

El Editor

Celebrating
32 Years of
Publishing

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

Casualties of
War in Iraq
4,220
as of Jan.
8, 2009



VOL. XXXII No. 13

Week of Jan. 8-14, 2009

www.leditor.com

Lubbock/West Texas Region

Comentarios de Bidal

The Christmas tree is down, the lights are all down, the football games are finished and the new year will bring in the best and the worst. With the new year we can look forward to a bond election, new session for the Texas legislature and for a while, til I run out of words and things to report, a new series of columns in "Comentarios de Bidal."

We can't report very much now, but will in the future, plans for a new bond election in Lubbock. So far, according to news reports, two of our City fathers have made promises that the new package will not leave out neglected parts of the City. I would take this to mean north and east Lubbock. Todd Klein and, surprisingly, Floyd Price have both told the media that they will work toward including all parts of the City. No word yet from Linda DeLeon on her stance. As I said we cannot report on the specifics of the new bond package but will provide the information as soon as it becomes available to us. "Ya veremos."

Our friend, State Representative Roberto Alonzo, write us that the will be "Change" with the bringing to an end of the term of Bob Craddick and the bringing in a new speaker of the house. Craddick has already announced that he will not run for the position and it is thought that Joe Straus from San Antonio will be the new speaker. According to Alonzo, Straus has worked closely with him in his efforts to better higher education for minorities and in other project.

It will be important for us what happens in the Texas Legislature since it has already been reported that some important bills concerning our brother immigrants will be considered. More on this later.

Hopefully, if time, health and information is provided, I will continue this column weekly and I hope to report on the Council, its upcoming elections, the Texas legislature and whatever else comes up in the news that affects our community. Until then, hasta la vista baby.

Court Denies Texas Education Agency's Efforts to Stall Student's Rights to Equal Educational Opportunities

AUSTIN, TX – Earlier today, a federal district court denied the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) request to put on hold the court's order that requires TEA to remedy its language programs for English Language Learner (ELL) children across Texas in the long-standing case, *US v. Texas*. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy, Inc. (META), on behalf of LULAC and the GI Forum, hotly contested TEA's Motion to Stay Proceedings Pending Appeal filed just weeks ago and urged the Court to hold TEA to the current deadline of January 31, 2009.

"It is very sad to see TEA attempt to shirk its responsibilities and further delay opportunities for ELL children to learn the English language," said co-lead counsel David Hinojosa of MALDEF. "Fortunately, the Court recognized the urgency of the matter and is intent on holding TEA's feet to the fire." According to Roger Rice, counsel for META, the Court stated: "The time has come to put a halt to the failed secondary ESL program and monitoring system." Rice added, "Instead of playing legal games, TEA should be sitting down and fixing its program. If not now, when?"

On July 24, 2008, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice issued the most comprehensive legal decision concerning the civil rights of ELL students in the last 25 years, finding that Texas was failing to overcome language barriers for tens of thousands of Latino students

in secondary programs. While the Court noted that there was some success for students in the state's K-6 bilingual education program, the record at the secondary level was one of dismal failure. Accordingly, the Court ordered TEA to submit a plan to the Court no later than January 31, 2009 that would improve the State's programs for ELL secondary stu-



dents and revamp its statewide monitoring system.

In its present motion, TEA had asked the Court to delay the injunction pending its appeal to the Fifth Circuit on the grounds that it could not meet the deadline because of a lack of funding and resources. However, the Court rejected that argument finding the agency's arguments without merit.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has yet to issue a briefing scheduling on TEA's appeal.

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization, promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through litigation, advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, and higher education scholarships. For more information on MALDEF, please visit: www.maldef.org.

Marc Anthony, Paulina Rubio and other top Latino Stars to Perform at Latino Inaugural Gala

WASHINGTON, DC - The 2009 Latino Inaugural Gala committee announced today a slate of celebrated artists and entertainers confirmed to participate in the festivities taking place on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at Union Station (<http://www.latinoinauguralgala2009.org/>). Among the artists slated to appear are: Marc Anthony, Alejandro Sanz, Paulina Rubio, Rosario Dawson, Tony Plana, Wilmer Valderrama, War, Lila Downs, Cucu Diamantes & Yerba Buena, Elida Reyna, and Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano. To receive the latest up-to-the minute updates on new entertainment/celebrity announcements and other breaking Latino Inaugural Gala news, please text "GALA" to 35328.

"It is inspiring to have so many talented and admired Latino entertainers willing to come together in celebration of our nation's 44th President, the Honorable Barack Obama, and of the historic role Latinos played in this election," stated Esther Aguilera, President and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), one of the co-hosts of the Latino In-

augural Gala. "This will truly be an impressive display of the musical and cultural contributions that our community has to offer."

"Bringing together such an incredible variety of entertainers will ensure that the Latino Inaugural Gala will be, without a doubt, one of the greatest and most memorable inaugural celebrations to date," stated Ramona Martinez, Chair of the DNC Hispanic Caucus, one of the organizations co-hosting the event.

With additional celebrities, entertainers and high-profile political figures expected to announce their participation in the coming days, tickets are expected to sell out (for more information on ticket sales, visit <http://www.latinoinauguralgala2009.org/>). Additional information on celebrity entertainment can also be found on this website.

"Voto Latino is thrilled that so many celebrities participated in the 2008 election by marching voters to the polls, phone banking, throwing concerts, and walking precincts registering new voters," said Maria Teresa Peterson, Executive Director of Voto Latino, another organization

co-hosting the Gala event. "The Latino Inaugural Gala is a celebration of our community's collective effort that by working together across all disciplines we can achieve a voice for a new generation of Americans. We must continue our momentum to ensure that this political awakening translates into political power that includes quality education, healthcare and more."

Additional Co-Hosts of the event include the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI), the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

All proceeds raised from the 2009 Latino Inaugural Gala will go to support the vision of creating a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, D.C. This gala's beneficiary nonprofit, Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino, is dedicated to helping take the idea of such a museum from dream to reality.

For Latino Volunteers, Peace Corps is two Way Calle

By Ron Arias
In 1963 when I joined the Peace Corps to work in Peru, I thought I was going to help people in need. Years later I realized they helped me much more than I helped them.

Now that Barack Obama has vowed to expand the Peace Corps, I'd like to emphasize to U.S. Latinos the rewards of volunteer work abroad, especially in Latin America.

I discovered that my Mexican roots connected me to a deeper history and culture than I'd ever imagined. By working and living among campesinos in the Andes, I grew to appreciate how most of the world lives — struggling on the edge of survival.

The Peace Corps sent me and another Californian to Sicuani, a mountain valley town south of Cuzco, where we ran a food program for Quechua-speaking school children.

We also started a half-dozen other projects. We taught English to adults in the town; we raised quality rabbits hoping farmers would breed them; we imported pigs for the same reason; we got an Iowa tractor company to send us a versatile, one-piston

tractor to plow small plots; we tried breeding Brown Swiss bulls with the local, runty cows, and we even ran a summer camp for kids.

We failed at nearly everything except the school food program, the English classes and the camp. But every flop was an adventure, including our showcase effort with two bulls we borrowed from a state-run ranch. One was fully mature and the other was large but as we discovered, still an adolescent.

To publicize the project, we invited campesinos from miles around to see the first day of breeding. They came, but after the first cow was brought into the corral, all we heard was laughter. The younger bull wanted to suckle and went for the cow's udder, and the older one was only interested in mounting the other male.

We laughed, too, just as we shared other parts of community life, from fiestas to funerals. We even witnessed a tragedy when at a distance we saw soldiers shoot and kill a defenseless group of Indians who were squatting on fallow land belonging to an absentee owner.

After I left the Peace Corps, I

taught English for 13 years at a community college. My students always learned about Latin America from me, and since my time in Peru was so intense, I began to write fiction influenced as much by Gabriel García Márquez and Juan Rulfo as by William Faulkner and Bernard Malamud.

When I left teaching for magazine journalism, my success at "parachuting" into hot and dire spots around the globe was made possible by my life in Peru, where I learned the value of being flexible and relatively non-judgmental.

When I interviewed peasants in Brazil or Nicaragua, war victims in Vietnam or Sarajevo, the starving in Somalia, or the targets or racism among Lakota Sioux or Australian Aborigines, I felt a familiarity with life and death at the edge of existence. Because of my service abroad, I needed no prepping.

When President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, his famous words were, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." To young Americans, especially

those with Hispanic roots, I'd like to add: "Also ask what your host country can do for you."

If you serve in Latin America, like me you'll receive more than you give. You'll probably deepen your attachment to your cultural cousins to the south. You'll learn the benefits of compassion, patience and tolerance, and you'll absolutely hone your problem-solving skills while expanding the Spanish you may already speak. Those two years will affect the rest of your life.

(Ron Arias, of Hermosa Beach, Calif., is author of several books, including the pioneering Chicano novel "The Road to Tamazunchale" in 1975. Reach him at ron.arias@mac.com.) *Calle/Street

With fewer jobs, fewer illegal immigrants

The US recession and stricter law enforcement are keeping many Hispanics from coming



By Brian Whitley

The economic downturn — along with more aggressive enforcement — is reducing the flow of illegal immigrants to the United States.

Not only are fewer people — mostly Hispanics — slipping into the United States, they're getting fewer jobs. New data shows that Latino participation in the labor force — normally among the highest — has dropped along with a decline in new arrivals.

"The picture has definitely changed," says Randy Capps, a demographer at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, though he cautions that it's too early to say whether the changes are permanent. "Unauthorized Hispanic immigrants are fairly responsive to job markets." [Editor's note: The original version misspelled Mr. Capps' name.]

Tougher enforcement and the construction of a new border fence may also be playing a role. The number of illegal aliens removed or returned home this year rose 20 percent compared with a year ago, according to a Department of Homeland Security statement. There was also a 27 percent increase in arrests made while raiding workplaces by the US Immigration and Customs.

The Border Patrol, which added 6,000 agents since 2006, has seen a steady decline in the number of people it has caught trying to cross the border.

Exactly how far-reaching the current shifts in the Latino immigrant population are is unclear, and may turn on the extent of the recession and the immigration policies of the new administration.

Downturn hits Latinos hard
A recent report by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, found that the proportion of Latino immigrants employed or seeking work in the US fell for the first time since 2003. It declined from 72.4 percent in the last quarter of 2007 to 71.3 percent in the last quarter of 2008.

The drop is "small but significant," says the report's author, Rakesh Kochhar. As a percentage, more Hispanic immigrants are active in the labor force than other Americans.

The report also found that the unemployment rate for all Latinos was 7.9 percent in the third quarter of 2008, compared with 5.7 percent during last year's third quarter. The unemployment rate for the total US workforce is 6.1 percent.

It's not clear whether immigrant workers who have dropped out of the labor force are returning home or have just temporarily given up

looking for jobs.

The decline in labor force participation is strongest among Latinos who arrived since 2000, according to Pew. Mexico's central bank reported in early 2008 that remittances had flattened at about \$24 billion after several years of large increases.

On the other hand, the number of passengers flying from the US to Mexico fell 4 percent in the past few years, according to the International Air Transport Association. Carlos Rico, Mexico's undersecretary for North American affairs, told the Associated Press last month that applications by emigrants to move their possessions back across the border haven't notably increased.

A long-term shift?
For many years now, the number of Hispanic workers entering the US has been growing at a remarkable pace, dramatically shifting the country's cultural makeup. In the past two years, that pace has slowed.

It's the inflow of undocumented workers that is falling, as legal immigration remains steady, says Mr. Capps, the Washington demographer. A Pew report released earlier this year found that the number of illegal immigrants arriving in the US had dropped to below that of legal arrivals, reversing a decade-long trend.

The report also found that illegal immigration from Mexico has leveled off since last year.

Latinos are increasingly exploring destinations that don't require treacherous desert journeys, says Patricia Mendez, a Honduran immigrant who came to the US five years ago and who heads Centro Presente, a Latino immigrant advocacy group outside Boston. Her brother, she says, recently emigrated to Spain, one of the most popular recent choices.

"Foreign born Hispanic workers are in a state of transition," Mr. Kochhar says. "Are we now going to see a drop in the population itself?"

At the very least, a long downturn could mean that the shift away from illegal immigration toward visa holders gains momentum.

If the trends continue, they could even alter the distribution of Latino immigrant communities in the US. A slowdown in arrivals could erode communities with more fragile, less-developed networks, says Irene Bloemraad, a sociologist at the University of California in Berkeley.

And those who do come may increasingly follow jobs to far-flung, recession-resistant agricultural areas like the upper Midwest, Capps says.

For now, those possibilities remain speculation — immigration policy reform led by the Obama administration, for instance, could change trends.

But the longer the downturn lasts and the more severe it is, the more uncertainty colors the future of Latino immigrants. "As far as I know, nobody knows where the light is at the end of this tunnel," says Kochhar.

El Editor
Now Celebrating
32 years of Publishing
eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Guest Commentary CUBA'S PEOPLE — 50 YEARS LATER, STILL HUNGRY

By Ricardo Chavira

After 50 years of revolutionary rule, Cubans are still waiting for the one thing that matters most: economic security. While they enjoy free health care and higher education, millions of Cubans endure the grim hardship imposed by salaries of less than 30 dollars a month.

Traditional analysts and exile activists will tell you that Cubans above all yearn for democracy and full respect for human rights, and that assessing Cuba in simple economic terms is wrongheaded.

Certainly political freedom does matter. However, it's far less pressing for most Cubans than the day-to-day struggle to make ends meet. That has never been truer than today. It could well be the ultimate standard by which the revolution's success or failure is eventually judged.

I reached this conclusion after 20 years of travel to Cuba and conversations with hundreds of its residents. During most of this time Cuba has endured an economic calamity. Its tenuous recovery is now seriously threatened by the global financial crisis.

Because the Cuba debate is so intensely politicized, I was surprised during my first trip in 1989 to find most Cubans preoccupied with their personal economic plight. The same day I attended an event at which Fidel Castro vowed to preserve socialism, a teacher quietly complained to me he did not earn enough to provide for his family. He brushed off questions about revolutionary politics, pressing on the possibilities of making a new life in Spain or the United States.

In August 1993 Cuba was fully in the depths of its euphemistically named "Special Period in Peacetime," the near-collapse of the system after Soviet aid ended. The government officials I met were shaken. They expressed grave concern about their country's future. Food and other basic necessities were in alarmingly short supply and blackouts lasted most of the day. A senior bureaucrat and her husband invited me over for dinner, a lone avocado adorned with lettuce.

Over the next several years I witnessed Cuba's agonizing climb away from the precipice. But its people, not unlike millions of others throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, have never attained liberation from the torment of not having enough.

Cuba's poverty is less dire, for example, than that which prevails in Haiti or Honduras. Its 11.4 million residents aren't starving or homeless. They are generally grateful for universal medical attention and education. Still, those advances do nothing to alleviate the stress caused by a dire housing shortage and chronically existing on too little.

Government rationing and subsidies are supposed to make for a decent standard of living. The reality is considerably different. Pay, for reasons never clear to me, is simply too paltry to cover the cost of living. The price of cooking oil, meat, produce, clothes, shoes among others items is prohibitive. A pound of powdered milk, for example, can cost two dollars. Cars and vacations to nearby resorts are out of the question for most.

Those with relatives elsewhere have the relief of remittances. Even they and many more pilfer from where they work. Food, beverages, clothes and anything else that has a black market buyer finds its way from the workplace to the street.

Recently Vice President José Ramón Machado Ventura acknowledged in understatement that Cuba was confronting "very difficult" economic times. That's hardly news to Cubans I know. They are nurturing the hope that Presidents Raúl Castro and Barack Obama will overcome half a century of hostility, meet and pave the way for a relationship that includes economic betterment for the island.

"We want political change that will bring with it improvement in the standard of living," one Havana native tells me, speaking for multitude. "It's not really possible for us to continue on as we have."

(Ricardo Chavira, a former foreign correspondent who covered Cuba, last visited the island in 2008 and continues to have contact there. He teaches journalism and Latin American Studies at the University of California, Irvine and California State University, Fullerton. E-mail: ricardo.chavira50@yahoo.com) ©2009

Hilda Solis - In the Image of Frances Perkins?

By Dick Meister

Rarely has a nominee for any Cabinet post drawn such widespread praise as President-elect Obama's choice for Secretary of Labor — and for good reason. Hilda Solís has the potential of returning the Labor Department to its mission of defending and strengthening the status of U.S. workers.

Solís, daughter of immigrants from Mexico and Nicaragua, has the skill, experience, determination and firm presidential backing to shift the department from what's been the opposite direction under President Bush's Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao.

Chao, admittedly acting on orders from the White House, has done little to combat the widespread employer violations of the laws that are supposed to guarantee workers union rights, safe workplaces and decent wages, hours and working conditions.

It's clear, as Obama says, that the department "has not lived up to its role either as an advocate for hard-working families or as an arbiter of fairness in relations between labor and management."

Chairman George Miller of the House Labor and Education Committee says the department has actively undermined workers' rights. He acknowledges that changing the department will be daunting. But like many others who've spoken out since Obama nominated Hilda Solís to succeed Chao, he says he's confident Solís can pull it off.

If she does, she'll rank as one of the greatest labor secretaries since the legendary Frances Perkins, Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary throughout his 12 years as president. It was Perkins who first proposed and enforced many of the labor laws that grant workers the basic rights and protections Elaine Chao has flaunted.

Like Perkins, who took office during the Great Depression, Solís will serve as secretary during a time of extreme economic turmoil and under a president who will rely on her to attack the problems. Obama says that will include making our unions strong and otherwise aiding workers, one of his top priorities.

Leaders of the country's labor federations and hundreds of their affiliated unions agree with Obama that Solís will be an exceptionally strong advocate for working people. So do Democratic Party leaders and many of Solís fellow Democrats who've served with her in Congress over the past eight years.

Probably as much in her favor is the vehement opposition to her

appointment by notoriously anti-labor organizations such as the National Right to Work Committee, whose Mark Mix warns ominously that she is "a 100 percent proponent of unions." Solís must be doing something right to draw such opponents.

Actually, she's only a 97 percent proponent. That, at least, is how the AFL-CIO scores her congressional votes on labor issues.

She's variously described by her many supporters as a tremendous champion of workers' rights and of working families, a "warrior" who's relentless, unwavering and tireless in their behalf. They see her as a progressive who will work closely with grassroots labor, environmental and immigrant groups.

Solís' record in Congress and in California's state legislature for half-a-dozen years before that does indeed show her to be one of the best political friends workers could hope for.

She led the way to increasing California's minimum wage and tightening enforcement of the state's pro-worker labor laws, for instance, and helped create environmentally friendly, energy-saving "green jobs" and job training programs at the state and federal level. She's helped expand unemployment and disability insurance programs, fought to protect low-income communities from pollution and pesticide exposure.

She's joined workers' marches, picket lines and other demonstrations.

There's no doubt Solís will carry out her promise to enforce and vigilantly try to expand and strengthen the laws and programs designed to aid workers, their unions and their communities.

Just as Frances Perkins once worked so hard for passage of the National Labor Relations Act that gave workers the basic right to unionize, Solís will work hard for passage of the long-pending Employee Free Choice Act that would lift the legal barriers that have so seriously undermined the Labor Relations Act that only 12 percent of U.S. workers now belong to unions.

Imagine that. A pro-labor Secretary of Labor.

(Dick Meister, a San Francisco-based journalist, has covered labor and political issues for a half-century. Contact him through his website, www.dickmeister.com) ©2009



Carlos and Lile Quirino celebrated their 32nd Anniversary the past holiday season.

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

An Administration Without Richardson

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson announced Sunday that he would opt out of his nomination as commerce secretary in light of an ongoing grand jury inquiry into his business dealings. The investigation may eventually reveal whether there was any improper behavior. But what is clear and disappointing is that for now, the next administration, and nation, will not have the benefit of Richardson's expertise and experience, says an editorial in New York's El Diario/La Prensa. Richardson's withdrawal is also disheartening for Latinos who celebrated his nomination, especially as part of the president-elect's commitment to naming Hispanics to his cabinet. Editors urge Obama to choose a replacement who is "well-equipped to deal with the economic crisis at hand and at the same time, remain true to his promise of diversity at the upper echelons of his administration."

Source: New America Media

Obama's Latino Factor

By Maria Elena Salinas

It was not exactly the position that he was expecting, but he was nevertheless grateful.

"To our Latino community, thank you for your support and confidence, for voting for our candidate and now our president-elect," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson in Spanish as he accepted his nomination by President-elect Barack Obama as secretary of commerce on Dec. 3.

It was hard to hide the look of disappointment on his face at not being named secretary of state, a position he was expecting and was certainly qualified for but went to Sen. Hillary Clinton instead.

But even though his nomination was viewed by some as a mere consolation prize, Richardson's appointment went beyond the position he was picked for.

It was the kickoff of what would become the Latino factor of Obama's administration.

Richardson was the first Hispanic nominated for Obama's Cabinet. It was a moment of pride for the Latino community, but was received with a bit of skepticism.

After Richardson's nomination, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus sent a letter to the president-elect's transition office recommending names of additional Hispanics as potential candidates for the remaining Cabinet slots.

"We'd definitely be disappointed ... if it's just one (Richardson), he's going to have to answer to a lot of the issues that come before us," said the chairman for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, California Rep. Joe Baca.

He added that the president-elect would jeopardize his agenda if no other Latinos were selected.

After all, Obama did promise to have one of the most diverse presidential Cabinets in history.

It turns out that's one promise the president-elect is keeping even before being sworn into office.

By mid-December, Obama had selected a record number of seven Latinos to key posts in his administration, including three high-level Cabinet members.

Besides Richardson at commerce, he appointed Sen. Ken Salazar as secretary of the interior and California Rep. Hilda Solís as secretary of labor.

The Bush and Clinton administrations had at most two Latinos working in their respective Cabinets at one time.

Other midlevel appointees tapped for Obama's White House staff are Cecilia Munoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, to be the director of intergovernmental affairs; former Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera as head of the White House Military Office; Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Nancy Sutley as head of the White House's Council on Environmental Quality; and Moises "Moe" Vela will be the new vice president's director of administration.

National Latino organizations are praising Obama for the number of qualified Hispanics selected for his top posts, but some say there is the potential for more.

"While many key positions remain unfilled, we have every reason to believe that President-elect Obama and his team will continue to tap this large and growing pool of Hispanic talent as they continue the crucial appointments process," said Janet Murguía, president of the National Council of La Raza.

There not only is a huge pool of Hispanic talent that could contribute to Obama's administration, but there are millions of Hispanics with very high expectations of what the next government will offer them.

Obama was overwhelmingly supported by Latinos. He got 67 percent of the Latino vote in the general election, and it was Latinos who gave him the victory in key states like Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and even Florida, where for the first time a majority of Latinos voted for a Democrat.

Before going on his winter vacation, the president-elect acknowledged that he still has some positions left to fill before his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Even though he is already making history for having the largest number of Hispanics in high-level posts in the White House, perhaps upon his return he might consider including more than seven to represent the interests of the more than 45 million Latinos living in the U.S., who helped him get to where he is.

READ EL EDITOR ON THE INTERNET WWW.ELEDITOR.COM

MEET OBAMA'S HISPANIC BRAIN TRUST

By Jacqueline Baylón

Hispanic Link News Service

Three members of President-elect Barack Obama's 20-member Cabinet are Hispanics who have gained much respect as political leaders both nationally and within their ethnic community of 50 million.

How they gained the community's trust and Obama's attention can be found by looking at each one's public service record and political ascent:

Here in brief are their achievements that caught the incoming president's eye:
BILL RICHARDSON, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE-DESIGNATE

Bill Richardson was elected governor of New Mexico in 2003. Now 61, he is serving his second term. He is the country's only Hispanic governor.

His parents, U.S. citizen William Blaine Richardson Jr., a Citibank executive, and María Luisa López-Collado, a Mexican national, lived in Mexico City. His father wanted Bill to be born on U.S. soil so wife María Luisa traveled to Pasadena, Calif., for the birth. Bill's early schooling was in Mexico City and at 13 he was sent to Middlesex School in Massachusetts.

He earned a bachelor's degree in French and political science from Tufts University in Medford, Mass., and a master's degree in international affairs from that university's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

In 1972 he married Barbara Flavin, whom he

had met while still in prep school. They have no children.

Richardson did staff assistant policy work right out of college for Massachusetts Republican Congressman F. Bradford Morse.

In 1978, he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Four years later he was elected to Congress, where he served for the next 14 years.

Richardson was one of the floor managers and largely credited with passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993.

In 1997, President Clinton appointed him Ambassador to the United Nations and a year later, Secretary of Energy. Then Richardson took academic appointments at Harvard, New Mexico State, and lectured at United World College of the American West in New Mexico.

Throughout his career he has been called upon by presidents of both parties to lead international trouble-shooting missions, including negotiating the release of hostages.

KEN SALAZAR, SECRETARY OF INTERIOR-DESIGNATE

Ken Salazar, 53, was elected to a six-year term in the U.S. Senate from Colorado in 2004. Prior to winning the seat, Salazar was that state's attorney general.

Salazar was born in Alamosa, Colo., to parents of Mexican descent who trace their ancestry to early North America settlements. He is a fifth generation Coloradan and 12th generation North American. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado College and

a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

He and wife Hope have two daughters, Melinda and Andrea, and a granddaughter, Mireya.

Salazar's public career began after he was appointed to serve in Gov. Roy Romer's Cabinet as the chief legal and executive director of the state's Department of Natural Resources from 1987 to 1994. He fought for environmental protection by crafting reforms for oil, mining and gas operations. Salazar returned to private law practice in 1994 and was elected state attorney general in 1998 and re-elected in 2002.

In 2004, he won election to succeed retiring Republican Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. He and the GOP's Mel Martínez of Florida became the first Hispanics in the U.S. Senate since 1977.

During his tenure, Salazar has been active on clean and renewable energy measures that reduce foreign oil dependence.

HILDA SOLIS, SECRETARY OF LABOR-DESIGNATE

Hilda Solís, 51, has been in the House of Representatives since 2001, when she defeated nine-term incumbent Matthew Martínez in the Democratic primary. In her fourth term, she represents California's 32nd Congressional District.

She is the daughter of immigrant parents from Nicaragua and Mexico. The California native earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. She resides in El Monte with husband Sam Sayyad.

Solís first won office in 1985 as a member of the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees. She was elected to serve in the California Assembly in 1992 and two years later became the first Latina elected to the state Senate.

As chair of the state Senate Industrial Relations Committee she fought to increase California's minimum hourly wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75. Among other reforms, she spearheaded labor-law enforcement and job training.

Solís is in her third term as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Task Force on Health and the Environment. In August 2000, she became the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her work on environmental justice issues.

(Jacqueline Baylón is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. E-mail her care of editor@hispaniclink.org.) ©2009

STATEMENT: CAP on The Economic Stimulus Package

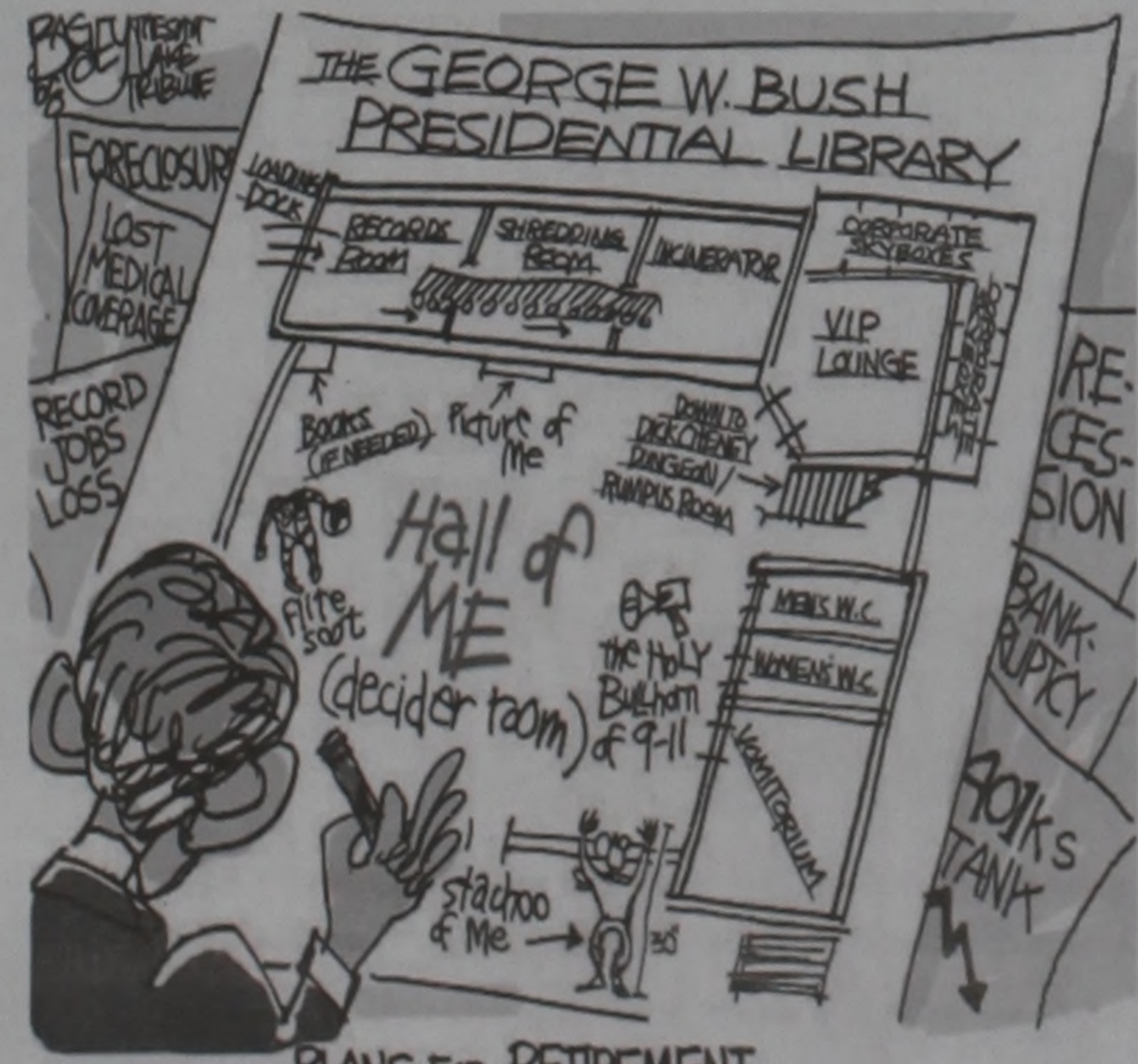
The U.S. economy is facing its most serious economic and financial challenges since the Great Depression. Economic recovery legislation is urgently needed to prevent an ever-worsening spiral of economic decline and job loss. The proposals reportedly under consideration by the president-elect and congressional leaders are promising. Creating 3 million jobs is justified by our economic challenges: The United States shed 2 million jobs in 2008 alone. Because we face a prolonged period of severe economic distress, it is also appropriate that the plan is designed to bolster the economy over the next two years.

Economic recovery policies can achieve four goals: having a large impact on economic growth and jobs, delivering relief quickly, helping people struggling the most, and investing in our future economic strength. Building a clean energy infrastructure will create new green jobs for today's struggling construction and manufacturing workers, promote energy security, and help fight catastrophic climate change. Other important investments including state and local aid, unemployment benefits, and health care can protect the most vulnerable families, accelerate the economic recovery, and build a foundation

for long-term prosperity. Tax cuts can strengthen the economy most by focusing on the low-income workers, families with children, and other Americans struggling to get by.

The legislation should make a clean break from eight years of special-interest politics. Public money should be spent wisely and in the most effective way to address our economic woes. A rapid and aggressive economic plan must not be obstructed by demands for special-interest favorites or long-discredited conservative proposals.

El Editor
Informing-Educating
Creating Action.
The Job of a Real
Newspaper of
RECORD
on the
internet at
www.eleditor.



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 Aguero
Olga Riojas Aguero-Business Manager
Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz
Circulation: Jimmy Riojas & friends

ADVERTISE CALL
806-763-3841

Social Security the Greatest Ponzi Scheme Ever?

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass. — For weeks the U.S. and international media have been following the story of Bernard Madoff and his "giant Ponzi scheme," as The Wall Street Journal called it, which may have cheated unsuspecting investors out of tens of billions of dollars. The Securities and Exchange Commission termed it "a stunning fraud that appears to be of epic proportions."

But is this — as it is being touted — the largest Ponzi scheme in history? The answer is no. That honor goes to a Depression-era creation of the U.S. government itself: the Social Security system.

As Ponzi schemes go, Social Security dwarfs Madoff's con in both size and scope. Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, describes a Ponzi scheme as "a fraudulent investment operation that involves paying abnormally high returns to investors out of the money paid in by subsequent investors, rather than from the profits from any real business." The high returns are used to lure new investors, whose money keeps the scheme going.

You have just met Social Security. The federal government today collects payroll taxes from approximately 163 million white- and blue-collar workers, which is used to finance the retirement benefits of 50 million Americans. In fiscal 2008, Washington collected \$785 billion in taxes and paid out approximately \$585 billion in benefits.

So what's the problem? The problem is that generations of U.S. workers have been misled to believe that Social Security's annual surpluses accumulate in a trust fund that will be used to meet future costs.

It is money that will be there, we have been assured, when "our day" comes. Indeed, Social Security's trustees reported that the trust fund's assets reached \$2.2 trillion in 2008. But like Madoff's investment fund, these assets are largely smoke and mirrors.

All surplus Social Security taxes the Treasury collects are spent immediately, used to pay for government programs or interest on the national debt. In exchange, the Treasury gives Social Security non-marketable special-issue government securities: IOUs. That's what accumulates in the trust fund.

These promissory notes are backed by nothing of tangible value, other than the political promise that Washington will come up with a way to redeem them when they're needed. That day of reckoning is coming soon. Though the current recession probably will delay the retirement of many baby boomers, who have seen their nest eggs depleted by the dramatic decline in equity values, Social Security actuaries have estimated that benefit payments will exceed revenues starting in 2016, less than a decade from now.

This date was based on intermediate assumptions: not rosy, nor worst-case. If the current recession is especially long and deep — reducing payrolls, incomes, immigration, and revenues — it could come sooner.

The exact date, however, matters less than what will happen when we reach that date: Social Security officials will have to start cashing in

some of the IOUs and the Treasury will have to find a way to come up



with the money. Many in the media are now asking how Madoff could have taken so many investors, regulators, and investigators for such a big ride for such a long time, despite numerous red flags.

Those who did their due diligence were not fooled. The abnormally generous returns, unusual fee arrangements, and lack of independent custodian all signaled trouble.

Likewise, Social Security should be considered too good to be true. We should not be fooled. It is an unsustainable pay-as-you-go system — exactly what Charles Ponzi had in mind.

Just as the Ponzi and Madoff schemes collapsed, Social Security will become unsustainable when payroll taxes no longer cover program benefits. Then, either benefits will have to be cut or more money will have to be pumped into the system through increased payroll taxes, higher income taxes, or increased borrowing.

Ponzi and Madoff fooled many. If we ignore Social Security's future problems we only fool ourselves.

Obama Aims for Quick Economic Stimulus, Bipartisan Support

In pursuit of his twin goals of reviving the economy and transforming the political climate in Washington, President-elect Barack Obama not only wants quick congressional action on his mammoth stimulus package but also wants significant numbers of Republicans to join in voting for it.

And to get GOP support, Obama has decided to include as much as \$100 billion in new tax breaks for businesses — a proposal that's not at the top of the list of stimulus measures for most Democrats.

Despite Obama's active courtship of Republicans, however, both in the tax-cut proposal and a meeting Monday that included GOP leaders on Capitol Hill, the reaction suggested he still faces obstacles to getting both fast and broadly bipartisan support for his plan.

Cutting taxes has long been a Republican mantra. Obama is proposing to devote about \$300 billion to tax cuts in a stimulus package that may total as much as \$775 billion. While final details of the package are being worked out, about half of those cuts would be tax credits of up to \$500 for workers earning less than \$200,000.

What surprised many liberals was that the plan also contains about \$100 billion in business tax cuts that many conservatives have been advocating. Republican leaders reacted positively to the idea of business tax cuts.

"I think he would like to have a large bipartisan vote in favor of this package. And he knows, even before we mentioned it, that the way to do that is obviously for it to have elements that are appealing to Republicans," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said after a 90-minute meeting Obama held with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders Monday. "I think he's already been listening to the suggestions we've made."

At the same time, McConnell and House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) said they were not ready to endorse the overall stimulus proposal. And other high-level Republicans voiced concern that, appealing as tax cuts were, the plan stirred fears of its impact on the deficit.

House Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-Va.), speaking after the closed-door meeting with Obama, said, "I think there would be a lot of support" for tax cuts among the GOP rank and file, but "we cannot afford to be burdening our children and our grandchildren with an extra trillion dollars in debt."

Even before Obama returned from his holiday break in Hawaii, Republicans were saying his stimulus program should be subjected to the normal system of hearings and full debate, rather than rushed through to meet the economic emergency — especially at the cost of raising the deficit.

For his part, Obama said he was looking for a balanced plan that addresses the needs of businesses as well as consumers, and he hoped Congress would pass the legislation by the first week of February.

"It's clear that we have to act and we have to act now to address this crisis and break the momentum of the recession, or the next few years could be dramatically worse," Obama said.

Democratic leaders pledged to move quickly. "We know what the time constraints are," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). "They are dictated by the sense of urgency that the American people have about their economic well-being." Pelosi would not commit to a specific timetable, though. Obama will provide more details of the stimulus plan in a speech this week. The majority

of the stimulus plan would be new government spending, with a focus on infrastructure projects.

He said the bulk of the proposed tax cuts reflected his campaign pledge to help middle-class families.

"There is a happy convergence between what I had pledged during the campaign and what's

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

required for the economy, right now, to put more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans," Obama told reporters.

The largest component would be a refundable tax credit of \$500 for most individuals and \$1,000 for married couples. The credit, which Obama outlined during the campaign, would reduce Social Security payroll taxes that are automatically withheld from paychecks.

People earning more than \$8,000 a year would get the full cut. Those earning more than \$200,000 would not qualify. If Congress passes the package quickly, people would see the change in their paychecks by midyear.

"So if you were a married couple and your tax credit was \$1,000, then just as soon as the IRS can make that change you would see your paycheck go up by \$40 every other week," a transition official said, declining to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the stimulus plan publicly.

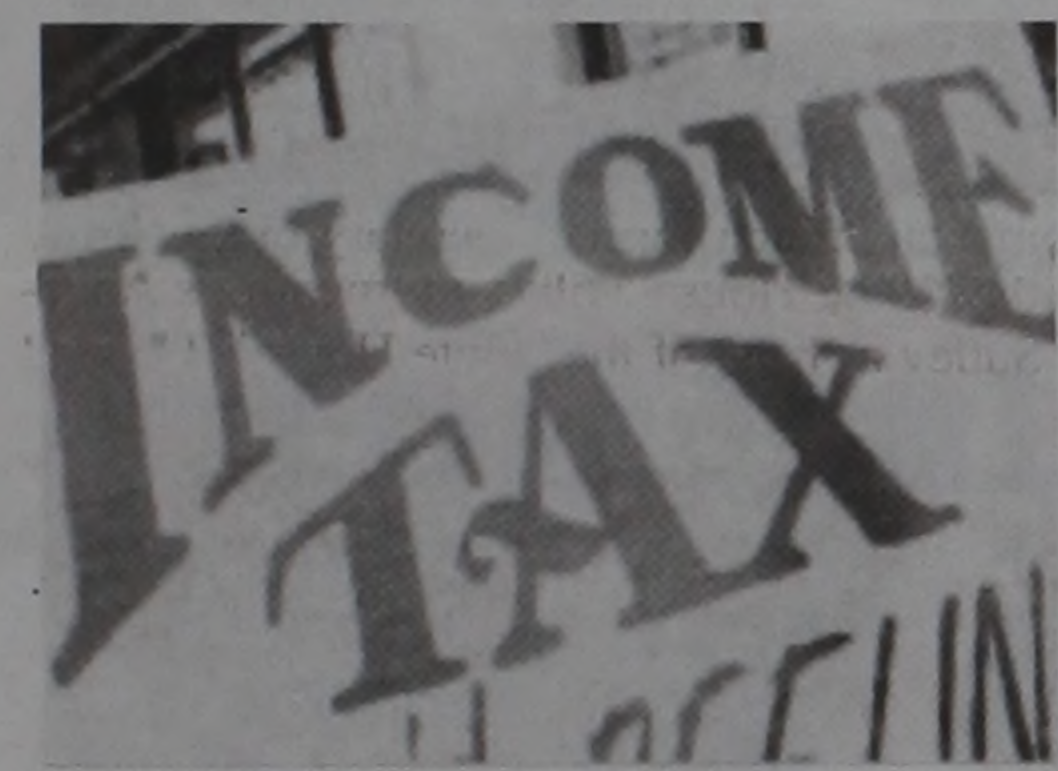
The tax incentives for businesses are designed to encourage creation of jobs and investment in equipment; there is a new jobs tax credit, for example, to encourage employers to keep or hire more employees.

Flexibiliza el IRS sus requisitos

Este año el "Tío Sam" promete mostrarse más comprensivo hacia aquellos que tengan especiales dificultades para rendirle cuentas.

"Quienes se quedaron sin trabajo pueden deducir los gastos de buscar empleo, y para quienes perdieron sus casas dejando deuda pendiente sobre la misma existen amnistías para no contabilizar lo que no se ha pagado como ingreso", dice Abraham Schneier, experto del Instituto Americano de Contadores Públicos Certificados (AICPA). Brady Bennet, director de cumplimiento del IRS,

semanas que toma cuando la declaración es "en papel". Shulman señaló que no cuentan con estimaciones sobre cuántos declarantes podrán beneficiarse de los criterios más flexibles que se aplicarán este año, pero, para tranquilidad de quienes piensen que ello podría traducirse en una carga para las arcas públicas, el comisionado aclaró que no se espera una merma en el monto final de ingresos.



Doug Shulman, Comisionado del Servicio de Recaudación de Impuestos (IRS), anunció ayer que aunque su agencia continuará aplicando las normas tributarias existentes, lo hará de forma mucho más flexible.

"Dadas las actuales condiciones económicas, queremos ayudar a los contribuyentes que tienen dificultades para cumplir con sus obligaciones", dijo Shulman. Enfatizó que lo más importante es que quienes crean que van a tener problemas de pago contacten al IRS cuanto antes, para explicar su caso y encontrar una solución.

recuerda que el importe del estímulo económico que millones de contribuyentes recibieron durante el año pasado está libre de impuestos, y que quienes calificando para el mismo no lo recibieran, pueden solicitar ahora un crédito de recuperación.

Shulman señaló que la especial sensibilidad a las condiciones económicas se hará extensivo a los dueños de pequeños negocios que legítimamente hayan sufrido adversidades durante el ejercicio fiscal pasado.

Ajustar el pago de impuestos atrasados, acelerar la negociación de un acuerdo y aplazar acciones de recaudación, son algunas de las acciones que Shulman citó como ejemplos que podrían aplicarse, particularmente a contribuyentes con un buen historial de cumplimiento y que se hayan visto afectados por las recientes adversidades económicas.

"Todo el personal de la agencia tiene instrucciones de mostrarse más comprensivo hacia los contribuyentes con dificultades, y también más discreción para encontrar soluciones a los mismos", aseguró Shulman. También indicó que ello incluye a los contribuyentes que sólo cuentan con un número individual de identificación de impuestos (ITIN), como es el caso de muchos inmigrantes.

Kristin Lawton, experta del Centro para el Desarrollo Empresarial (CFED), recuerda que quienes empezaron un negocio desde el hogar —un recurso acostumbrado entre personas que han perdido su empleo— no deben olvidar contabilizar los gastos de creación de ese negocio, a efectos de evaluar la posibilidad de obtener un Crédito Impositivo sobre el Ingreso Obtenido (EITC).

"Deduciendo de los ingresos brutos la inversión hecha para iniciar ese negocio en el hogar, muchos podrán situarse debajo del neto de 56,000 dólares y recibir un reembolso de hasta 5,000 dólares que pueden resultar cruciales en estos tiempos", dice Lawton.

Igualmente los propietarios de pequeños negocios podrán recibir un tratamiento más flexible, siempre y cuando haya causas legítimas que justifiquen sus problemas para pagar a tiempo o totalmente.

El consejo unánime entre los expertos es atacar la pereza y comenzar cuanto antes a hacer un repaso a 2008, dado que muchos de los retos a los que se enfrentaron los contribuyentes podrían traducirse en algún tipo de beneficio fiscal.

Los agentes del IRS también recuerdan que las personas que en 2008 hayan tenido menos ingreso podrían calificar para créditos y deducciones de los que no gozaron en años pasados.

Y para quienes vayan a recibir reembolsos, la computadora es su mejor aliada, ya que haciendo la declaración electrónicamente recibirán su dinero mucho antes. El IRS señala que el dinero podría recibirse en unos 10 días, comparados con las aproximadamente seis

AÑO NUEVO TELÉFONO NUEVO GRAN VENTA

El más novedoso teléfono con pantalla sensible al tacto

Samsung delve™ SÓLO \$99.99

después de un reembolso por correo de \$100 con un acuerdo por servicio de 2 años en un plan Smart Choice Pack

Incluye Correo Electrónico Alltel, Alltel Navigation y mi Fine GRATIS ¡y mucho más!

Teléfono con cámara

LG AX300 SÓLO \$99.99

después de un reembolso por correo de \$30 con un acuerdo por servicio de 2 años.

Teléfono deslizable compacto

motorola hint™ QA30 SÓLO \$49.99

después de un reembolso por correo de \$50 con un acuerdo por servicio de 2 años.

Fastap™ Quick Keys

LG Swift™ SÓLO \$29.99

después de un reembolso por correo de \$50 con un acuerdo por servicio de 2 años.

ven y déjate querer

mi círculo

llamadas ilimitadas gratis

Agrega líneas familiares desde \$9.99

alltel siempre.com 1-877-siempre

<p>Tiendas Alltel</p> <p>• Estas tiendas abren los domingos.</p> <p>Brownfield • 405 Lubbock Rd. (806) 637-3300</p> <p>Lamesa • 701 N. Dallas Ave. (806) 872-7282</p> <p>Levelland • 409 E. Hwy. 114 (806) 894-8004</p> <p>Lubbock • 405 Slide Rd. (806) 791-6444 • 3103 34th St. (806) 797-2355 • 5217 82nd St. (806) 798-0184 • 5810 W. Loop 289 (806) 281-5000</p>	<p>Midland • 2106 Rankin Hwy. (432) 683-9800</p> <p>Odessa • 3131 E. University Blvd. (432) 363-9500</p> <p>Plainview • 1601 Kermit St. (806) 293-7366</p> <p>Seminole • 200 S. Main St. (432) 758-1200</p> <p>Compra en las tiendas participantes: Equipos y ofertas promocionales podrían variar en estas tiendas.</p> <p>Brownfield • Trio Wireless (806) 637-0739</p>	<p>Denver City • Southwest Comm. (806) 592-7496</p> <p>Lamesa • Trio Wireless (806) 777-8538 • Venture Comm. (806) 872-0316</p> <p>Levelland • Reaction Wireless (806) 894-4003</p> <p>Lubbock • Absolutely Wireless (806) 785-3488 • Trio Wireless (806) 747-6999 • Trio Wireless (806) 797-1290 • Wireless 4 U (806) 538-6446 • Wireless 4 U (806) 795-0900 • Wireless Toyz (806) 798-8300</p>	<p>Plainview • Reaction Wireless (806) 296-0009 • Venture Comm. (806) 291-9727</p> <p>Post • Reaction Wireless/PCC (806) 495-0277</p> <p>Seminole • Trio Wireless (432) 758-9828</p>
--	---	--	---

Orgulloso Patrocinador de:

Para cuentas empresariales y gubernamentales llama al 1-866-WLS-BIZZ o visita alltelbusiness.com

Aplican impuestos federales, estatales y locales. Además, Alltel puede cobrar cargos mensuales por conectividad, cargos regulatorios, administrativos y por proporcionar el servicio 911 de hasta \$2.19 y tarifas federales y estatales del Fondo de Servicio Universal (ambas tarifas varían según el uso del cliente). Estas tarifas adicionales pueden no ser impuestos o cargos requeridos por el gobierno y están sujetos a cambios. Para obtener más información adicional acerca de tus impuestos, cuotas y tarifas, consulta a un representante de servicio al cliente de Alltel o a tu factura mensual. Requerimientos del Smart Choice Pack: Todos los clientes nuevos o existentes que activen o cambien a un aparato inteligente requerirán comprar y mantener un Smart Choice Pack durante el tiempo estipulado en su contrato para calificar para obtener el teléfono al precio que se ofrece al estar dentro del contrato. Detalles del Teléfono: Los teléfonos y los reembolsos que aplican están disponibles por tiempo limitado, hasta agotar existencias con la activación de un plan de tarifas que califique. El reembolso será en forma de una tarjeta de regalo VISA. Limitado a 1 reembolso por compra que califique. El teléfono puede ser devuelto dentro de los primeros 15 días de compra. Si el certificado de reembolso por correo ha sido presentado, Alltel devolverá el precio de la compra menos el monto del reembolso. El cliente tiene que pagar los impuestos que aplican. Consulta el certificado de reembolso para obtener más detalles. Aplicaciones: Las características, incluyendo el correo electrónico Alltel, Alltel Navigation y mi Fine, solamente están disponibles para ser utilizadas en los mercados del servicio móvil digital de Alltel y de "roaming" de compañías asociadas. Se requiere un plan de tarifas de Alltel que califique y un teléfono móvil aprobado. Pueden aplicarse cargos por tiempo aire, mensajería de texto y/o kilobytes cuando se realicen descargas o se use alguna característica. Las características están sujetas a cambios y pueden no estar disponibles en todos los mercados. El uso fuera de tu plan de llamadas está sujeto a cargos adicionales por "roaming" y larga distancia. Al usar ciertas aplicaciones descargables, el cliente estará aceptando el Acuerdo de Licencia para el Usuario Final de la Tienda Alltel. Si tienes preguntas o problemas con las descargas, llama al Servicio al Cliente de Alltel al 1-800-alltel-1. Mi Círculo: Servicio disponible para clientes que obtienen más detalles. Líneas adicionales por \$9.99: Si línea debe ser línea primaria de servicio en uno de los planes de tarifas selectos de \$9.99 o más, con un máximo de 4 líneas secundarias por \$9.99/mes. Se requiere un contrato de servicio por 2 años para cada línea junto con la promoción de un teléfono. Por un cargo adicional mensual se pueden contratar líneas secundarias dentro de los planes Smart Choice Pack. Consulta a un representante para obtener más detalles. Alltel Navigation: No ingreses o cambies información mientras estás conduciendo. Alltel no garantiza que cualquier información que obtengas esté correcta o completa, y esto incluye la información de las ubicaciones que es presentada a través de la aplicación. Aplican cargos por "roaming" cuando se tenga acceso a información mientras el cliente está fuera del área de llamada de su plan. Todas las aplicaciones GPS están sujetas a las Normas y Condiciones para GPS de Alltel que están disponibles en alltel.com. Para su uso se requiere utilizar tiempo aire. Información adicional: Esta oferta puede estar limitada por tiempo, existencias, cobertura o localidades participantes. Hay un cargo no reembolsable de \$25 por activación por línea. Puede aplicarse una tarifa de \$200 por línea por cancelación prematura del contrato. El servicio está sujeto a las Normas y Condiciones para Servicios de Comunicaciones y otra información disponible en todas las tiendas Alltel o en alltel.com. Todas las marcas de productos y servicios indicados son los nombres, nombres comerciales, marcas comerciales y logotipos de sus correspondientes propietarios. Las imágenes de las pantallas son simuladas. ©2008 Alltel Communications, LLC. Todos los derechos reservados.

'Holidays' for Freddy Rodríguez

Some boys join acting classes to meet girls. Freddy Rodríguez did it to get out of a math test.

This was in the actor's hometown of Chicago, when he was in the eighth grade.

A theater group came to school looking for workshop participants, and when no one volunteered, Rodríguez's teacher said whoever did it could avoid the math test.

Rodríguez jumped at the chance. And found his calling.

"You know how that inner voice speaks to you?" says Rodríguez, who is the executive producer and co-star of "Nothing Like the Holidays," opening Friday.

"That's how it happened for me [at the workshop], there was this little voice that told me I was gonna do this for the rest of my life."

Rodríguez, 33, has been working steadily since he was 19 years old, when he appeared alongside Keanu Reeves in "A Walk In the Clouds."

His big breakthrough came in 2001, when he was cast in the role of family man and mortician Rico Díaz in the hit HBO series "Six Feet Under." It also established him as an actor who could overcome Latino stereotypes.

"I felt the character was not ethnic specific, he was just a guy with a family, and I was pleased the way [series creator] Alan Ball would write for me," says Rodríguez.

"We decided he wasn't going to have an accent, or be a guy from a gang, just a regular guy who was educated."

Not that Rodríguez, who is of Puerto Rican descent, hasn't had to face the stereotyping issue in his career.

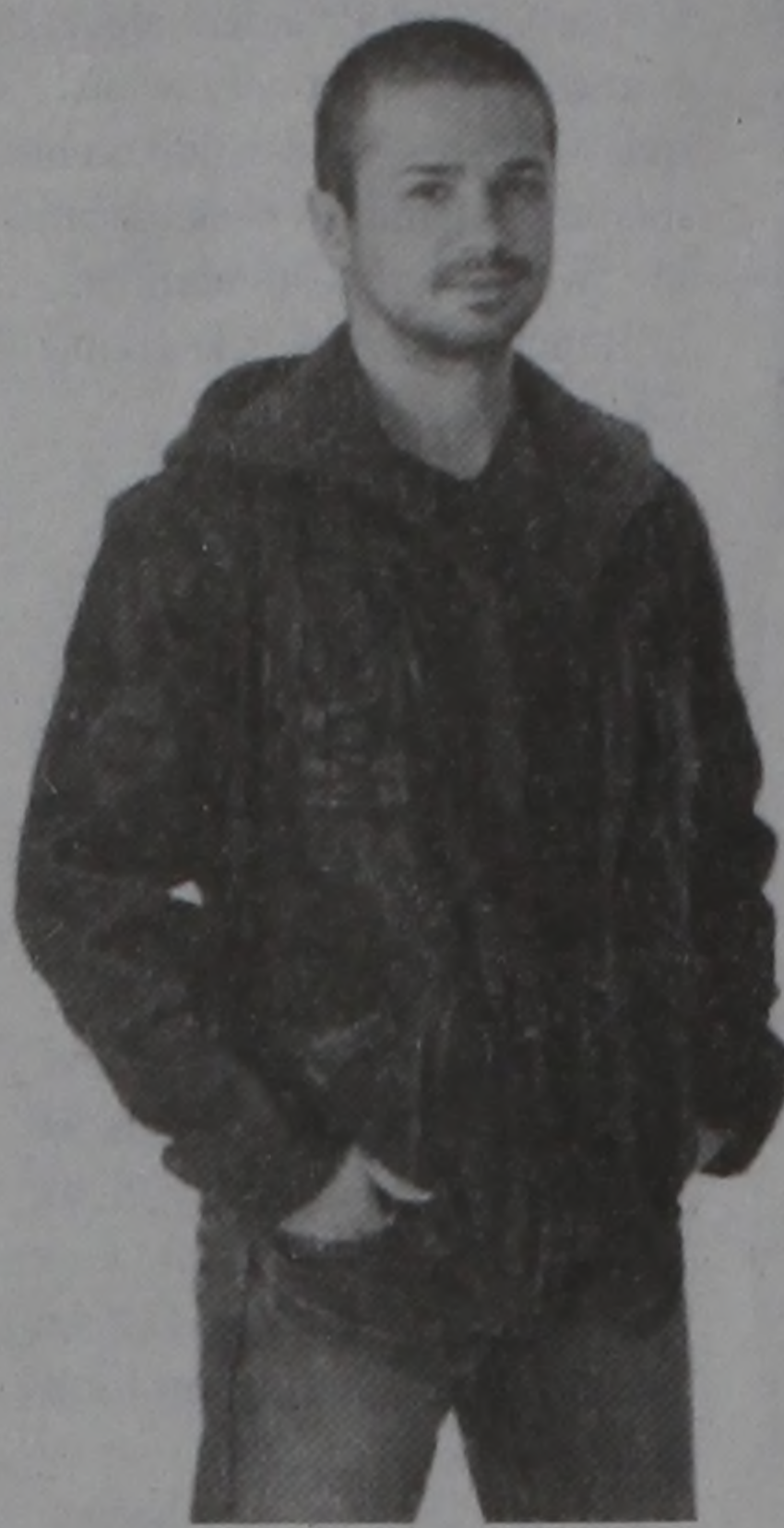
"I always run into that kind of stuff," he says. "There's nothing wrong with stereotypes, because they are derived from truth. The problem is that when there is no balance, when all you see are Latin gangsters and drug dealers."

Which is a major reason why Rodríguez got involved with "Nothing Like the Holidays," in which he plays an Iraq War vet who returns home for a family Christmas dinner.

The film features a stellar cast, including Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, John Leguizamo, Luis Guzmán and Melonie Díaz.

"Nothing Like the Holidays" is directed by New Yorker

Alfredo de Villa, a native of Mexico who debuted in 2002 with "Washington Heights," about an aspiring comic book artist who has to look



after his ailing father and take over the family-run bodega.

"The film says Latinos are as universal and relatable as any other American family," says Rodríguez. "We are a family that gets togeth-

er during the holidays, we eat and drink, have conflicts, love like any other family. There's no difference, other than maybe food and some language."

Rodríguez also has been visible on TV lately, playing the recurring role of Giovanni Rossi, a sandwich shop owner who has the hots for America Ferrera's title character in ABC's "Ugly Betty."

"I had done a string of really dark projects," he says, "and just wanted to do something lighthearted, and had never really played a romantic, comedic person."

Rodríguez knows he's lucky. He's a baby-faced, not-so-tall 5'6" Latino actor who has been able to carve out a solid career playing a variety of roles.

Yet ask him why he thinks he's been so successful, and he can't quite put a finger on it.

"From the beginning I've always worked," he says. "I'm not sure why, but at the end of the day, the actors who do well can move people emotionally. And I was born with that skill, to move people onscreen."

Six Women Dishing the Dirt Could be Just the Right Libation

Aye, m'jias! It's true that Jack Frost is nipping at our toes, but if your brain is still craving a sassy summer read with some heat and heart, "Dirty Girls on Top" could be your mental mojito. You might have passed by Alisa Valdes-Rodri-



guez's novel because it has a few strikes against it for the average reader: The story is well-peppered with Hispanic phrases, and it's also a follow-up in the "Dirty Girls" series.

However, the lingo is used skillfully enough that you always know what the women mean, and this book is capable of standing on its own (although the title may have you hiding it under a magazine).

Here's the big picture: Six very different Latinas, college friends, are reuniting at a New Mexico resort. But will their friendships survive some big life changes?

We've got big troubles and small ones that hold some juicy sex scenes together: Does Cuicatl hold on to her rock-star status, her cultural identity -- and her hot-as-fish-grease manager?

Is Lauren wrong to suspect her ex-gangster boyfriend is cheating? Will TV host Sara be drawn back to a murderous ex-husband?

The stories of each woman are told in the first person, and they all seem to be writing their innermost thoughts in diaries with plenty of locks. So, if you buy what one friend is saying, you may get a shock when it's the next girl's turn on the floor.

Usnavys, for example, describes herself as a full-figured, sexy "manizer" with great taste,

"all curves and brown skin," who's decided to cheat on her husband with a handsome golf pro. Think Queen Latifah dressed to the nines and on the prowl.

So it's startling, and milk-snorting funny, later on when her staid and proper pal Rebecca confides:

"I should tell you, Usnavys wears a black tube dress, tight as a sock. She looks like a bloated blood sausage. Everyone told her she looked great, including me, because that's what girlfriends do."

"Dirty Girls" also has a bit more heart than your traditional girls-gone-wild-bonding story. When a lesbian friend and a straight friend give same-sex sex a try, it's weird, hot, enlightening, uncomfortable -- and nowhere near simple.

Just like life. Which this book is about, as well as sex, and love, and knowing you're a bit crazy when you have a moral dilemma over getting a pedicure, but there it is.

The story, like a pitcher of mojitos, takes a little while to get you buzzing. But once you're following the stories, you genuinely care that these friendships make it -- along with the women in them.

Valdes-Rodriguez manages to stir sinful summer schlock with real heart and create a memorable mixed drink full of characters who slowly but surely make you want to stand up and cheer for true gal pals and all of your own crazy, dysfunctional friends.

Kinky empieza 2009 con gira por EE.UU.

México/EFE —El grupo de rock mexicano Kinky anunció ayer una gran gira por 25 ciudades de Estados Unidos en el primer trimestre del año, a la que seguirá otra por México.

estamos por comenzar una gran gira por la Unión Americana con la que recorreremos 25 ciudades. Este tour se llevará a cabo durante todo febrero y gran parte de marzo", dijo a Efe el vocalista Gilberto Cerezo.

ciones en EE.UU. recalarán por festivales y escenarios mexicanos como el Vive Latino. "Tenemos muchas ganas de estar muy presentes en México y darle mucha importancia al país", añadió el vocalista. Para la segunda mitad del año, la



segunda mitad del mismo, están analizando la posibilidad de realizar conciertos en Suramérica y Europa.

Integrado por Gilberto Cerezo, Ulises Lozano, Carlos Chairez, Omar Góngora y Cesar Pliego, Kinky es un grupo que asegura disfrutar sobre todo tocando música en vivo.

"Para nosotros la presentación en vivo es lo más importante. No se trata solamente de pagar la renta (con la taquilla), sino que se trata de la pasión. Nuestra meta es estar en el escenario tocando, es lo que nos llega más", expresó Cerezo.

Kinky actualmente promociona su cuarto álbum "Barracuda", el cual contiene catorce temas.

EL Editor Newspaper over 30 years of serving the community!

Read El Editor online www.eleditor.com Email us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or call 806-763-3841 We want to hear from YOU! Call Today!



Marc Anthony y Pau cantarán para Obama

Marc Anthony, Paulina Rubio, Rosario Dawson, Tony Plana, Cucu Diamantes y Yerba Buena son algunos de los artistas que participarán en la Gala Inaugural Latina del 18 de enero con motivo de la toma de poder del presidente electo Barack Obama.

La fiesta será en el Union Station de la capital estadounidense y las entradas, que pueden adquirirse en el sitio web www.LatinoInauguralGala2009.org, tienen un costo de 200 dólares.

Todas las ganancias irán a Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino, una organización sin fines de lucro que planea la creación de un Museo Nacional del Latino Americano en Washington, D.C., indicó el comité de la 2009 Latino Inaugural Gala al hacer el anuncio en un comunicado fechado el 2 de enero pero difundido el lunes.


Los organizadores también anunciaron la participación de War, Elida Reyna y Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano. "Es inspirador tener tantos

animadores latinos talentosos y admirados que desean unirse para festejar al 44o. Presidente de nuestra nación, el honorable Barack Obama, y el papel histórico que los latinos desempeñaron en esta elección", declaró Esther Aguilera, presidenta y directora ejecutiva del Comité Hispano del Congreso (CHCI), uno de los anfitriones de la gala.

"Reunir esta increíble variedad de artistas asegurará que la Latino Inaugural Gala será, sin dudas, una de las celebraciones inaugurales más memorables hasta hoy", afirmó por su parte Ramona Martínez, presidenta del Comité Hispano de la CND, también anfitrión del evento.

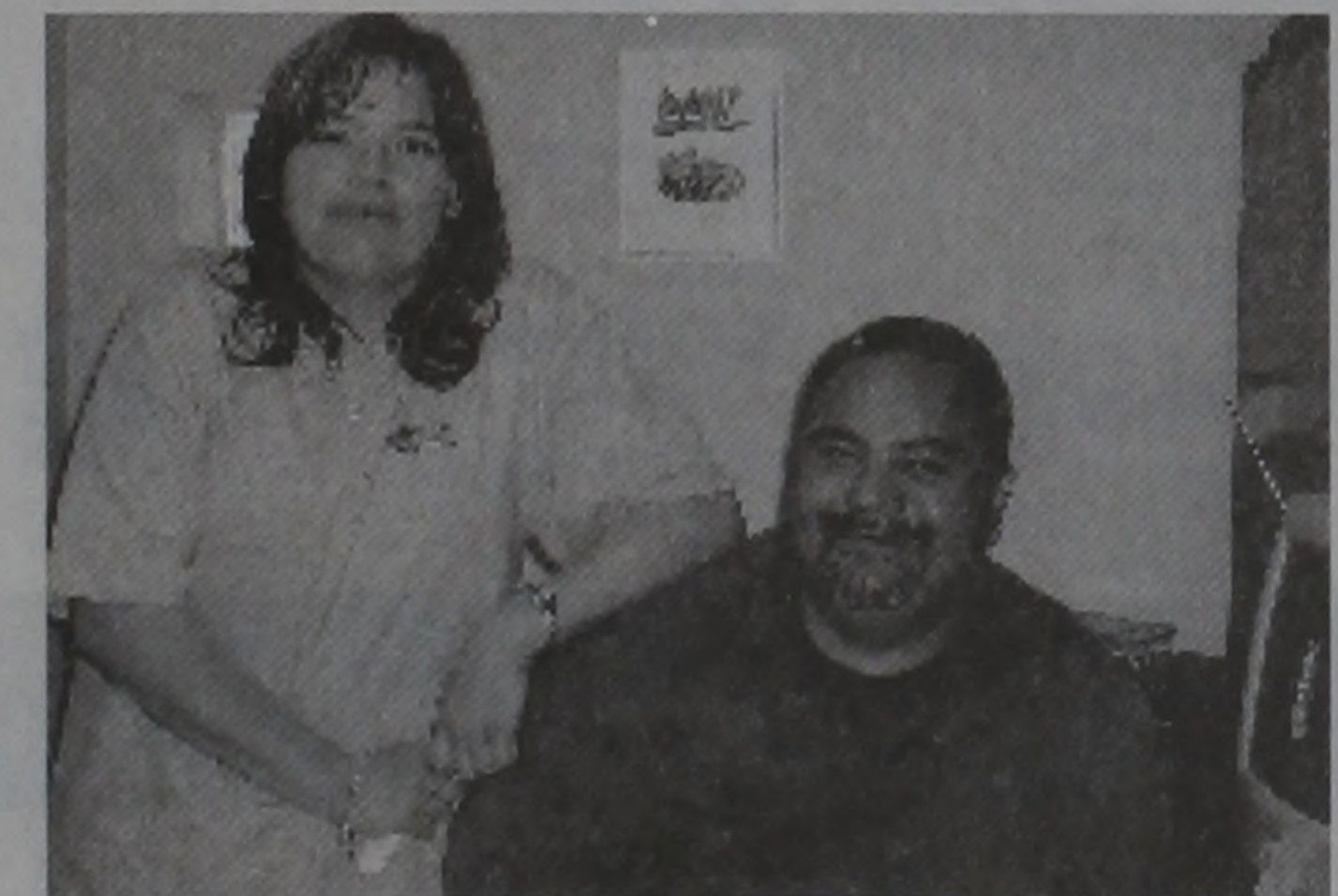
En los próximos días se darían a conocer otras celebridades y figuras de la política que participarán de la gala.





Numero Uno Tejano Hit Station

Jennifer "La Chismosa" & Eddie "The Dog" Moreno



Mornings on Magic 93.7!

Miss a day..... Miss a lot!

Bradford drop? He's not another Heisman flop

McCoy's career game rallies Texas past Ohio State in Fiesta Bowl

Got to get the biases and the beliefs out, right off the bat, so here goes: I believe there is a Heisman jinx, or curse, or something, in the college football bowl season. I don't believe it will happen to Oklahoma's Sam Bradford.

And with that, this column is finished. I've spoken, and that should be enough for you. I am, after all, the one who took a single look at No. 2 Georgia in September and decided the Bulldogs, even after winning at South Carolina, were horribly overrated. And I am, after all, the one who predicted on Nov. 13, when Florida was No. 3 and Oklahoma was No. 5, that these two teams could, should and would play for the national championship.

I'm on a roll, is what I'm saying, and I have spoken yet again. There is a Heisman curse, but Sam Bradford is better than that. So ... are we done here?

No?

Fine. Then let me explain why. First, you have to look at past Heisman jinx sufferers and understand why it happened.

The most infamous Heisman flops were quarterbacks, just like Bradford. One of them even played at Oklahoma, Jason

White, in the 2004 Sugar Bowl. The other was Ohio State's Troy

Smith in the 2007 BCS title game. And they sucked. Both of them. They were miserable.

White threw 40 touchdown passes in that 2003 season, but he didn't throw one against LSU. He was 13-for-37 for 102 yards, two interceptions and five sacks. He went from John Heisman to John Friesz, and Oklahoma lost 21-14.

Smith put up PlayStation numbers in the 2006 season, with 30 touchdown passes and just five interceptions and a 67-percent completion rate. But against Florida he was picked off, he fumbled, and he completed just four passes in 14 attempts. He embarrassed himself, and the Gators embarrassed Ohio State 41-14.

So why did it happen? I'll tell you why. Because both players were susceptible. Jason White was the injury-riddled product of a system, the Gino Torretta of his day, the beneficiary of all kinds of superstar talent and brilliant coaching. He was in the right place at the right time, but LSU in the Sugar Bowl was a different

animal. LSU had NFL talent up and down its defensive front, and White was overmatched.

Sam Bradford proudly accepted the trophy -- then humbly left it in his parents' care. (US Presswire)

Sam Bradford proudly accepted the trophy -- then humbly left it in his parents' care. (US Presswire)

Troy Smith was a buffoon. He had attitude problems earlier in his career, including the time he took money from a booster, and his immaturity haunted him after he won the Heisman. Basically, he won the Heisman and decided that he had gotten his. He was done. Mentally he checked out. Fattened up. Did the interviews and soaked up the praise. And after believing the hype for a month, he went out against Florida and threw for 35 yards. He ran for minus-29.

Add that up, and the 2006 Heisman winner had six yards of total offense in the biggest game of his life.

Yet after losing that game, which was for the national championship by the way, Smith seemed downright pleased with himself.

"You're not going to be able to come out and score points like you want to score every night," he said. "I don't have any regrets, though. ... If this is the worst thing that happens in life to us, I'm pretty cool."

Terrific.

The Heisman jinx or curse is real, because too many times the wrong player physically (White) or mentally (Smith) is rewarded in December ... and then exposed in January.

But Bradford's not the wrong player. Not physically, not mentally. He's Mr. Right.

Bradford has some things in common with White, but only the best things. He is surrounded by NFL talent at receiver, running back and tight end. He has turned

great coaching and an incredible system into 7,585 passing yards, 84 touchdowns and just 14 interceptions in two seasons. He is Jason White, in that he's in the right place at the right time -- but he is more than Jason White, who was so impressive to NFL teams that he went completely undrafted. Bradford, whenever he decides to enter the draft, will definitely go in the first round, probably in the top 10, and possibly No. 1 overall.

Florida's defense is the best Bradford has seen -- but he's the best quarterback Florida has seen, too. Don't forget that.

Bradford has nothing in common with Troy Smith, who succumbed to the grandiosity of the Heisman. This is something of a secret, because the world doesn't know nearly as much about Bradford as it does about the 2007 Heisman winner and the quarterback he will face Thursday night, Florida's Tim Tebow, but Bradford is every bit as humble as Tebow. Maybe more so. Tebow comes off as slightly corporate, like a guy who knows he has to be humble and therefore will be humble, but after all these years in the spotlight it's not so easy to be humble Tim Tebow any more.

Bradford comes off like Howdy Doody. He's a bashful little kid. Within an hour of returning to Norman with his Heisman, Bradford was back on the football field, practicing with his teammates. The trophy is somewhere in his parents' house. He has no idea where.

OU coach Bob Stoops wanted to have a talk with Bradford after the Heisman presentation, just to make sure his quarterback's head was in the right spot. What a waste of time that was.

"He's the best, meaning he's just calm," Stoops said. "The guy is humble. He just doesn't let it bother him."

He'll just bother Florida instead.

Left out of the national title game, Colt McCoy and Texas made the most of their trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

They just hope they did enough to impress poll voters.

McCoy hit Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown with 16 seconds to play, lifting the third-ranked Longhorns to a 24-21 victory against No. 10 Ohio State on Monday night. The dramatic strike capped an 11-play, 78-yard drive that took only 1:42.

"It doesn't feel any better than to come from behind and win," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "It was just a classic, really, between Texas and Ohio State, the way it should be."

When it ended, Texas players rushed onto the field, then gathered in front of the band and sang The Eyes of Texas with jubilant fans.

As exhilarating as the victory was, it might not have been dominant enough to persuade voters that the Longhorns (12-1) deserve a share of the national championship. Because they were locked out of the Bowl Championship Series title game, Texas' only chance is the Associated Press Top 25.

McCoy had a message for the pollsters: "I don't think there's anybody in the country who can beat us at this point."

The Buckeyes (10-3) nearly did. They flirted with the upset behind quarterbacks Terrelle Pryor and Todd Boeckman but instead went down to a third consecutive BCS bowl loss -- a defeat that left the Big Ten 1-6 in this postseason.

It didn't help that Buckeyes tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells, who rushed for 106 yards on 16 carries, missed much of the second half with a concussion.

"That's the problem in tight ball-games like this," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "Two outstanding teams, sometimes you finish it (and) the game ends when you are the one ahead, and sometimes the game ends when you're not."

The Longhorns rebounded after Ohio State had taken a 21-17 lead on a 15-yard run by Dan Herron with 2:05 to go.

That score came five minutes after Boeckman hit Pryor for a 5-yard score to cut Texas' lead to 17-15. Pryor's pass on the 2-point conversion was incomplete.

Boeckman completed 5 of 11 passes for 110 yards and a touchdown. Pryor was 5-for-14 for 66 yards, and also ran for 78 yards on 15 carries.

Brown, who once coached Vince Young to a national title, was impressed by Pryor, a rangy freshman.

"He will be a guy that's in a Heisman race, and it may be sooner than we think because he is a leader," Brown said.

But this night belonged to McCoy, himself a Heisman Trophy runner-up. He completed a school-record 41 of 59 passes for 414 yards and two touchdowns, ran for a score and was picked off once.

McCoy might have launched his candidacy for the 2009 award with a memorable march through the din of sold-out University of Phoenix Stadium, which was split between fans wearing burnt orange and others decked out in scarlet and gray.

Down 21-17 with 2:05 to play, McCoy calmly led the Longhorns down the field. He said he never doubted they would score.

"I can't think of a better place to be at that point," McCoy said.

On the touchdown, Cosby caught a short pass, slipped a tackle and sprinted toward the goal line before diving into the end zone.

"He made a play. I gave him a good ball," McCoy said. "I can't explain the



feeling that we have right now. To have the faith and confidence in each other that we do, man, that was awesome."

McCoy completed 7 of 10 passes for 76 yards on the final march and ran for the other 2 yards.

Before the touchdown, the biggest completion came on fourth-and-3 to James Kirkendoll at the Ohio State 40. The Buckeyes demanded a review, but the spot was upheld, setting the stage for the winning touchdown.

For most of the night, the Buckeyes stifled the high-powered Longhorns, who averaged 43.9 points this season but mustered only a field goal in the first half. They didn't lead until a nifty third-quarter touchdown run by McCoy.

The Longhorns finished in a three-way tie atop the rugged Big 12 South and thought their 10-point victory against Oklahoma should have put them in the conference title game. But Oklahoma was declared the division winner on a BCS standings tiebreaker, and the Sooners ripped Missouri in the Big 12 playoff to earn a trip to the national championship.

"This team started this way and finished this way, and they're obviously one of the best teams in the country if not the best," Brown said.

The Longhorns didn't look like it early on. Texas brought Bevo, its steer mascot, but left its offense back in Austin, at least in a sluggish first half.

The Longhorns failed to score in the first quarter. Texas was shut out in only four quarters all season -- and only once in the first quarter, in a 39-33 loss Nov. 1 at Texas Tech.

Ryan Pretorius' 30-yard field goal with 5:39 left in the second quarter sent Ohio State to a 6-3 halftime lead.

Texas' best chance came late in the second, when McCoy smartly marched the Longhorns from their own 9 to the Ohio State 16 in 47 seconds.

But on third-and-2 at the Buckeyes 16 and 9 seconds to go, McCoy threw perhaps his worst pass of the season. McCoy lobbed the ball toward Cosby at the goal line, but safety Anderson Russell picked it off to kill the threat.

Had McCoy thrown the ball into the seats, the Longhorns would have had time for a chip-shot field goal. But they went into the dressing room still down by three.

It didn't take McCoy long to atone for the miscue.

On Texas' first possession of the second half, he scored on a terrific 14-yard run to give the Longhorns their first lead. Taking a shotgun snap, McCoy bolted through the right side of the line, broke to the sideline and then spun past charging cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, who came up with nothing.

Seven minutes later, McCoy found Cosby in the back of the end zone to put the Longhorns up 17-6.

"He is strong-willed and he is a guy that's very confident, and he never thinks he is going to lose," Brown said.

Top Latino Athletes of 2008

By Daniel Casarez
Sports -- from soccer to boxing to baseball to Olympic competition -- had no lack of Latino participation in 2008. Vida en el Valle offers the top Latino newsmakers from the year.

Manny Ramirez/Baseball
Manny Ramirez -- despite re-joining the Los Angeles Dodgers playoff hopes -- has apparently worn out his welcome.

The East-turned-West Coast slugger is no longer being courted by Dodgers' owner Frank McCourt. Ramirez has rejected a two-year, \$45 million offer from the Dodgers. The New York Yankees are reportedly interested in hiring the Dominican player for three years.

The 12-time All-Star player was traded by the Boston Red Sox to the Dodgers on July 31. Ramirez put up monstrous numbers for the Dodgers: .396 batting average, 17 home runs, and 53 RBI.

The money -- of which Ramirez has earned more than \$162 million in his career -- and fame are not that important, he said on his Web site: "Playing baseball is a job that gives you a lot of fame. But I don't play for fame. I will always do my best, because I love the game."

The 36-year-old Ramirez is a nine-time Silver Slugger winner and most likely a future Hall of Famer.

Óscar De La Hoya/Boxing
At the bottom of Óscar

De La Hoya's Christmas stocking, behind the massive Pay-Per-View sales tickets, is another full year of boxing.

While another world championship bout may be out of the question, fans still want a De La Hoya vs. "anyone" fight card.

The Golden Boy is coming off a November loss to Manny Pacquiao in a show-down that generated about \$70 million in television revenue.

De La Hoya's 2007 bout against Floyd Mayweather Jr. had \$134 million in revenue.

De La Hoya, who launched Golden Boy Promotions, has not ruled out more boxing matches. However, at his age (he'll be 36 on Feb. 4), time is running out.

Dara Torres/Swimming

A five-time U.S. Olympian, the 41-year-old swimmer earned a silver medal at the Beijing Games, which instantly pro-

ped her as the poster child for inspiration for people over 40.

Torres -- who beat swimmers young enough to be her daughter -- announced she may be present at the 2012 London Olympics ... as an announcer.

She earned the silver medal in the 50-meter freestyle. At the 2000 Sydney Games, Torres, who says "...age is just a number, not a death sentence ..." was the oldest competitor to earn a medal in the games.

Henry Cejudo/Wrestling
The United States captured 36 gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Beijing, but there was probably no athlete who appreciated it more than Henry Cejudo, a 21-year-old son of undocumented Mexican immigrants who had to work two jobs to feed the family.

"I'm living the American dream right now, man," said Cejudo after giving the U.S. its first gold in freestyle wrestling with a win over Japan's Tomohiro Matsunaga in the 121-pound final. "The United States is the land of opportunity. It's the best country in the world and I'm just glad to represent it."

Cejudo was born in Los Angeles, one of six children born to Nelly Rico. The children would sometimes sleep four to a bed.

Lorena Ochoa/Golf
The Guadalajara,

Jalisco, native jumped off to a great 2008, winning five of the first six tournaments. Her finish, however, was far from Ochoa-esque: Two wins the rest of the year.

Ochoa's game is so good, that seven wins and almost \$2.8 million in earnings is looked at as sub-par.

Her game was good enough to capture her second consecutive LPGA player of the year award.

"Lorena has had yet another incredible season," LPGA Commissioner Carolyn F. Bivens said. "Her work off the course has been equally impressive. Once only a national hero, Lorena is now a global hero. The world is grateful to have her, and we are more than proud to call her our own."



Key Animal Clinic

5006 50th Street
(806) 792-6226

Serving the South Plains for Over 37 Years!
¡Se Habla Español!

Pierda peso, no su vida

La Administración Federal de Fármacos y Alimentos (FDA) emitió ayer una advertencia a los consumidores de los riesgos de consumir más de 25 productos para perder peso que pueden ser dañinos para la salud. Estos productos "contienen

Estos productos para la pérdida de peso, continuó el comunicado, se venden al público como "complementos dietéticos" y se consiguen en varios sitios de internet y en algunas tiendas. Parte del problema es que algunos de estos productos aseguran en



ingredientes farmacéuticos no declarados que pueden poner en riesgo la salud de los consumidores", según un comunicado difundido hoy.

Un análisis de la FDA determinó que algunos de esos ingredientes activos contienen sustancias bajo estricto control de las autoridades federales o que no está permitida su venta en Estados Unidos.

Una de las sustancias, por ejemplo, se ha aprobado para el tratamiento de convulsiones pero no para la pérdida de peso, mientras que otra se utiliza comúnmente en experimentos químicos y se sospecha que produce cáncer. Otro de los ingredientes, "rimonabant", se utiliza en Europa pero no ha sido aprobado para su consumo en EE.UU., porque ha sido vinculado con un mayor riesgo de depresión y pensamientos suicidas, además de que ha sido vinculado con cinco muertes y 720 "casos adversos" en Europa en los últimos años.

"Algunas cantidades de estos ingredientes farmacéuticos activos exceden con creces los niveles recomendados por la FDA, lo que pone en peligro la salud de los consumidores", informó la agencia que controla los fármacos y alimentos en EE.UU.

sus etiquetas que son "naturales" o que sólo contienen ingredientes a bases de "hierbas", pero en realidad contienen ingredientes potencialmente dañinos que no han sido incluidos en las etiquetas o propaganda publicitaria. La agencia enfatizó que "estos productos no han sido aprobados por la FDA y pueden ser dañinos para los consumidores".

Algunos de los efectos de la sibutramine, otra de las sustancias encontradas en estos productos, son alta presión arterial, convulsiones, taquicardia, palpitaciones, ataques cardíacos y derrames.

Estos productos también pueden interferir con otros medicamentos o incrementar sus efectos secundarios. Si los consumidores han comenzado a ingerir estos productos, la agencia recomendó que de inmediato dejen de utilizarlos y consulten a su médico si quieren perder peso adecuadamente.

La FDA explicó que no descarta ordenar el retiro del mercado de estos productos, emitir una advertencia contra las empresas que continúen vendiéndolos y autorizar la confiscación y presentación de cargos criminales en conexión con el caso.

Especial 2009 — ¡el año en que cumplirás tus resoluciones!

A punto de comenzar un nuevo año, hacemos las clásicas resoluciones, prometiéndonos cambiar ciertas cosas y lograr determinados objetivos. Pero tres meses más tarde —según las estadísticas— un 60% de esas decisiones son olvidadas... y al final del año un 80% nunca se cumplen.

Este próximo 2009 —en que estamos mucho más conscientes de que nuestro esfuerzo personal tendrá una mayor trascendencia en nuestras vidas, la de nuestra familia, amistades y hasta del país— hagamos nuevas resoluciones que, de verdad, intentaremos cumplir de todo corazón. Estas cinco pueden ser un buen punto de partida.

Una resolución básica, vital e inteligente. Sin salud, no puedes tener la energía, ni el deseo, de enfrentar el año nuevo con fuerza y propósito. Comienza con tres puntos a cumplir: 1) Hazte un chequeo general, 2) Come más sanamente, y 3) Seriamente, deja de fumar. Si lo necesitas, pídele ayuda a tu médico, y apoyo de grupos

como este: <http://www.nicotine-anonymous.org/>

Es parte de la resolución anterior, pero para muchos es 'LA' resolución que más desean cumplir, y que año tras año la abandonan. Una mejor imagen es siempre positiva en los negocios y en las relaciones personales, y perder peso esencial para una buena salud y para tener más energía. Tómalo en serio este propósito y únete a asociaciones como Weight Watchers —cuyo sistema de adelgazamiento está probado que funciona (www.weightwatchers.com). Para quienes tienen compulsión de comer, hay ayuda en las reuniones de Overeaters Anonymous (<http://www.oa.org/index.htm>)

Esta será la resolución de Año Nuevo más importante que tomarás en muchos años. Un presupuesto personal es de rigor —¡imprescindible!— en estos momentos de crisis en que la economía personal requiere sentido común y disciplina. Siéntate

solo, o con tu familia, y escribe paso a paso el presupuesto

voy a liquidar la mayor cantidad de deudas a fin de mes".



que vas a seguir. Calcula hasta el más mínimo de tus gastos. Decide qué es todo lo que puedes eliminar. Sé realista. ¿Cómo vas a ganar dinero extra si lo necesitas? ¿Qué sacrificios van a ser más difíciles? ¿Cómo hacer las cosas con menos dinero? Papel y lápiz ¡y manos a la obra!

Uno de los grandes problemas de nuestra economía en Estados Unidos es que la mayoría de la gente no ahorra. Gasta y gasta, pero no guarda fondos de emergencia. Esto hace que se recurra al crédito con frecuencia, y cuando eso no se recibe (como está sucediendo ahora) la economía familiar se viene al suelo estrepitosamente en pocos meses. Asociadas a esto están las deudas, que, gracias al crédito, se acumulan peligrosamente, sobre todo si no se han tenido fondos guardados para liquidarlas. A partir del 1 de enero del 2009, siémbtrate esto en la mente, como un mantra: "Voy a ahorrar algo todos los meses, voy a comprar solo aquello que pueda pagar y

Parece algo menor, pero tener una casa y una oficina ordenadas, y con todo en su lugar, levanta mucho el ánimo, nos ayuda muchísimo psicológicamente— y es un reflejo de nuestro orden interior. La falta de espacio causa automáticamente estrés. Por eso, tira las cosas que realmente no necesitas, y no guardes tantas que solo acumulan polvo y ocupan un espacio innecesario.

Aligera tu armario, regala ropa que no hayas usado en el último año, libros que ya hayas leído, CD's y DVD's que ya no necesitas; revisa papeles que no necesitas guardar legalmente; organiza las cosas— ¡y verás qué peso te quitas de encima comenzando el 2009 con menos cachivaches, basura y objetos inútiles! El miedo a tirar cosas que no necesitamos se llama oficialmente en Estados Unidos disposofobia. ¡No lo padezcas!

En momentos de estrés nuestro carácter y disposición diaria cambian. Eso es humano, pero a veces mostrar impaciencia, mal carácter, agresividad, amargura, falta de vitalidad o exceso de pasividad, hace las cosas mucho peores.

Cuidado con la sordera

"Los científicos creen que algunas personas tienen problemas para escuchar no por daños en el sistema auditivo propiamente, sino en una especie de circuito del cerebro que permite controlar el ingreso de sonidos a los oídos y que parece dejar de funcionar con el tiempo.

En las fiestas de fin de año, en medio del ruido de la multitud y la música fuerte, las conversaciones para muchos de nosotros suenan así: "¿Sabes que (música fuerte) fue (oímos sin querer parte de otra conversación) y ella (vasos que chocan) y entonces yo (nuevamente otro diálogo ajeno a nosotros) ¿Qué harías tú?".

Aunque se argumente que la comprensión limitada del diálogo obedece al ruido a nuestro alrededor, no podemos dejar de darnos cuenta de que algunos jóvenes sí pudieron entender el diálogo. Es entonces cuando pensamos que algo está mal con nuestros oídos.

Sin embargo, el problema quizás no esté allí, sino más profundamente, en el centro del cerebro que permite controlar el ingreso de sonidos al oído, que parece dejar de funcionar con el tiempo. Ahora los científicos empiezan a tener algunas pistas sobre lo que ocurre.

La incapacidad de comprender cabalmente una conversación en un ambiente ruidoso se denomina coloquialmente como el "problema de la fiesta de coctel" y se le considera como uno de los primeros indicadores de la pérdida del oído en la mediana edad, un problema que afecta a la tercera parte de los adultos entre 65 y 75 años.

Los científicos están tratando de determinar las razones de la caída de nuestra capacidad auditiva con la edad, a fin de encontrar mecanismos para disminuirla o incluso solucionarla.

La incapacidad del circuito cerebral para controlar el acceso de información acústica es apenas parte del problema, aunque no se sabe qué tan grande lo es.

"Creo que es muy importante", dijo Robert Frisina, de la Universidad de Rochester en Nueva York, quien estudia el fenómeno.

Desde hace tiempo los científicos saben que el cerebro no solamente procesa señales de los oídos, sino que puede comunicarse con ellos. Cuando hay demasiado ruido, este circuito controlador le dice a los oídos que reduzcan el flujo de señal al cerebro.

Esto ayuda al sistema auditivo a manejar ruidos fuertes que podrían generar distorsión, como cuando se le sube el volumen a un radio más allá de la capacidad de la bocina.

Además, dado que los ruidos de fondo de una fiesta tienen a ser menos fuertes que los de la voz humana, el circuito posiblemente puede bloquear esos ruidos a fin de evitar distracciones, dijo Frisina.

El cerebro emplea un mecanismo adicional para concentrarse

en lo que dice una persona en particular, en lugar de otras conversaciones, dijo Frisina. Dado que probablemente uno está frente a la persona que se desea escuchar, sus palabras llegan a los oídos al mismo tiempo y con el mismo volumen.

El cerebro puede usar eso, junto con el circuito, para concentrarse en lo que dice esa persona, dijo Frisina.

Frisina y sus colegas publicaron en 2002 evidencias de que el circuito de control deja de funcionar adecuadamente con la edad, iniciándose todo entre personas de mediana edad, de entre 38 y 52 años, empeorando más allá de los 62 años.

READ EL EDITOR ONLINE
WWW.ELEDITOR.COM
#1 in news & information!

Advertise your business HERE!
El Editor Newspaper can help your business GROW!
Call us for more information
806-763-3841 or
email your question to eleditor@sbcglobal.net
Take advantage of our "New Client" Rates!
Your business deserves the experience El Editor can give you. Over 30 years of serving the community!
Only the best service for your company. Call us and find out for yourself!

SUS

¿Tiene alta presión, diabetes o familiares con problemas en los riñones? Necesita hacerse la prueba para la enfermedad de los riñones. Hable con su doctor, hoy.

TEXAS Department of State Health Services