

Casualties of
War in Iraq
4,085
as of May
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Lubbock/West Texas Region

Campaign Analysis

In Gonzales versus Price 2, Gonzales Oppenistic About Chances

By Abel Cruz

Con a recent visit to his campaign headquarters; one thing is clear; Armando Gonzales' enthusiasm begins to show and grow as he talks about the possibility that soon he will be the one representing the residents of the seemingly always forgotten District 2.

What is not as clear is if the new-come to the political arena will energize enough voters in a traditionally low voter turnout district to rally from his second place finish in the regular election and win. And whether the fight will be decided in a Hispanic versus African American voter decision as results from the May 10 election seemed to indicate.

On display during the visit was his organizational and leadership skills as he tried to generate enthusiasm among his campaign volun-

teers to help him make sure he leaves no stone unturned in his quest to wrest the city council District 2 seat from the "do nothing" (Gonzales' label for Price) incumbent Floyd Price.

If one of Gonzales' goals was to recruit people to help him defeat Price; that one he has accomplished. He says he is "very optimistic" when he sees the support of the volunteers and people who have come forward to offer help.

At the campaign headquarters located at 28th and Q, one could sense the energy and excitement as the group of about 8 engaged in a spirited conversation about campaign strategy and tactics. The conversation and brainstorming session seemed to fire the group up even more and it wasn't long before they took off to do what they feel is the key to victory; knocking on District 2 residents' doors and asking them to vote for their candidate. To them Gonzales represents their best hope that if he wins he will finally bring some much needed attention and respect to District 2 residents and their needs.

In fact, the scene was impressive to a former candidate who later remarked to El Editor that he wished he had been able to organize his campaign volunteers the way Gonzales has organized his.

But despite the energy and enthusiasm, one can see that running for office takes its toll in many ways. There are the long days, the tired body and feet from the constant walking of District 2 neighborhoods, and the second guessing over whether all that can be being done.

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Campaign Analysis

In District 4 Battle; Beane Will Answer the Final Bell

By Abel Cruz

Well, at least that is what conventional wisdom says. And after all Beane did manage to lead the 3 candidates in total votes in the May 10 election.

What had been a fairly active and spirited campaign before the May 10 election though; filled with jobs and uppers; has turned into a mostly calm pre-fight atmosphere as the 2 candidates for the District 4 seat on the Lubbock City Council campaign vigorously for the June 7 run off. Since early voting has already started this race may come down to who wins the early vote?

Front runner and race favorite Paul R. Beane and second place finisher in the May 10 election, Jerry Bell, "matched wits" in a radio debate recently hosted by local radio personality Wade Wilkes with KRFE (880AM) this past Friday.

Based on this listener's opinion of the responses given by the candidates, Beane still has to be considered the front runner. That much did not change even after radio listeners had an opportunity to assess the candidates a few days before early voting began.

Bell's strategy seems to include a desire to distance himself from the label of "city hall insider". But Bell has been an insider of sorts; not only at Lubbock city hall but at other west Texas cities; just like it says on his campaign web site and brochure.

A visitor to his web site will see this information: "He (Bell) is the current Chair and has served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Lubbock since 2002. He also served on the Finance Subcommittee of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the 2007 bond proposal. Following that service he was a member of the ListenLubbock PAC. Jerry also served on City of Lubbock committee's to review ordinances for Electronic Signs and Cell Towers".

Bell might dispute the insider label but Beane's charge that Bell is indeed a city hall insider would seem to be confirmed by Bell's own campaign's web site statement:

"His company (Bell has worked for 44 years for Johnson Controls Inc.) has performed numerous contracts with West Texas cities including the City of Lubbock. And also conspicuously missing from Bell's online endorsement list is Jones' name. Most recently is serving as treasurer of the Lubbock Centennial Celebration, overseeing a budget of over \$1 million for the year-long celebration. But his civic involvement with city hall has not been near as extensive as Bell's.

In this case, if the insider label is based on Bell's record of doing business with the city and by extension working with city management; then it is hard to see how the label does not fit.

Bell also seems to want to create distance between him and any appearance of connection with current Councilmembers Phyllis Jones and from being painted as a Phyllis Jones candidate despite. During the radio debate Bell made it a point to say that those who said he was a "Phyllis Jones clone" were just plain wrong. Jones is not considered to have been a very effective council member and will leave office under a cloud of controversy. She voted to approve the money for the controversial visitor center; even though she personally stands to profit from a business venture operating in the Depot District in which she herself has said she is a partner investor. What Bell cannot deny is that Jones was present at his campaign announcement that he would seek her seat and that Jones contributed \$200 to his campaign, according to a local media report.

But clearly Bell is concerned that being painted as Jones "hand picked successor" may not sit well with District 4 voters. It didn't seem to help in the first election.

Beane says he wants to "bring positive change to city hall". He points to the "money wasted on a visitor center and higher tax appraisals on your property; and "crumbling streets and leaky water and sewer lines" as proof that change is needed. His campaign handout also asks the insider question: "What do you want from your city hall?" A city hall insider on the council that does business with the city?

Beane has been a frequent critic of the past council and his statement would seem to indicate that Bell's prior relationship with city management might be a conflict of interest and make it difficult for Bell to represent taxpayers as opposed to siding with city management. Much like Jones did during her time on the council.

Beane's campaign material seems to be asking District 4 voters to consider Bell's prior involvement with the city management and suggests that Bell may have some problems criticizing the hand that once fed him; in a matter of speaking; when he was with Johnson Controls; a company which does business with the city and may still do so after Bell retires.

Bell also declined El Editor's invitation to participate in an earlier candidate's Q&A; citing a busy schedule; El Editor opted to not send him a request for comment for this report.

Beane says he has been walking and talking with voters". He says he has no "brain trust" to help direct his campaign. He tells El Editor that "the campaign is going well, and I still feel strongly that the voters in District 4 are looking for positive change in city hall". Only 6,836 District voters went to the polls during the last election and Beane says he is "hopeful for a good turnout in both early voting and election day" although he is mindful that community events (and) even the weather may impact the turnout on June 7. So with that in mind; barring a deluge similar to the great flood experienced by Noah; Beane seems to be on his way to victory and should prevail in this District 4 race.

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Why Don't Lubbockites Vote in Greater Numbers?

Part 2 of 2 Part Series

By Abel Cruz

In the May 10, 2008 election; 6,836 District 4 voters went to the polls; about 35.56% out of a base number of 19,200 non-suspense voters identified last week numbers provided by the Lubbock County Elections office. Only 1,530 out of 12,558 registered non-suspense voters in District 2 took time to cast a ballot; barely 12.18% of registered non-suspense voters. Why the significant difference? Why is it that even in this past District 2 and 4 elections which had at least 3 candidates each; less than 50% of registered non-suspense voters voted? After all, residents are asked to elect the person who will be their voice on the city council.

The question that we began trying to find an answer to in last week's Part 1 of "Why Don't Lubbockites Vote in Greater Numbers?" is as hard to explain as the discrepancy in the above numbers. While specific district issues may be different in both districts; and when emotions in District 2 may be running

higher; one would think the turnout would have been much more significant.

Let's explore the ethnicity and race angle, since District 2 is predominantly a minority district, and see what the researchers say. Historically, Anglo voters have always maintained a higher registration and voting track record than any other ethnic group. Apparently Anglo voters feel their vote matters; why don't other ethnic groups feel the same?

We've all heard the various terms applied to the Hispanic voting bloc; terms like the "sleeping giant". An appropriate description considering that it has largely been asleep when it comes to voting in elections. The irony is that the voting bloc has rightfully been recognized as powerful enough to swing an election one way or another.

In an analysis about the recent city election written by Neale J. Pierson, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Texas Tech University and sent to El Editor last week; Pierson says that in the recent Mayor's race "Miller did best in African American and Mexican American precincts". He points out that votes for Miller were at "78.7% at Guadalupe Elementary Precinct

5". Problem for Miller is that too many registered Hispanic voters stayed home.

The point is that that all other things being equal, there are enough votes in the predominantly minority precincts to impact a mayor's race; unless voter turnout in the mostly Anglo precincts increases substantially.

So why focus on minority communities you might ask; because while 35.56 percent turnout in a predominantly Anglo district is nothing to write home about; it is considerably higher than the turnout in the District 2 race; that number was 12.18%.

The reasons are as varied as the voters themselves; don't have time; inconvenient; don't care; don't like the candidates; vote doesn't count anyway; and the list goes on and on.

Do minority voters really feel their vote doesn't make a difference or is that just an excuse to justify their not voting?

In 2006, the PEW Research Center produced a report in which they found that voters generally fall in 4 categories; Regular Voters; Interimient Voters; Registered but Rare voters; and Not Registered. When they break it down by ethnicity they found that while voters significantly outnumber blacks and Hispanics when it comes to the regular voters. At the other end of the spectrum, Hispanics outnumber blacks and whites in the "not registered category"; meaning they do not even take time to register much less vote.

Historically, Hispanic voters have always lagged far behind in voter turnout. Why?

For one answer we turned to local attorney Kevin Glasheen. Glasheen says you may recall unsuccessfully for the District 3 council seat now held by Todd Klein in a special election in 2007.

Says Glasheen: "I think the answer is that the non-voters in district two believe that their vote does not matter. Democracy is majority rule. The corollary is that minority votes are generally not heard. Until now we had single member districts, a minority could get elected to public office. Even when elected, the minority representatives on council are still going to be in a losing minority on any vote between the interests of the majority and majority culture. Glasheen says that "Victory over the majority's role on council was as a desecrator. But if all you ever do is dissent, then you lose your ability to influence the outcome. Not every issue represents a divide between minority and majority cultures, but many do. Why are we going to have one Black police officer out of four hundred?"

"It is not just about racial minorities, but economic minorities as well. The middle class represent a majority relative to the low income minority. Any minority, whether it is racial, social, cultural or economic tends to get marginalized in a majority rule democracy. The result of being marginalized is to be practically disenfranchised. If your vote ultimately doesn't make any difference, why vote?"

Glasheen's point about "economic minorities" is well taken. And the feeling of "disenfranchisement" keeps popping up again and again as one of the top reasons why people don't vote; simply put; they just don't believe their vote counts; it's almost like a conditioned behavior based on some of the reasons Glasheen cites.

(continued page 6)

News Briefs

"Red Headed Stranger" to Celebrate 75th Birthday in Lubbock.

To the musically initiated, the above moniker needs no explanation. One of the most universally recognized musical influences to celebrate his 75th birthday at the City Bank Coliseum on July 2.

Written as in Willie Nelson will headline a concert and bring his distinct and unique brand of music to Lubbock's City Bank Coliseum along with former Tech student Paul Green who according to the press release issued by Llano Estacado Music, Inc. "went from the Big Red Spread to superstardom in country music".

Opening acts will include Willie's sons and their band 40 Points, a new rock recording act anchored by Willie Nelson's two sons, Lukas and Micah, along with Lubbock recording artist Mike Pritchard.

Advanced Tickets go on sale a Select-A-Seat in Lubbock on Saturday, May 31st and are priced at \$45.00 to \$60.00 \$65.00 (excluding fees). Showtime is at 6:30PM.

Promoters of the show say they "are DELIGHTED that Willie Nelson will play Lubbock as he celebrates his 75th Birthday, while Lubbock marks its Centennial Celebration, and our great nation celebrates its 226th Birthday".

Nelson who has written some of the best songs in any genre during his lifetime has spent "the last 35 years influencing country music, rock and popular, Texas Outlaw music, styles that stand the test of time".

"If we could just forget that one mistake he sang with Julio Iglesias; "To all the Girls I've Loved Before"; we could have done without that one.

Just kidding...it should be a great show!
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American State Bank Settles Hiring Discrimination Allegations

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) says they did, American State Bank says it's not so.

Nevertheless, the bank will pay \$225,000 dollars to settle claims filed against it claiming hiring discrimination.

After complainants brought the matter to the attention of federal officials, the Department filed allegations of hiring discrimination against minority applicants.

American State Bank issued the following statement:

"After five years of litigation, American State Bank has settled a dispute with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) relating to ASB's hiring for office and clerical positions in its Lubbock branches during 2001 and 2002."

"During a routine compliance audit, OFCCP conducted a statistical analysis of ASB's hiring patterns in 2001 and 2002. Based solely on that analysis, OFCCP claimed that there was a statistical shortfall in hiring of minority applicants for office and clerical positions. ASB disputed, and continues to dispute, the validity and accuracy of OFCCP's analysis, especially considering that no employee, applicant, or any other person actually complained of discrimination or wrongdoing by ASB."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Editor
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Editorial

A Déjà Vu

By Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez

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

Submit to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

"Victor Hernandez" Spelled Backward

As usual, I took the time to read your newspaper this past week. However, not until today did my wife mention to me that she saw my name in it. I read your paper and could not find it. My wife then pointed out a letter to the editor entitled, "Campaign Finance Revolution" and showed me that it had been signed by "SMR Jednareh roveci..." Obviously, my wife is smarter than me because she noted that "sedanher roveci" is Victor Hernandez spelled backward.

First of all, my last name is spelled with a "V" and not an "S"; secondly, I am openly supporting Armando Gonzalez, "bad for City Council, District 2"; and thirdly, this strikes me as a feeble attempt (on someone's part) to create some sort of division among the candidate and a supporter. I have no idea who wrote this nor do I really care. I do however, wish to make it clear that I am squarely in Mr. Gonzalez' camp and have no intention of being bullied or scared out of it.

In closing, I will say that anyone may call me at 765-5481 and I will gladly relate to them the reasons for my support. Plus, I will urge them to go vote for Mr. Gonzalez as well.

Victor Hernandez, Attorney at Law, Lubbock

Congratulations to the Graduates and Their Unsung Heroes

Often overlooked when a young man or woman finally reaches the conclusion to one of the most important phases in his or her life are the unsung heroes; the parents.

But first to the graduates; Congratulations on an accomplishment which will forever be near the top of your life's accomplishments list!

Your work, dedication and yes sometimes the mistakes have all somehow come together and you find yourself getting ready to be the center of attention on your graduation day.

Even though some of you will go on to college; and hopefully all will; some of you have chosen a career path which doesn't include higher education. We hope that at some point in your career you find some time to at least experience college life.

Hopefully some of you may still be unsure of what career path you want to follow; additionally with some career advice that will quickly change.

What we celebrate is your accomplishment this week. We celebrate your perseverance and your ability to overcome the challenges and obstacles which at times stand in your way.

But there is another group of individuals who should be celebrated as well. Parents, single and married, grandparents, older siblings, extended families. They too should get "3 cheers" for the role they have played in you receiving your diploma.

Your parents, or whoever played a part in raising you, they are the ones you love and should be recognized as such. They are the ones who provided that you need; they are the ones who were there for you. Were they perfect, they did always make the popular decisions; probably not.

But they have surely stood by you; rooting and cheering you on as you ran the good race and looked toward the finish line.

So celebrate; but in that celebration; don't forget to celebrate the unsung heroes in your life.

You know who they are.

Vote!

Over the past few weeks we have filled the pages of this newspaper with as much information about the city elections as is possibly can.

We have done so because we have a deeply held belief that being an informed voter when casting your vote is far superior to voting based on misinformation or campaign ads or brochures alone.

While you may not agree with the information we have provided, we think we can all agree that differences of opinions are as necessary to the electoral process as the actual voting process is.

Run off elections are in progress and we are in an early voting period. District 2 and 4 residents are hopefully going to the polls to select who they want to represent them and be their voice on the Lubbock City Council. We cannot say it enough nor can we make it any clearer; every vote matters and every vote counts.

We strongly urge residents in the respective districts to make sure your voice is heard at the polls. The candidate of your choice may not win, but you at least will have exercised not only one of your most basic rights but basic responsibilities and obligations.

We endorsed Armando Gonzalez in District 2 and Paul R. Beane in District 4 during the regular election and our choices have not changed. Our reasons have been well documented on the pages of this newspaper and on our web site and we stand by our endorsements.

So this week, avoid the rush on June 7; Election Day; take advantage of early voting and VOTE!

Vote for the candidate of your choice even though they may differ from our choices.

The important thing is that you get out and let your voice be heard! Remember; ¡Su Voto es Su Voz!

Editorials express the views and opinions of EI Editor's editorial board. They do not represent the opinions of EI Editor's advertisers or anyone else associated with EI Editor. On the board is Publisher Bidal Aguiar, Business Manager Olga Aguiar and editorial writer Abel Cruz.

For comments or questions; email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

EI Editor Informing, Educating, Creating Action The Job of a Newspaper of Record



Is it déjà vu all over again? Four years ago John Kerry (the Democratic Party Presidential Nominee debated President George "Dubya" Bush and won all three times. He was ahead in the polls on the Economy, Education and Health Care. In a nation that votes it's pocketbook, Kerry should have won the election. It was clearly his to lose and he did.

How did it happen? We have the benefit in 2008 of armchair hindsight. We know John Kerry got 55.1 million votes to Dubya's 58.7 million. It was the largest voter turnout since 1968. If the primary season of 2008 is an indication, November's turnout will be even higher. Or will it?

Four years ago there was much talk of the young vote turning out in historical highs. We now know the 18 to 29 year old's DID NOT vote in higher numbers than in previous elections. This means they are iffy. This is a crucial issue for the Obama camp. Young voters rallied around Obama in the primaries, and he is counting on them in November. Will they revert to apathy? If they do, Obama is sunk.

Obama is also counting on the smaller states to win. In 2004, the smaller states voted Red - e.g. Republican. If the smaller states (those with 10 electoral votes or less), do the same this year, Obama will not get the 270 electoral votes needed to win. The smaller states have about 9% combined electoral votes. The funny thing is that Obama has won the smaller states in the primary against Hillary. The question for the Delegates at the Democratic Convention is the one Hillary has raised and will continue to pound on until it is driven home, "Is Obama Electable?"

Elections often surprise us. In 2004, the veteran election watchers predicted the Economy and the War were the two main issues for Americans, but we know now that they were wrong: voters put "Moral Values" above the war and the economy. No one predicted the mood of the American Voter in 2004. Voter sentiments in 2004 surprised everyone, especially Democrats.

The Swing vote is always an issue of debate in Presidential elections. No one doubts which direction the African American vote will swing. But only 64% of those eligible are registered to vote and only 56% actually vote. Most experts predict 90% will vote to Obama with 10% voting Republican. This translates into 10 million African American voters for Obama; about 8% of the expected turnout.

This being the case, there remains only one voter block large enough to swing the election in November - the Hispanic vote. In 2004, 9 million Hispanics voted with about 75% voting Democrat. Some really brave (or foolish if you prefer) pundits suggest the Hispanic vote will increase to 12 million. The two most populous states - California and Texas with about 90 electoral votes are large enough to impact the final numbers significantly. If it happens - Hispanics will elect the next president. This November shares as many similarities as uncertainties with the 2004 election. Given the war, the economy, and especially the price of gas, it's Obama's election to lose. Will he go the way of John Kerry? It's déjà vu all over again.

EI Editor

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All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the author's name, address and phone number. Letters may be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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Why Don't Lubbockites Vote in Greater Numbers?

Continued from Page 1)
Part 2 of 2 Part Series
By Abel Cruz

Another elected official says that a candidate is responsible for low voter turnout; or that if a candidate doesn't appeal to the voters; they won't vote.

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez definitely has some experience in this issue. He was involved in a run off against Gilbert Flores in 2004 against the Democratic nomination for Precinct 3 County Commissioner. In the 2004 General Election Gutierrez was elected to his first term.

This past April in the Democratic Primary, Gutierrez lost the nomination to his former adversary Flores. Still Gutierrez says "Voter turnout is the responsibility of the candidate. I have often put it in terms of the 4 M's: Man, Charisma, ego, Money - support from other than family; Message, change, change, change. People are fed up with the status quo; Morality - No Sleazebags in the White House."

He points to the Barack Obama campaign to illustrate his point and says that "Obama got 175,000 people to show up at the rally in Oregon."

Another former candidate says that voter turnout is low "because people have not, in recent years, believed that voting makes much difference in their lives."

Texas Tech University Economics Professor Robert Ricketts opposed local Congressman Randy Neugebauer for the District 19 seat in 2006. Ricketts has said that if he could have succeeded in getting a higher Hispanic voter turnout; he believes he would have won that election.

Ricketts says that "Part of that is the media's fault - in Lubbock, for example, neither the television station nor the newspaper really cover political races in any depth. EI Editor is a welcome exception, but it is usually a lone voice in the media wilderness."

For example, in a profound show of disrespect for the voters, Randy Neugebauer would not participate in a public debate in the last election. I doubt very much that he will be willing to debate his opponent this time around either. He knows that the media will not talk about his election, or his opponent, and that as a result, people will have little or no information on which to base their votes."

Ricketts continues: "Of course, Neugebauer's is not the only race where many people will be required to vote on little information. What have your readers heard about Rick Noriega, for example? Mr. Noriega, an Iraq War veteran, is challenging John Cornyn for the U.S. Senate seat. This is an extremely important election, yet the media will give Noriega only as much attention as he is willing to buy. The sad result is that many people don't realize how important their votes are. And of course, it will always be true that government responds to the concerns of groups that vote- those who don't vote don't count."

Ok, so what is the best we can hope for? Ideally, it would be safe to assume that everyone involved with this issue would like to see 100 percent voter participation. But we all know that is never going to happen.

What is a realistic number? When asked how Lubbock's turnout compares to other West Texas cities; Kennedy with the elections office says they "do not have results on other counties with which to compare."

As far as a "good average turnout" number; Kennedy says: "There is really "no" good average." "We should all hope for 5% of our registered voters to turnout as this would indeed show that whatever passes or not, those elected or not, have been elected by a majority and that the decisions that are made by our elections are not actually made by a minority of registered voters who choose to vote."

Now that makes a lot of sense to me, and I suppose we would all feel better if at least 5% of all registered voters determined the final winner. I definitely would feel like a truer majority of voters made the final decision.

Perhaps there should be a rule that says that an election will not be certified as being over until at least 51% of all registered voters actually vote? But then what if that never happened?

Or perhaps we should make it a civil offense to not vote as in some other countries have done in order to increase their voter participation?

And when it comes to making it convenient for a person to vote, Kennedy and her staff at the elections office seem to have all the bases covered. They go out of their way to make sure that any person wishing to vote is accommodated. They make every effort possible to make the voting experience as painless and convenient as possible.

Starting with absentee voting and continuing with early voting which is held for a period of 8-12

days; hours vary but some locations stay open as late as 8:00PM and on weekends. They also offer mobile voting sites at nursing homes, hospitals, and some public libraries.

The list of things they do is too long to mention everything here but the following accommodation tells me that inconvenience or no time are just excuses and not reasons; Kennedy says that "if (a person) can get to a polling site we can bring the machine out to the vehicle and the voter can vote outside if he/she has mobility problems."

So do we know anymore now than when we started trying to find an answer to our question; somewhat.

When considering how convenient and easy election officials make the process; we can throw out inconvenience or no time and lump it in with just plain laziness and apathy.

What does seem to resonate is that some people cannot get over the "well my vote doesn't count; doesn't mean anything" mentality. Minority voters in the city may very well feel their vote doesn't count so why vote.

May not be true but there is definitely a reason why minorities do not vote in greater numbers. After many years of being conditioned to feel this way, partly due to being a minority in every sense of the word, it would seem that we are a ways away from getting to the aforementioned 51% turnout.

Then again, sometimes people are just plain lazy or don't care for whatever reason. In many cases, those 2 reasons are as close to the truth as we'll ever get.

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Vote Early - In Greater Numbers Vote Early - In Greater Numbers Vote Early - In Greater Numbers

Benicio Del Toro, 'Latino Brad Pitt', wins Cannes award as 'Che'

CANNES, France (AFP) — Oscar-winner Benicio Del Toro, the Puerto Rican-born star often dubbed the "Latino Brad Pitt", won Cannes' Best Actor award Sunday for his role as "Che" Guevara in Steven Soderbergh's film on the revolutionary hero.

"I'd like to dedicate this to the man himself, Che Guevara," said the actor, after accepting his second big award under the US director's helm.

"I wouldn't be here without Che Guevara, and through all the awards the movie gets you'll have to pay your respects to the man."

And taking one reporter's question after Cannes' red-carpet awards ceremony, all Del Toro saw was her "Che" T-shirt. "I like the shirt," he said several times.

Del Toro, 41, transmutes into a larger-than-life Che in the marathon four-hours-plus movie.

"Che" charts two episodes in the life of the guerrilla hero — the late 1950s ouster of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista alongside Fidel Castro, and Che's subsequent aborted bid to bring the Cuban revolution to Bolivia.

Some critics slammed the film shot in Spanish for its length and meticulous documentary-style presentation, as well as for failing to focus on the politically controversial aspects of the Cuban revolution.

Soderbergh needed to tighten it for average moviegoers, they said.

The US director back in 2000 propelled Del Toro into the movie limelight, when he bagged best supporting Oscar for his role as a restrained Mexican police officer walking the moral high ground in "Traffic".

Del Toro, original name Benicio Monserrate Rafael Del Toro Sanchez, also played

five years earlier in the blockbuster "The Usual Suspects", where he was the mumbbling gangster Fenster.

He has also been directed by the head of this year's Cannes jury Sean Penn, in 1990 "The Indian Runner" and "The Pledge", 2001.

Born in Puerto Rico to lawyer parents, he moved to the United States at the age of nine when his mother died and studied commerce before deciding, secretly, to change to acting.

Del Toro, who has a quiet but immensely strong presence, was involved from the start on the "Che" film, which took nine years of research and 60 million dollars to complete.

In Cannes for the screening, he recounted how like the average American he grew up with a bad guy image of Cuba's hero until stumbling on a book on the guerrilla leader in Mexico.

"He had a really warm smile. I bought the book and then read more. The love people had for this man made me more interested," he said.

Del Toro started his career on television before playing the youngest James Bond villain ever in "Licence To Kill".

One of his most recent star roles was in the much-noticed 2002 movie by Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu "21 Grams" where he plays a former convict-turned-religious fanatic who kills two children and their father in a road accident.

Other major roles have been as a corrupt cop in "Sin City" by Robert Rodriguez in 2005, and as a drug-dealing lawyer playing alongside Johnny Depp in Terry Gilliam's "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas", a 1998 movie about journalist Hunter S. Thompson.



Eva Longoria sirve merengadas en Texas



Eva Longoria Parker pasó un tiempo sirviendo malteadas

y papitas fritas en un restaurante Wendy's. La estrella de "Desperate Housewives" (Amas de casa desesperadas) trabajó el martes en la ventanilla de expendio para automovilistas del local para ayudar a impulsar el Fin de Semana Frosty por el Día del Padre.

Durante dicho evento, 50 centavos de cada merengada Frosty vendida se donan a la Fundación por la Adopción Dave Thomas y su programa Wendy's Wonderful Kids (Niños Maravillosos de Wendy's).

Antes de alcanzar el estrellato, Longoria Parker trabajó en un Wendy's desde 1991 hasta 1994, reportó el Corpus Christi Caller-Times en su edición de Internet.

Museo Alameda is assembling collection of Mexican art in San Antonio

The Museo Alameda is planning to launch a collection of three exhibitions highlighting the contributions Mexico has made to the art world over the last 500 years.

The museum will display collections of Mexican and Mexican-American arts from the 16th Century to modern times.

"Mexico at the Museo" will open June 23 and run in phases through Feb. 22, 2009. This collection will be the first of its kind to be staged in San Antonio.

"This presentation will help visitors understand the historical

and contemporary dialogue between the two cultures and how it has helped shape the Latino experience in America," says the museum's founding chairman, Henry R. Munoz III.

The first exhibition will be "Myth, Mortals and Immortality: Works from Museo Soumaya de Mexico" and will run from June 25, 2008, through Jan. 6, 2009.

"Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art from Mexico City" will run concurrently from July 31 to Oct. 26 and will feature young artists who have re-shaped the context of contemporary

Mexican art.

"The African Presence in Mexico: From Yanga to the Present" will run from Nov. 12 to Feb. 22, 2009, and will focus solely on African contributions to Mexican culture over the past 500 years.

The Museo Alameda is the nation's largest Latino museum and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. The museum is part of the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture, the nonprofit organization that also operates the Alameda Theatre in downtown San Antonio.

Regional Mexican acts unite for co-headlining tour

In a move that breaks the mold of traditional Mexican concert promotion, two marquee groups, Intocable and Los Horoscopos de Durango, are joining forces for a 40-stop tour of the United States.

The Unidos tour is slated to kick off June 13 at the Convention Center in Visalia, California, to coincide with the release of albums by Horoscopos and Intocable. As is the case with the traditional regional Mexican "dance" circuit, the show will visit fairsgrounds, theaters and

convention centers.

But the tour — overseen by management/promotion company Nueva Generacion Music Group — marks a departure for the circuit because it features co-headliners and is being marketed as a major pop event, with a Web site, MySpace page and YouTube promotion. It's also being promoted as a brand — Unidos — that is slated to return annually.

"People can go to the Web page, call an 800 number, buy merchandise and albums," Nueva Generacion founder

Martin Fabian says. "We want people to say, 'It was worth it.' We don't want to simply feature the same old dance."

Unidos tickets will cost between \$30 and \$50, depending on the venue and city. Guest acts will include El Gringo, who will open many of the shows, and Banda Pequeños Musical.

"We've always spoken about concepts, about joining forces and going different places," Fabian says. "We are already planning for an international leg."

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Sammy Sosa quiere despedirse en el Clásico Mundial

El toletero dominicano Sammy Sosa aseguró que no está buscando trabajo para regresar a Grandes Ligas, aunque afirmó que tampoco está retirado y podría dejar de jugar después del próximo Clásico Mundial.

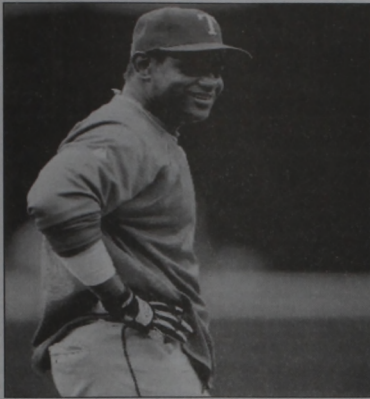
"No estoy buscando trabajo. Es algo que deseo que quede claro. Es más, le dije a mi agente que no oferte mis servicios a ningún equipo", dijo Sosa en declaraciones publicadas en la edición del miércoles del diario dominicano HOY.

Aunque no está en búsqueda de trabajo, Sosa, de 39 años, todavía no está listo para declararse retirado.

"No estoy retirado, estoy reflexionando, el mundo da muchas vueltas, pero tampoco estoy rogando para que me firmen", dijo.

Indicó que el Clásico Mundial, que se jugará en marzo de 2009, podría ser la oportunidad perfecta para colgar el uniforme.

"Eso está en mis planes. Sería bonito que la gente me



vuelva a ver en juego, y más con uniforme de la República Dominicana", dijo Sosa, quien consideró que sería un orgullo jugar para el dirigente Felipe Alou.

El toletero no jugó en la selección dominicana en el 2006 en la primera edición del Clásico, en el

que el equipo fue eliminado en semifinales.

Sosa tiene 609 jonrones con 1.067 carreras remocadas en su carrera en las mayores con los Rangers de Texas, Cachorros y Medias Blancas de Chicago y los Orioles de Baltimore.

Ochoa withdraws from Sorenstam's tournament

Lorena Ochoa withdrew from the Ginn Tribute, putting the top-ranked player's

sponsor for our game, and we will miss her this week," Sorenstam said. "That being said, family

"But I guess that leaves a little bit more money for everybody else, the way she's been playing



duel with tournament host Annika Sorenstam on hold.

Ochoa left for Mexico on Tuesday night, saying in a statement that her uncle was ill.

"I am very sorry to have to withdraw," Ochoa said. "I need to be with my uncle and my family right now."

Ochoa has won six of 13 LPGA tournaments this season. Sorenstam, who Ochoa surpassed last season to take the top spot, has three wins in her final year on the LPGA Tour.

Sorenstam announced this month she'll retire after the season. She offered Ochoa her support.

"She is a tremendous ambas-

ador for our game, and we will miss her this week," Sorenstam said. "That being said, family

comes first and I know she has a very close family. I respect and support her decision and wish them the best."

Ochoa looked like she would win the inaugural Ginn Tribute last year, holding a two-stroke lead against Nicole Castrale with two holes to play.

But Castrale caught Ochoa on the 71st hole to force a playoff, then watched the world's best player drive into a marsh on the first playoff hole.

That helped Castrale earn her first LPGA victory.

Leta Lindley, who won the LPGA Coming Classic last week, said Ochoa will be missed at RiverTowne Country Club.

this year," Lindley said.

Ochoa leads the money list with more than \$1.83 million earned in nine events this season.

It's the second high-profile withdrawal in as many years for the Ginn Tribute.

Michelle Wie left after playing 16 holes of her opening round, citing a wrist injury. She was playing poorly at 14-over and two shots shy of the LPGA's "88" rule when she stepped away.

She would have been banned from four exemptions until the following season for shooting an 88 or higher.

Wie was not offered, nor did she seek, an exemption for the tournament this year.

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Para más información acerca de la certificación del estado y las oportunidades de adquisición de la Lotería de Texas, contacte a Joyce Bertolacini, su coordinador HUB al (512) 344-5293 o a joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us

Para saber más acerca del programa HUB del Estado de Texas, visite la página web de información y soporte de los servicios de adquisiciones: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>

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ASB from Page One

"Based on the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of minority and female employees at American State Bank currently meets or exceeds the percentages employed by other banks in its service area. The ASB workforce is currently composed of 27% minority employees while the banking industry as a whole is ASB's service area has 26% minority employees. Similarly, 71% of the ASB workforce is comprised of female employees while the banking industry as a whole is ASB's service area has 69% female employees. Based on facts such as these, ASB concluded, and continues to assert, that no discrimination took place."

"Over the past five years, OFCCP failed to find any individual complaints or intentional acts of

discrimination and more importantly, OFCCP admitted that no applicant, employee or any other person complained of discrimination or wrongdoing by ASB. But after five years of litigation, ASB made a business decision to buy peace by providing 547 minority applicants located by OFCCP, who had applied during 2001 and 2002 as well as meet certain conditions during the settlement process, an offer of just over \$400.00 each, regardless of individual circumstances, and to include up to 21 minorities, who applied during 2001 or 2002, in its job offers for office and clerical positions over the next two years."

"ASB takes pride in the quality and diversity of its workforce whose abilities and experience allows ASB to provide the high level of service to its customers which meets the highest standards in the banking industry. As an

On the Internet
equal opportunity employer and a long-time supporter of the communities in which it serves, ASB will continue its mission of being a responsible and committed community partner through employment as well as financial and service opportunities."

Email: eleditor@sbglobal.net
(News Briefs Continued on Page 5)

"Red Headed Stranger" to Celebrate 75th Birthday in Lubbock
To the musically initiated, the above moniker needs no explanation. One of the most universally recognized musical influences plans to celebrate his 75th birthday at the City Bank Coliseum on July 2.

Wille: as in Willie Nelson will headline a concert and bring his distinct and unique brand of music to Lubbock's City Bank Coliseum along with former Tech student Pat Green who according to the

www.cleditor.com
press release issued by Llano Escudado Music, Inc., "went from the Big Red Spread to superstardom in country music".

Opening acts will include Willie's sons and their band 40 Points, a new rock recording act anchored by Willie Nelson's two sons, Lukas and Micah, along with Lubbock recording artist Mike Pritchard.

Advanced Tickets go on sale a Select-A-Seat in Lubbock on Saturday, May 31st and are priced at \$45.00-to-60.00 \$65.00 dollars (excluding fees). Showtime is 4 at 6:30PM.

Promoters of the show say they "are DELIGHTED that Willie Nelson will play Lubbock as he celebrates his 75th Birthday, while Lubbock marks its Centennial Celebration, and our great nation celebrates its 222nd Birthday!"

Nelson who has written some of the best songs in any genre during his lifetime has spent "the last 35 years influencing country music, rock and popular, Texas Outlaw music styles that stand the test of time.

Now if we could just forget that one mistake he sang with Julio Iglesias: "To all the Girls I've Loved Before", we could have done without that one.

Just kidding...it should be a great show!

Email: acruztcs@aol.com

Gonzales from page one

"We'll be glad when it's over," says Gonzales' most ardent supporter and advisor, his wife Naida Gonzales.

As Gonzales counts down to June 7, he says has met so many people who "realize that change is needed in District 2." He says his optimism is fueled by the encouragement and support he has gotten since he first decided to run. Gonzales credits the many people who approached him about running and says "they identify" with his campaign, because they are "tired of Price doing nothing for them."

When asked how he thinks the campaign is going and his chances of defeating Price he says he is still "optimistic that he can win it", even though Price received the majority of the votes the first time around.

Did he think he would be at this point; involved in a run off when he first decided to run; did he think he could win or was it just a long shot he felt he needed to take?

Gonzales answers that question by saying that he never had any doubt that he would be at this point and "will continue to work hard up until the very end"

One the other side of the campaign corner is Floyd Price. Since Price has not responded to emails from El Editor in the past and did not respond to our invitation to participate in our candidate Q&A which we published during the regular election; we did not send him a request for comment.

Price is no stranger to runoffs; 4 years ago he had to take on then incumbent T.J. Patterson in a run off before winning the seat. But since his election in 2004 Price has been seen by many east side residents as all talk and no action; a label he has desperately tried to shed even to the point of blurring the lines when taking credit for the very little progress in District 2.

An east side resident who follows these things closely but who asked not to be identified, called Price's last 4 years in office a "big disappointment" and this time around will vote for Gonzales. His comment seems to be representative of other's comments as he shares anecdotes about some of his friends from District 2.

Page 6
Immediately after the regular election reports, Price told a local television reporter that in the run off he would divulge some new information about Gonzales which he had withheld the first time around. But at this point in the contest, still nothing from Price.

And if he did come up with a last minute "smoking gun" type of revelation, ala David Miller style; it doesn't seem that voters would be too happy that he had gone down that same road.

Price need only look at how that strategy backfired on Miller.

And while it is still unclear who is responsible for divulging Gonzales' past history, the fact that Price's is a run off would seem to indicate that voters are more interested in what Gonzales can do for the district in the future as opposed to whatever has happened in the past.

At the heart of the matter is just which candidate can best represent the district that is most often overlooked or forgotten and where the needs like infrastructure repair and economic development seem to be the greatest. Affordable housing, crime, public safety, police response times, etc also seem to be the issues which Gonzales has identified and plans to address if he is elected.

Gonzales has consistently attacked Price's "do nothing" 4 year performance and points to Price's failure to introduce even one resolution or ordinance during his 4 years. He says Price's words that he has accomplished many things are nothing but fantasies.

He says that Price wants to take credit for things which were initiated by his predecessor 18 year veteran T.J. Patterson. He points to the northeast housing development corporation as being started by Patterson and not by Price; which he claims credit for.

"Yet Floyd Price continues to lie to the voters when he claims credit for the 18 houses being built by the loop; that is unethical. If I was him I would be ashamed to claim credit for what someone else had done."

So does Gonzales expect to win?

"Absolutely" he says unequivocally. At the end of the day on June 7, Gonzales' wife will get her wish; it will all be over.

Although if Gonzales does prevail, the hardest work will have just begun.

Email: acruztcs@aol.com



TO THE CITIZENS OF LUBBOCK

First, I want to say "THANK YOU" to all the voters who took the time to study the issues and vote. You are truly the decision-makers for Lubbock.

My goal as Mayor is to encourage communications, cooperation and respect among council members, city staff and employees, city boards and commissions and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, Lubbock citizens.

We can come to good decisions for all the people, while still representing our constituents. That is compromise, the vital element in good government.

We will strive to use innovation to complete our long-term plans and enable our city to grow in ways that use every dollar wisely.

And, very important to our goal will be to create an "Open Information" policy at city hall. Government succeeds best when it is open to its citizens. Remember, good ideas come from everyone!

I promise to work hard for all the people of Lubbock.

Thank you so much!



Karen, Tom & Clancy

Congratulations John Rick!



John Ricardo Buentello
Monterey High School Class of 2008
Congratulations on your family on a job well done. We are proud of you and wish you nothing but success in college and your future endeavors.

From your mom Sophie, sister Danielle, brother Robert, grandparents Alonzo and Delta Alvarado and Uncle Abel

Pol. Adv. Paid For By The Tom Martin Campaign, Karen Martin, Treasurer, 4814 99th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424

Dear residents of District 2,

My name is Lorenzo 'Bubba' Sedeno and I have been a resident of East Lubbock for over 40 years.

Do you remember East Lubbock being one of the prettiest places to live in the 1960's to being one of the most blighted areas in recent years. That's a Big Shame to me and to other residents of East Lubbock!

We need a positive Change in District 2!

"Now is the time to elect Armando Gonzales to be City Councilman of District 2.

Armando exhibits the sincerity, the brightness and the energy to bring people together to help bring prosperity back to East Lubbock. Armando is the only candidate suited to advance the city's successes.

Armando has a pro-active attitude and will fight for safer neighborhoods, improved streets and better parks for our children in East Lubbock. Armando Gonzales represents a brighter hope for East Lubbock!

Join me, Lorenzo 'Bubba' Sedeno and my family in voting for Armando Gonzales for city council District 2. Armando's election will best serve the citizens of East Lubbock! Let's improve the quality of representation in East Lubbock. Armando will be our friend in City Hall.

Solamente les digo la verdad!

Residentes del este de Lubbock tenemos la oportunidad de estar satisfechos con la elección de Armando Gonzales. Armando sera una voz fuerte para nuestro pueblo.

Por favor, salgan y voten este Martes, Mayo 27 hasta Junio 3 en el Early vote el 7 de Junio dia de elección.

Sinceramente,

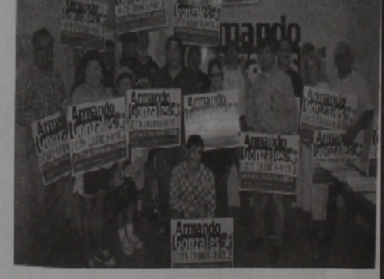
¡Necesito Su Voto Otravez!

Si usted voto por Armando en la ultima eleccion NECESITAMOS su voto OTRAVEZ par la eleccion el dia 7 de Junio. Si usted no voto comoquiera puede votar por Armando!!

Early Voting Starts May 27th

I Need Your Vote One More Time!

If you voted for Armando in the last election WE NEED YOUR VOTE AGAIN in this June 7 election.



Armando Gonzales FOR CITY COUNCIL—DISTRICT 2

Vote Today

Paid for by Armando Gonzales

Libere al niño del miedo

La oscuridad, personas desconocidas, tormentas y animales, se convierten a menudo en miedos para los niños. Los miedos infantiles empiezan desde el primer año de vida y tienen mayor incidencia entre los cuatro y seis años de edad.

Los expertos opinan que un

tormentas, tiende a desaparecer si los padres le explican el porqué del fenómeno. Según los psicólogos, otro consejo a los progenitores sería sentarse junto a los pequeños para observar los relámpagos y contarlos.

La mejor manera de ayudar contra el miedo infantil, es



pequeño se atemoriza cuando no puede controlar o comprender ciertas circunstancias que afectan su sentido de seguridad en una etapa frágil de su vida.

"Mucha de la culpa de los miedos en los niños, la tienen los padres. Son estos quienes deben de ofrecer seguridad a los hijos", dijo la doctora Isabel Gómez-Bassols a EL DIARIO LA PRENSA.

La entrevista a Gómez-Bassols se realizó durante la presentación el mes pasado de su libro "La canción de Gabriela: Cómo me adapté a un hogar nuevo" en la Biblioteca de Jackson Heights, Queens.

La Dra. Isabel nos explicó que una de las finalidades de la obra, cuyo coautor es su hijo Eric Vasallo, es ofrecer un "mensaje para aliviar los miedos de los niños que enfrentan la partida de su país o al cambio en general".

Pero los miedos varían según la personalidad y entorno del pequeño. Por ejemplo, el miedo a la oscuridad se debe, en la mayoría de los casos, a la relación que establece el niño con historias mal explicadas sobre monstruos o brujas.

Si el jovencito se siente seguro cerca de una luz encendida, no hay nada de malo en complacerlo por un tiempo.

El miedo a los truenos y

Gordos, pero no más que antes

El porcentaje de niños estadounidenses que son obesos o tienen sobrepeso parece haberse detenido en un nivel máximo después de mostrar aumentos durante 25 años, según nuevas cifras que ofrecen cierta esperanza a lo que es por otra parte una batalla difícil.

"Este es un primer hallazgo alentador en lo que han sido siempre noticias malas", dijo el doctor David Ludwig, director de una clínica de obesidad en el Hospital Infantil de Boston. "Pero es demasiado pronto para saber si esto realmente significa que estamos empezando a hacer incursiones significativas contra esta epidemia. Puede ser simplemente una casualidad estadística".

En general, un 32% de los menores de edad en Estados Unidos tienen sobrepeso pero sin llegar a ser obesos, 16% son obesos y 11% son sumamente obesos, según un estudio de 2005 y 2006 basado en algunos y pesos.

Esos niveles fueron casi iguales a los de 2003-04, después de un crecimiento sostenido desde 1980, según los Centros para el Control y

Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) de Estados Unidos, que recalcaron el estudio.

"Quizás haya alguna razón para sentir un poco de optimismo", afirmó la investigadora de los CDC Cynthia Ogden, autora principal del estudio.

Algunos expertos dicen que si son reales los indicios de que la obesidad infantil dejó de crecer, podría obedecer a que hay más escuelas y padres de familia que están dando énfasis en los hábitos de alimentarse bien y hacer más ejercicio. Aun así, ellos y Ogden enfatizaron en que sería



prematuro celebrar los resultados del estudio.

"Sin un declive sustancial en la incidencia, el impacto general de la epidemia infantil continuará avanzando en los próximos años", afirmó Ludwig. Eso es porque pueden pasar muchos años para que las complicaciones relacionadas con la obe-

sidad se traduzcan en sucesos que amenacen la vida, incluso ataques cardíacos o insuficiencia renal.

Según la Organización Mundial de la Salud, un adulto tiene un peso normal cuando su Índice de Masa Corporal (IMC) es de 18.5 a 24.9; tiene sobrepeso cuando va de 25 a 29.9; y sufre de obesidad cuando es igual o mayor de 30.

U.S. Is Failing to Provide Moral Compass, Report Says

The United States is shirking its duty to provide the world with moral leadership and China is letting its business interests trump human rights concerns in Myanmar and Sudan, a human rights group said today.

Amnesty International's annual report on the state of the world's human rights accused the United States of failing to provide a moral compass for its international peers, a long-standing complaint the London-based group has against the North American superpower. This year it also criticized the United States for supporting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf last November when he imposed a state of emergency, clamped down on the media and sacked judges.

"As the world's most powerful state, the USA sets the standard for government behavior globally," the report said. It charged that the United States "had distinguished itself in recent years through its defiance of

international law."

As in the past, the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay was criticized. Irene Khan, Amnesty's secretary-general, appealed for the American president elected in November to announce the jail's closure on Dec. 10, 2008, the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The State Department had no immediate comment on the report but said the United States was justified in detaining enemy combatants at Guantanamo to prevent them from returning to the battlefield. The State Department has previously said Amnesty uses the United States as "a convenient ideological punching bag."

China came in for a few punches, too. The report said China had continued shipping weapons to Sudan in defiance of a U.N. arms embargo and traded

with abusive governments such as Myanmar and Zimbabwe.

The report also said that China's media censorship remains in place and that the government continues to persecute rights activists.

The report also accused China of expanding its "re-education through labor" program, which allows the government to arrest people and sentence them to a manual labor without trial. However, Amnesty said it detected a shift in China's position: In 2007, China persuaded the Sudanese government to allow U.N. peacekeepers into the Darfur region and pressured Myanmar to accept



the visit of a U.N. special envoy.

Khan said it was much easier to grapple with human rights problems when the West and China worked together.

"China has the leverage to work with certain governments," she said ahead of the report's release - but she also said China needed to use that leverage responsibly.

Amnesty International said people are still tortured or ill-treated in at least 81 countries, face unfair trials in at least 54 and are denied free speech in at least 77.

I Need Your Vote One More Time!

If you voted for Armando in the last election WE NEED YOUR VOTE AGAIN in this June 7 election.

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