

Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

Casualties of War in Iraq
4,110
as of June
26, 2008



El Editor

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Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

Noriega Makes Campaign A McCain flip-flop on immigration? Stop in Lubbock



Some 150 people attended the standing room only rally held this past weekend to hear Rick Noriega, candidate for U.S. Senator from Texas. Noriega will face incumbent senator John Cornyn in the November election. In outlining his campaign strategy, Noriega said that although he expects to be outspent by his opponent, Noriega believes that he will win the race because current polls show John Cornyn with an approval rating of less than 50%. In 2006, every incumbent Senator with an approval rating of less than 50% lost his reelection bid.

Robert Ricketts introduced former Speaker Jim Laney to introduce Noriega said that he was very pleased with the attendance. "I found his service in Afghanistan to be impressive, giving him a significant advantage over his opponent in evaluating what we should do about the war. The military is under a lot of strain, as evidenced by the difficulty we're having with retention. Noriega knows first-hand the pressures our soldiers face. That's why he is such a strong supporter of the troops and why he is right to condemn his opponent for voting against the 21st Century GI Bill, while wholeheartedly supporting the administration's con-

duct of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Noriega also touched on the economy--\$4 gasoline is not just an accident. It is the direct result of this administration's policies. From taxes, to spending, to the conduct of the Iraq/Afghan wars, the fiscal policies of this administration are killing us. As Congressman Noriega had said Tuesday morning on the radio, with respect to the war and the economy, the administration behaves like someone who is hopelessly lost, and still refuses to stop and ask for directions.

Immediately following the rally at the Lubbock Wind Power Center, Representative Noriega attended a fund raising reception at the home of Charles and Desire Dunn. Before a gathering of about 25 Democrats, Noriega add to his strategy for winning in the fall. Because Obama enjoys a significant money advantage over McCain, Noriega said he believes that Obama will spend significant resources in Texas which will create a large African-American turnout. Noriega is counting on his Hispanic roots and surname to benefit him in the Valley, South Texas and El Paso. He believes that if he "holds his own" in West Texas, he will prevail in November. Contributions can be made to the Noriega campaign at www.ricknoriega.com

Rick Noriega, Veterans Blast Cornyn for Playing Politics with Veteran Issues

Veterans and families from across the state of Texas delivered petitions signed by thousands of Texans to Senator John Cornyn's Houston, Harlingen, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin offices on Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM, demanding Cornyn be a leader for veterans instead of making decisions based on political convenience. View the petition at www.ricknoriega.com/petition <<http://www.ricknoriega.com/petition>>

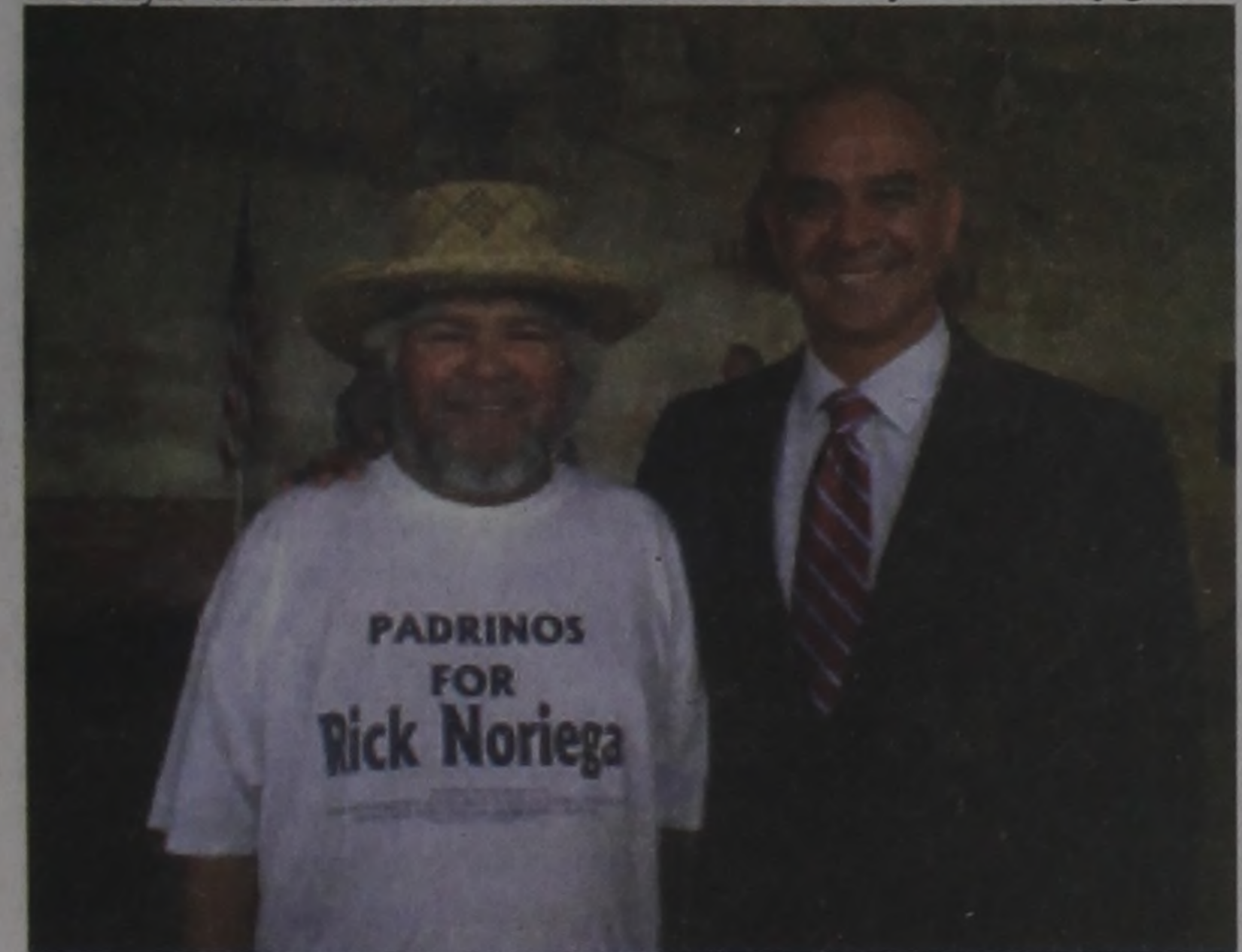
Cornyn came under fire from

Hutchison supported.

"Rick Noriega has always stood with veterans - right from the beginning and knows what it's like to serve his country," said Ernesto Eguia, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army. "This is just another example of John Cornyn's lack of leadership: changing his position based on political convenience after opposing veterans benefits time and time again. Texas families know that this is too little too late and John Cornyn will surely get the

US Senate candidate and five term Texas State Representative Rick Noriega, a Lt. Colonel in the Texas Army National Guard, has been a strong proponent of the 21st Century GI bill which would give today's war veterans an education benefit similar to the one given to World War II veterans and has advocated for veterans benefits including the expansion of tuition transferability while in the Texas House.

The original GI bill is credited with creating the modern day middle class and would also provide an economic boost that would benefit America's anemic economy. This Sunday marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of



Publisher of El Editor Bidal Aguero welcomes Rick Noriega to Lubbock last Tuesday

Texas Senate candidate Rick Noriega for his vote last month to deny full education benefits to war veterans - a vote that also spurred outrage across the state from Texas troops and their families. Only after pressure from constituents and the Noriega campaign who collected more than 5,500 petition signatures did Cornyn decide to support full tuition benefits for veterans. He was one of only 22 Senators to oppose the GI Bill initially, which Texas' senior Senator Kay Bailey

message come November." "Texas troops, veterans and families need a Senator who will have their backs every time and fight for them - and Johnny-come-lately Cornyn just isn't cutting it," said Holly Shulman, press secretary of the Rick Noriega for Senate campaign. "For nearly a decade Rick Noriega has fought to ensure Texas veterans and their families got the benefits they deserve in the Texas State House and he will fight for them in the U.S. Senate."

by Rick Pearson

Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign is going after Republican rival Sen. John McCain, questioning whether the Arizona senator is offering contradictory language on the hot-button issue of immigration reform following a closed-door meeting McCain held with activists during a recent trip to Chicago.

The criticism leveled by Robert Gibbs, Obama's communications director, marked a day of accusations between the Obama and McCain camps over which presumptive presidential nominee is more guilty of political doublespeak—a shorthand way to describe pandering versus truth telling. The Obama camp's move may be aimed at deflecting criticism the Democratic candidate said one thing—promising to negotiate a pact with McCain on public financing—and did another by rejecting it.

In the aftermath of McCain's closed-door visit with more than 100 Hispanic leaders on Wednesday—sandwiched into a fundraising visit by the Republican contender—a conservative anti-illegal immigration activist who attended the meeting contended McCain was offering conservatives one view of immigration reform while telling Latinos another.

In the meeting, attendees said McCain promised that, if elected, Congress would pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. That's anathema to people like Rosanna Pulido, the director of the Illinois Minuteman Project, who attended the event. Pulido said McCain used the phrase "comprehensive immigration reform" three times. "To me, it's a code word for amnesty" for illegal immigrants to gain citizenship, she said.

Pulido, who is of Mexican decent, acknowledged she told the Associated Press she thought McCain was "pandering to the crowd" by making a major emphasis on immigration reform in his 15-minute speech. Another attendee, Democratic Illinois state Sen. Martin Sandoval from Chicago's Southwest Side and an elected Hillary Clinton delegate, met privately later with McCain. He said McCain's remarks about immigration reform in the larger forum only lasted about 90 seconds while the Arizona senator talked more about job creation, keeping taxes low and the war in Iraq.

Pulido and Sandoval don't get along at all and Pulido has dubbed Sandoval the "godfather" of the illegal immigration movement into the state.

"He's one John McCain in front of white Republicans and he's a different John McCain in front of Hispanics," Pulido said, echoing remarks she made earlier to the AP. But Sandoval said Pulido's comments and the resulting fallout over his own meeting with McCain were an "overreaction" and that he told the Republican contender

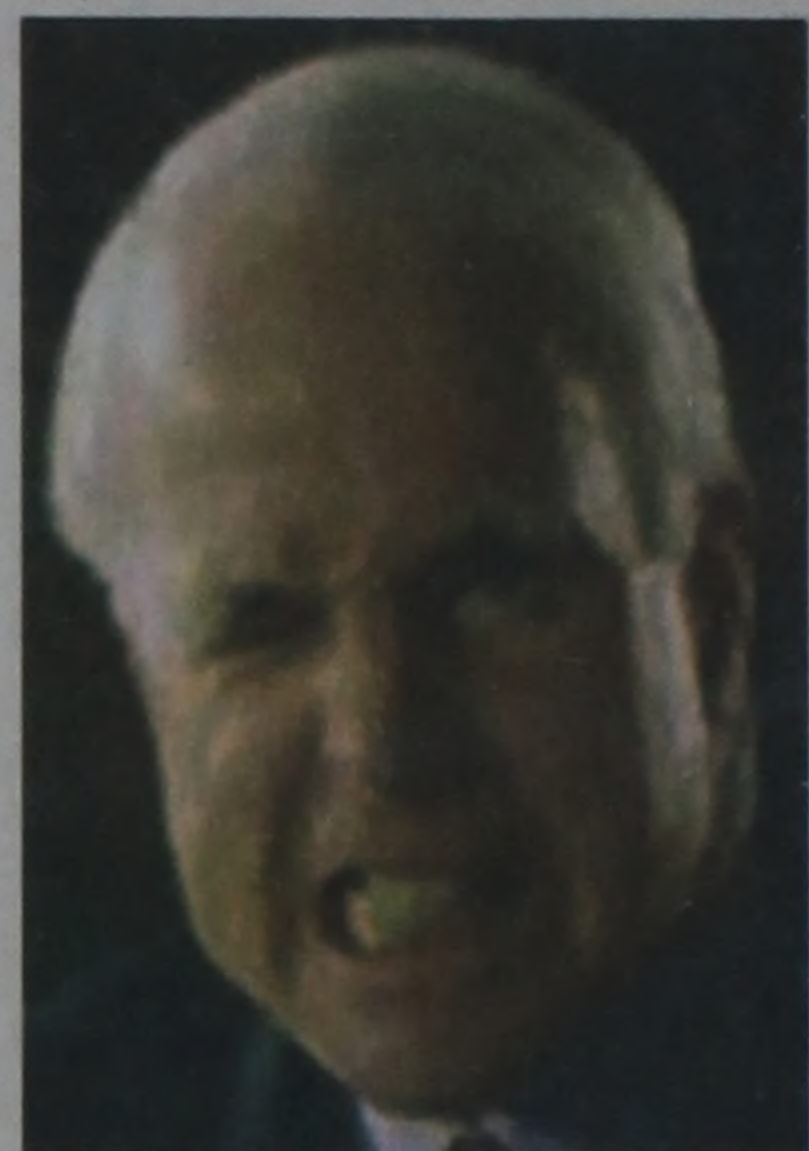
Long time Civic Leader, LULAC and GI Forum member celebrates 80th!



Pete Garza has probably served in many oficer positions in the Lubbock chapters of the American GI Forum and LULAC and he has always been thought of as the hardest worker and the most dedicated. Pete will celebrate his 80th birthday this coming weekend starting with a Mass this Saturday at 5 pm at St. Joseph Church in Lubbock. A reception for Pete will follow at the Union Hall located at 1101 31st. We at El Editor congratulate him on his birthday and wish him many more to come.

the same thing he would tell Obama—"Nobody should take for granted the Latino community."

Pulido has been vocal in her criticism of immigration reform efforts. Among the Illinois Minuteman's Web site's features is



an article discussing the likely success of a U.S. military-led coup of the federal government as a result of illegal immigration and the war in Iraq. Pulido also has maintained that increases of up to 90 percent in the property taxes of Chicago-area Cook County homeowners were due to the costs of bilingual education and the costs of providing health and other services to illegal immigrants.

There are a couple of issues of interest here.

Obama has had difficulty attracting Hispanic voters who flocked to his vanquished rival Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign. Now, the Obama campaign is relying on criticism leveled by a Republican conservative activist who has referred to the presumptive GOP nominee as "Juan McCain" to push their criticism of McCain doubletalk.

The Obama push may help drive some conservatives who already have raised red flags about McCain further away. McCain led a failed push for immigration reform that included a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants but the proposal met with overwhelming public outcry, particularly among Republicans. But it is questionable whether the criticism helps Obama with the Hispanic audience he is

trying to draw.

Pulido said she found it ironic that the Obama campaign would try to use the immigration meeting and criticism of McCain for political advantage.

"(Obama) really has little room to say anything because the only person who has a worse record than John McCain on immigration is Barack Obama, selling out his own people, the African-Americans who suffer more at the illegal immigration crisis than any Americans," she said. "Those people have just suffered more, their jobs and benefits and all that. It's really shameful that he is using it because his record is absolutely shameful."

As for McCain, Pulido said, "He has lost his way in the Republican Party. I am a conservative before I am a Republican and I am at the breaking point, like other Republicans are. There is such a backlash with John McCain."

The Obama campaign cited a Jan. 30 debate among the GOP presidential rivals in which they contended McCain said he would not vote for his immigration reform measure today because the American people made it clear that border security was their top priority. "It was just one of several examples through out the week of John McCain being in a tortured debate with John McCain," Gibbs said.

Other examples, Gibbs said, was McCain's reversal on off-shore oil drilling, telling Hillary Clinton supporters last weekend that he had no litmus test for federal judges despite telling abortion opponent and one-time GOP presidential candidate Gary Bauer the opposite in 2000. Bauer told the Christian Broadcasting Network's David Brody that McCain, whom Bauer now supports, never made such a commitment in 2000.

The Obama campaign also said that McCain surrogate Carly Fiorina, in an appeal to Clinton's female supporters, noted that the Arizona senator "has never signed onto efforts to overturn Roe v. Wade," the landmark Supreme Court decision on abortion. But McCain, in a February 2007 visit to the early GOP primary state of South Carolina, said he believed the decision should be reversed.

Gibbs termed Friday "the end of pander

News Briefs

ACLU Sues Department Of Homeland Security For Information On Deaths In Immigration Detention Centers

WASHINGTON - The American Civil Liberties Union today sued the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for refusing to turn over thousands of public documents in their possession detailing the deaths of immigration detainees held in U.S. custody.

The federal lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, comes after repeated rejections by DHS officials of requests by the ACLU for critical information about the deaths of dozens of people in immigration detention.

The lawsuit seeks a court order requiring DHS to expedite the processing of the document request and conduct a reasonable search of the records in its possession in an effort to fully comply with the ACLU's requests. "We know that the medical care provided in many immigration detention centers is grossly inadequate and has resulted in unnecessary suffering and death," said Elizabeth Alexander, Director of the ACLU National Prison Project. "DHS must not be allowed to keep information about in-custody deaths secret. It is imperative that ICE be held publicly accountable when it fails to provide the health care mandated by the U.S. Constitution." Deficient medical care is believed to be a leading cause of death in immigration detention, and is the number one complaint the ACLU has received from ICE detainees.

Leading Civil Rights Organizations United in Opposition to NCLB Recess Until Reauthorization Act

Washington, D.C. - The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Recess Until Reauthorization Act (H.R. 6239) was not offered as an amendment to the fiscal 2009 appropriations bill for the education, labor, and health and human service departments, thanks in part to the strong opposition of many of the Nation's most important civil rights organizations.

The proposed bill would suspend school improvement requirements and send a discouraging message—that it is acceptable for some children to continue attending substandard schools, the majority of which serve minority and low-income students. "It is a victory that this amendment, which runs counter to the intent of federal policies to improve deficient schools, was not considered by the appropriations subcommittee last week.

We will continue to stand united in opposing any future attempts by Congress to approve this devastating legislation," said Peter Zamora, Washington, DC, regional counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). "With its passage, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders working hard to improve the situation in their classrooms would be placed in 'suspended animation.' Given the greater likelihood that they will be enrolled in underperforming schools, students of color would suffer the most." Joining MALDEF in opposing H.R. 6239 are fellow members of the Campaign for High School Equity: the National Indian Education Association, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, Alliance for Excellent Education, National Urban League, and the National Council of La Raza. These groups agree that the law, as proposed, abandons the focus on improving education for low-income and minority students and codifies the status quo.

Earn points to receive "free" baby items by participating in prenatal educational classes. These sessions are offered on thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the smk conference room 1318 Broadway.

class schedule July
10 - stork's nest & you & keeping yourself healthy
17 - eating healthy & the no's of pregnancy
24 - warning signs & the big day
31 - caring for your baby
United Blood Services has issued a critical appeal for all blood types. There is not enough blood on the shelves to fill hospital needs for negative blood types (O-, B-, A-, and AB-) and many other types including O+ are on very limited supply.
Security State Bank will be hosting a blood drive, tomorrow, from 11-3. We will have several door prizes and would love to have anyone able, to donate blood. This is such a critical time in Lubbock. Please give the gift of life!!! 7801 Quaker Blood Drive; Thursday, June 26th

El Editor
Now Celebrating 31
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Gorditas, tamales, burritos and more are the menu of the day in the St. Joseph Jamaica held this past weekend. One of the outstanding jamaica sthis coming weekend will be at St. Teresa in Carlisle. Everyone is welcome

Editorial

Racial Equality?

A recent story in the Texas Tech's Daily Toreador recounts the Juneteenth parade with a story title that somewhat confused us. "Juneteenth parade, celebration commemorates racial equality in Lubbock" The story written by Mia Walters goes on not to report "racial equality" in Lubbock but rather to report about the normality of a parade: the cars, the floats, the horses, the cows, uh error, no, there were no cows.

The story in several paragraphs points out the reporter's and the parade on-lookers disappointment of the lack of diversity in the crowd. Ashley Hartzog, Texas Tech Masked rider was quoted as observing that with most of the people at the parade being African-American, she thought it could have been more diverse, but that did not impede anyone's enjoyment. Armida Rosiles, a South Plains College professor of American minority studies, said she was unimpressed at the amount of support from organizations at Tech as well as the lack of diversity within the audience.

The story continues to report basically on this theme of the parade with at times mentioning the lack of diversity. Nowhere in the story does it even mention equality in Lubbock.

We can only surmise that the story's editor who is normally in charge of setting headlines thought that it might attract more attention than "Juneteenth Parade Held in Lubbock." Well the original title certainly attracted our attention.

We might add here that we do not criticize the writer's story only the title and its implications. We question is how a parade can reflect "Lubbock" equality" as well as whether there really is equality in Lubbock.

The question can lead to a litany of topics that could be discussed and reported on in El Editor including equality in employment opportunities, educational opportunities and economic opportunities including housing availability.

The first, employment opportunities, is fairly easy to analyze. We can visibly see the inequities by bankers, our police officers and many other upper level management professional opportunities. For the most these inequalities have been traditionally blamed on lack of available minority professionals. The old adage of "we just can't find the people" is heard over and over from those in charge yet many of us have friends that although they have professional degrees cannot find jobs in Lubbock. This writer can personally count a half dozen professionals available for work that are caught in this situation and have to settle for jobs for which they are over-qualified.

The second of these issues that needs to be discussed, the inequality educational opportunities can also be easily determined. We have only to look at TAAS scores and the difference in achievement between "minority" school and "majority" schools to see that there is definitely something wrong in how children are being taught in separate parts of town. At the upper level of educational opportunities, again the dissimilarity between minority and majority enrollment figures is very distinguishable. With the freshman enrollment being reported as progressing a University brochure reports that African American enrollment is up 22 to 155 students and Hispanic enrollment is up 63 to 463. An improvement, yes but we can be assured that the total enrollment is still far below reaching parity compared to Lubbock and West Texas' population figures.

The final issue, economic opportunities, is the issue that must be discussed not using official figures, but simply asking questions. 1. Does a minority business have the same degree of probability of success as a "majority" business? 2. Is money from lending institutions as readily made available to minority businesspersons as it is to the majority? 3. Is money from lending institutions made as available to businesses doing business or planning to do business in minority neighborhoods as it is for businesses planning to do business in West Lubbock? The list of questions could be endless but the bottom line, as lending institutions would say, is that economic opportunity remains measurably different for minorities in Lubbock than those available to the majority.

Conclusively, what can we say about equality in Lubbock? For sure we can say that the Juneteenth parade far, nor was it meant to, exhibit, any type of sameness between races and ethnic groups in Lubbock. For sure we can say that is only a dream for minorities and should be a rationally attainable goal for whatever powers that be who control the status quo of how things are now.

Editorials are the opinions and views of El Editor's editorial board. The board consists of Publisher Bidal Aguero; Business Manager Olga Aguero; and editorial writer Abel Cruz. The views expressed here are strictly those of El Editor and do not represent the views of El Editor's advertisers or anyone else associated with El Editor.

El Hijo Del Alacrán

(The Son of the Scorpion)

Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say; "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".



"El Que Pica con la Cola"

Y se juntaron los demócratas para darle la bienvenida al candidato para el Senado de los Estados Unidos allí por el Windmill center. Ah y antes que se me olvide, le recomiendo a todo el publico que visite el lugar tan bonito y lleno de molinos de viento desde los mas antiguos a los mas modernos y mas que nada bastante entretenido.

Ah pero como les estaba contando que se juntaron todo los demócratas incluyendo bastante gente de las uniones. El Sr. Noriega nos dio una buena platica sobre su trabajo como soldado y com el y mas que nada su familia estan sufriendo pa' peliar en una guerra injusta y sin razon. Dijo que el trabajaria pa' terminar la guerra nomas que fuera electo como Senador. NO deje de registrarse asi puede votar en Noviembre.

Ah pero no les conte lo que me dijo Bidal que cuando estaba mandando las invitaciones de bienvenida a Noriega le habia contestado la Linda que cuantas veces iba mandar la nota. Pue se me hace le que hubiera mandado una mas porque no se vido allí pero si handaba el del telefono color de rosa que quizaz la andaba representando.

Va hacer bastante interesante cuanto Hispanos va a verdaderamente apoyar a Obama aqui en el oeste de Texas. Se me hace que todavia hay un poco de disgusto entre Chicanos y Negros aqui. La semana proxima lo estaremos examinando. Si tiene algun comentario sobre esto mandelo a eleditor@sbcglobal y lo publicaremos. O realmente si tiene cualquier comentarios sobre nuestro periodo no deje de escribirlo y mandarlo. Mi papa el mero Alacrán decir: "El que no habla ni Dios lo escucha. Hasta la proxima!

El Editor

Informing-Educating
Creating Action. The Job of a Real Newspaper of

RECORD

It's Obama's Election to Lose

By Ysidro Gutierrez

All the early polls are indicating that the American people will elect Democrat Barack Obama in November. Usually people on the losing side of a poll will question their accuracy but if polls are scientific, they are usually accurate predictors within a 3 point margin of error. All the polls this week are far above the margin of error in favor of Obama. It's easy at this date to predict America will make history in November and elect its first African American President. Obama's ranking is due largely to one compelling reason: His promise to "Change" Washington D.C. If this is true it means Americans are sick and tired of the inside-the-beltway politics.

This election, Americans have ample reasons to vote the bums out. The bum in question is George Bush with the lowest approval rating in history of less than 20%. This commentator believes that George Bush is solely responsible for making Barack Obama possible.

From January 2000 to January 2007, the Republican's ruled Washington D.C. They controlled the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives. During these six years disaster reigned. The Bush administration has many failures to its name but in this commentators opinion the FIVE big failures are:

1. The George Bush policy of preemptive war. The failed Iraq war strategy - 90% of Americans believe the strategy is wrong. Retire military leaders who served in Iraq are critical of the war. And, former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan wrote a scathing condemnation of how the decision to go to war in his book "What Happened" And there is the question of the quagmire in Afghanistan - after 10 years of war in Afghanistan the Soviet Union collapsed - will this happen to the U.S.?
 2. The National Debt of \$50 trillion and years of budget deficits. The Bush policy of borrow and spend was criticized by Conservatives who likened it to spending by drunken sailors. The policy include carrying the cost of the war with its trillion dollar price tag off the books. The Bush administration policy of "borrow and spend" will be a burden on Americans for decades to come.
 3. The constant disregard of the US Constitution.
 4. An economy in recession - with inflation tearing at families basic food budgets.
 5. No policy for energy independence - this is the Bush administration's greatest failure America is more vulnerable and has more enemies because of this failure.
- In poll after poll the majority of Americans say that the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction. Americans are ready for "Change." Americans have these five and

many more reasons to vote for the candidate who promises to "Change" all this. Obama strategy hinges on Americans will not vote for more of the same. John McCain is doing everything to distance himself from George Bush who is political poison.

Barack Obama's task is to convince the American people that he is authentic and not just another smooth talking politician who is skilled at playing the game. Over the next four months John McCain will try to convince Americans that Obama is no different than Michael Dukakis who was the Democratic candidate of "Change" in 1988 and lost overwhelmingly to the elder George Bush.

The Obama team is already demonstrating great political skill with preemptive moves to silence the opposition on some of his perceived vulnerabilities. Obama said of himself (paraphrased), "People will be told to fear his vulnerabilities; his youth, inexperience, race, funny name and feisty wife." With political savvy born of old style Washington insiders, Conservatives are asking, "Is this real change or more of the same?" Regardless of one's view it's really great stuff - smart too.

George Bush gave us preemptive war, it's only fair if Obama uses preemptive politics.

I predict the Obama team's next preemptive move will be to silence the opposition on the question of his "Voting Record" which Conservatives criticize as the most Liberal in Washington. Conservatives believe they can make the "ultra-Liberal" label stick to Obama. In 1972 the ultra-liberal Democrat George McGovern lost overwhelmingly to Richard Nixon.

There is also the single issue voter. The pro-life vote will also go after what they consider is an extreme pro-choice Obama record. It will be interesting to see the Obama team's maneuvers against this opposition. Washington insider's consider the pro-life voters to have negligible impact on the election and are therefore largely ignored by candidates. On June 23, 2008 a Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life suggests Americans are "Diverse" in the way they interpret the teachings of their religion.

Obama is favored to win in November unless the opposition can cast enough doubt in the mind of voters on Election Day. If Obama loses the election it will be because Americans are convinced that he is too "young, inexperienced, has a funny name, black and has a feisty wife."

With 4 months until the election most commentators wouldn't dare try to predict what will happen in November. In political terms, four months is an eternity. Anything can change - everything can change.

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions
Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Sometimes ...

I don't know about you, but I'm ready to start enjoying summer! The swimming pools are open, my kids are getting a golden crisp tan, and my house is a mess. But you know what? I enjoy my kids being at home, letting them sleep late, and seeing them raid the refrigerator like there's no tomorrow. I guess I could complain about how much they eat, about stupid gas prices that keep going up and up, or even about the house from hell. But I won't, because sometimes you've just got to take a step back and enjoy the little pleasures in life. And yes, to me, one of the most important pleasures in life includes seeing my kids be kids. My husband and I have been blessed with good kids. Kids who try hard during the school year and who, as of yet, have not strayed into the use of drugs or alcohol or a million other bad things.

Sometimes, I look into their room before I go to work and see them sleeping so soundly. Sometimes, I'll sit back and see them watching cartoons like little children, laughing and lost in the silliest conversations. Sometimes, I catch them and my husband rough housing on the carpet like a lion with his cubs.

Sometimes, we all just have to enjoy the things in life that, if they don't matter the most, they should. Enjoy the laughter of a child, the innocence of a child, the love shared between siblings, the love of a father, the joy in seeing your child eat a messy delicious ice cream. Oh, I could go on forever in the things we should be taking joy in.

Sometimes, we should just take a deep breath and release all of our worries, our hatred, our disgust with the world and those around us. Sometimes we should remember that a child in his or her purest form are in fact, reflections of God.

P.S. Don't worry, the world will be there tomorrow. But for today, enjoy Summer!
RMS

Obama Rumors

Dear Friends,
Right now, Fox News is trying to paint Barack Obama as foreign, un-American, suspicious, and scary. They're trying to send Americans the message that our country's first viable Black candidate for President is not "one of us."

I've joined on to ColorOfChange.org's campaign to push back on Fox, publicly demanding they stop their race-baiting and fear mongering. If that doesn't work, then we'll go to their advertisers and the FCC.

I wanted to invite you to sign on as well. It takes only a moment: <http://www.colorofchange.org/foxbama/?id=2290-550030>

Here's what happened recently:
After Senator Obama won the nomination, he and his wife gave each other a "pound" in front of the cameras. Fox anchor E.D. Hill called the act of celebration a "terrorist fist jab." Then last week, a Fox News on-screen graphic referred to Michelle Obama as "Obama's baby

mama"—slang used to describe the unmarried mother of a man's child. It was a clear attempt to associate the Obamas with negative cultural stereotypes about Black people, an insult not only to Michelle Obama but to women and Black people everywhere.

After each of the incidents mentioned, Fox issued some form of weak apology. But what does it mean when you slap someone in the face, apologize the next day, then slap them again on the third? It means the apology is meaningless.

These aren't one-time incidents—they're part of a pattern that continues no matter how often Fox is forced to apologize. Fox has a clear record of attacking and undermining Black institutions, Black leaders, and Black people in general.

If we don't push back now, we will see more of the same from now until November. Please join me in helping to bring an end to Fox's behavior.
Thanks.

<http://www.colorofchange.org>
"Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Submissions may

THE POWER OF FAMILY

By Esther J. Cepeda
Hispanic Link News Service

Almost everyone dislikes stereotypes, but there are some similarities, some characteristics so strong, that it's fair to say they generalize for all age groups across Hispanic culture, Latin American countries, and socio-economic strata.

That one is love of family. A few will roll their eyes at this old saw, but some stereotypes really hold true.

Try this experiment for yourself: next time you're with a group that has a Latino in it, ask members of the group what they would do if they won a million bucks.

I can almost guarantee you the Hispanic will be the one to say without hesitation, "Buy my parents a house."

George Burciaga, a Chicago kid from the Pilsen district who has hit it big - is no different.

He was brought to my attention as a "aaahh, life as it should be" subject because his wildly successful Chicago-based tech boutique, smarTECHS.net (<http://smartechns.net/>) is not a "successful Hispanic business." It's a successful business which happens to be Latino-owned. This month George is being honored as Illinois' Small Business Person of the Year - and not for nothin', either. He leads a team of 24 tech wizards of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds in a 10-year-old, \$9 million venture that offers Information Technology services to businesses all over the country. He launched it out of his two-room apartment as a 23-year-old.

"I started off consulting as an intern at a financial institute, and one day I asked my boss: 'If I came in as a business would you hire me?' He said 'yes' and a week later I walked into his office with my incorporation papers and he allowed me the opportunity."

It took Burciaga, now 33, all of two seconds to tell me why he even dreamed of getting into technology - a field well-known to be seriously in need of qualified Latinos - and why he decided to take the risk of being a business owner.

"It had nothing to do with technology! I was raised in Pilsen by my grandparents who were very poor, and my entire goal was to move them out of their neighborhood. Pilsen at the time was not the Pilsen we know now - my uncle was shot in the street," Burciaga said. "I saw my grandparents taking a beating by working two jobs and dealing with the

drugs and violence... I simply saw the technology niche, which wasn't oversaturated, as the opportunity."

Niche? "Well, at the time there weren't a whole lot of IT companies, not even just by Latinos, back then (the late '90s) it was a fresh, new, cutting-edge market. Today I'm trying to build the Latino growth within IT, it's very low, as it was then, but we're a great firm that happens to be Latino, and I never leveraged that and said, 'Hey, I'm Hispanic.' I kicked the door open and I do a hell of a job."

Indeed, he's done such a good job that in April of this year he finished second in the National Small Business Person of the Year competition, which came with a trip to Washington, D.C., and dinner with President Bush. ("He congratulated me and then gave a really long speech on the importance of small business to the country.")

Now that smarTECHS.net is a resounding success and the grandparents got their dream home, George is off to open opportunities for other kids to follow in his footsteps.

"We're launching 'smarTECHS on Campus' at Robert Morris College this fall. We're creating IT residents who train like doctors do in a hospital. We'll be opening a 3,000-square-foot facility on campus where the kids will train, then they'll come to us for 10-12 weeks and we'll fill their skill gap before they leave school by putting them right in the line of real fire with real clients who will participate. It's an opportunity to connect people and actually bring technology into the community; I'm so excited about it."

I'm sure his family is thrilled, too. (Based in Chicago, journalist Esther J. Cepeda self-syndicates two columns weekly. She is a director at the Chicago-based United Neighborhood Organization. Reach her care of www.600words.com.) ©2008



El Editor

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Maná apoya la soberanía brasileña sobre la Amazonía

Las campañas de los aspirantes presidenciales John McCain y Barack Obama, republicano y demócrata, respectivamente, intensifican a partir de esta semana sus esfuerzos para acercarse a líderes religiosos, políticos y comunitarios hispanos que a su vez los darán a conocer mejor entre la comunidad latina a través del país. Hoy miércoles se espera que los directores de campaña de Obama y McCain, David Plouffe y Rick Davis, respectivamente, participen de foros con los líderes religiosos y comunitarios en la conferencia de Esperanza USA, la red evangélica hispana más grande de EU. "Ya que es año de elecciones presidenciales, decidimos que en vez de ir al Capitolio a abogar por nuestra comunidad hispana, nuestros representantes nacionales deberían visitarnos a nosotros", afirmó el Reverendo Luis Cortés, Jr., presidente de Esperanza. Días atrás Cortés fue uno de los más de 40 líderes religiosos de todo el país que se reunieron con

Obama en Chicago. Cortés dijo entonces a La Opinión que Obama tiene que hacer más para acercarse a la comunidad hispana. Así como habló ante el American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) y dijo que había que limar las asperezas entre las comunidades afroamericana y judía en EU, lo mismo debe hacer con la comunidad hispana, indicó Cortés. Esperanza celebra mañana su Desayuno Nacional de Oración. Aunque en el proceso primarista demócrata los votantes favorecieron a la senadora Hillary Clinton sobre Obama, diversos sondeos recientes dan a Obama una ventaja sobre McCain en el favor de los votantes hispanos. De ahí la importancia de que Clinton haga campaña en favor de Obama entre los diversos sectores que la apoyaron, incluyendo los hispanos. Mañana jueves, Clinton será la oradora central en el almuerzo de la conferencia anual de la Asocia-

ción Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Designados (NALEO) que se celebra esta semana en esta capital. Clinton comienza a hacer campaña con Obama este viernes en Unity, New Hampshire. Su esposo, el ex presidente Bill Clinton, otra figura conocida y querida entre los hispanos, anunció ayer que hará campaña en favor de Obama para garantizar que gane la Casa Blanca. McCain y Obama hablarán, por separado, ante la conferencia de NALEO este sábado y también se reunirán con líderes de la organización que agrupa a más de cinco mil funcionarios hispanos de todo el país. Del 7 al 12 de julio la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) celebra su convención anual en esta capital y ya McCain confirmó su asistencia al evento. Asimismo, a mediados de julio Obama y McCain asistirán a la convención anual del Consejo

Nacional de la Raza (NCLR) en San Diego, California. La asistencia de McCain a los eventos de NALEO, LULAC y NCLR denotan "su esfuerzo de continuar la larga relación que tiene con la comunidad latina", indicó a La Opinión Hessay Fernández, portavoz de McCain. "Esto representa una oportunidad para que los latinos conozcan más sobre las políticas de cada candidato y vean la gran diferencia que existe entre ambos. Recientemente el senador McCain le extendió una invitación —que sigue en pie— al senador Obama para presentarse juntos durante un foro público y sostener un debate sobre los temas de importancia para los estadounidenses en la conferencia de NCLR, pero hasta la fecha no hemos obtenido respuesta por parte de la campaña de Obama", agregó. Vince Casillas, vocero de Obama, dijo a este diario que Obama no sólo demostrará su compromiso personal con la



comunidad hispana asistiendo a las conferencias nacionales de los principales grupos. "Con poco más de cuatro meses [antes de la elección], cada día de campaña es importante y más allá

de su presencia en estos eventos, el senador Obama seguirá luchando por los asuntos importantes para los latinos como la economía, la guerra en Irak, la salud y la inmigración", concluyó Casillas.

Mexico reforms its justice system



President Felipe Calderon on Tuesday signed landmark judicial legislation that allows U.S.-style public trials and creates a presumption of innocence for the accused. Under the long-awaited constitutional amendments, guilt or innocence no longer will be decided behind closed doors by a judge relying on written evidence. Prosecutors and defense lawyers will argue their cases in court, and judges must explain their decisions to defendants. "Now we can offer citizens a more transparent judicial system that respects human rights and protects your rights with more

speed and efficiency," Calderon said. The law is expected to take effect Thursday. But it is unclear how quickly public trials will begin. The law says the changes must be implemented by 2016. Thousands of lawyers and judges must be trained on the logistics of holding a trial. Courthouses must be modified to make room for participants. It probably will take even longer to change the treatment of the accused in Mexico, where suspects are routinely paraded before cameras — sometimes holding weapons they are accused of using in crimes — even before they have been charged.

History-making Latino set to retire from U.S. Secret Service

Seven security cameras were broken. An infrared beam system was under repair. A state trooper missed video images of an intruder tossing a device onto the front porch. So many lapses preceded the fire at the Governor's Mansion, a state safety official has asked the U.S. Secret Service to evaluate security risks there and at other state buildings. After reading that story last week, I called an acquaintance who happens to be an assistant director of the Secret Service. "Hey Ken," said Tony Chapa, "how are you doing?" Fine. I understand you might know something about security lapses at the Governor's Mansion. "I can't comment," Chapa replied. You sound like a real secret agent. Chapa laughed. "I can tell you this," he said. "I am personally not involved." That's true. Chapa oversees the agency's office of professional

responsibility (think internal affairs). But he also knows a thing or two about security. In 22 years with the Secret Service, Chapa has helped protect four sitting U.S. presidents, two former presidents, one vice president and numerous former heads of state. So yes, he could probably assess security lapses at the Governor's Mansion. But Chapa is retiring. He leaves next month as the highest-ranking Latino executive in Secret Service history. You could say he's one of San Antonio's best-kept secrets. A graduate of Jefferson High School and St. Mary's University, Chapa has traveled the world undercover. He once flew to Bogota, Colombia, to investigate counterfeit currency flowing into the U.S. His most challenging assignment came four years ago this month. While in the office of a veterinarian, Chapa's cell phone rang. The caller offered two words: "Operation Serenade." That was code for "Ronald Rea-

gan has died." It also was code for "Activate security plans for the funeral now!" Then head of the Secret Service field office in Los Angeles, Chapa scrambled. He called local law enforcement officials, took his sick dog home, then raced to the Reagan residence in Bel Air. "I probably arrived within 30 or 40 minutes of being notified," Chapa said. "And you know what? There were already 100 members of the press there. So much for the code word." A funeral home in Santa Monica had been secretly selected long before Reagan died. But when Chapa and other security arrived with the hearse, a huge crowd was waiting. "That was not part of the plan," he said. Chapa had to adjust on the fly. Organizing security for a state funeral is like assembling one for a presidential inauguration — a thousand details must be managed. For starters: Protocol. Family wishes. Foreign dignitaries. Public viewing. Crowd control.

Intelligence. Media. "It was a week without sleep," Chapa said. During one news conference, a police official asked Chapa for help. Chapa stepped from the shadows into the lights of an international media throng. What kind of security are you posting on the president's body? What can you tell us about the autopsy? Chapa: "I went back to my speech courses at St. Mary's and said, 'Can you repeat the question?' I figured that would give me three or four seconds to organize my thoughts." Some questions he answered. Others he could not. Top secret, you know. "It was my 15 seconds of fame worldwide," he said. From his home in Washington, D.C., Chapa follows news in Texas. He recently heard a discussion of the Governor's Mansion fire on talk radio. "Kinky Friedman called in," Chapa said, "and said he wasn't involved." Who might be? Don't ask Chapa. Most everything he knows is one big secret.

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July 11-13	Texas Youth Fast Pitch State (West Texas State)	USSSA	\$250
August 1-3	West Texas Men's D State/Women's State	USSSA	\$250
Aug 8-10	West Texas Men's C State/Men's E State	USSSA	\$250
Aug 22-24 4th Annual Cotton Pickin' Midwest National (Men's E) USSSA \$300			
Sept 5-7	1st Annual Lubbock Ironman - "Run Til Your Done" (6 Game Guarantee)	USSSA	\$300
(Men's Equalizer and Women's Equalizer)			
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Submissions Requested for Sabor Hispano 2008

Art, poetry, films celebrate Rhythm and Passion of Life

Artists, poets and filmmakers are invited to submit their works for possible inclusion in a juried art exhibit, poetry reading and film festival celebrating Hispanic and Latino cultural diversity.

With a theme of El Ritmo y Pasión de la Vida - or The Rhythm and Passion of Life - Sabor Hispano 2008 is slated to begin Sept. 16 and continue through Nov. 2.

The exhibition is hosted by the Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Science Center's Latino(a)/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association.

"Sabor Hispano is an excellent opportunity for aspiring and noted artists, poets and filmmakers to showcase their talents and their embracement of the region's Latino culture," said Daniel U. Sánchez, oral historian at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library and president of the Latino(a)/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association.

An opening reception and awards program for the juried art exhibit and poetry reading is scheduled for Sept. 16.

Additionally, the newly added

Sabor Latino International Latin Film Festival makes its inaugural run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, with an awards ceremony scheduled to coincide with the closing of the art and poetry exhibit.

Artists and poets must submit samples of their original works for consideration by Aug. 29.

Filmmakers interested in participating should submit their original works and /or panel and film discussion ideas for consideration by Oct. 3. All works may be in English, Spanish or both. All submissions should be sent to Sánchez in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, 15th Street and Detroit Avenue, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.

Official Sabor Hispano 2008 rules and additional information are available at www.orgs.ttu.edu/hlfsa.

CONTACT: Daniel U. Sánchez, president, Latino(a)/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3749 ext. 258, or daniel.sanchez@ttu.edu.

Ochoa trata de olvidar malos recuerdos deportivos y personales

Lorena Ochoa hace que todo parezca fácil. En cinco meses ha logrado lo que muchas golfistas no consiguen ni en cinco años.

Apenas en 11 torneos, la mexicana ha ganado seis torneos, incluido un mayor. Sólo en una ocasión se ha quedado fuera de las 10 primeras en un certamen, y tiene un récord de la Gira de la LPGA, como la golfista que más rápido ha ganado 2 millones de dólares.

Pero la realidad es que este año ha sido difícil para la estrella de 26 años.

Luego de su sexta victoria, debió retirarse del torneo Ginn Tribute, cuando su tío falleció en México. Regresó al McDonald's LPGA Championship para seguir buscando un Grand Slam, pero se quedó a un golpe de meterse al desempate por el trofeo.

Además, en cuanto abandonó el campo se enteró de que su abuelo materno había fallecido también.

El abuelo de Ochoa estaba enfermo desde hacía tiempo, pero la golfista se imaginó que volvería a verlo, pues se ausentaría de su país sólo una semana. Jorge Reyes falleció en su casa, en Guadalupe, donde la familia solía reunirse para ver por televisión cómo la mexicana se iba convirtiendo en la mejor jugadora del mundo.

"Realmente nunca le dije adiós... así que esto fue muy duro", reveló el martes. "El era mi alegría y mi motivación".

Sus ojos se le llenaron de lágrimas mientras hablaba, y no le rodaron por las mejillas sólo porque Ochoa comenzó a parpadear más rápidamente, tratando de contener sus emociones.

Con todo, su tiro de salida parece más potente que nunca, y aunque sus putts le costaron la derrota en Rochester, Nueva York y en el

LPGA Championship, Ochoa sigue trabajando en sus golpes cortos. En eso se asemeja a Tiger Woods: Nunca está plenamente satisfecha con su juego.

La parte más difícil es ahora el concentrarse pese a los fallecimientos que han afectado a su familia.

"Las últimas semanas han sido difíciles para mí", expresó. "Juego una semana y después no juego. Ha sido algo intermitente, y creo que es importante meterme en ritmo, concentrarme en el campo y estar lista para jugar. Es una buena oportunidad estar aquí en el Abierto de Estados Unidos".

"Estoy al 100% y realmente quiero darme una oportunidad de ganar el torneo el domingo".

Esta podría ser la prueba más difícil que haya enfrentado la mexicana en todo el año.

El Abierto de Estados Unidos comienza el jueves en Interlachen, un campo en los suburbios de Minneapolis, fundado hace casi un siglo y famoso por el triunfo de Bobby Jones, quien conquistó aquí el US Open para hombres en 1930, antes de ganar el Grand Slam.

Los Greens son pequeños y difíciles, la mayoría elevados y con perímetros escarpados. Aquí, incluso a tres metros del hoyo, meter la pelota con dos putts es una hazaña. A Ochoa, este torneo no le trae precisa-



mente recuerdos gratos.

El año pasado, parecía encaminada a ganar su primer mayor, hasta que no pudo encontrar el fairway en los últimos seis hoyos. El triunfo fue para la estadounidense Cristie Kerr.


Hace tres años, en Cherry Hills, la mexicana desperdició un estúpido desempeño en la última ronda al errar su salida al 18, poniendo la pelota en el agua y haciendo un cuádruple bogey,

en ocho golpes, para quedar a cuatro de la punta.


Pero tal como trata de hacer con las tragedias en su vida personal, Ochoa intentará olvidarse de las derrotas pasadas.

Se le preguntó cuál campo la había frustrado más, si Cherry Hills o Pine Needles. Antes de que pudiera traducir la pregunta en su mente, la mexicana meneó la cabeza, para expulsar el recuerdo. "Estoy bien", aseguró.

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Jalisco gana la sede de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica 2008

Jalisco gana la sede de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica 2008

Tras analizar la candidatura de varias ciudades del continente, la cadena MTV anunció hoy que seleccionó a Guadalajara, Jalisco, como sede de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica 2008, que se realizarán el próximo jueves 16 de octubre, en el Auditorio Telmex.

"Guadalajara es una de las ciudades más representativas de Latinoamérica por su riqueza cultural e histórica y es un excelente escenario para festejar a la juventud latinoamericana y la música que aman" comentó Pierluigi Gazzolo, presidente de MTV Networks Latinoamérica, en un comunicado. "Estamos muy emocionados de llegar a la tierra del tequila, de los charros y del mariachi y la vamos a invadir con una gran explosión musical," comentó José Tillán, productor Ejecutivo de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica 2008 y vicepresidente Senior de Contenido Creativo y Música de MTV/Vh1 Latinoamérica. "Desde ahora estamos trabajando en lo que promete ser una gran lista de talento, así como ideas frescas, para hacer un show muy entretenido".

Para la realización del evento, el Gobierno del Estado aportará la cantidad única de dos millones de dólares, confirmó el director de Comunicación Social, Fernando Chávez Sánchez, quien detalló que "no se pagan hospedajes ni alimentos, ni viáticos; el compromiso que existe es una aportación única y el otro compromiso es conseguir nosotros los precios más adecuados de lo que ellos necesitan, es decir, hotelería, que eso ya se hizo como parte de la etapa previa, ya se habló con la Asociación de Hoteles y Moteles, para que haya tarifas especiales". Los Premios MTV Latinoamérica representarán para Jalisco una promoción de sus principales atractivos turísticos, que iniciará al menos tres meses antes de la entrega; además, como parte de los acuerdos entre autoridad y la cadena televisiva, los Premios MTV incluyen una semana de eventos, que arrancan cinco días previos y "el acuerdo que nosotros tenemos, que ya les presentaremos el plan completo, va a incluir una región del Estado en cada día; solicitamos que cada uno de estos cinco días esté presente un show gratuito en alguna región fuera de la ZMG", agregó el vocero del Gobierno estatal. Indicó que posiblemente en la tercera semana del próximo mes de julio, por medio de una rueda de prensa "ya definitiva con la gente de MTV, aquí en Guadalajara, en donde también nos acompañe parte del elenco que estará ese día", se den a conocer los pormenores de la entrega, así como quienes la encabezarán. A la ceremonia de premiación en Guadalajara podrían asistir artistas internacionales como la banda irlandesa U2, y exponentes de habla hispana, como Carlos Santana, Belanova o Alejandro Fernández, entre muchos otros. El evento se transmitirá en vivo por MTV Latinoamérica a más de 22 países y por MTV Tr3s en Estados Unidos. El show podrá verse en otros canales MTV alrededor del mundo y en algunos canales de televisión abierta en América Latina. Los nominados para los Premios MTV son seleccionados por "La Academia de Música y Video", integrada por profesionales de la industria musical y fans. Los

ganadores de cada categoría son electos por el voto de los telespecta-



dores a través del sitio en Internet www.MTVla.com (Detalles de nominados y proceso de votación serán anunciados posteriormente). MTV tiene una larga trayectoria creando emocionantes eventos musicales, con 22 entregas de premios producidas localmente cada año alrededor del mundo, en países como India, Rusia, Austria, China, Japón y Alemania, entre otros.



St. Joseph celebrated their annual Jamaica on June 22nd All in attendance enjoyed food, games and entertainment along with the beautiful summer weather.

Their Latin funk is catchy, and catching on

Prince wants to party with them. Salsa legend Larry Harlow is itching to school them. And groove maestro Maceo Parker can't wait to blow with them again. Since roaring out of Austin, Texas, several years ago, the horn-laden combo Grupo Fantasma has become the nation's most visible purveyor of Latin funk, and everybody seems to want a piece of the action.

The 10-piece band is building on its triumphant 2007 run, which included a command London performance with Prince last August. Fantasma had already played a two-month run at Prince's Vegas club and entertained at his celebrity-filled, post-Golden Globe Awards party.

"He's helped us out a lot," says drummer Johnny Lopez, who like almost half the Fantasma crew hails from the border town of Laredo, Texas. "In London, we opened up for him and then the horns sat in with his band for a couple of tunes. The after-party was off the hook. He was playing guitar with us and Maceo was there, too, and it was more about the jams and improvising. At the end of the night, Prince said, 'When you come back to London, everybody will know who you are.'"

With the release of the band's fourth album, "Sonidos Gold" (Aire Sol/High Wire), Fantasma is finding new audiences ripe for conversion. They were a hit at Bonnaroo and follow tomorrow's gig with high-profile appearances at the Montreal Jazz Festival and the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Rather than laying down an old-school salsa sound, Fantasma is honing a decidedly 21st-century version of Latin groove. They lace clave, the fundamental pulse of Afro-Cuban music, with cumbia, reggae, Afrobeat, and psychedelic

rock. The stripped-down horn arrangements leave room for the nimble guitar work of Beto Martinez and Adrian Quesada.

The ensemble formed in 2000 when Austin's teeming music scene brought together an avant-funk trio with a cumbia horn section. The band added a

compatriots. The Fantasma brass players moonlight as the JewMex Horns (they backed Prince at Coachella last month after a stint on the road last fall with indie-rock favorites Spoon).

Harlow joins the band in the fall for a week-long residency at the University of Texas at Austin, and



galvanizing dose of salsa with the addition of Nicaraguan-born vocalist and timbalero José Galeano. As the new ensemble's senior member, he brought decades of experience to the bandstand and a link to a Latin-rock icon through his uncle, José "Chepito" Areas, an essential early member of Santana.

With "Sonidos Gold," the band has forged ties with two towering innovators from its other foundational styles. Saxophonist Maceo Parker, a funk hero for his work with James Brown and George Clinton, contributes a torrid alto solo on the hard-rockin' "Gimme Some," while pianist-composer Larry Harlow, a Fania Records salsa pioneer, lays down some insistent montunos on two tracks.

The connection with Harlow - a founding member of the salsa supergroup Fania All-Stars, who helped shape Latin music in the 1960s and '70s through his work as a bandleader, producer, and arranger - feels particularly appropriate. After all, Harlow was born in Brooklyn as Ira Kahn and affectionately dubbed "El Judeo Maravilloso" (the marvelous Jew) by his Latin American

he's looking to deepen the band's clave consciousness.

"They're learning," Harlow says. "They're coming from another musical world in south Texas, and they're opening up other venues to Latin music, going into these towns across the Southwest that aren't known for salsa."

While they revere and honor their elders, the musicians in Fantasma don't make any apologies for putting their own twist on the tradition. While they're still absorbing the deeper intricacies of Afro-Cuban music, they know they wouldn't be jamming with Prince if they weren't infusing the music with their own particular border perspective.

"When you approach Latin music in the real traditional way, it can go over people's heads," Lopez says. "But adding that funk element, with the two guitars taking the place of the piano montunos, people can relate to it more. It speaks to everybody. You don't have to be any nationality. When people ask me what we play, I say, 'It's like Led Zeppelin but with horns.' You can't go wrong."

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