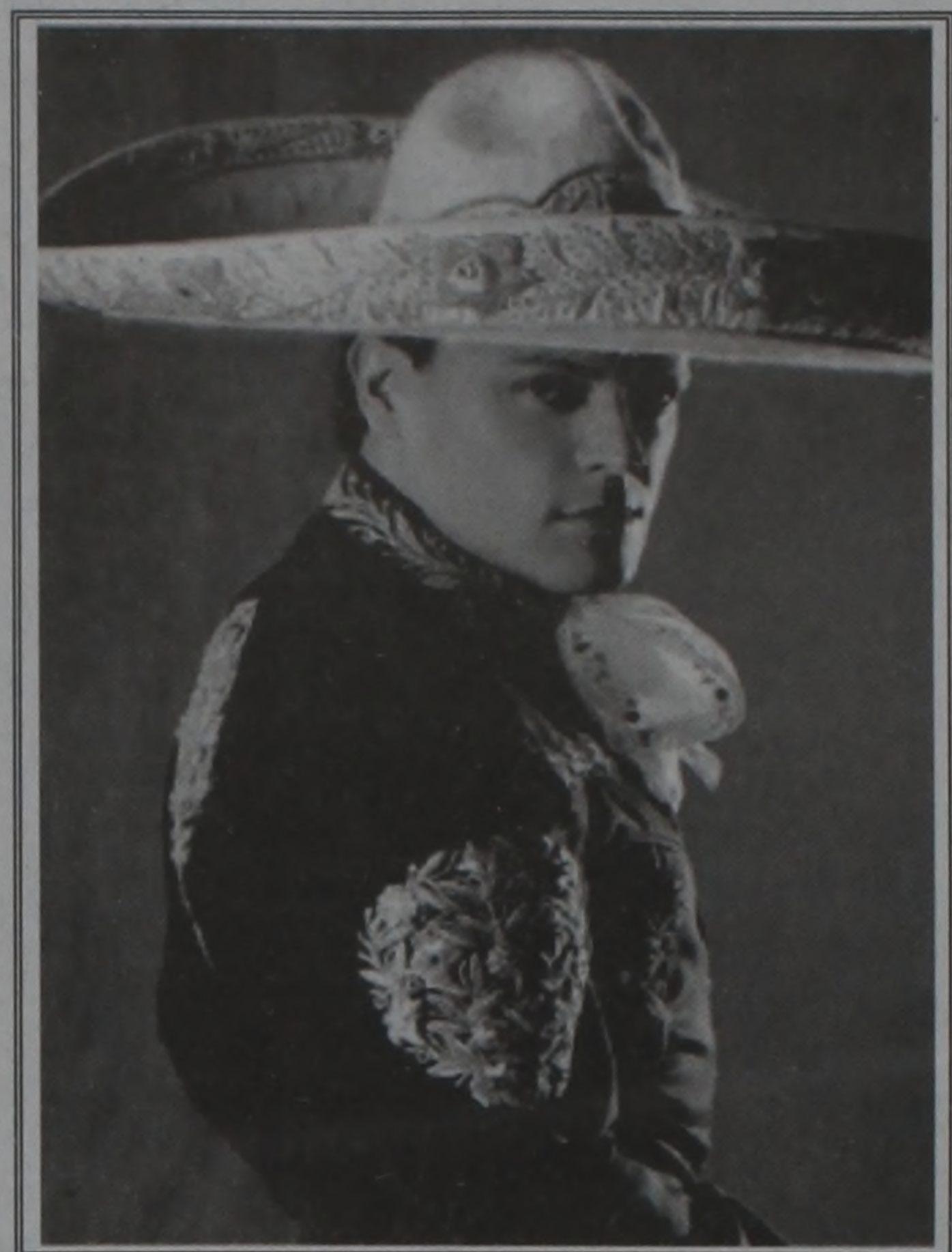
Pedro Fernández, nacido en Guadalajara y cuyo nombre verdadero es José Martín Cuevas Cobos, adoptó ese nombre en honor a sus ídolos Pedro Infante y Vicente Fernández: "En la calle la gente me dice Pedro o Pedrito, pero nunca me llaman por mi verdadero nombre. En el escenario soy Pedro, abajo soy un hombre normal, que le encanta el fútbol y que le va a muerte al América", revela.

"El traje hay que portarlo con orgullo, con mexicanidad, y darle realce. A mi me gusta usarlo bien apretado porque eso de andar con uno aguado como que parece un saco con adornitos", dice, y agrega: "Una vez en Venezuela me tocó cantar sin él porque mis maletas se perdieron. Lo hice así porque el charro lo lleva uno por dentro".

Con 25 películas y cuatro telenovelas como actor, Fernández está en negociaciones para regresar al cine después de 14 años de su última película, Derecho de asilo. "Quiero volver al cine familiar. Le dije sí a una propuesta, y si pudiera ser con Lucero o con Edith González me encantaría, pero no depende de mí", dice.

Además, reconoce que cuando está de gira es extenuante y difícil para su familia: "Ellos son mi inspiración, mi estabilidad emocional, pero también hay que 'champear'. No me puedo dar el

lujo de retirarme ahora porque hay que pagar las cuentas, especialmente todos los antojos de mis hijas", finaliza.



## Vicente Fernández tiene día propio

MEXICO (AP)- El gobernador de Nuevo México Bill Richardson declaró que cada 12 de julio se celebrará allí un día en honor al legendario cantante mexicano Vicente Fernández.

El funcionario escogió la fecha para conmemorar el concierto que Fernández ofreció el sábado en la capital estatal, como parte de una gira por Estados Unidos, informó el miércoles el sello discográfico Sony-BMG.

"Yo, Bill Richardson, gobernador del estado de Nuevo México, proclamo la fecha 12 de julio de 2008 como: 'El día de Vicente Fernández', decretó el funcionario, según comunicado de prensa de la empresa.

El cantante ranchero se presentó en el Journal Pavilion de Albuquerque, la capital de ese territorio estadounidense.

Al hacer el anuncio el gobernador dijo que el cantante "ha impuesto su presencia dentro de los Estados Unidos con una estrella en el 'Hollywood's Walk Of Fame' (paseo de la fama de Hollywood), enriquecido por una multitud que hasta la fecha ha

roto todos los récords de asistencia en dicho evento".

Resaltó su origen pobre y cómo se superó hasta llegar al éxito



con 56 álbumes grabados hasta la fecha.

Su más reciente disco "Para siempre" ha vendido más de 500.000 copias en México y otras 565.000 en Estados Unidos, dijo la disquera.

El Charro de Huentitlán se presentará en agosto y septiembre en varias localidades de México, incluyendo varias fechas en el Auditorio Nacional, uno de los centros más importantes del país.

En octubre y noviembre regresa a Estados Unidos donde hará paradas en Atlanta, Nueva York, Miami, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Ángeles, San José y Las Vegas

## An interview with Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, author of the 'Dirty Girls' books

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez jump-started the Latina chick-lit movement when she published the best-selling Dirty Girls Social Club five years ago.

[Click image for a larger version] Anna Pena Anna Pena

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez is author of the Dirty Girls books.

Now she's back with a sequel, Dirty Girls on Top, which follows Lauren, Usnavys, Rebecca, Amber, Sara and Elizabeth as they navigate through marriage, kids, careers and boyfriends during their mid-30s.

It's easy to want to call the breezy, sexy book a Latina version of Sex and the City. But Ms. Valdes-Rodriguez says she doesn't like that comparison.

"It's good; it's just very different from what I do," she said recently. "With the first Dirty Girls, I was the Latina Terry McMillan. And with the second one, I'm the Latina Candace Bushnell. Hopefully by the third Dirty Girls book, I can just be me."

Here's more from the 39-year-old author, who'll sign copies of the new book tonight at Borders.

Lesley Téllez The first Dirty Girls book seemed to end on a pretty final note. Why did you want to write a sequel?

I did leave some story lines open, actually, by design in that book. I didn't feel like I was finished with those characters. I felt like I could just keep writing. I immediately wanted to do the sequel but was advised by my

publisher to do a few books in between. Which in retrospect, I'm not sure was the best choice.

It seems as if there's a lot more sex in this book. Is that true, and if so, why?

I'm not sure that there is, actually.

Or maybe I haven't read a sexy book in a while.

I don't know. I was more at ease with writing about it. I think that happens as you get older. One of the edits I get with every book I've turned in for St. Martin's – it's actually twofold, and I think that has partly to do with the genre that I'm in – it's always, "More sex and more shopping." It's like, "OK. I'll add that." But [wish] this one, I did want to explore the idea of sex as a metaphor for all that is going on with them personally. I think a lot of times society will detach one from the other. But they're pretty interrelated. Sex with the right person, or with the wrong person, being unfaithful – just trying to explore it in a lot of different contexts with women in their mid-30s.

Going back to you immediately wanting to write a sequel: Did your ideas change since then? Is this book totally different than what you originally had in mind? That's such a good question. I actually wrote a sequel right away that is nothing like this

one. I've actually written three novels since the first book that all got the same reaction that the first Dirty Girls sequel did, which is that it was too dark and too literary. ... There's a part of me that's always tugged to the dark side and literary side, and I have to kind of keep it in check for now.

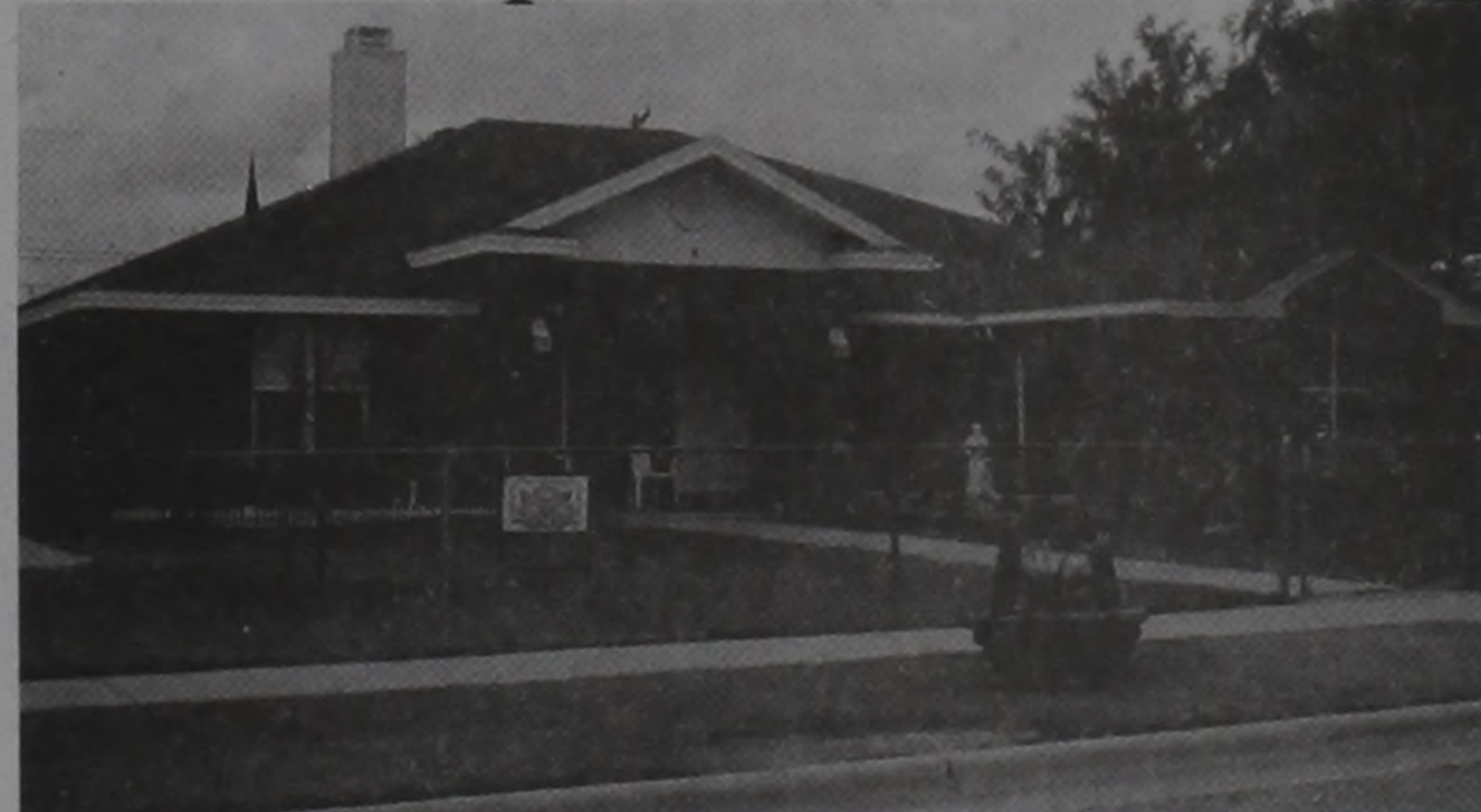
What's the chance this will be made into a movie?

It's a complicated story, and I don't know how much you have time for or want to hear, but the short version is yes, it's going to be a movie. And this week we're getting the paperwork from Paramount Pictures in the next couple of days, to finalize the legal stuff with them.

So there will be a third book?

Yeah. What I want to do now is focus on just one of the characters, whose story is totally unresolved at the end of this book, which is Lauren. She's quitting her job at the end of this book and going to find herself. So I want to do a book that's kind of Under the Tuscan Sun – y. You know? In the book, she was planning to maybe go to Mexico, at the end of this one. But I'm thinking maybe Portugal. I just want to take her somewhere totally different, where she can be alone for the first time in her life and not focus on having men in her life.

## Guadalupe Yard of the Month



July's Guadalupe Yard of the Month is Mr. & Mrs. George Sulaica of 101 N. Ave N. Mr. and Mrs. Sulaica have been in our neighborhood for 10 years. Remember keep Guadalupe Neighborhood Beautiful.

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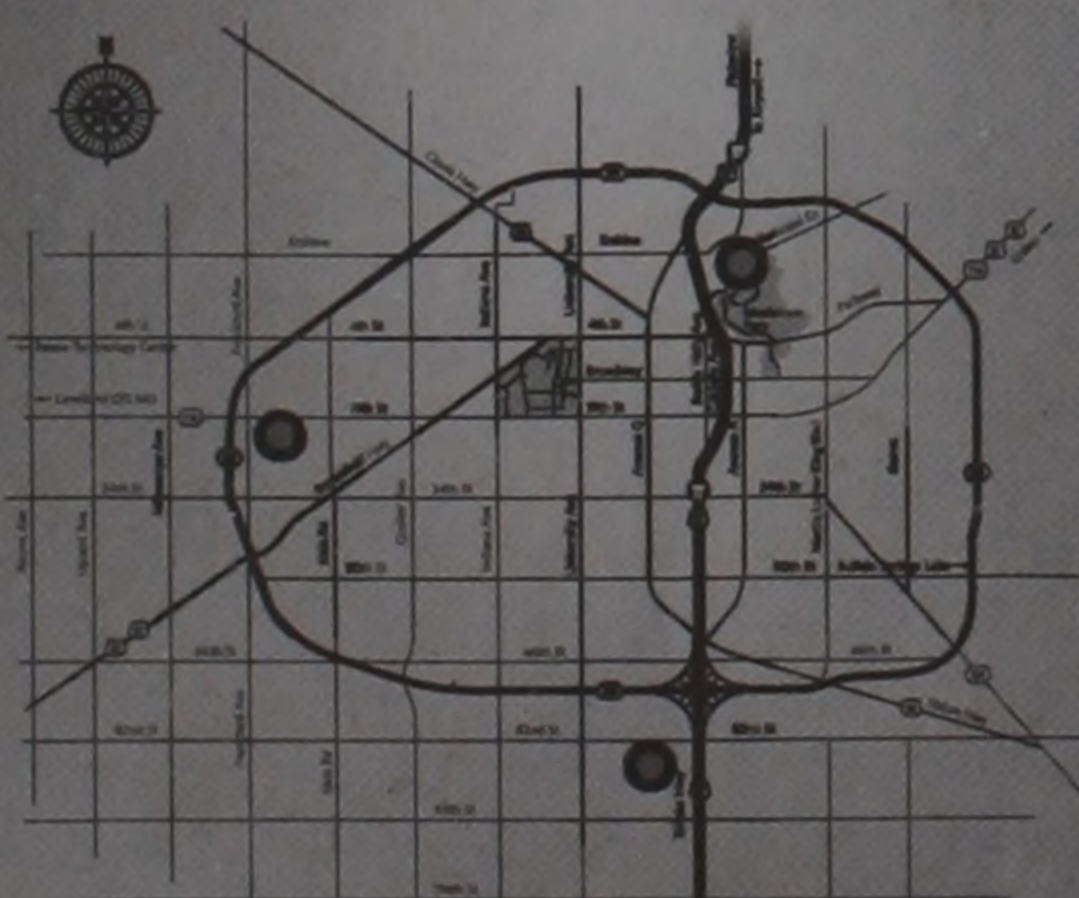
Are you interested in learning the Catholic Faith? Do you wander about the constant changes in the Catholic Church? The Catholic Hour Radio Program each Friday from 1:30-3:00 pm KRFE - 580 AM, Lubbock

Is there a difference between the New Mass and the Latin Mass? Do you wonder why there is a loss of respect and the reverence in your Catholic Church? Come see and hear the difference at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church 1114 30th St., Lubbock Sunday Latin Mass at 9:00 am - 744-6363

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