

# El Editor

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

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
3,334  
as of April  
26, 2007

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## Lawmakers look to revamp criminal justice system

### PULLING THE WOOL

By José de la Isla  
Attorney General Alberto González and PBS filmmaker Ken Burns pose important issues affecting not just Hispanics, but our full nation. Each demands immediate attention.

Both have to do with what kind of a country we want to be.

González faced a U.S. Senate committee grilling where he won no new friends. Instead, he attracted more calls for his resignation. The AG has been under pressure to resign because of the way his office fired eight regional U.S. attorneys. It did so, evidence is building, for political reasons and mismanagement of the public trust.

González is suspected of allowing improper White House interference in the firings. The underlying issue is whether he functions in his job as a political operative or as the public's top law enforcement officer.

During his five hours on the hot seat, he certainly was not as forthright as he should have been. His "humble" approach looked to senators and viewers alike as stumbling and evasive at a time when truth and strength would have served everyone better.

An underlying concern is about leadership and public responsiveness. Elected and appointed officials are in their positions to decide on tough, hair-splitting issues that affect everyone — about facts, truth and consequences.

It's certainly not about pulling the wool over anybody's eyes, no matter how many e-mails or constituent votes are gained and lost.

The issue is whether the man who carries in his head many secrets is conducting a White House political strategy or the people's business. By testifying 71 times that he didn't remember or couldn't recall important meetings was the death knell.

To restore credibility, said the California Democrat Nancy Pelosi, the powerful House Speaker, "Alberto González must resign." So did a pair of conservative Republican senators, Jeff Sessions (Ala.) and Tom Coburn (Okla.).

Senator Mel Martínez, GOP national committee chairman, was strangely silent after González' testimony.

That brings up the Ken Burns' duplicity. Burns is the producer who plans to air a PBS television documentary in September about World War II.

The 14-hour film, titled "The War," leaves out mention of the half-million Hispanics who participated, the 12 Latino Congressional Medal of Honor winners, and the import, unique role of Native Americans.

Latino civic leaders, advocates for veterans and civil rights organizations, Congress members, professors and some journalists are furious. After all, PBS is supposed to be for the national public.

At first, PBS president Paula Kerger said no changes would be made. Then she said some kind of local-option additions to the broadcast were possible.

As Hispanic pressures intensified, Burns and Kerger joined in praise of the Hispanic contribution and promised, using careful, misleading language, to accede to the Latino groups' demands. They promised to incorporate the significant contributions of Latinos and Native Americans into the program. They agreed to hire a Latino to oversee the new elements.

Now, it turns out, they do not plan to re-edit the 14-hour documentary at all.

Their insulting abuse of the public trust leaves viewers with what amounts to dysfunctional myth-making out of U.S. history.

Although rarely taught or passed on from one generation to the next, the Latino experience can instruct the rest of the country a lot about the nation we have constructed. World War II was the great awakening about conditions back home when the vets returned from the war. Never again would Hispanics or others of color allow themselves to be manipulated or accepting of unresponsive government and manipulative public officials.

If González should be fired for violating the public trust, so should Kerger. Both were entrusted with the public interest.

The issues are weighty. They ought to be of equal concern to a national audience. They are about our nationhood, about not letting those responsible get away with promoting their private interests at others' expense.

It has to do with how we see ourselves as a nation. That shouldn't get lost in the fray.

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. Readers may e-mail their comments to him at joseisla@yahoo.com

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### Rehab, treatment programs could expand

Proposals to greatly expand rehabilitation and treatment for convicts are being billed as the biggest corrections policy in years. The proposals have made headlines for months as legislative leaders grapple for a way to avoid building expensive new prisons.

But despite having one month of work, the legislature has yet to file any tie of massive bill to reform the prison system and they probably won't be any bills filed either say lawmakers pushing the changes.

"Most of the changes we want are already allowed in current law," explains House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden, a Plano Republican. "We're going to do most of (the reforms) this time through (the) Appropriations (Committee)."

For the first time in decades, a drastic cultural change in the way Texas deals with its non-violent lawbreakers could soon come about, not as a result of inches-thick legislation or boisterous public policy hearings, but in quiet, behind-the-scenes budget discussions.

Reform by decimal point, some lawmakers are calling it.

Madden and his Senate counterpart, Criminal Justice Committee Chairman John Whitmire, D-Houston, said a few more bills that might soon emerge will address such topics as expanded drug-court procedures, progressive punishment levels, even tweaks to the current parole rules. The more substantive changes will be made when Appropriations Committee members start to allocate state dollars.

In recent days, the focus of legislative attention on the reforms has shifted from the House and Senate committees that oversee corrections policy to the Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee, where the budget decisions are made. Senate and House leaders agree the attention will mostly stay there throughout the legislative session that ends in May.

Whitmire said, "We need to change the way we're operating our criminal justice system... You don't need to write a lot of new laws to fix that."

In their reform blueprint, Whitmire and Madden want to expand:

- In-prison therapeutic drug programs by 1,500 beds;

- Transitional-treatment centers by 1,400;

- Parole counseling by 1,800;

- Specialized drug-treatment programs by 1,800; and

- Halfway houses by 900.

All are existing programs, all allowed by current law. The total cost will be \$149.5 million.

By contrast, prison officials in their budget request last summer asked for \$440.6 million for three new prisons, \$173.9 million to lease bunks in county jails and private lockups and another \$284.8 million for additional operations and for construction projects. They also sought additional funding for treatment programs, with fewer additional beds.

Total cost for the construction and leased beds alone: An additional \$889 million.

In recent weeks, as Senate and House leaders appeared to support the Whitmire-Madden plan, prison officials have seemed open to implementing many of the changes, sooner rather than later.

On Wednesday, they confirmed plans to double the amount of faith-based rehabilitation programs in the prison system in coming months, the latest of several signals that the prison system once known for its tough-on-criminals punishment reputation — chain gangs,

no air conditioning, solitary confinement, scant programs — was beginning to soften to embrace therapy and counseling, job training, addiction treatment, even after-care programs to help convicts adjust to civilian life once they get out.

Even Gov. Rick Perry, who two years ago vetoed probation

placement programs — which help ex-cons get jobs and housing — for as many as 5,000 prisoners during the next two years. Ditto from Madden and Whitmire, essentially.

For his part, Whitmire, who spearheaded an overhaul of Texas' criminal code in 1993 and has chaired the criminal justice committee for a decade,

insists the reforms are not about overhauling the system as much as fine-tuning it.

"It's about how we spend our money, where we spend our money," he said. "We can't continue building new prisons and expect to ever solve the problems we're facing. "This is about spending our money more wisely."



## Texas State Employees Union Rallies and Lobbies for Quality Services, Fair Pay and Benefits

More than 1500 members of the Texas State Employees Union converged on Austin last week to push their legislative agenda. State and university employees from across the state attended the gathering known as State Employee Lobby Day.

"We urged legislators to support the efforts of state and university employees to deliver quality services to Texans," said Judy Lugo, TSEU's president. "The state's ability to deliver quality services depends on retaining quality employees, which is why legislators should support a fair pay raise for all state and university workers."

High turnover among agency and university staff is one of the biggest obstacles to delivering quality services. According to the state auditor, the employee turnover rate among all state agencies is nearly 16 percent.

In some agencies such as the Texas Youth Commission, which oversees the rehabilitation of youth who have committed a crime, and the state facilities that care for the mentally ill and people with developmental disabilities the turnover rate is nearly 40 percent.

The auditor two years ago estimated that state employee turnover was costing Texas taxpayers about \$425 million in lost productivity.

TSEU members marched from nearby Waterloo Park to the state Capitol where they held a rally. After the rally, union members broke up into lobbying teams and visited their representatives and senators.

At the rally, Lugo told the crowd that the union had successfully defeated attempts to privatize state health and human services.

"One month ago, the Health and Human Services Commission



## The Juan Manuel Nuñez Story: One Year Later

By Abel Cruz

Wile most families gathered together to celebrate Easter Sunday a couple of weeks ago; one Lubbock family was probably remembering, and in their minds, reliving their personal nightmare; a nightmare which for them began on the night of April 16, 2006.

It has been a little over a year when on the night of Easter Sunday 2006; Juan Manuel Nuñez fell backwards after being tased by Lubbock police officer; Matt Doherty; hitting the back of his head and ultimately bringing his life to a sudden end.

I don't know the family personally, but somehow I share in their personal loss. And my guess is that I am not alone. A family member's death is never easy; in a case such as this, I can only imagine what the family has had to deal with. And knowing that it didn't have to happen, or that it could possibly have been averted, must somehow make it worse.

On more than a couple of occasions, I have written about the incident which took place at the Nuñez home, ultimately ending with a promising young man's life being snuffed out at the young age of 27.

I have gone on record as saying that 1) there's more to this story than was reported and probably more than we'll ever know, and 2) that I believe that although the medical examiner ruled that the death was caused by a combination of alcohol, the Taser, and the fall; in my opinion Mr. Nuñez would still be alive today if he had not been tased by the officer.

One year later, the real questions remain unanswered: Was it absolutely necessary for the officer to tase Mr. Nuñez? Could he not have done something else to diffuse

the situation? Did Mr. Nuñez threaten to hurt the officer? Did the officer's actions instigate or provoke Mr. Nuñez? Did Mr. Nuñez attack the officer? Was Mr. Nuñez holding a weapon? Why didn't the officer wait until more backup officers arrived at the scene? Was the LPD working a holiday short staffed and is that why the officer answered the call alone? Why was a rookie police officer allowed to respond to this type of situation alone? Did a rookie officer make a rash decision to tase Mr. Nuñez because of his inexperience; did he make a rookie mistake? The reports said the officer tased Nuñez "multiple times"; is that what caused Mr. Nuñez's death?

Why? Why? Why? My own view is that in a lot of cases police officers have resorted to the use of Tasers far too quickly; probably because they have been told that Tasers are safe to use and that they will not harm the person being tased. While that may be true in some cases, it is not true in every case.

While too lengthy to publish in this space, in January of 2005, the Arizona Republic, Phoenix's major daily newspaper, published a special report in which it detailed 167 cases where Tasers were used by police officers in this country and Canada; which ended in a person's death. In a lot of the cases, if you believe the police reports, drugs or alcohol were involved, but it was the Taser that triggered some kind of chain reaction which resulted in the death. If police officials know that a person who is under the influence of either drugs or alcohol run a risk of dying after being tased, why not use other tactics to subdue them; what did the police do before Tasers were invented?

reforms that were designed to accomplish much of what the current reforms will do, seemed open to the policy shift. In his State of the State speech to the Legislature on Tuesday, Perry, sounding much kinder and gentler than before, suggested a new "approach to crime that is both tough and smart."

"There are thousands of nonviolent offenders in the system whose future we cannot ignore," Perry said. "Let's focus more resources on rehabilitating those offenders so we can ultimately spend less money locking them up again."

In his proposed budget, Perry proposed spending \$125.8 million for two new medium-security lockups to add 1,000 beds, and converting a Texas Youth Commission lockup to a prison for adults to add 600 more. Whitmire and Madden earlier proposed much the same, using all those beds for treatment programs.

Perry also proposed \$14 million in additional spending for rehabilitation and parole

This past summer, an LPD officer, Marsh Blackmore, was videotaped tasing Lubbock resident, L. J. McCallan, almost instantly; after approaching McCallan's car during a routine traffic stop. As soon as McCallan is pulled from his vehicle by the officer, Blackmore is seen going for his Taser and tasing McCallan; another example of the "taser first; ask questions later" approach. Incidentally, after seeing a need to tase McCallan, no charges were ever filed against him. If he was doing something illegal that required the officer to tase him, why were there no charges ever brought against him?

Apparently the Taser manufacturer has managed to plant the seed in the officer's mind that using the Taser is the way to go and consequently the police have come to see the Taser as a sort of "police crutch". If they are so safe, why are there so many documented cases of deaths associated with the use of Tasers?

If they are so safe; why is it that the Justice Department has decided to review certain cases in which the use of Tasers resulted in death? If they are so safe, why have cities like Houston, among others, suspended the use of Tasers by police officers until their safety factor can be re-evaluated? If they are so safe, why was it police departments who cried foul and cried loudest when it was announced that a Taser which the general public could use for their own personal protection would go on sale?

As for the Taser manufacturer, Taser International, do you really think company executives lose any sleep at night over these deaths? As we all know all too well, for these companies, it's always profits before people.

(Continued on Page 2)

terminated its call center contract with Accenture because the company was making it harder for people who needed help feeding their families and caring for their sick children to get that help," Lugo said. "One of the reasons that they canceled the contract was because TSEU organized and mobilized its members to fight the privatized call center scheme. This was a big victory for us and a big victory for the people of Texas."

Four years ago the legislature mandated the state Health and Human Service Commission to close its local offices and use privately operated call centers to deliver health and human services such as food stamps and Medicaid. Two years ago it contracted with the Bermuda-based company Accenture to operate the call centers.

As the result of efforts by TSEU members, 60 lawmakers last summer urged the commission to cancel the call center contract with Accenture, which it finally did on March 13.

"We won, the call center fight, but there are many other battles to be won," Lugo said. "We want real reform at the Texas Youth Commission, not phony reforms and witch hunts. We want a parole system that really protects the public. We want state schools and state hospitals that really care for people, who can't take care of themselves."

One of the speakers at the rally was Schronda Hawkins, a case manager at the Texas Youth Commission facility in Beaumont, who spoke about the recent scandals at the TC facilities around the state.

"A lot of the problems at TYC are the result of too few staff on duty," said Hawkins. "When you have one Juvenile Correction Officer for every 25 youths, you increase the risk of violence at these facilities. We need to reduce the staff to youth ratio to at least 1 to 12."

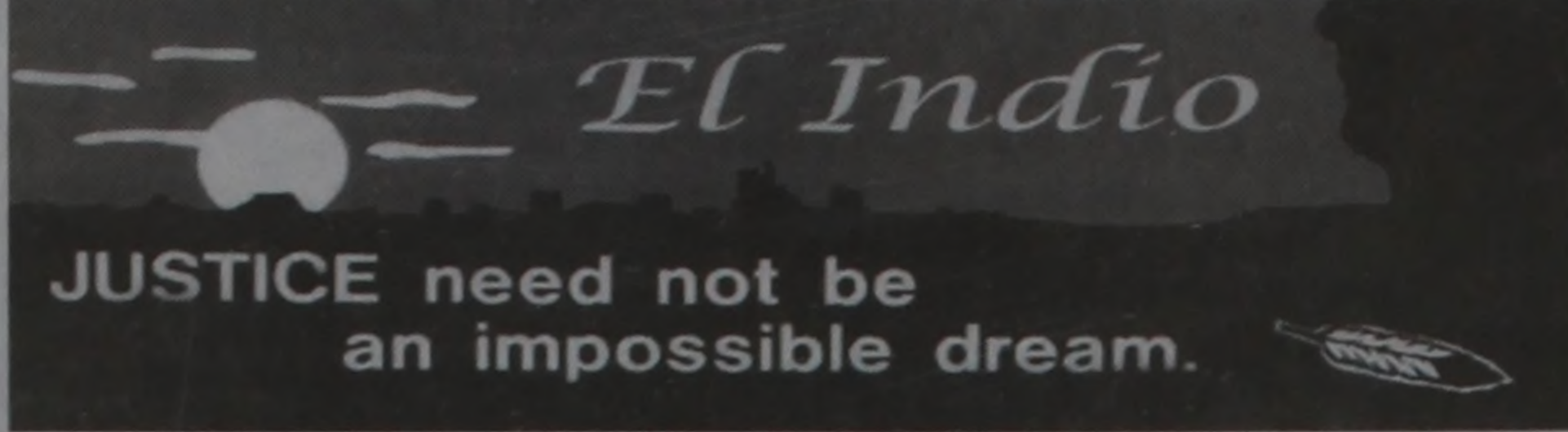
Hawkins told the rally that SB 103, a bill written by Sen. Juan Hinojosa of Mission, would among other things require that the staff to youth ratio at TYC facilities be at least 1 to 12, which is why TSEU is supporting the bill. The bill would also result in other meaningful reforms at TYC.

"We need real reform at TYC," said Hawkins. "Not phony reforms and witch hunts. We need to get rid of the good ole boy network that protects those with connections and makes it harder for those of us who want to do a good job to do it."

Speakers at the rally included approximately 12 Texas state legislators, none from the Lubbock area, who took time out from their legislative schedules to go outside and address the TSEU crowd.

"We had a very busy and prosperous day, I feel like the message we carried to our legislators, on behalf of all state employees and fellow Texans was very clear," stated Miguel Torres, TSEU Executive Board member for the West Texas Region, which includes Lubbock.

Send your comment to  
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**Bidal's Fundriser, Recall!.....César Chávez**

**Boulevard**  
by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

For all of you who haven't heard, our beloved a fundraiser to cover medical expenses not covered by insurance and accumulated after Bidal Aguerro's kidney transplant is being hosted by La Familia Gonzales and other friends at a Fundraiser Friday night at the South Beach Club & Lounge. Yes, the same South Beach that our fine City is trying to take away from El Barrio.....we hope to have some favourable news on that front soon. Bidal's family has been hit very hard by medical costs related to his kidney transplant. For all of you who have valued Bidal and Olga and Zenaída and Marisol over the years.....their dedication to the Barrio and La Causa.....Please come to the Fundraiser!!!!

By the time you read this, the Recall effort for City Council Districts One and Two may have begun.....this is a very important cause for the empowerment of our Minority communities.....a dream for which many of us have fought for a lifetime.....true political maturity, the right to control our own destinies without collaboration and symbolism and posturing. ¡Sí, Se Puede! We should all shout with one voice.....It is time to retire Sí, Patron!

This morning [Thursday], some representatives of the wrongheaded César E. Chávez Commemoration Committee, spearheaded by CHRISTY MARTINEZ, are planning to start lobbying the City Council to rename Canyon Lakes Drive as César E. Chávez Drive. Our determined NON-representative, LINDA DeLEON, appears to be pushing yet another misguided cause: "We'll try to get the (César E. Chávez Commemoration) Committee to come speak before the council in the next few meetings." [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday, 26 April 2007]

Once again, Linda is riding the WRONG horse.....coming on the heels of her DISGRACEFUL second to FLOYD PRICE's motion to buy the South Beach property out from under La Familia Gonzales. Once again, Christy has bungled one of her efforts.....by not doing her homework with the groups affected by the name change. The Committee picked Canyon Lakes Drive ostensibly to not encounter opposition or face a protracted time period.....yet the only business or institution located on Canyon Lakes, the American Wind Power Center, is adamantly opposed to the proposal. "All of their publicity and fundraising has been related to their location on Canyon Lakes, an appropriate name for a road showcasing the fledgling wind power industry. "Its director, COY HARRIS, told the Council on April 12 that the center has established itself around the name Canyon Lake Drive since it opened there in 1997..."We are the only people on this street," Harris said. "We think (Canyon Lake Drive) means something."

The Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association is also opposed.....Canyon Lakes is a descriptive name for the park-like atmosphere which adjoins their area.

Perhaps we need another César Chávez Committee.....a true César Chávez Honor Coalition.....just like we could use another Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.....a true Chicano Chamber of Commerce.

This writer was proud to see our former Council representative, VICTOR HERNANDEZ, speak out: "During his time on the council, Hernandez said his preference was to rename North University Avenue, starting north of Fourth Street. University is more prominent; Canyon Lake Drive more obscure..."North University runs through the heart of the Hispanic community," Hernandez said." Victor echoed this writer's comments in last week's El Indio.....wish HE were still our Councilman! He and YSIDRO GUTIERREZ would be quite a team!

If Linda and Floyd continue as our NON-representatives, we'll have to put up with another misnamed thoroughfare.....like the infamous "Marsha Sharp Freeway" or the "who-is-that" "Glenna Goodacre Boulevard".

As a final insult to El Barrio, the new street would be "César Chávez Drive".....the Black community gets Martin Luther King BOULEVARD, and we get stuck with a "DRIVE"! JUST SAY NO! to this travesty!

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**LETTERS TO THE Editor**

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At this time there are a number of dedicated people that are working to recall Linda Deleon and Floyd Price from the City of Lubbock, City Council, District 1 and District 2, respectively. A person might ask, why are Deleon and Price being recalled? Perhaps it is because of the prevailing, "better than thou" attitude that some elected officials and beaurocrats are infected with in the Establishment. Deleon and Price are being recalled because of their non-achievement during their time in office.

\* Price and Deleon have betrayed the minority community by voting to buy the building that houses South Beach Club and Lounge - they have turned their backs on Hispanic business ownership within the Depot District. Price and Deleon have made it possible for the City Council to displace a whole culture and Hispanics from the Depot District. Simply put, Price and Deleon have aided in keeping Chicanos out of the Depot District.

\* Both have voted for the red light cameras in Lubbock -- the money grab scheme in the name of public safety - yeah right.

\* Price and Deleon have urged the strict enforcement of resident Code violations in the poorest parts of the City making it hard, and costly for people to live.

\* Price and Deleon have allowed tax monies from District 1 and 2 to be used in other parts of the City - West and Southwest, that could be used in District 1 and 2. They tax District 1 and 2 but take this money to spend elsewhere.

The list could continue. But we want to call your attention to the most recent stinking stick jammed in our eyes by the City Council. The most recent insult is the hiring of Drs. Juan Muñoz (T.Y.C. fame) and Thomas Longoria from Texas Tech University to "teach" Hispanics how to be on Advisory Committees in the City of Lubbock. Some people believe that there are only token minority representation on City boards and committees. In an attempt to answer why there are not more

Chicanos on these committees Dr. Muñoz puts it this way in the Sunday, April 22, 2007, edition of the Avalanche Journal, "Someone can be very intimidated (sic) sitting next to an attorney, an executive, a bank president when they are a brick layer or a cement (worker)". Perhaps Dr. Muñoz means "intimidated". That would make more sense than "intimated" which means to be intimate with. Apparently, Texas Tech University hires professors that have a poor command of the English language. Dr. Muñoz is also Mr. Diversity at Texas Tech. The insult is this. How can a person that supposedly has diversity pouring out of their ears, speak negatively about a whole set of people? Dr. Muñoz denigrates blue collar workers by saying that cement workers and brick layers are fearful (intimidated) by white collar workers. This is not true.

This is for the City Council of Lubbock, Texas Tech University, Dr. Muñoz - SE SALEN, PINCHE BUEYES- Hispanics, and especially Hispanic women FEAR NO ONE. Chicanos are not intimidated by any nose in the air elitists. And certainly, we are not intimidated by the likes of attorneys, bank presidents, executives, or pretentious professors from mediocre universities. Mr. Diversity strikes again with more insult, "This training would qualify everyone so that they feel confident to articulate their points of view." Dr. Muñoz believes that Chicanos do not know how to speak. He believes that we are docile and timid and that we cannot get our point of view across. Let me "articulate" my point of view. Este doctorcito está malo del fundio.

With this eluist attitude prevailing in Institutions and diversity professors looking down their nose at us it's no wonder that people do not want to participate in City government. Armando Gonzales

**Nuñez**

Continued from Page 1  
The most disturbing aspect of this case, aside from the death of Juan Manuel, is that a year later we do not know any more than we did shortly after the young man's death. We live in an electronic age in which information can be accessed instantly; except in cases such as these. It's no big secret; the withholding of information is by design and to avoid any unfavorable public reaction.

I understand the legal posturing by the attorneys handling the case for the city; that's what they get paid to do. But that posturing has resulted in an open ended trial for the family. Unfortunately a lawsuit is devoid of the human element. For the city and the LPD it's all about limiting liability and bad publicity; at any cost.

The posturing has resulted in the case being re-filed in Amarillo and then it being sent back to Lubbock. It has also resulted in the city filing a request with the court that any information uncovered during the trial remain sealed; that we the public not be allowed to see it. This indicates to me that the powers that be at city hall, or attorneys for the city, know something they don't want us, the public, to know.

Unfortunately it seems like there is no end in sight for the family. Up until this past week, Lubbock Attorney Kevin Glasheen had been representing the Nunez family in the lawsuit against the city. But that changed when Glasheen announced his intention to run for the open District 3 seat on the Lubbock City Council. He couldn't very well be representing someone who is suing the city; especially if he should win the election. So he decided to transfer the case to another law firm; they will now represent the Nunez family. Who knows what effect that will have on the case?

At the end of the day, there will be no winners in this case. Even if the court rules in favor of the Nunez family; no amount of monetary damages awarded them will ever replace the life of their son and brother; Juan Manuel Nunez.

A lot of these cases are not settled in

**DESPERATELY NEEDED: RED LIGHT RUNNERS: APPLY AT AN INTERSECTION NEAR YOU**

By Abel Cruz

First it was; attention Lubbock drivers: we have a red light running/accident causing epidemic; for the sake of public safety we need red light cameras!

Then it was; no it is not about the money; it's about public safety!

Then it was "yellow alert"; whoa; the yellow lights aren't timed correctly.

Then it was; hiring freeze alert; the sky is falling; we can't hire more police officers until we install the cameras; start issuing tickets left and right and collect fines so we can pay for the officers!

Then it was, Ok, "you got us - it is about the money and not public safety".

Then it was; we have a green light - all systems are a go; cameras are coming to an intersection near you!

Now it's please people; will somebody please run a red light!

Does it get any better than this?

All those folks who had lost confidence in Mayor Miller and this city council and city manager Dumbauld must be rolling around; bent over in laughter.

Hahahahahahahahahahaha!

I know I did when I read the latest chapter in the ongoing red light camera saga, reminiscent of a "Keystone Kops" episode; incompetence at it's best.

Does anyone know what's going on? No

Does anybody at city hall, minus John Leonard and Gary Boren, care to admit they made a mistake and scrap the whole idea? No.

After all this drama, turns out Lubbock drivers aren't running enough red lights at the targeted intersections selected by Jere "I never met a red light camera I didn't like" Hart to make the cameras pay for themselves. Even Mr. Hart refused to appear in public to discuss the latest; instead leaving the dirty job to assistant city engineer Marsha Reed who was trotted out before local news media to explain the latest development in this ongoing "dramedy of errors".

It turns out that now the company contracted to install the cameras, American Traffic Solutions, has to re-evaluate the intersections and now hope that Lubbock drivers run red lights; so they can find new intersections to place the cameras! All this because some of the intersections previously targeted for installation did not have enough drivers running a red light to generate the revenue needed for the cameras to pay for themselves.

What? Hello! Now you want people to run red lights? How does that make any sense at all?

I have a suggestion for the city. In this day of reality TV; why not package this whole fiasco as a television reality show and sell it to Hollywood? It might solve the city's revenue problem?

Maybe they could call it "Big Brother's Watching You"? Or how about; "Keystone Kops II: The Case of the Missing Red Light Runners" or "Dumbauld, Jere and Mo", or the "Red Dash for Cash", or "Happiness is a Red Light Camera in my Rearview Mirror", or Lubbock: The Giant Side of Red Light Runners - Not!", or "Support the Lubbock PD; Run a Red Light Today".

On second thought that wouldn't work; even the folks in la la land wouldn't believe this one.

(This article first appeared on eleditor.com on Monday April 23, 2007)  
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**How to Save Texas Public High Schools**

Often during the thirty years I spent as a public high school teacher, business owners would complain to me that the graduates from our school that they employed could not write a clear description of their services OR explain a billing error in writing OR contact a client impressively in writing. I agreed with these business people. Our Texas high school graduates needed then, and need now to be given a better environment in which to master essential skills.

On numerous occasions during tenure as an instructor, I suggested to our administrators that the difficulties we were then, and still are, facing in the public schools, especially the high schools, could easily be solved. Generally, the reaction to my suggestion, one that I am now sharing with you, the readers of this publication, was a smile and a, "Good day to you, Mrs. Thompson."

The solution to our educational problems has always been hiding in plain sight. It is Student-First Accreditation. Student-First Accreditation is practical, economical and effective.

The Federal Government has approved Student-First Accreditation for funding. However, it is the State itself that has been laboring under the impression that the top-down, centrally controlled programs we maintain in our public schools are the only formats that make sense.

Texas has been trying to find a way to reform the public schools seemingly forever, and have failed, in my opinion, only because all the suggestions for reform are simply add-ons applied within the same school structure, that rest on the same foundation, a foundation that was adopted in the early 20th century as a result of the work of John Dewey, William Harris and others. They designed the top-down, military model we still use in all Texas public high schools, a model that requires students to respond to bells, whistles, klaxons, being grouped by age, and required to stand in lines and sit in neat rows.

Most parents and educators in Texas are not aware that there is a much better way to organize a school, and that better way is the result of adopting student Student-First Accreditation as our standard.

Usually, when I mention accreditation method, people unfamiliar with the process (which sometimes includes school board members) are puzzled.

Why would a different accreditation method make a difference?

In the top-down system we have used for many many decades in Texas, teachers are required to walk into classrooms with prepared syllabi, and deliver their subjects according to the dictates of a central authority. Variations from the syllabi are truly frowned upon, irrespective of what principals and superintendents might say regarding the goals of preplanning.

The individual student's learning style, aptitudes, skill levels, emotional preparedness, and interests are typically unknown to a teacher, and, if known, addressing them is virtually impossible when the focus of a school is on management, standard method and content.

As a result, ALL public school stu-

dents are disengaged to some extent, and, therefore, underachieve to some degree. For example, our State's public high school valedictorians place 20th in the world in general knowledge, science and mathematics when compared to the best students of other first world countries. (Of course, some Texas public high school students compare well with students in other places in America, but that's just being good when compared to a generally poor showing.)

When we apply one method and canned materials to students as if they were all the same, even our best will not achieve what they could if they were studying in a Student-First Accredited atmosphere.

Currently, all Texas education tax dollars continue to be poured into attempting to "massage" the status quo. In the "massage" category, we can put every single school reform proposal suggested in our State during the past fifty years. Programs such as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and 3R are add-ons and will never, in my opinion, improve results because our students have grown way beyond such systems psychologically. (Since 1995, America's test scores in science have actually dropped, this after spending another eighty billion dollars each of the last six years to follow the requirements specified by NCLB.)

Said differently, we cannot take a group of young people who have been rightly sold the American message that their individuality is important, place them in a school where they must jump to the sound of repetitive auditory cues, march in lines, and sit in rows, and expect a competitive first world result.

School reform proposals in Texas are offered by just about everyone, and everyone feels qualified to do so. It is no wonder that the Legislature and the Governor are confused. It is a bit like everyone feeling that they sound like Frank Sinatra or Rosemary Clooney in the shower. The reforms being recommended are just as good as the shower singers. What we really need though are the real Frank and Rosemary, who sounded great both in and out of their showers.

As it is, everyone is blamed for the poor performance of our public schools: politicians, parents, teachers, administrators, school boards, even the bus drivers. No one, as I've explained, really looks at the school structure, the foundation. Everyone wants a better product using a system that is a poor match for the psychological position of Texas students.

I am not aware of one experienced teacher who wouldn't have given a limb to teach in a school like those described by Student-First Accreditation advocates.

I am confident that once elected school boards in Texas know how Student-First Accreditation works, and how smooth transitions are possible, there will be an educational revolution in the State of Texas. Suddenly, our students will become a lot smarter. Sincerely,

Sarah Thompson, Retired Public High School Teacher

**Read El Editor**



# Democrats Predict They Can Win Iraq Vote

House Democratic leaders predict they will have enough votes to pass legislation requiring U.S. troops to begin leaving Iraq by

of troops beginning this fall. It sets a nonbinding goal of completing the pullout by April 1, 2008.

Troops could remain in Iraq after the 2008 date but only for limited non-combat missions, including counterterrorism operations and training Iraqi forces.

The bill, already negotiated with Senate leaders, is expected to reach the president's desk as early as next week following a final Senate vote Thursday.

Democrats view the November elections that allowed them to take control of the House and the Senate as a referendum on Bush's conduct of the war. Bush, however, says he stands firm on his latest strategy for winning the war and dismisses as counterproductive the Democratic call for withdrawal.

"That means our commanders in the middle of a combat zone would have to take fighting directions from legislators 6,000 miles away on Capitol Hill," Bush told reporters Tuesday. "The result would be a marked advantage for our enemies and a greater danger for our troops."

Whether Democratic leaders had enough votes to pass the bill in the House has been in question. The original House bill included a binding timeline, demanding combat ends by September 2008.

Several of the 218 members who approved the bill said they reluc-

tantly agreed to back the binding timeline even though they wanted troops home sooner.

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., chairman of the Democratic caucus, said, "We feel very good about where the caucus is."

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said Democrats will send Bush the bill with the hope that the president has a change of heart. But, Hoyer added, they don't expect it.

"We are very, very hopeful that the president will sign that bill, will change his mind and come to the recognition that this bill does in fact set off a new policy for our engagement in Iraq," Hoyer said.

Democrats, with their slim margins in the House and Senate, are unlikely to override Bush's veto.

The White House and Democrats traded insults Tuesday. Vice President Dick Cheney accused Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of pursuing a defeatist strategy in Iraq to win votes at home.

"Some Democratic leaders seem to believe that blind opposition to the new strategy in Iraq is good politics," Cheney told reporters at the Capitol after attending the weekly Republican policy lunch. "Senator Reid himself has said that the war in Iraq will bring his party more seats in the next election."

"It is cynical to declare that the war is lost because you believe it gives you political advantage," Cheney said.

Reid, D-Nev., dismissed Cheney's comments. "I'm not going to get into a name-calling match with the administration's chief attack dog," he told reporters



Oct. 1 and send it on to President Bush for his promised veto.

Several House members said they would go along with the bill negotiated with the Senate in a bid for party unity despite their desire for an earlier, binding withdrawal date.

The House vote scheduled Wednesday would come as the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and other defense officials try to convince lawmakers that a timetable would push Iraq into chaos. Bush's promise guarantees a showdown with Democrats emboldened by last year's election, which handed them control of Congress.

"For the first time, the president will have to be accountable for this war in Iraq," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday. "And he does not want to face that reality."

The \$124.2 billion bill would fund, among other things, the war in Iraq but trigger the withdrawal

## NCLR ADDRESSES NCLB IMPACT ON LATINO CHILDREN IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) – the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. – met today with President George W. Bush on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Joined by a small group of business leaders and school administrators, Murguía discussed ways in which the law could be improved for Latino students and the nation's five million English language learners (ELLs), including fair but firm accountability for ELLs and adequate funding to fulfill the promise of the law. "NCLR is at the table and advocating for NCLB improvements because we

need to make sure that all of our children, including those who are learning English, get the attention, resources, and rigorous coursework they need to graduate from high school with a diploma that prepares them for college and the workplace," said Murguía. NCLB holds considerable promise to close the academic achievement gap for Latino and ELL students. It challenges them to meet higher academic standards and for the first time holds schools accountable for improving the outcomes for these students. "Making sure that ELL students remain included in this law is at the top of our agenda because nearly half of Latino children are ELLs,"

continued Murguía. "If this law doesn't work for English language learners, it doesn't work for Latinos. And if it doesn't work for Latinos, who are one in five of all public school students, it simply doesn't work." "The President and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings have stood firm on the responsibility of our schools in the education of ELLs, and we appreciate their support," concluded Murguía. "We look forward to working with the President – as well as with Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman George Miller who have championed the law – to renew NCLB, fully fund it, and keep our promise to America's schoolchildren."

# El D.F. legaliza el aborto

La diputada Paula Soto, una de las más férreas opositoras al legrado, vio caer por la borda sus argumentos en la Asamblea Legislativa del Distrito Federal (ALDF). Con 46 votos a favor, 19 en contra y una abstención, el Congreso local despenalizó el aborto antes de las 12 semanas de gestación y transfirió a los hospitales públicos la obligación de practicarlo.

"Asesinos", murmuraba Soto, legisladora por el derechista Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) al ver la derrota y las celebraciones de sus compañeros que reñan y cantaban: "Sí se pudo", "sí al derecho de decidir".

Desde que el asambleísta del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) Tonatiuh González presentó la iniciativa para despenalizar el aborto, en noviembre pasado, los asambleístas no daban cabida a posturas intermedias.

El PAN y el Partido Verde se aferraron a defender la vida del feto, mientras que el Partido

de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), el PRI, Nueva Alianza, Social Demócrata y Convergencia defendían el derecho de la mujer a decidir.

La opinión pública también se dividió. La Iglesia Católica y otros grupos cristianos llamaron a la sociedad a defender la vida ante "el crimen abominable" del aborto; por su parte, grupos feministas se lanzaron a las calles a promover con boletines "su derecho a decidir".

Los alegatos se sostuvieron hasta el último instante de la votación. La víspera, cientos de opositores a la legalización marcharon hasta las inmediaciones del recinto legislativo donde permanecieron toda la noche y hasta que concluyó la sesión de los diputados tocando rock and roll "cristiano" a favor de la vida.

Manifestantes a favor y en contra se encontraron frente a uno de los retenes que montaron los 450 policías que custodiaban la ALDF. Ahí se desató una discusión que estuvo a punto de terminar en golpes, pues cada uno de los manifestantes había traído su historia a cuestas y la defendió a ultranza.

Ricardo Romero, de 29 años, vocalista de uno de los grupos de música cristiana, arguyó, entre lágrimas, que él era un hijo no de-

seado y su madre pensó en abortarlo, pero se arrepintió porque el padre decidió "responder a su falta" y se casaron: "Meses después de que nací se divorciaron, pero yo ahora estoy vivo y soy feliz. Es maravilloso vivir".

Mientras Romero narraba su historia, Arturo Rodríguez, un plomero de 42 años, empujaba a su hijo de 5 años, para que levantara un cartel en el que se leía: "Si mi mamá decidiera abortar, yo la apoyaría". En tanto, la madre se

ciudadana de referéndum, avalada por 74 mil firmas que solicitan que se consulte la despenalización del aborto", expuso Rétiz. Después pidió un minuto de silencio para los "niños que van morir".

En lugar de callar, los legisladores aplaudieron y silbaron durante algunos segundos.

Paula Soto tomó la tribuna para hacer segunda a Rétiz y argumentar que, si bien la mujer tiene derecho a la autodeterminación de su cuerpo, no lo tiene sobre el ser en gestación en su interior, que es un tercero: "la protección de la vida de un ser humano es considerada como la más elemental de las defensas".

En su momento, Tonatiuh González, creador de la iniciativa para despenalizar el legrado, abanderó a los pro abortistas como católico confeso y "adorador de un ser supremo", pero realista.

La Secretaría de Salud en el Distrito Federal reportó que cada día se

atienden en los hospitales públicos alrededor de siete mil abortos y calculó que otros 28 mil se hacen en la clandestinidad.

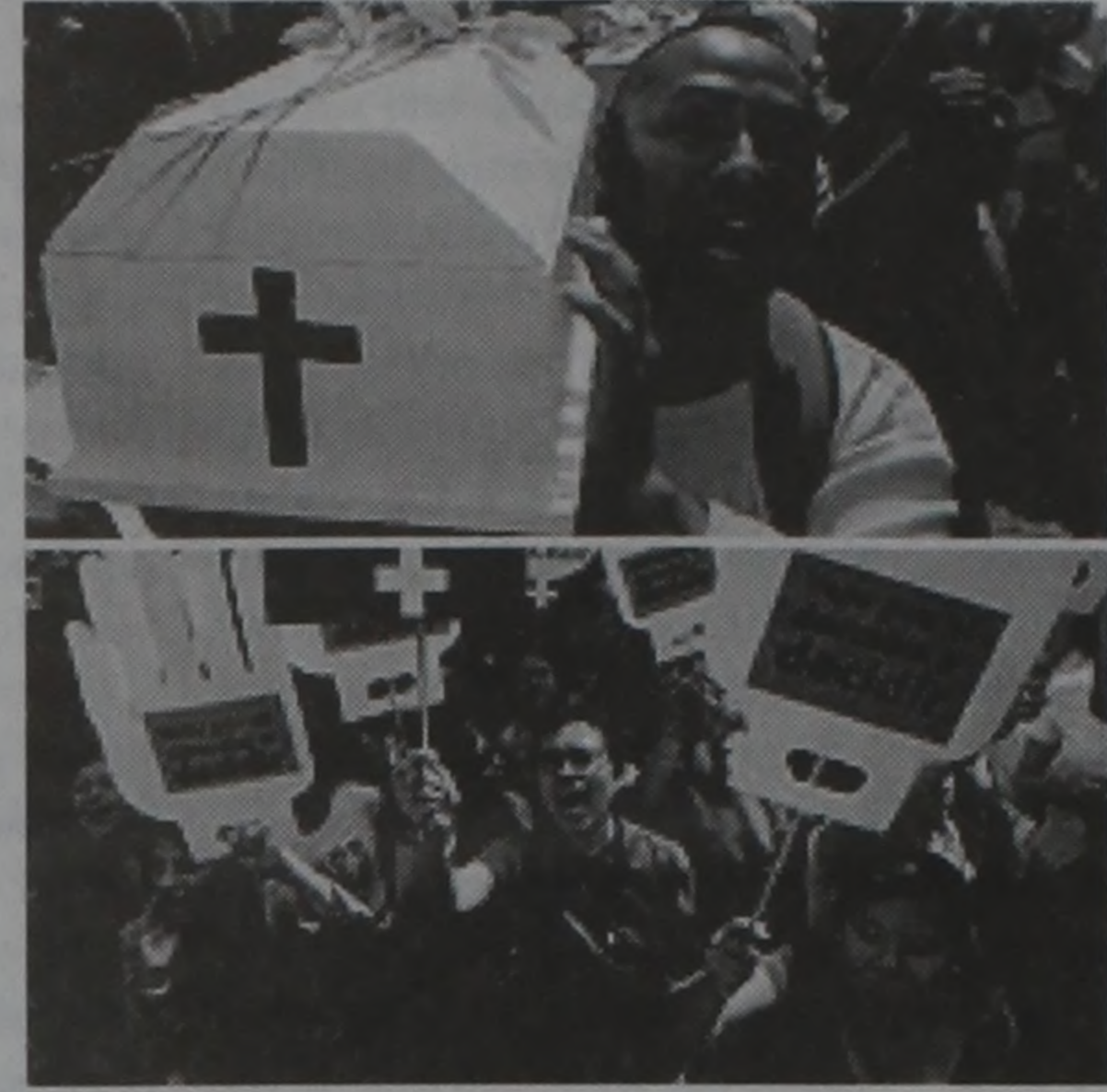
"Una mujer que no quiere un embarazo y tiene el producto lo abandona en la calle sin importarle la suerte que corra o lo maltrata toda su vida. La ONU reporta que cada día mueren dos menores de 14 años en México y en la capital hay 14 mil niños en situación de calle".

González, quien supuestamente recibió amenazas de muerte, opinó que el aborto bien practicado debe ser considerado una opción de salud pública.

Y parodiando al comediante Roberto Gómez Bolaños "Chespirito" (opositor del aborto) dijo: "¡Síganme los buenos!". La mayoría lo siguió, después de seis horas de debate.

A la salida del recinto, Edith Suárez, representante de la organización Vive tus Valores, que promovió la campaña contra el legrado, advirtió que, junto con los diputados del PAN, interpondrán un recurso de inconstitucionalidad ante la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación.

"Defenderemos la vida hasta las últimas consecuencias", advirtió.



batía en un duelo de gritos con una manifestante antiabortista.

"Mi prima tenía 15 años cuando se embarazó y tuvo que ir escondida de sus papás a hacerse un aborto. Se lo hicieron mal, se desangró y perdió la matriz. Ahora es una abogada exitosa y puede mantener a un hijo y no lo puede tener. No es justo, se lo pudo haber hecho en un hospital", decía la mujer.

"Eso le pasa por irresponsable, pudo usar anticonceptivos", replicaba María Morales, de 17 años.

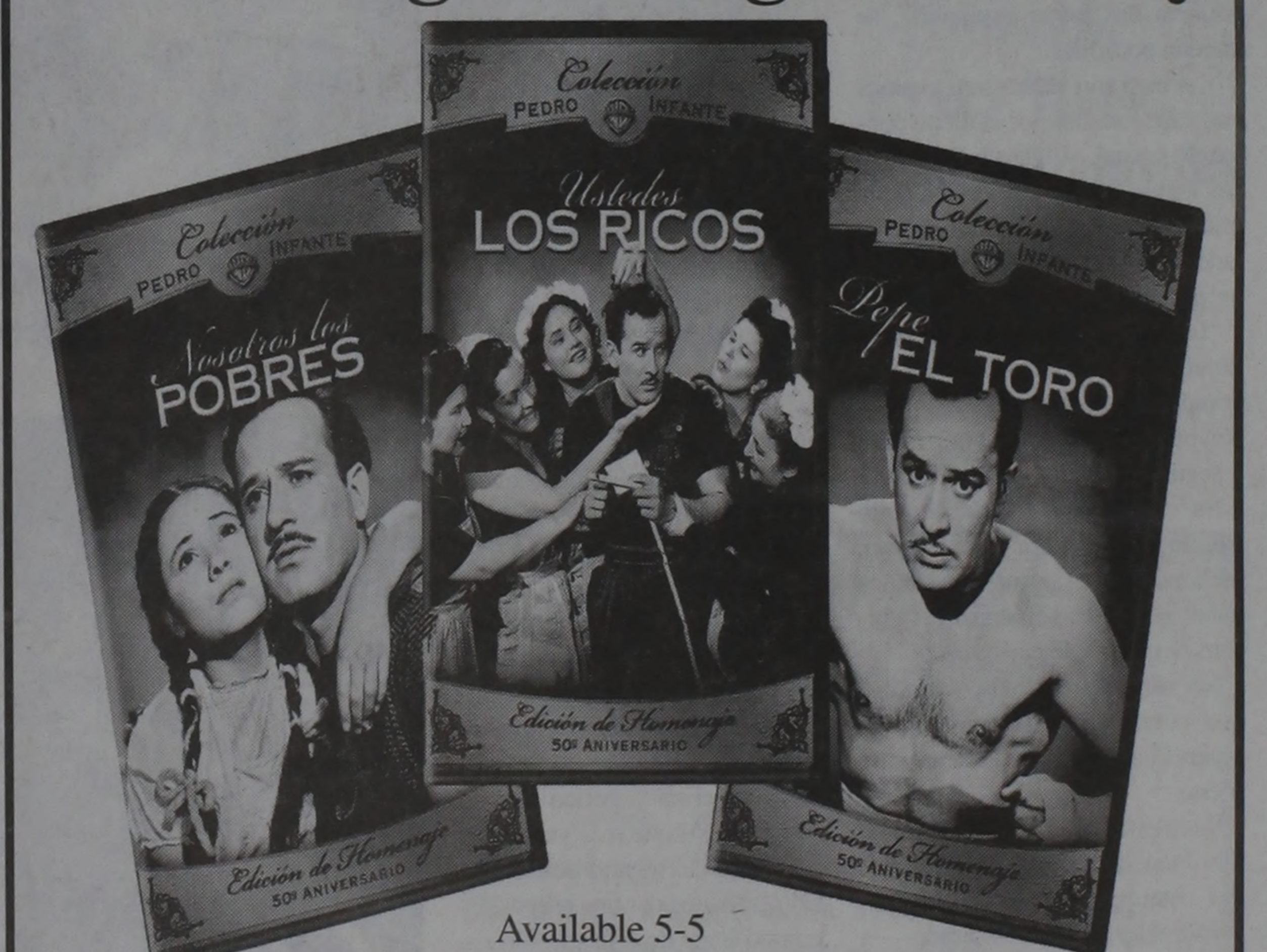
Al interior de la ALDF, la discusión era menos acalorada. Respetuosa, pero radical.

Las curules de los asambleístas que estaban a favor de la despenalización se colocaron pancartas amarillas con la leyenda: "El derecho de las mujeres a decidir es un derecho fundamental"; los diputados en contra vistieron sus sillas con camisetas negras grabadas con el mensaje: "Me hubiera gustado opinar" y "Sí a la mujer".

La mayoría de los legisladores rechazó la moción suspensiva del dictamen que presentó Ezequiel Rétiz, del PAN, que pretendía regresar la discusión a comisiones en lugar de enviarlo a votación.

"El dictamen adolece de una inadecuada técnica en su estructuración, está pésimamente redactado y no responde a una solicitud

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# Tex-Mex Fest: A Tribute to Freddy Fender

Ivan Entertainment and KTCOK Enterprises in association with Pochteca Media are pleased to present a show-stopping Las Vegas extravaganza in honor of the late Tex-Mex musical legend and country-rock trailblazer Freddy Fender. Among the slate of All-Star celebrity artists scheduled to appear are Grammy Award-winners such as Little Joe y La Familia, Ramon Ayala y Los Bravos del Norte, country crooner Johnny Rodriguez, Roberto Pulido, Johnny Hernandez, California Chicano sound originators Tierra, Charlie Rich Jr. and Augie Meyers, a founding member of the Texas Tornados. Actor Jesse Borrego, former star of the television series "Fame" and films such as Con-Air, Bound by Honor and Lone Star will join the all-star musical line-up as master of ceremonies.

A successful concert promoter and son of legendary Tejano artist Little Joe Hernández, Ivan Hernández is aiding by fueling a modern-day renaissance of the Tex-Mex sound while dedicating himself to the preservation of a

powerful legacy and native musical tradition. For this historic tribute, Hernández has recruited an impressive line-up of musical giants who will appear together on stage for the first time ever at the Orleans Arena on Saturday, June 16th as part of a historic dance and concert being held to remember fellow Texan Freddy Fender, a rocker who achieved crossover star status with a string of No. 1 hits on Billboard's Country and Pop charts, while recording widely popular Spanish-language versions of hits by Elvis Presley and Harry Belafonte.

Born Baldemar Huerta in San Benito, Texas, he showed musical promise at an early age and constructed a homemade guitar from screen door wire and a used sardine can while still a child. By



age 10, he had already made his first local radio appearance. Playing bars and honky-tonks, he was often referred to as "El Bebop Kid." Taking a cue from his favorite guitar, he changed his name to Freddy Fender in 1959 before recording

"Wasted Days and Wasted Nights," a song which did for a swelling tide of English language listeners what a Spanish take on Presley's "Don't be Cruel" and Belafonte's "Jamaica Farewell" had done three years earlier for Mexican and Latin American audiences, turning Fender into a real-life star.

With a string of chart toppers that began in 1974 with the release of "Before the Next Teardrop Falls," Fender quickly became a national sensation, earning Grammy nominations and Country Music Award for best new artist. A re-release of "Wast-

ed Days and Wasted Nights" followed a similar path to the top of the music charts. In more recent years, he co-founded the Texas Tornados with Flaco Jimenez, Augie Meyers and Doug Sahm, continued touring as a solo artist, and toured as part of Tejano super group, Los Super Seven. A multi-Grammy Award winner, he battled health problems before succumbing to lung cancer at the age of 69 on October 16, 2006

"He was one of my best friends, but he was also one of my heroes," says Little Joe Hernández, a Texas born-and-bred musician who is often referred to as the "King of the Brown Sound." Hernández is proud to have known Fender and laments the loss of a truly great talent. "We lost a national treasure in Freddy. I want to make sure his legacy lives on. He was a fighter to the end and proud of his Chicano heritage. We want to

celebrate his life and his music," adds Hernández.

Assembled as much for their personal relationships with Freddy Fender as for their honest admiration of his unprecedented legacy, all the artists slated to appear at the



tribute were his true brothers in music,

artists who were very close, lifelong friends with a man they will gather to remember on June 16th. All of them superstars in their own right, these are musicians at their peek who were Freddy Fender's collaborators and contemporaries. Together, they created in a bold new world which left room for and indeed, even encouraged Chicano redneck fusions, swamp rocker blues, big band, horn-laced Tejano, electrified rock & roll and straight-up Conjunto Norteño, and combinations of all on a single record.

"Growing up on the road with

dad, I was fortunate to have grown up around all of these guys," says Ivan Hernández. "I saw all of them with Freddy at one time or another. And I was especially impressed at how down to earth Freddy was... how well he treated everybody. If anything, this is what I hope we can convey with the Tex-Mex Fest."

About Tex-Mex Fest: A Tribute to Freddy Fender This Texas size showcase brings everything expected of an extraordinary Tex-Mex Fest: incredible Tex-Mex/Tejano/Chicano music and a place to dance the night away. Part of the proceeds from the spectacular showcase will benefit the Freddy Fender Scholarship Fund. The Orleans Hotel & Casino provides the perfect place to settle down early in anticipation of what promises to be the concert of the year. Kicking off with a meet and greet on Friday for press and fans, the concert will highlight the Father's Day weekend with stories, music and nostalgic images and exclusive video, to compliment the memories of Freddy Fender.

## Los Razos siempre serán 'perrones'

Los cantantes y grupos de música regional mexicana se cuentan no por decenas sino por cientos. Y los hay para todos los públicos.

Pero si se quiere mencionar a los que realmente son los favoritos del pueblo hay que referirse a aquéllos que cantan letras hechas con un

Fresno donde me dijeron, en forma de amenaza, que nadie iba a comprar ese disco y que si seguíamos con esta otra música hasta ahí no más íbamos a llegar".

La persona que le habló le tiró el disco por la cara y eso hizo que

volvieron a lo suyo. "Nosotros fuimos los que iniciamos esas letras con censura. Grabamos nuevamente corridos de los nuestros y la gente nos volvió a comprar", afirma Sanabia.

De este episodio hace ya varios años. Los Razos volvieron a lo suyo y Rifando la suerte, su reciente producción está en ese camino.

Esta vez han hecho dos versiones: una de ellas con la consabida etiqueta de advertencia a los padres para que sus menores hijos no la escuchen y la otra, sin ninguna palabra que les merezca censura.

Los dos líderes del grupo son ex drogadictos. Ramírez y Sanabia, cuando iniciaron su carrera en la música también se iniciaron en el consumo de marihuana y cocaína.

"Sentíamos que con un 'pase' tocábamos mejor, sentíamos mejor la música".

Sacramento Ramírez, muy efusivo en su hablar para contar la historia de sus vidas, recuerda que fue un ataque al corazón que sufrió su compañero, producto del consumo de drogas, la muy buena razón para que ambos dejaran su adicción.

"Mi 'compa' casi se muere. Fue un sustazo muy grande. Eso hizo que yo ingresara a una clínica de rehabilitación y Reynaldo también".

Entre perico y perico es uno de los discos que más vendieron y el tema del mismo nombre ha sido grabado por otros grupos. Es composición de Wilfrido Elenes, cuyas canciones son las únicas que Los Razos cantan, además de las de Ramírez.

La canción habla precisamente de la experiencia de consumir droga y alude a la cocaína ("perico") en el lenguaje de la calle.

Y es que, a decir del fundador de Los Razos, sus primeras canciones traían temas que contaban sus vivencias durante su etapa de adictos. Fueron sus mayores éxitos, asegura.

Las canciones de Rifando la suerte, aunque no todas son muy "cargadas de dinamita o de un rojo intenso", como afirma la presentación del álbum, se puede notar que, como siempre, son las letras de Sacramento Ramírez las que hacen el disco "no recomendable para niños".



lenguaje que va más allá del que usualmente habla el común de la gente.

Los Razos es uno de esos grupos y quizá el más contradictorio. Desde su nacimiento en el medio musical —hace más de dos décadas—, sus discos, que llevan la etiqueta de "letras explícitas", se venden por miles.

Y si bien son vetados en algunas emisoras radiales por el fuerte contenido sexual, vulgar y violento de sus letras, son los preferidos de la gran población mexicana de este lado de la frontera y también en su propio país.

"La clase trabajadora, la gente obrera es la que nos escucha y compra nuestros discos", dice Reynaldo Sanabia, el acordeonista y segundo director de Los Razos.

Su "compa" Sacramento Ramírez, fundador del grupo, reclama para él y sus muchachos haber sido los iniciadores del corrido de contenido censurado.

No siempre son narcocorridos, que también forman parte de su repertorio, pero sí de un rojo muy fuerte.

Sus pleitos con Los Originales de San Juan, de Jesús "Chuy" Chávez por ostentar el título de los más censurables, les ha inspirado —a ambos— crear letras cada vez más duras, con adjetivos irrepetibles, pero cada vez con mayor venta de placas. Los Razos cuentan en su haber numerosos discos de oro y platino.

"A mí no me gustan mis canciones. Yo no me quise hacer compositor porque mis letras no me gustaban. Nos gustaría cantar otra clase de música, pero nuestra gente no quiere sino estos corridos perrones", afirma Ramírez.

Para confirmar que esto es cierto, le pide a su "compa" Reynaldo Sanabia que diga lo que les pasó cuando hicieron un disco de canciones románticas.

"Quisimos ser tocados en las radios para que se nos abrieran más puertas y grabamos un disco de canciones románticas. Fue en

## Barbie set for Cinco de Mayo

Mattel long has diversified its doll lines with Hispanic versions of its classic toy. Since 1980, it has responded to a growing Latino market by producing 10 Latina Barbies.

Its 11th — Cinco de Mayo Barbie — makes its debut for the May 5 Mexican holiday that commemorates the 1862 Battle of Puebla.

Though not widely celebrated in Mexico — it marks Mexico's victory over the French — more and

more, it's celebrated by Mexican Americans as a day of cultural pride. It's also a big day for companies to market products and services to the burgeoning demographic.

Cinco de Mayo Barbie is a member of the Barbie Collector Pink Label "Dolls of the World" series, and its theme this year is "Festivals of the World."

"To date, the Dolls of the

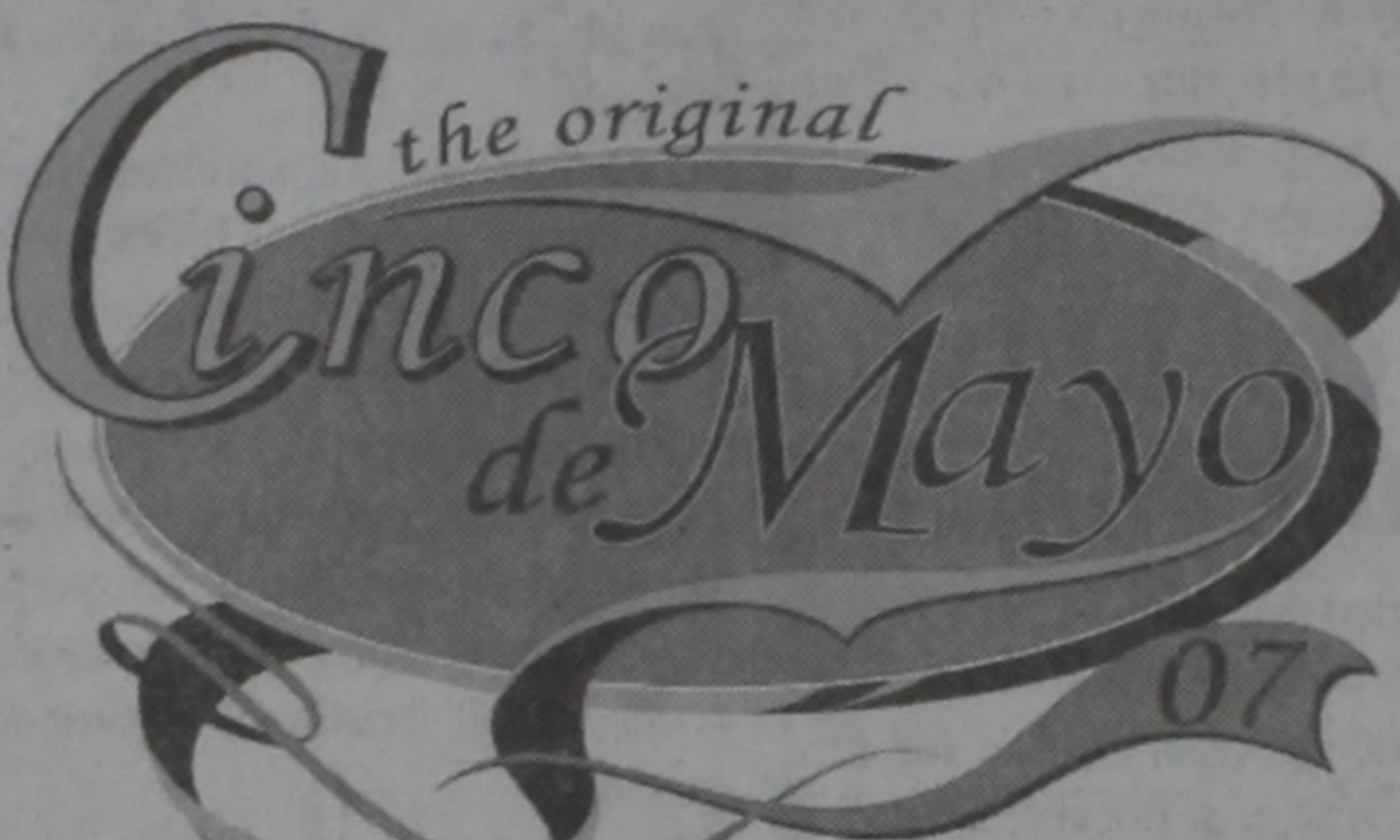
World series features dolls from around the globe including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America," said Elizabeth Grampp, director of Barbie Collector Marketing, in a written response to questions about the new doll.

Cinco de Mayo Barbie wears a ruffled red, white and green dress, the colors of the Mexican flag

All these Barbies have another

thing in common regardless of their diversity: their measurements. In human form, they would be 7 feet tall, have a bust size of 44 inches, a 17-inch waist and hips that lie at 40 inches.

Meanwhile, Latinas, who come in all colors, sizes and shapes, are more likely to fall in the average category as reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is 5-foot-3 and 152 pounds.

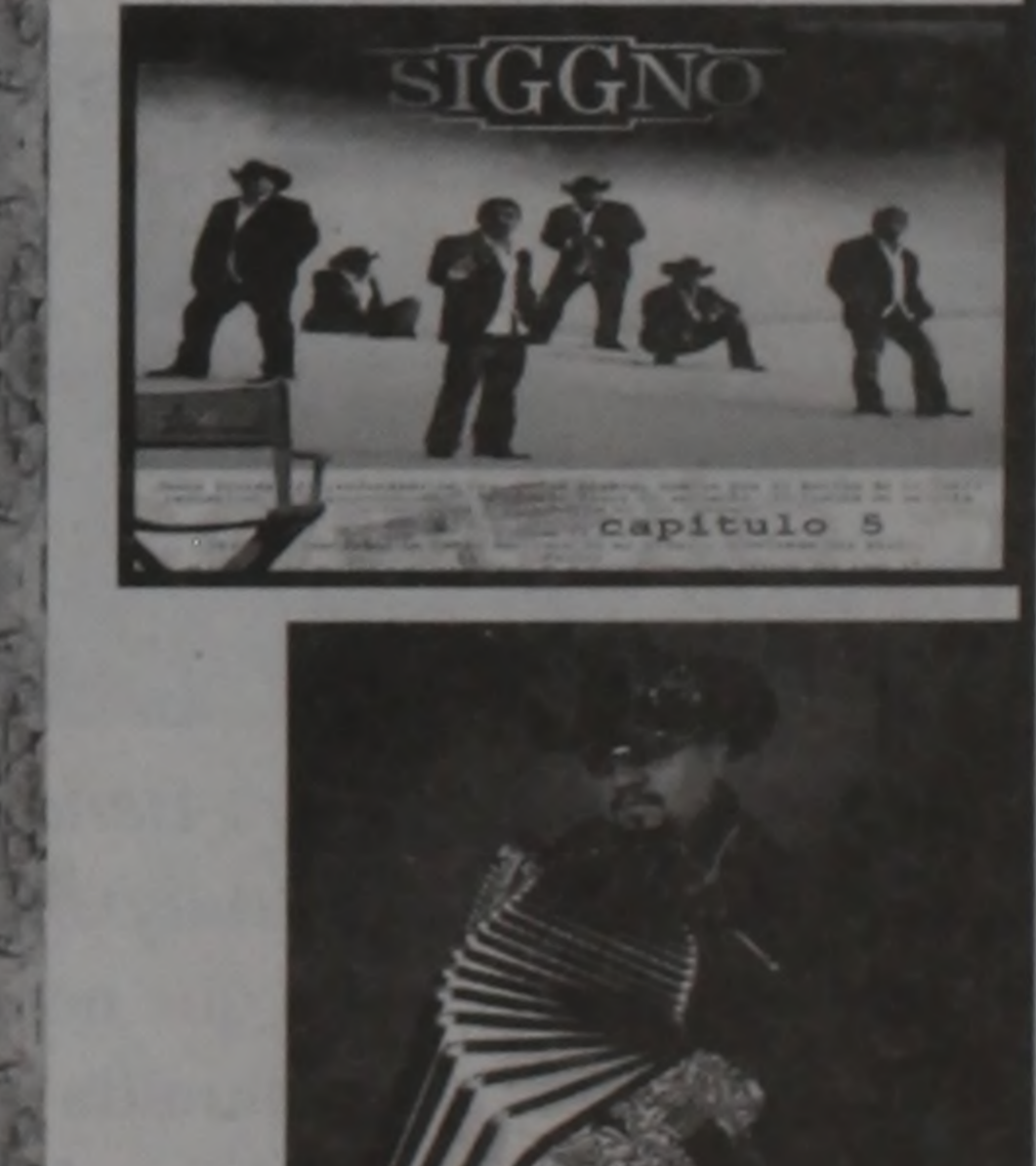
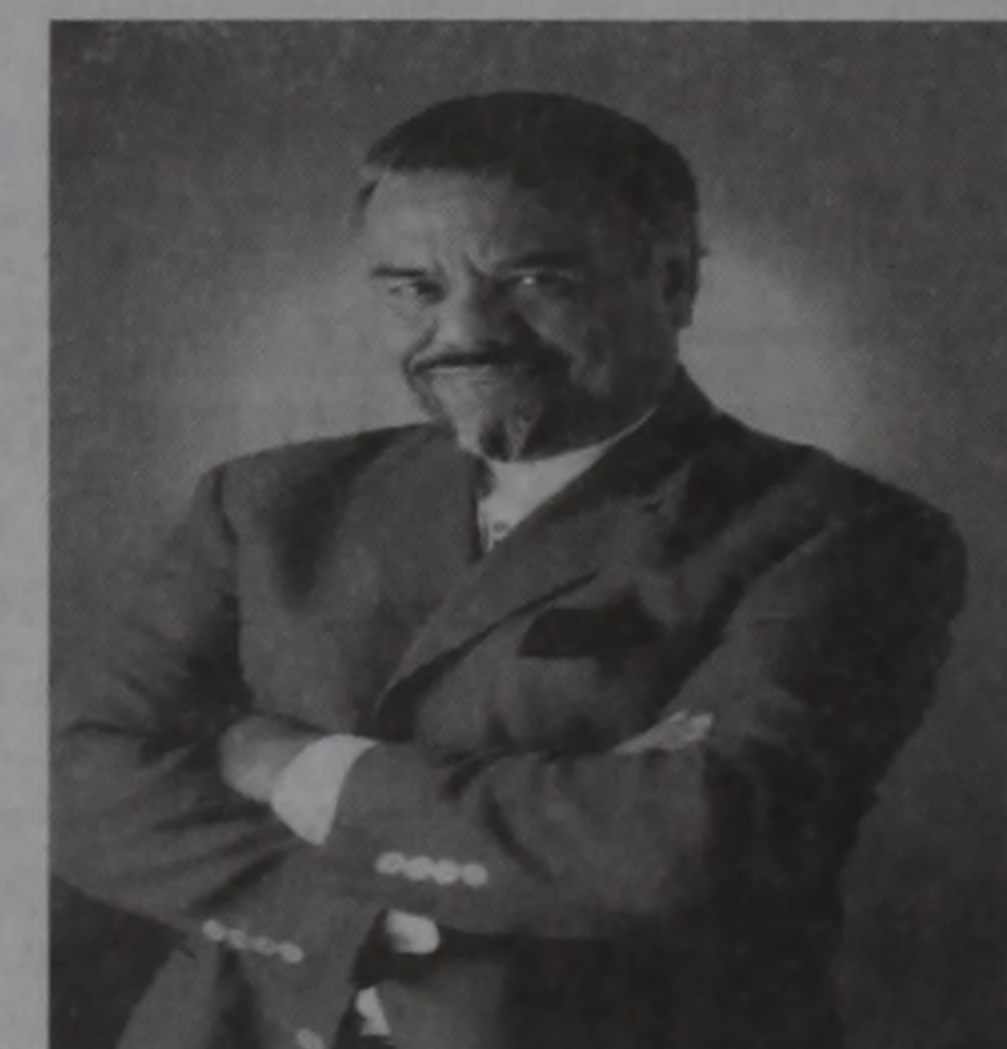
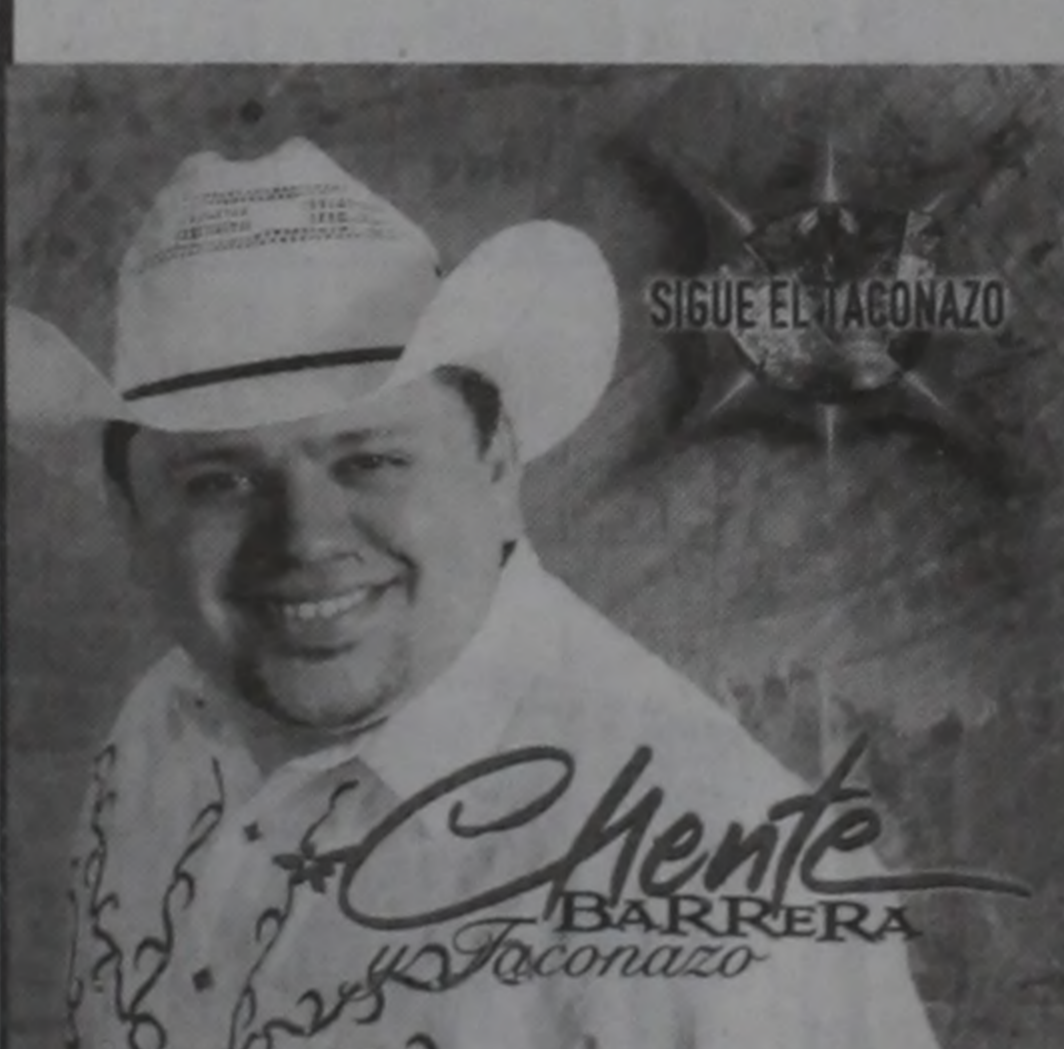


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# Mayweathers make for must-see TV

There's whackings, and then there's just plain wacky. Watch "The Sopranos" on Sunday nights, and you're sure to see one. Stay tuned to HBO a half hour later and you'll get the other.

Some 1.4 million U.S. households did just that the other night, and for many it was their first glimpse into the life of Floyd Mayweather Jr., a boxer HBO would love to turn into a household name — and quick.

Oscar De La Hoya is already that, of course, or as much of a household name as anyone who hits another person in the head for money these days can be. He's the Golden Boy, and he's the reason Mayweather will be making millions to fight May 5 for the 154-pound title.

People pay to watch De La Hoya, who has built up a nice franchise for himself as the most popular fighter in the game. Now HBO is betting a prime-time spot that Mayweather will give even more people reason to cough up \$54.95 for the fight.

Officially, the title of the show is "De La Hoya/Mayweather 24/7." The premise is that it's a reality show taking you inside the lives of De La Hoya and Mayweather as they prepare for one of the most anticipated fights in recent years.

The run will be short, with only three more episodes planned before the fight itself. But there may be more of a future in this series than the suits at HBO originally thought.

First, though, a bit of advice for the people at the studio: toss out De La Hoya's part. He's too perfect for reality television, with his instant smile, beautiful wife, singer Millie Corretjer, and sprawling estate in Puerto Rico.

There's only so many times you can watch him drink a cup of espresso, watch the Masters on television or play with his five dogs. It's cute when he spars playfully with his wife, but the only drama in his life comes when he steps into the ring.

Bring in Mayweather and his clan, though, and you've got must-see Sunday night TV.

Mayweather, you see, is the bad guy in this fight promotion, and he plays his part well. He taunts De La Hoya, calls him names you can't repeat here or on network TV, and even went so far as to steal his bag during their 11-city tour promoting the fight.

He's been kind of a bad boy in real life, too, even while building a 37-0 record and a reputation as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Mayweather likes to toss \$100 bills around in nightclubs, has been in and out of courtrooms, and fancies himself as a sort of rap producer.

At one point in the first show, Mayweather is shown with his entourage getting a haircut in his Las Vegas mansion. Through a doorway comes rapper 50 Cent, riding a Segway into the scene.

"He's the villain in rap music," Mayweather says. "I'm the villain in boxing."

Rappers are usually interesting, but it's Mayweather's relationship with his family that makes the most compelling TV. They're the first family of boxing, but this family is more dysfunctional than the one run by Tony Soprano.

His father is an ex-con and ex-fighter who spouts his own form of homegrown poetry and trains fighters. Floyd Sr. trained De La Hoya for five years and was going to help him beat up his son, but De La Hoya wouldn't meet his \$2 million salary demand.

Mayweather's uncle is also an ex-con and ex-fighter who now trains fighters. Roger Mayweather was in jail much of the past year, but got out just in time to resume training Floyd Jr. for this fight.



Son and father didn't talk for years before reconciling a few months ago. Father and uncle still don't talk, which makes for some interesting moments in the gym.

Reality TV doesn't get any more real than this.

Actually, to me, the first show seemed almost more like an infomercial than a reality series. Maybe that's because I already know the principal players and the story lines, and it took a good half hour to introduce those who don't to the various plots and subplots.

But the 40 percent or so of viewers who stayed tuned after "Entourage" still got a taste of what's to come, and there's promises of better stuff ahead.

Will Floyd Jr. and Floyd Sr. regain their father-son relationship? Will Floyd Sr. and Roger start talking to each other? Will Floyd Jr. allow his father to work his corner in the fight? Will 50 Cent fall off his Segway?

Will De La Hoya throw a fit if his espresso machine breaks?

Give HBO credit for doing the show, even if it is a bit self-serving since the network is trying to sell a fight for its pay-per-view division. Boxing is in a world of hurt these days, and anything the network can do to get people talking about it again is a positive for the sport.

The fight itself will be one of the biggest in years, and should Mayweather win as the odds-makers expect him to, he could rival De La Hoya as the biggest draw in boxing.

Especially if those new reality show offers start coming in.

"Those Wacky Mayweathers" does have a nice ring to it.

# With Parcels gone, Cowboys consider draft move up

Jerry Jones may be looking to move up in the NFL draft, something the Dallas Cowboys owner and general manager never did with Bill Parcels at his side the past four years.

Parcels left the roster in good shape when he retired, even though it was the only of his four NFL coaching jobs where he never won a playoff game.

"I feel like that we could line up and play with the players that we have before the draft. ... We do not have to have a player at a position," said Jones, who is preparing for his 19th NFL draft. "That gives me a lot of flexibility in any decision that I may make as we get into the draft."

So does having 10 picks, though there is one small problem: The Cowboys, who haven't won a playoff game in 10 seasons, have the 22nd spot Saturday.

"Bill didn't do us any favors," Jones said, smiling. "He left us with a low draft pick."

Without a specifically pressing need and with a few extra picks, Jones may try to move up to get an impact player, preferably on the offensive side of the ball.

"I'm looking at the possibility of, and probably more seriously consider it than I ever have, doing some bundling up (of picks) and trading up," Jones said. "We do have our bases covered, so if there

were a player we could reach — big if, big if — that could come in and make the obvious impact, then that should be a consideration."

The problem is, it would take a blockbuster deal to snag an impact player such as Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson or Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson.

Not as big the October 1989 deal by Jones that sent Herschel Walker to Minnesota for five players and six draft picks, or Mike Ditka trading all six of New Orleans' picks in 1999 to get Ricky Williams. But it would have to be something significant.

And Jones is only planning to package draft picks, not current players.

"I would like to see if we could create some impact over there, do something to juice it up," Jones said. "But 31 other clubs are looking for the same guy, too."

Since Jones bought the team in 1989 — when he got Hall of Fame quarterback and three-time Super Bowl winner Troy Aikman with the first overall pick — the Cowboys have made 40 draft-day trades. There are only five years when one of those trades didn't involve a first-round pick.

The Cowboys moved up in 1990 to get NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith with the No. 17 pick. But even Jones knows the nearly impossible chances of

something like that happening again that low in the round.

The Cowboys may look for a receiver — Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn both will be 33 at the start of their 12th NFL seasons — but the group behind Johnson is somewhat equal and probably not worth trading up for.

With the emergence of Tony Romo, the Cowboys may finally have a true successor to Aikman seven years after his last game, so they don't have to draft a quarterback high. Plus, they've already signed veteran Brad Johnson as insurance after Drew Bledsoe was released and retired.

The Cowboys also don't have to worry about trying to get an offensive lineman early after their offseason moves. They spent big money on free agent Leonard Davis and gave long-term contracts to keep right tackle Marc Colombo and center Andre Gurode.

If the Cowboys go for defense, they'd probably have to do some dealing for LSU safety LaRon Landry or Michigan cornerback Leon Hall. However, But Texas safety Michael Griffin or his team-

mate, cornerback Aaron Ross, could be available at No. 22.

Like Parcels, new coach Wade Phillips is defense-minded and well-versed in the 3-4 scheme, though they have different approaches.

Most of the pieces are in place there because of the emphasis on defense the last two drafts: six of the eight picks in 2005, including first-rounders DeMarcus Ware and Marcus Spears, and first-round pick Bobby Carpenter and three more defenders last year.

Parcels' final draft had a familiar formula. Dallas selected a defender in the first round, the son of one of coach's former players, and made trades to acquire more



pick. Jones expects the new coach to be a little more flexible.

"Bill was a little more focused on a certain prototype that were his system guys," Jones said. "(Phillips) will take a guy that was drafted for that system and make it work in his system or attempt to work it in his system. His idea would be it's unlikely you're going to get them all that just fit."

# Ochoa se erige como la número uno del golf femenino

La mexicana Lorena Ochoa se encumbró el lunes por primera vez en su carrera como la número uno del golf femenino, bajando de la cúspide a la sueca Annika Sorenstam.



Pero a la mexicana de 25 años le sirvió el valor de sus seis títulos conseguidos en el 2006 y haber figurado cinco veces entre las 10 primeras en los seis certámenes que lleva disputados en la presente temporada.

Ochoa acumula un promedio de 12.84 puntos. Sorenstam, quien no podrá jugar hasta el próximo mes debido a una dolencia en la espalda, quedó segunda con 12.70.

"Hoy es uno de los días más especiales de mi vida. Estoy extremadamente feliz de posicionarme como la número uno del mundo, uno de mis más grandes sueños desde niña", declaró Ochoa, según un comunicado de prensa divulgado por la firma que la representa.

Venía pisándole los talones a Sorenstam en los últimos meses. El año pasado fue proclamada como la mejor jugadora del tour y su promedio de anotación de 69.24 fue el cuarto más bajo en la historia de la LPGA.

Lo único que le falta en su hoja de servicios es un título en un torneo grande.

Ochoa se encuentra en México, donde el fin de semana intentará revalidar su título en el torneo de Morelia.

El ranking emplea como criterio los resultados de las jugadoras en un periodo de dos años, pero la actuación en las últimas 13 semanas recibe más peso.

Previo al ranking de la LPGA, la condición de número uno se determinaba por las ganancias producto de los premios, y Sorenstam fue primera en el período 2000-2006.

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Los rankings empezaron a confeccionarse en febrero del 2006 y Sorenstam era hasta ahora la única golfista en ocupar el máximo sitial.

Ochoa escaló a la cima sin jugar, ya que la pasada semana no se disputaron torneos en el circuito de la LPGA.

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## Quinceañera De La Semana



**Monica Perez**

Monica Perez, daughter of Daniel & Maribel Perez of Lubbock will be celebrating her Quinceañera on Saturday, April 28 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 1:00 pm.

Monica attends Lubbock High and enjoys band and softball. She would like to extend her gratitude to all the participants and all of the padrinos y madrinan that contributed toward this special event. Also, Monica would like to extend special thanks and lots of love for her parents that made this dream come true for me. Kisses & hugs always.

*"Quinceañera de la Semana" needs your photos!*



**Email your Quinceañera pictures for "Quinceañera de la Semana" include parents information & quinceañera's hobbies to eleditor@sbcglobal.net**

## 2007 Hispanic Graduation Convocation

This year the Hispanic Graduation Convocation will be held on Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Texas Tech Student Union Ballroom. We hope that you will join us for this very special celebration. Almost 600 Hispanic students are receiving degrees within Bachelor, Master, Doctoral, Law and Medicine.

Last year, the inaugural Raiders Rojos Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni Family awards were awarded during this celebration.

The recipients were:

Ramon Abarca - Distinguished Alumus  
 Lisa Ramirez - Distinguished Alumnus  
 Julio & Rosa Llanas Family, children Joseph & Veronica - Distinguished Family (two generations of Tech graduates from the same family)

Nominations for each of the two categories are being accepted and must be received by April 20. Our convocation committee will review and select the honorees for this year. Please send the name and contact information of your nominees to info@raidersrojos.org. Please be sure to provide a page letter that identifies/showcases the accomplishments of the nominee.



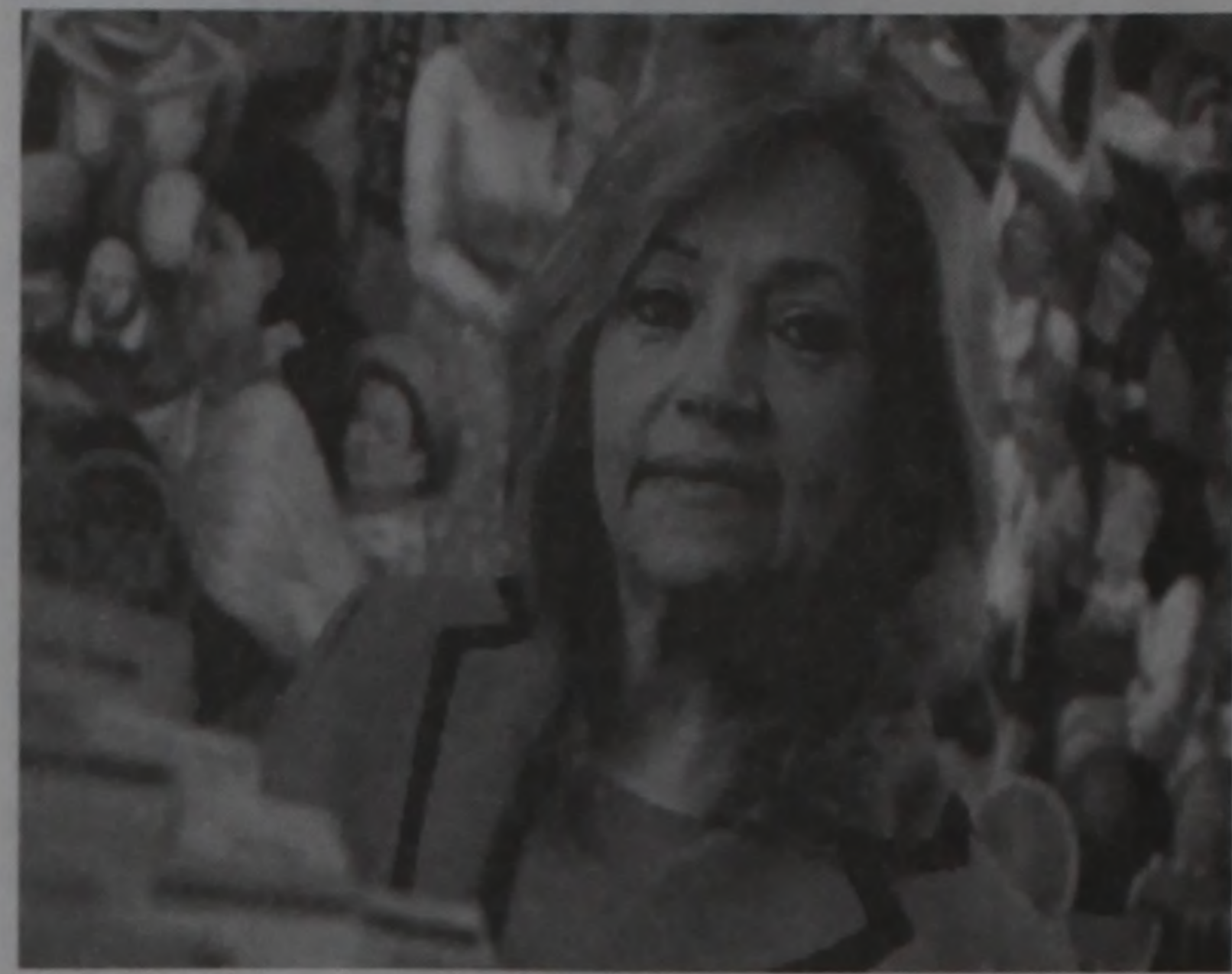
### Vincent Castro Places District for Lubbock High Golf Team

Vincent Castro is a Senior at Lubbock High School. He has been in the Varsity Golf Team for three years. Vincent's interest include playing golf, drawing, fast cars and just hanging out with friends. He plans on trying out in a mini tour this summer. He plans on attending college this fall and would really love to play college golf.

The following is a list of metals that he has earned both through school and on his own.

- 2007 - Regional Qualifier, 2nd Place District
- 2006 - 1st Place Midland Shootout, 1st Place Big I Trusted Choice 2nd Place NTPGA - Meadowbrook, 3rd Place Plainview Invitational 3rd Place Midland Country Club Jr. Invitational, 7th Place Lubbock Men's City Golf Championship
- 2005 - 1st Place Midland High School Jr. Invitational, 1st Place Friendship High School Invitational, 1st Place Odessa JV Tournament, 1st Place Big I Trusted Choice, 1st Place (Team) Snyder Invitational
- 2004 - 3rd Place Lubbock Invitational

## Medicare y SS en serios problemas



Los fondos de fideicomiso para el Seguro Social y el Medicare se agotarán un año después de lo que se calculaba anteriormente, dijeron fideicomisarios de ambos programas. Eso significa que el Seguro Social se quedará sin fondos en 2040 y Medicare en 2019.

En su reporte anual sobre la salud financiera de los dos programas gubernamentales más grandes, los fideicomisarios dijeron que la ligera reducción en los pagos de beneficios proyectados y la recaudación ligeramente más alta de impuestos se agote. Para el Seguro Social, la razón para la extensión de un año fue dada como un cambio en la apreciación técnica sobre cómo operará el fondo en el futuro.

Los fideicomisarios dijeron que ambos programas enfrentan serios problemas financieros con la jubilación pendiente de 78 millones de baby boomers. El reporte advierte al Presidente Bush que deberá presentar el próximo año propuestas para lidiar con los serios problemas de Medicare.

La advertencia sobre los fondos de Medicare es la segunda en dos reportes anuales consecutivos que concluyen que el monto de los ingresos generales que se requieren para financiar

Medicare deben equivaler al 45% de lo estimado para el programa. Los fideicomisarios hicieron esa determinación también el año pasado.

Esto requerirá que Bush proponga un plan de acción a principio del próximo año. Aunque el Congreso debe considerar la propuesta, no se requiere que actúe sobre ella. Grupos de cabilderos para las personas de edad avanzada han criticado el mecanismo de alerta, el cual fue agregado a Medicare con la aprobación de beneficios de prescripción de medicamentos en 2003.

Ellos sostienen que no es más peligroso para Medicare recibir más del 45% de sus fondos provenientes de sus ingresos generales que para otros programas que reciben el 100% de fondos de los ingresos generales. Las otras fuentes de fondos para Medicare provienen de impuestos de nómina y primas de seguro.

Bush dijo en una ocasión que el Seguro Social era la principal prioridad doméstica de su segundo período en el cargo. Sin embargo, la propuesta que presentó en 2005 para lidiar con el déficit de fondos que crearía cuentas personales de ahorro para los trabajadores más jóvenes no fue a ninguna parte en el Congreso.

Los fideicomisarios advirtieron que la situación financiera de Medicare es más aguda que la del Seguro Social debido al rápido incremento en los costos del cuidado médico.

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