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Our Gente's Dropout Dilemma

By Abel Cruz

In virtually every household, particularly a Hispanic household; we hear the following all the time: "we have to educate our kids to give them an opportunity to succeed in life".

For the most part, all parents believe that the key to a successful future includes the education of our children.

On the national political and social level; we ask politicians about their stance on education and list it as one of our priorities. Local organizations like the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Hispanic Association of Women; to cite just two examples; award scholarships to deserving students year after year in an attempt to make a difference in their lives and motivate them to continue working to attain their educational goals.

It would seem that at least the idealism is engrained in parent's minds; and also in some of the community organization's goals.

Why then do we still have such a high, unacceptable high school drop out rate in our communities?

That is a question that we will begin to explore this week and in the coming weeks in an effort to try and shed some light on the problem and hopefully try

to identify some of the reasons this is happening to our youth.

The problem will be seen through the eyes of several community members; some professionals; some educators and some parents; and perhaps some students themselves. But this is not just a Hispanic issue or an African American issue; although these two ethnic groups do have some of the highest drop out rates locally; statewide and nationally. The problem crosses racial lines and affects all segments of society; it is just that it affects some segments more. These are the segments that we will concentrate on in this report.

The Statistic; How it Might Happen

Here's a generic example which seems to play out quite often in many households in this city:

A young man or woman enters their high school years. They have done rather well in junior high and have high expectations when they enter into high school. They are moving right along until something happens. They begin to lose interest in school; they begin to hang out with friends who perhaps have dropped out; their behavior begins to change. Until one day; school personnel call and say that the youngster has

not been in school for several days. And the last one to know is the parent(s). They are floored; left wondering just what has happened. They try to talk to their son or daughter to find out why; but they either get silence or alienation. Eventually they give up; they get back to work and raising the younger siblings; and another high school drop out statistic is added to the list.

Or this scenario:

The youngster has not been very successful in school; their junior high school years are plagued by many absences; by truancy; by getting in trouble; fighting; failing grades etc. This one is easy to see coming; one day they just drop out of high school; that is the first step to dropping out of life in general.

Now that may not be exactly how that happens; nevertheless it does happen; and often; kids at the age of 15, 16, and 17 dropping out before graduating. Some come to their senses eventually and get their GED; the equivalency of a high school diploma. But most, never do; and wind up having to work a dead end job; barely making enough to make ends meet.

College is out of the question; professional jobs are out of reach; a vocation might be possible with the help of a GED; but those situations are the exception and not the norm.

Lubbock educator and professional counselor Elizabeth Carol Morgan has a unique perspective on the issue. For the past 30 years she has worked with "kids, parents, and teachers as a counselor, writer, and researcher.

Morgan tell El Editor that "the rea-

sons for educational 'disconnect and eventual total severance of ties with an institution are many and complex...and based on factors so diverse and individual that the only comparison I can make is to a human fingerprint".

The implication is that the reasons are as unique as one's "human fingerprint"; that is an indication as to how complex

finding one or a minimal number of interventions that will lead to a solution are virtually non-existent...but just wait a minute before you give up hope--if we only did even a few things it would be better than doing nothing..."

But what are those things; what can a parent or parents do?

"We have to come to the realization

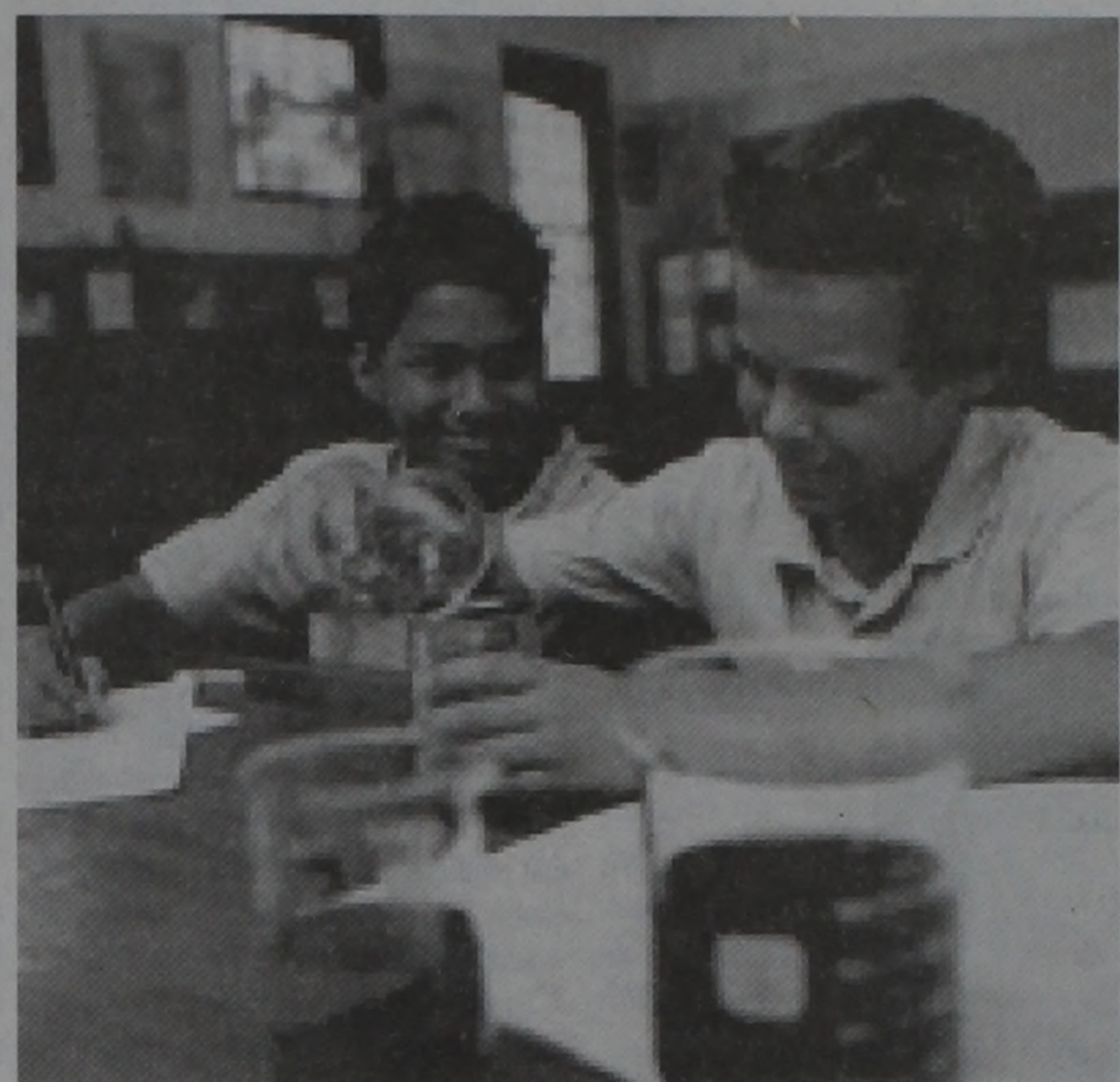
#1 of course is poverty, #2 of course is language, being a recent immigrant or being a 1st generation American. Next, is the education, age, and life experience of the parents; that is why teenage pregnancy is such a devastating event--it not only limits the life possibilities of the mother (and possibly the teenage father) but it begins the child's life at disadvantage with others who have more mature parents!"

Morgan continues: "Therefore, many children are, at the onset of life, born in a deficit area for educational success--therefore they must accumulate a NUMBER of positives to even catch up to more advantaged students. But there are many, many other factors that will affect the drop out rate--everybody wants to point blame--the direction of the blame depends on their personal situation. Parents blame the teachers, teachers blame the parents, business blames the system, principals blame the school district; the school district blames the US Dept of education, etc., ad nauseam..."

To be sure Morgan gives us a lot to process; and a parent who has experienced this before might very well add several other reasons too.

Morgan continues her assessment: "I think for many students the educational system fails them...EARLY...in many ways. Some students begin in a deficit learning situation at the onset AND by the time someone recognizes the problem, the problem is out of hand and hard to solve--it is sort of like diagnosing cancer, early detection means you can "cure" the problem earlier."

(Continued on Page 2)



this issue is.

But there are also similarities in the causes for dropping out. For example; some are teen pregnancy; economic or financial reasons; social reasons; and sometimes just plain feelings "of not belonging" on the part of the drop out.

Says Morgan: "The possibilities for

that every child that is born is NOT a tabula rosa (or clean slate) says Morgan. "As a matter of fact, that are certain factors in place even BEFORE the child's birth that dictate that child's educational success or failure, graduation or dropout, college attendee, or GED...you have heard of these before:

News Briefs Minimum Wage to go up to \$6.55 per Hour

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor reminds employers and employees that the federal minimum wage will increase to \$6.55 on Thursday, July 24. With this change, employees who are covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) will be entitled to pay at no less than \$6.55 per hour. This increase is the second of three provided by the enactment of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. A third minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour will become effective on July 24, 2009. Last year, on July 24, the minimum wage increased to \$5.85 an hour. This summer also marks the 70th anniversary of the FLSA, the federal law providing minimum wage, overtime and youth employment standards. This law established the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division, authorizing it to enforce the provisions of the law, and to educate the public on the law's protections and requirements. Every employer of employees subject to the FLSA's minimum wage provisions must post, and keep posted in each of its establishments, a notice explaining the act. These notices must be posted in conspicuous places so as to permit employees to readily read them. Updated posters and other compliance assistance materials concerning the minimum wage increase are available free of charge from the Wage and Hour Division and may also be obtained from the agency's Web site at <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov> <<http://www.wagehour.dol.gov>>. Many states have minimum wage laws with provisions that differ from the federal law. When an employer is subject to both the federal and state wage laws, the employer must comply with the provisions of each law. Employers and employees seeking more compliance information on the increased minimum wage may call the Wage and Hour Division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Source: US Department of Labor

Jalapeno Recall in McAllen, Texas

HEB grocery stores throughout Texas this past week recalled one of the staples of many American diets; the good old Jalapeno pepper.

National media is reporting that a salmonella tainted jalapeno was found among some produce in an Agricola Zaragoza processing plant located in McAllen, TX. Salmonella is a bacteria which can "cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children; frail or elderly people". Healthy individuals can experience anything from fever to diarrhea. The company is cooperating with the FDA and is trying to identify the retail locations where the jalapenos were sent. It was not clear whether any of the peppers were sent to any Lubbock stores or restaurants.

So; to be on the safe side; why not try a Serrano or habanero chili; at least until the whole jalapeno thing blows over?

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Noose Laws Being Enacted by Some States

While some states have taken steps to outlaw the hanging of a noose in public a view a crime; Texas is probably a long way from following suit.

Most recently; New York and Connecticut have passed state laws making it a "crime punishable by imprisonment".

The new laws came about after the Jena 6 incident in the mall town of Jena, Louisiana. A couple of years ago, some white students at a local high school hung up a noose. As the story goes; the noose was put up to send a message to black students that they were not welcome at the gathering place where mostly white students gathered.

After black students saw it; they engaged some of the white students in a fight and the end result was the arrest of 6 of the black students. Eventually; all were let go; except for one Mychael Bell. In December he was sentenced to 18 months in prison on related charges. The controversy goes on to this day.

According to the Poynter Institute; "Since September of last year, the number of reported noose incidents nationally jumped to nearly 80, according to the Diversity Inc Noose Watch the first and only tracker of national reported noose sightings".

In Louisiana, the recently-passed noose law says that "anybody hanging a noose or even a picture of a noose meant to intimidate somebody else could get slapped with a year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Other states including Florida, Maryland, Missouri and North Carolina are considering similar laws.

As for Texas enacting such laws; don't bet any money on it.

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New Slate Of Officers Elected And Top Awards Given By National President Rosa Rosales At Lulac 79th Convention

National Latina leader re-elected as National President of the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the country

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conducted its national elections the final day of the 2008 convention and LULAC National President Rosa Rosales from San Antonio, Texas was unanimously re-elected to a third term.

The following members were elected to the LULAC Executive Committee by the National Assembly: Rosa Rosales, President; Jessica Martinez, National Youth President; Jaime P. Martinez, National Treasurer; Regla Gonzalez, National Vice President for Women;

Pivotal Latino vote is courted

Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico seen as critical

By John Marelius

Latino political leaders are confident that after years of unrealized potential in presidential elections, Latino voters are poised to be a decisive force in 2008.

"Latinos will elect the next president of the United States," Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials Educational Fund, predicted during a panel discussion at the just-concluded National Council of La Raza convention in San Diego.

The presidential nominees-in-waiting - Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain - are certainly mindful of that potential. Both have addressed three high-profile Latino conferences in recent weeks.

"The Latino community holds this election in its hands," Obama told the convention Sunday.

McCain is counting on his history of solid Latino support in Arizona and his willingness to take on a comprehensive overhaul of immigration policy to overcome Latino resistance to his party because of some Republicans' inflammatory rhetoric on immigration.

"I know many of you are Democrats and many of you would usually vote for the presidential candidate of your party," the Arizona senator said at the conference Monday. "I know I must work hard to win your votes, but you have always given me a respectful hearing and I appreciate that."

He added, "My friends, you know me. One of my proudest achievements as a politician is to have won 75 percent of the Hispanic vote in my last re-election."

More than 9 million Latinos are projected to vote Nov. 4, meaning the Latino vote will have nearly quadrupled since 1980 when fewer than 2.5 million voted, according to various groups.

But the effect has been mitigated because Latinos are heavily concentrated in states that have been lightly contested in recent presidential elections - California, Illinois, New York and Texas.

This year figures to be different because of the fast-growing Latino populations in what are likely to be four of the most competitive states - Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico. All were narrowly won by President Bush in 2004.

"The swing states that could easily make the difference in this election are the states that Bush won by less than 5 percent and where there are large populations of Hispanics," said National Council of La Raza President Janet Murguía in an interview.

Obama, who like McCain supports sweeping changes in immigration policy, told the La Raza convention that Latinos could have delivered New Mexico to Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry in 2004 if they had voted in slightly higher numbers.

"Just remember back in 2004; 40,000 registered Latinos in New Mexico didn't turn out," the Illinois senator said. "Senator Kerry lost that state by fewer than 6,000 votes."

Latino voters this year were also given a rare opportunity to have a significant voice in the presidential nomination process that for the first time in years was not all but wrapped up in

Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

"By moving up the primary elections, Latinos had a chance to have an impact," said Vargas of the Latino elected officials association.

He said Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton nearly fought Obama to a draw in large measure because of her success in big states with large Latino populations.

Analysts note that the decisive victory that propelled McCain toward the Republican nomination was the Florida primary, where he received 54 percent of the Latino vote.

"If it weren't for Latinos in Florida, we would have Mitt Romney, who very misguidedly was trying to out-Tancredito Tom Tancredito," said Clarissa Martinez De Castro, La Raza's director of immigration and national campaigns.

Regardless, McCain has a lot of ground to make up for the November election. A Gallup poll of Latino voters nationwide released this month showed Obama leading McCain 59 percent to 29 percent.

Republican political consultant Mike Madrid, who specializes in Latino outreach, said the early poll numbers reflect the partisan leanings of the Latino electorate and that they are likely to shift as the election draws closer.

Madrid, a contributing editor to the bipartisan LatinoReport.com, contended McCain is the strongest candidate the Republicans could nominate to appeal to Latinos. He said there's also an opportunity for McCain in that Obama was not the first choice of many Latinos. Clinton would have been a different story: Madrid estimated she would have gotten 75 percent of the Latino vote in November.

"There's no question that the Republican brand is a difficult obstacle to overcome, but if you were to have picked two nominees back in January that provided the Republican Party the opportunity to make inroads, it would have been John McCain for the Republicans and Barack Obama for the Democrats.

The degree to which McCain can expand his support among Latino voters could be decisive, even though he likely won't get close to a majority.

Bush received 41 percent of the Latino vote in 2004; unsuccessful Republican nominee Bob Dole received 22 percent in 1996.

"I think there's no doubt that the Latino vote is going to go Democratic. The real question is how Democratic," said Harry Pachon, president of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California. "Obama cannot be satisfied with just getting a majority. He's got to get a big majority because the incremental vote for McCain could make a difference."

Many voters interviewed at the La Raza convention had positive feelings about both candidates.

Daniel Santillan, a community liaison for the Calixico Unified School District, said he plans to vote for Obama, but respects McCain.

"Of all the Democrats I have voted for, I'm more excited about him than any of the others, even though he seems to be going toward the center," he said of Obama.

Of McCain, Santillan said: "I think he's a sincere person. I don't think he would be a third term of Bush. He's not nearly as conservative. He's more open-minded than Bush is."

Budgeting Process Proceeds at City Hall

By Abel Cruz

Perhaps the most watched aspect of any operation is the budget process. It is no different for our city government as the process begins to unfold and take shape.

According to Mayor Tom Martin; he foresees the city will produce a very good budget considering the state and national economy: Martin told El Editor that he foresees no property tax increases; and that the budgeting is being done in a prudent way.

He cites the example of budgeting with "no increase in sales tax revenue". Martin says that with all the economic uncertainty and the "uncertainty the effect of the high fuel prices will have on consumer spending" the city has decided to budget no increase in sales tax revenue. Martin says he is concerned that high fuel prices will have a negative impact on "shopping habits". He says that April economic indicators show that retail sales are holding up here in Lubbock; but thinks it is wiser to budget according to last years sales tax revenue; which comprises about 40-45% of the general funds revenue or about \$45 million dollars.

Martin says the city staff has done a good job with the process so far and that they realize that it is time to "tighten our belts; without cutting out any services and adding new employees".

When asked about the effects of higher fuel costs on this year's present budget; Martin says that although it has had an impact; smart moves like freezing hiring and not adding new employees; and cutting back in other department's spending patterns; has offset the higher fuel costs. Martin was also quick to point out that he has seen many other city's budgets and points out that "Lubbock's is one of the best prepared budgets" and credits the city staff for "doing a real good job".

When asked about raises for employees and how he feels about lower paid employees getting raises before higher paid employees; Martin says: "I agree with that; the first thing is to take care of lower paid employees; that is one of the options that we are looking at". He says the majority on the council shares his views on the pay raise issue.

But Martin says the council will not be able to make any final decisions until the final numbers are in from the Lubbock Central Appraisal District. Martin says the final numbers are due by August 25th but it may be a few days after that.

District 3 Councilman Todd Klein also remains optimistic. "I am quite confident we will be in a position to balance the budget and hold the line on taxes during this time of economic uncertainty; which I believe is critical to homeowners on limited means and fixed budgets".

Klein goes on to tell El Editor that "we will be still not where I would like to be in terms of Citibus--this despite the hard work of the city staff and Citibus management".

Just last year, the council approved an increase in fares which brought about minimal opposition. Still Klein says a rate increase might be in order.

"We will be looking at options which will include a raise in the price of bus fares. The good news is that the progress made since the last budget makes it much easier for seniors to receive discounted pricing with the verification of a Medicare card".

Klein says that "If we focus on taking care of core functions and removing any and all waste and inefficiencies we can actually use this budget discipline to improve our city service delivery and still give lower paid employees a fuel stipend to help offset the rising price of gasoline, as well as work to create further progress in establishing a business model for Citibus which will allow it to become more self-sustaining. I will certainly continue to focus on improving the situation at Citibus so that riders have more bus shelters and better pricing through modernized fare plans which will actually offset the recent fare increases.

El Editor
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Editorial

In the Heat of the Summer; Things Get Hot!

By Abel Cruz

The Desire for Ethnic Unity is a False Hope

The past year and a half, or so it seems; some residents in the community have called others out for not supporting certain causes or certain elected officials based solely on a common ethnic ancestry.

Those days are gone and they are gone forever. The sooner we acknowledged that and move on the better off we will all be.

Up until the mid 80's and possible the late 80's in certain cases; ethnic unity was alive and well. It was in full display when some wise individuals in the community went up against city government and the LISD system to enjoin both to get with the program and go to single member districts.

Before then; ethnic unity was a part of life in this city. That is because there was no other choice. We were all in the same station in life for the most part. Back then we were all taking the blows dealt by those in power who were trying to preserve their dominant stranglehold on the rest of us.

Both Mexican Americans and African Americans in this city suffered discriminatory practices and institutional discrimination was just a part of life.

Consequently that was one thing that bound us together. We would share each other's pain and we would for the most part all think in similar ways and try and heal the same wounds that discrimination leaves within our hearts and minds.

But that was then; this is now.

Now we have progressed to the point where we no longer are subjected as a group to these kinds of things. Although they still occur to a certain degree; some of us never experience some of the same things we did back then.

Just ask the younger generation. Look around you and see the integrated marriages and relationships. Look around you and see how many people live in other parts of the city as opposed to the barrios or predominately minority neighborhoods.

That is why we have to acknowledge that those who still call for all of us to act the same way; to think the same way and to vote the same way are hanging on to a false hope.

And the sooner we recognize that; the sooner we can move forward and create a new model of unity.

One; where we are united by a set of values and beliefs which will serve to contribute to the greater good.

History is valuable in that it teaches us to not repeat the mistakes of the past.

It is also valuable as a tool to forge a new future based on unity of people in general; not one based on skin color or ethnicity.

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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

Pues este Alacran tuvo oportunidad de ir a visitar los del Consejo de la Ciudad esta semana. Pues nos dice que no nos van a subir las taxaciones pero no dicen que si no van a subir el gas, agua y sure. Pues este Alacran no es rico y vivo en una casita aquí en el barrio Armet Benson. No pago muchas taxax porque es casita pobresita pero es reduculo que nuestros representante no subieron los costos de la agua, gas y sure al igual nivel de que se los subieron a los ricachos haya por el las West. Que pasa con nuestros representantes. Se me hace que es como dice Ysidro. Handan muy ocupados yaya en frente de las camaras.

Los pitos del Barrio ya se van a callar un poco pero todavia sigue las habladas de quien fue el que empeno el proyecto de "Los Pitos" Se oye por ahí: Ya fui, no yo fui, yo fui el primero!

No olviden que este Alacran handa por donde quiera, no se descuide, porque todo se escucha por la rendijas Hasta la Proxima!

High School Dropouts

from page 1

"I think teachers are frustrated and don't have good POSITIVE training—they don't BOND with their students... you have to establish good rapport and build a bond with your students—it is like an emotional savings account—when it comes time to withdraw from that account, you have to have deposited SOMETHING first."

"I think we have all forgotten the philosophy of SALESMANSHIP—every person whatever they do, parent, student, teacher, counselor, principal, media, we are ALL salespersons...the easiest way to "turn kids off" is to have a parent, teacher, or principal insist—do it or else, my way or the highway, those confrontational methods DO NOT work anymore (actually they never did...)"

"Schools are TOO big for optimal learning results—especially high schools; 30 in a beginning, possibly remedial Algebra class is a recipe for failure. The average high school counselor is in charge of 650-700 students—most counselors work Saturdays and Sundays in the building—and they have too many "HATS" to wear! They are data entry clerks, the master schedule builder (bet you thought principals did that, nope...but the principals will tell YOU that they are in charge of this.), mental health professional, learning disabilities diagnosis, parenting specialist, high school graduation requirements expert, college requirements expert, at risk interventionist, NCAA representative, career counselor, employment referral specialist—and more" says Morgan.

So is it the parent's fault; the teacher's; the counselor's; the community; society in general; peer pressure; the presence or absence of religious institutions in their lives; or is it a combination of all of the above?

One of the most important things to recognize is the fact that kids spend almost half of their waking hours involved in school or school activities including studying or doing homework.

Consequently; schools have a big responsibility and an examination of the school system is in order; to see what role they play in the problem.

In the LISD school system; it is very difficult to obtain exact statistics on the drop out rate. This past year during the school election for school board member District 1; candidate Lala Chavez participated in a Q&A sponsored by El Editor. The question posed to both candidates involved the high school drop out rate. The eventual winner Mario Ybarra gave a standard politician's answer; not much substance. The opponent Chavez gave the following substantive answer:

"According to Paul Frazier of LISD, Hispanics make up 57.8%, almost 60% of all of the kids that drop out of school! 57.8% of all dropouts equal 454 Hispanic students between the 7th and 12th grade that have dropped out this school year! 454 minds, bodies and souls who have given up on LISD or who believe that LISD has given up on them. Just for comparison, the African-American drop out number, for both male and female combined is 145 students or 18.3% and the Anglo drop out number, for both male and female combined is 185 students or 23.5%. Those are definitely disturbing numbers; by any standard.

During the next few weeks; and ending right about the time we start a new school year in early September; we hope to explore this issue from every angle. We will hear from former principal and educator Jessie Garza. Garza spent over 30 years with the LISD and has plenty of experience in working with at risk youth. We hope to talk to some other educators and get their take on why the problem persists and what parents can do to address it.

If any parent or student would like to contact us to share their story; please email us at acruztc@aol.com or call us at 806-763-3841 and ask for Abel Cruz.

Email: acruztc@aol.com Elizabeth Carol Morgan contributed

In the heat of the summer back in Washington, DC; most politicians would disappear; heck they would disappear even in the winter when Congress was in session.

Aaah; us locals would have the city to ourselves and the commute into DC would be a breeze. No hassles; no back up at the 14th street bridge; it was sweet!

In the heat of the summer in Lubbock; nothing much changes; we come and go as we please; life usually stays fairly balanced.

Except for the past few weeks when looking up from our bowl of cereal or cup of coffee; we see that the world has turned upside down for the councilwoman who seems hell bent on attaching herself to every popular cause out there in the hopes of salvaging her relevancy.

One thing seems clear; it hasn't been easy being relegated to the minority side of the council; no pun intended; and standing on the losing sidelines.

Allow me a few observations; at the risk of incurring her wrath and that of her friend's and supporters.

First; a new dog kennel in Clapp Park is not the end of the world. I acknowledge that it is a legitimate concern and cause of the day for Councilwoman Linda DeLeon. I also acknowledge the issues that residents are concerned about. If I were faced with the same thing in my neighborhood; perhaps I would exercise my freedom of speech and freedom to peaceably assemble also.

I would ask this though of the Councilwoman; when there was some concern out in the Guadalupe barrio about her new cement plan; she did not seem to want to explore the possibility of building it elsewhere. When former Councilman Victor Hernandez wrote a letter to a state agency that regulates environmental issues and air quality; I believe; she was adamant that she would build it anyway.

To be sure, her company; All American Concrete; is a private enterprise; but think about the unintended consequences of building a cement plant less than half a mile from residences? Cement dust; cement trucks tearing down the roads around there; cement trucks dropping their left over cement for the rest of us to drive over.

I think of the health consequences and wonder how the councilwoman can take up the cause of an area she does not even represent; while not having addressed some of the resident's concerns about a cement plant? How would she have felt if a councilmember from another district would have organized a protest meeting in her district?

You cannot have it both ways. Now she would be the first to point out that her business creates jobs and adds to the city's economy. So will the kennel; why has she not acknowledged that point?

Next item; when Councilman Todd Klein tried to put a marker at Azlan Park to commemorate the antecedents of our Mexican American history; the Councilwoman went almost ballistic; as evidenced by the email she sent to other council members and the former mayor telling Klein to stay out of her district's affairs!

Local pundits even speculated that she violated the Texas Open Meetings Act by doing so. So if it was taboo then, why is it now ok for her to go into Councilman Floyd Price's district and hold a protest meeting? And don't tell me she did it as a private citizen. She gave that up the day she won her election.

And don't for one minute believe that Price was aware of the meeting and gave it his blessing. This past week I was told that he had no idea the meeting would take place; because Price told them so.

How's that for our elected officials communicating with each other?

Either way one looks at it; the councilwoman is grasping for straws.

Another disturbing aspect is that she seems to be using at least two Catholic Churches for her crusades. Whatever happened to separation of church and state? Now I understand that some residents may be upset with the new kennel. But sad part is that some of them paid no attention until the councilwoman showed up to convince them otherwise.

The political process and the right to re-

dress and assemble peaceably is part of the constitution. But the process should begin with the people and end with the people. How can an elected official so publicly take sides? What about her constituents who are in favor of the proposed location.

What about District 4 residents like me who will make my views known to my council representative Paul Beane? Who represent the interests of those who are in favor?

The poverty rate in District 1 is about 20%. That means that 20% of the residents live below the federal poverty level. More than likely they are forced to rely on federal programs and food banks just to get by. When will we see some outrage from the Councilwoman against that? What about her home improvement projects with Home Depot; how many homes have been repaired and when will she publish the results of that effort?

On another matter...

The issue of teen pregnancy has reached epidemic discussion; I had no less than 5 conversations regarding this topic in the past week alone. Sometimes these are the issues that we all find hard to address; but it becomes necessary when we have so many cases of young teens getting pregnant by young boys who then throw caution to the wind for a second time and abscond; that means run away like cowards or thieves in the night.

Only to come back after the baby is born claiming parental rights. And they do so because the hard labor associated with the birth is over; now they want to step in and repeat the same action all over again.

A disgusting display of self centeredness and selfishness!

Now that is a general observation and I am sure there are some young boys who have stepped up to the plate and tried to be accountable; but they are not the rule but rather the exception.

The question is; when will we as a community wake up to the realities around us and begin to address the issue. Our former Mayor commissioned a task force to study STD's and I was hoping the teen pregnancy rate; they never finished their report. The former mayor is gone off to soothe his damaged ego; and I guess the task force has disbanded.

The council members in district 1 and 2; where the majority of these teen pregnancies occur do not even take the time to address these issues. The churches do not seem to want to engage; at least publicly.

The local Catholic Bishop seems far more interested in building a new church out in west Lubbock than speaking out about these issues publicly.

When; when do we as a community start to look at the consequences and do something about it? Not as a governmental body like the city council but as residents of a city whose family values are touted every election cycle and sometimes on a daily basis.

In a few weeks we will begin to explore this issue in an in-depth way on the front pages of this newspaper. It won't be pleasant; but then neither are the consequences.

And neither is what is happening to the young teens in our communities; here in Lubbock and the South Plains region.

One final word...

On the city budget and employee raises; here's my suggestion; every city employee making over \$65,000 but less than \$100,000 per year gets 2%. Every city and Citibus employee making less than \$65,000 gets 4%; and everyone making over \$100,000 gets to keep their job. The largest raises go to the folks on the front lines earning the lowest wages.

Otherwise if everyone gets an across the board 3% raise; that means that folks like City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld get close to a \$7,500 raise while the poor bloke earning \$18,000 dollars a year gets \$540 per year.

Let the highly paid employees share the pain this year; then perhaps this coming year they will manage their budgets wisely and make good common sense financial decisions; and get their just reward in the 2009-2010 budget.

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opin-

La Llorona Lives in Lubbock

As a child, I heard the stories and was frightened by them.

A woman weeping and wailing endlessly throughout the night, a woman distraught to the point of suicide. I always thought the stories were the fantasies of a deranged mind. A story made up by women to keep their little ones in check, especially at bedtime.

But here we are seeing La Llorona (the crying woman) in living color. Seems she's been wandering about aimlessly, weeping incessantly since her beloved Mayor Miller left and that hideous Mayor Martin took office.

Wooooo, woooooo, wooooo. She's been seen gnashing her teeth, eyes rolling into the back of her head and moaning ever so loudly. She bemoans the renaming of a street, the placement of an animal shelter, the wasteful use of water and the color of her hair. Her agony draws people like flies to a dead carcass.

Onlookers are mesmerized as those passing by an awful automobile accident. Her anguish draws others who think they might help with her turmoil. And she has at least two believers following her wails.

And yet, another believer seems to be WTOS, which by some miracle hasn't gone belly up. And in fact, it is a miracle that WTOS hopes for, prays for. Maybe, if they latch onto La Llorona the miracle of credibility and effectiveness will emerge from the smoke that someone's blowing...

"Help me" cries La Llorona. "Help me, help you" she says.

La Llorona even goes further and says, "Help me, help you, so that in turn; you can help me." No one ever said La Llorona was stupid (just not genuine).

RMS, Lubbock

Where are our Representatives? - Continued

The continuing question that was asked a couple of weeks ago continues as our Representative this week voted not to raise ad valorem taxes but yet voted to raise every poor person's bas, water and sewage fees.

Where are our Representatives Four Day Work Week a Dead Issue

I read your article on Lubbock County going to a 4 day work week posted on July 17 2008. I spoke with Commissioner (Bill) McCay on Wednesday July 16 2008 and he assured me the 4 day work week is a dead issue. In my opinion the commissioners want to go to a 4 day work week which will probably allow employees the same pay with fewer hours worked. Ken Benedict, Lubbock

Lubbock County Commissioners Race

We are not hearing much from the candidates for the Precinct 3 County Commissioner position. Need I remind them that we are only 3 months away from early voting? Let's hear about the issues; let the debates begin!

Let's get it on!

Santiago Jimenez, Lubbock

"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. Ideas and opinions are strictly those of the writer. Submissions may be sent via email to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Supporters NOT Welcome

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

Linda Deleon has made history again. A few weeks ago she became the first ever "Cross-Dresser" on City Council. While dressed as a man she probably had "supporters" neatly camouflage beneath the pink tie to keep her pants from falling off and exposing her boxers. (I'm sure it wasn't briefs). It may be that those "supporters" traumatized her because this week she called a meeting at the Garden and Arts Center on 44th and University but stated that "Supporters" were not welcomed. Only those opposed were supposed to attend the CITY SPONSORED meeting.

Thus, Linda Deleon made history again. The non-invitation of "supporters" is the first time in the history of the City of Lubbock that its citizens were patently told that their views or opinions were not welcome and only those opposed would be heard.

Linda Deleon published the notice of the meeting on OFFICIAL CITY STATIONERY which was distributed to the media; The notice read, "If you are opposed to Clapp Park as the future location of the new animal shelter then you are invited to meet with Councilwoman Linda Deleon to voice your opposition to this proposal"

The July 21, 2008 meeting was the latest of Linda Deleon's excursion into political theater. No one could have predicted that her "Cross-Dressing" mixed with the permanently affixed scowl would be only the first of many antics that the people of Lubbock would have to endure.

The list of Linda Deleon Political Theater is long:

- 1) The Cross Dressing episode – was a protest against the men elected to Council.
- 2) She and her puppet Floyd Price feigned outrage and when on a rampage after the City Staff identified, funded, and scheduled leaking water lines for replacement or repair. It made for great theater.
- 3) Next came her claim that vacant personnel positions would destroy Lubbock if not filled. This is pure genius. The positions in question had been vacant for a long time. Someone please tell her the city survived!
- 4) Then at a meeting of the City Council she told Councilman Leonard to "Shut-Up" because she was talking and he had not been recognized. This is a great way to make friends and build coalitions.
- 5) Next came the neighborhood meeting at the Maggie Trejo Super Center where she stood defiantly against a surprised developer who was looking to buy property in the Armet Benson area. This was a crisis completely of her own making. If someone had called her she would have ignored the issue. This is why Maggie Trejo signed the RECALL Petition against her.
- 6) Another act was voting against the

planning and preparation proposal that would ready the City for future beer, wine and liquor package sales. The proposal would actually help voters cast an informed vote. Informed voters is what she fears the most.

7) Deleon and Christi Martinez were responsible for the Cesar E Chavez Dr JOKE. But was in Opposition for the sake of Opposition of the renaming of Yucca Lane.

8) A few days ago, a local TV news team featured her as the Hero fighting to get a kinder-gentler train whistle for two crossing in the Guadalupe Neighborhood. We know now that she did none of the work, but took center stage when the TV news crew showed up. This is typical political theater.

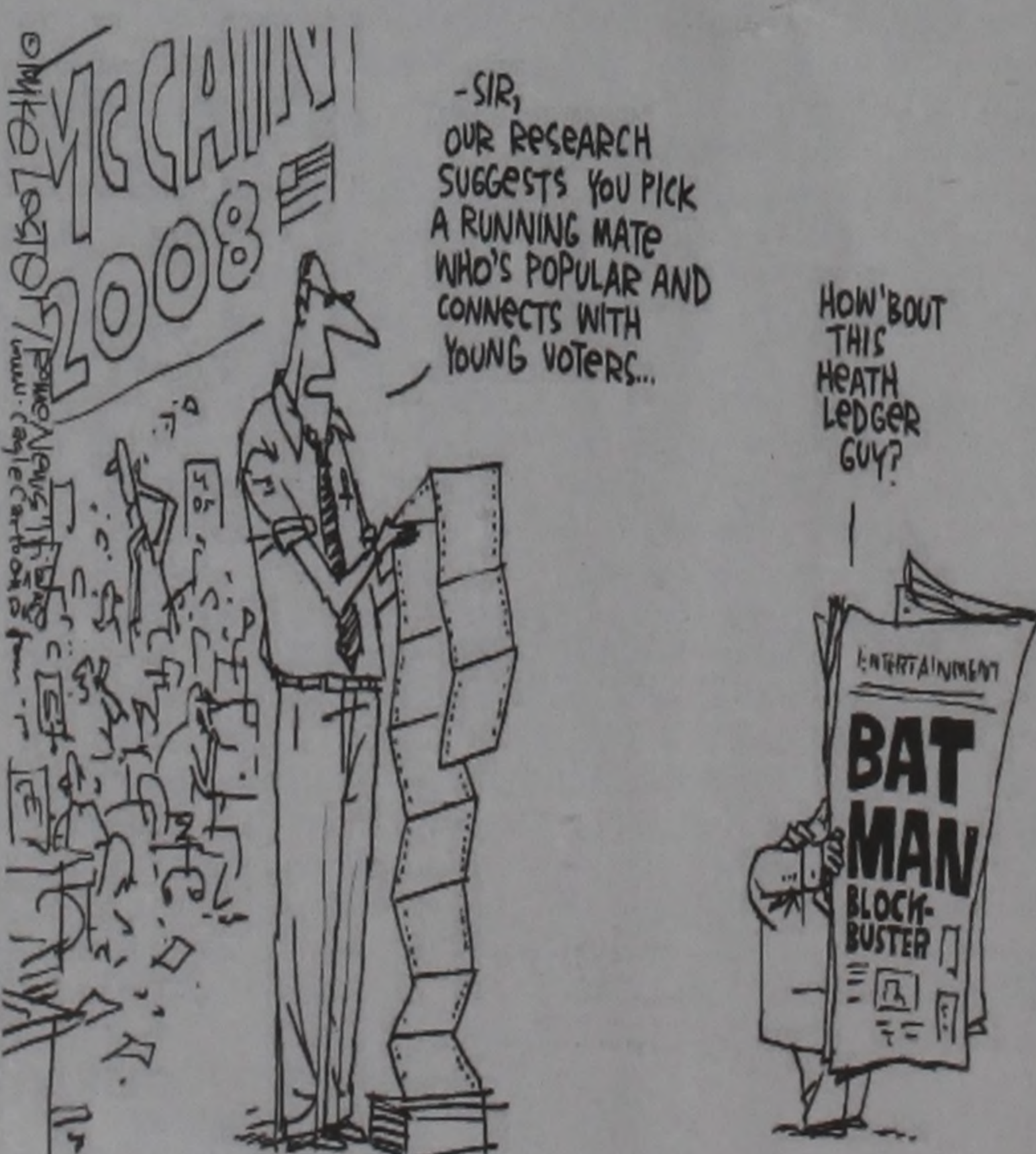
9) Her theatrics reached new heights when she proposed using "Gateway Funds" for repair and reconstruct 34th Street. She knows full well that it would require over \$50 million. This was her greatest feat of grandstanding.

10) Finally the "No Supporters Need Apply Meeting" of July 21, 2008. This time she did manage to end the debate on the location of the Animal Shelter. Thanks to her, the new shelter will not be built unless it is built at the current location. After her "No Supports Welcome Meeting" no one will want the facility in their neighborhood.

As for the other issues, Linda Deleon says she plans to place them on the City Council Agenda, but it seems obvious that she lacks the votes on the Council to make a difference. For the last 2 years she and her puppet Floyd Price were members of the "Gang of 4". They had the ability to get funding for projects to help Districts 1 and 2. But they did nothing good. During this time the "Gang of 4" were responsible for one scandal after another and failure after failure. When Floyd Price ran for reelection he had no record to stand on. His entire campaign was based on vicious personal attacks against his opponent.

After 22 years as an elected official, Linda Deleon understands that she needs a coalition on the Council to get her agenda approved. She has done nothing to endear her self to the other members. Except for her puppet Floyd Price, she stands alone. She is in effect, irrelevant. The price of for her antics is being paid for by the people District 1 and District 2 and the people of Lubbock who want and deserve effective Government. Linda Deleon wants more scandal and failure – this much is obvious. She must have really enjoyed the last 2 years.

One must conclude that she is stirring up the media for herself which ends at the end of the news cast. It's pure political theater. ring up the media for herself which ends at the end of the news cast. It's pure political theater.



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Hispanics May Get a Museum Marking Contributions to Developing America

Hispanics colonized the New World, discovered Florida, fought for the United States in every

group. Lobbyists close to the project worry that the Senate is leaning toward appropriating less than half the \$2.1 million the bill's sponsors requested for the commission's first year. The group will need \$3.2 million over two years to study the museum's construction costs and come

Democratic Senate candidate Rick Noriega called Tuesday for all Texas households to get their electricity by renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar power, by 2019.

Mr. Noriega insisted, however, that such a goal wouldn't entail shuttering the state's coal, nuclear and natural gas-fired power plants, which account for the vast majority of Texas' electricity generation.

"Those plants are going to continue to be in use for a whole variety of other uses," Mr. Noriega said during a news conference outside Dallas City Hall. Such plants could be used for petroleum products, plastics and manufacturing needs, he said.

Mr. Noriega said Texas' energy security is incumbent on moving from nonrenewable energy sources -- particularly

fossil fuels from "unstable" foreign nations -- to American-generated renewable sources.

The U.S. must also increase fuel efficiency standards, invest in renewable energy development and improve the electricity distribution system -- goals that Mr. Noriega says his opponent, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, hasn't prioritized or has actively fought against.

Mr. Noriega also said the U.S. must seek to stem high energy prices by requiring oil companies to maximize output on federal land leased for drilling and legalizing offshore oil drilling, a fairly uncommon position for a Democrat. President Bush has rescinded the offshore ban, but a congressional moratorium remains.

Mr. Noriega does not,



however, support drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, which is believed to contain significant oil deposits.

Mr. Cornyn's campaign dismissed Mr. Noriega's energy plan as unrealistic.

"The sad truth is Rick Noriega is against many mainstream solutions that will put America on the path to a comprehensive energy plan," Mr. Cornyn's campaign manager Rob Jesmer wrote in a statement.

major war, shaped cities like Miami and Los Angeles and have become a sought-after electorate.

But no national museum exists to tell their story exclusively.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami, hopes that will change in a few years. She is the lead Republican sponsor of a bill recently passed by Congress that paves the way for the National Museum of the American Latino, the first of its kind. Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Los Angeles, conceived the idea five years ago.

The bill creates a 23-member commission that would look into the logistics and practicality of creating such a museum. Backers hope it will be built as part of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., not far from a museum dedicated to American Indians and another, still under construction, dedicated to African-Americans.

"It's way overdue," said Ros-Lehtinen. "Hispanics have contributed to the well-being of this country in so many ways."

Those contributions stretch way back. As governor of Louisiana, Count Bernardo de Galvez obtained critical supplies for American revolutionaries and eventually reconquered Florida for Spain.

By her own account during the Civil War, Cuban-American Loreta Janeta Velazquez slipped into a male disguise and joined the Confederate Army.

Galvez and Velazquez are but two of the hundreds of Hispanics who have formed part of this country's history since its earliest days.

Ros-Lehtinen said she envisioned a museum that would include Hispanics' roles "in every facet of American life," including science, education, entertainment and politics. It would be a much larger venture than the Smithsonian's Latino Center, which acts as a research center and helps organize Latino-themed exhibits throughout the Smithsonian Institution.

There are no details yet on who will serve on the commission, which was authorized in May. Organizations such as the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities have written letters urging Senate Appropriations Committee members to fund the

up with a development plan. Some observers wonder how a Latino museum would balance the history of immigrants, including those who are undocumented, with that of U.S.-born Latinos, particularly with a divisive immigration debate as a backdrop.

Others ask how the histories of multiple groups tucked into the "Latino" label, including those who are descendants of U.S. Hispanics from Texas to California born in the Spanish colonial era, will come together in one institution.

"We're trying to remove the color of politics from this and leave those decisions to the people who aren't politically partisan," Becerra said. "I'm pursuing this legislation as an American, not as a Latino."

Larry Calderon, vice president for community and government affairs at Nova Southeastern University, said he hoped the museum would buck stereotypes and raise provocative questions about being Hispanic. "I was raised to believe that Hispanics were Mexicans," said Calderon, who is Mexican-American.

But in South Florida, "You get Spanish-speaking, blue-eyed blond people who are perfectly Argentinian or Brazilian. The museum would have to include the whole thing. It would have to be a cross-section," he said.

Carol Damian, interim director at Florida International University's Frost Art Museum, wants a Latino history museum that includes artistic contributions and goes beyond cliched themes.

"Latinos need to take their place along with everyone else in the Mall," she said. "But I hope this isn't turned into a simplified story of immigration and identity."

Though a potential opening is years away, Becerra's brainchild has its detractors.

"We're segregating an entire culture," said Cuban-American F. Lennox Campbell, a Philadelphia-based freelance art critic who argues Latinos should be included more in mainstream museums.

"It's a noble thing to shed light on what Latinos have contributed to American history, but do it in the right place," he said. "Don't separate it in a museum just for me."

Obama reafirma su compromiso con Israel

El aspirante presidencial Barack Obama apoyó el derecho de Israel a defenderse de los cohetes disparados desde Gaza en una visita ayer a un pueblo fronterizo, durante una breve gira por Tierra Santa en la que también prometió a los palestinos respaldar sus aspiraciones a tener un estado propio.

Obama intentaba claramente aquietar los temores en ambas partes acerca de cómo encarará su prolongado conflicto.

Muchos israelíes están preocupados de que Obama --senador de un solo término con poca experiencia en política exterior-- pueda presionar a Israel demasiado energicamente en negociaciones con los palestinos. Las raíces musulmanas de su familia han contribuido a la inquietud, aunque Obama se crió como cristiano y es practicante.

Los palestinos dudan de que Obama o cualquier otro líder estadounidense modifique lo que consideran el prejuicio de Washington a favor de Israel.

"Estoy aquí en este viaje para reafirmar la relación especial entre Israel y Estados Unidos, mi compromiso por la seguridad de Israel y mi esperanza de poder servir como socio efectivo, sea como senador estadounidense o como presidente", dijo Obama durante una visita a la residencia oficial del presidente israelí Simon Peres.

A una media hora de distancia, en la ciudad de Ramala en Cisjordania, Obama aseguró a los líderes palestinos que se intervendrá pronto en el conflicto del Oriente Medio, dijo un alto funcionario palestino.

En su encuentro con el presidente palestino Mahmud Abbas, Obama confirmó que "será un socio constructivo en el proceso de paz" y que no "perderá un solo minuto" si es elegido, dijo Erekat.

Hablando a la prensa frente a una colección de cientos de cohetes sin estallar exhibidos en Sderot, cerca de Gaza, Obama dijo que "este terror es intoler-

able". Y después de afirmar su esperanza de que una tregua del 19 de junio detenga los ataques, agregó que Estados Unidos

"debe apoyar siempre el derecho de Israel a defenderse de quienes amenazan a su pueblo". El candidato demócrata respaldó los esfuerzos de paz "con los palestinos que están preparados a aceptar el estado de Israel" pero agregó que sería difícil negociar con Hamas, que rechaza a Israel y ha "usado el terrorismo como arma" contra el estado judío.

El alcalde de Sderot, Eli Moyal, entregó a Obama una casaca blanca con la leyenda "Yo (dibujo de un corazón) Sderot" con un cohete incrustado en el

corazón. Cuando se le preguntó sobre sus políticas sobre Irán, Obama dijo que debía evitarse un

Irán armado con armas nucleares. Añadió que considerará reunirse con cualquier líder mundial bajo condiciones que promuevan los intereses estadounidenses, a la vez que acusó al gobierno de George W. Bush de dejar de lado la democracia. "No es de sorprender que no hayamos logrado muchos progresos", comentó.



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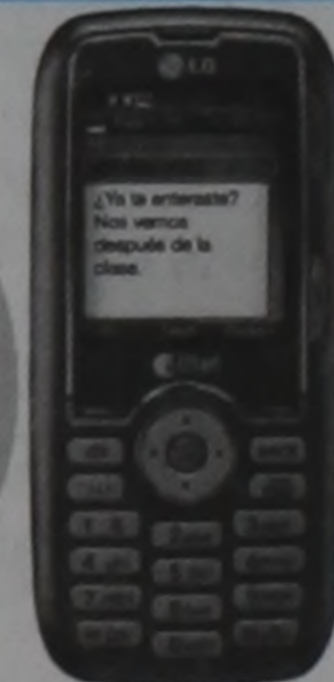


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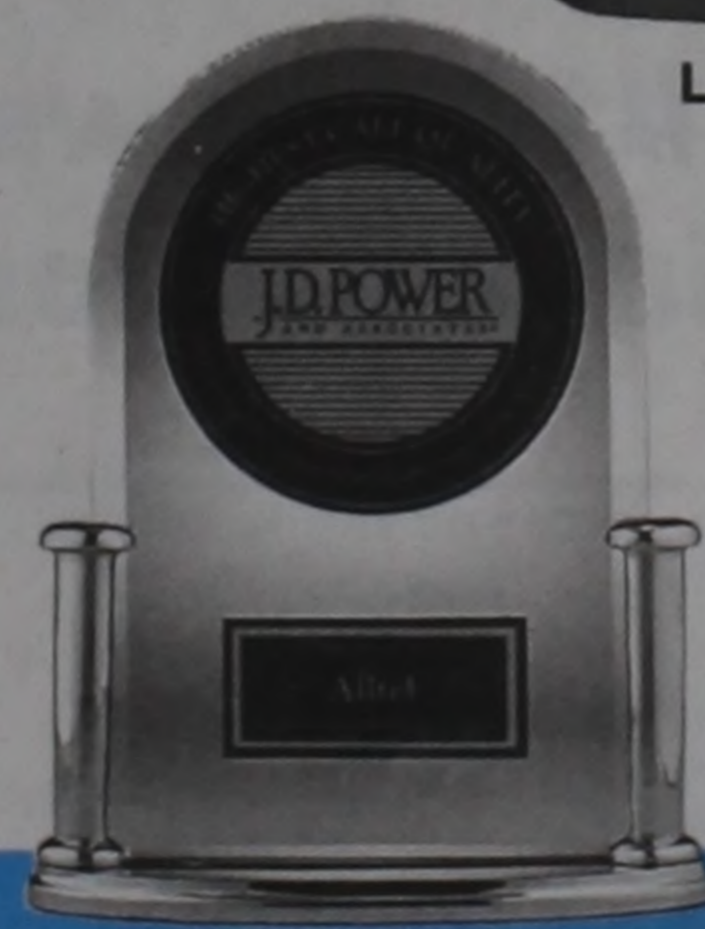
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Dallas Cowboys' only goal is Super Bowl

On a steamy early June day, Jason Witten stood inside the Stadium Club at Texas Stadium for an NFL promotion when it came to him.

It was his first trip to the Cowboys' home since their disheartening loss to the New York Giants in the playoffs in January.

"It just kind of hit me, like, 'Man, we let it slip away,'" Witten said.

This off-season, the Cowboys have dealt with the mental scars of not only losing to the Giants, a team they beat twice in the 2007 regular season, but also seeing them win Super Bowl XLII.

On Thursday, the Cowboys fly to Oxnard, Calif., for the opening of training camp. But their attempt to erase the end of last season actually began in March, when the off-season conditioning program began, and carried through the organized team activities to the mandatory minicamp that ended June 19 with a family cookout.

"The Giants were last year's champs," coach Wade Phillips said. "We're trying to be this year's champs."

The Cowboys carry with them the burden of expectations -- that's what happens when you go 13-3, send 13 players to the Pro Bowl and seemingly bolster the roster with moves in the off-season -- and a motto: finish.

Finish practices. Finish plays. Finish games. Finish the season.

The Cowboys hope they finish in Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., for Super Bowl XLIII.

"There's definitely a sense of urgency to get this done," quarterback Tony Romo said. "If you don't have that after the kind of year we had last year, then you are in the wrong sport."

Owner and general manager Jerry Jones has done his part.

He made offensive coordinator Jason Garrett the highest-paid assistant coach in the NFL. He picked up linebacker Zach Thomas not only for Thomas' presence but also for his playmaking ability. He made a low-money but high-risk move in trading with Tennessee for cornerback Adam Jones. He re-signed five 2007 Pro Bowlers -- left tackle Flozell Adams, cornerback Terence Newman, running back Marion Barber, safety Ken Hamlin and wide receiver Terrell Owens -- with signing bonuses totaling \$58.9 million.

"It's kind of bad, actually, because we haven't won that ring in a while and he's dished out this money," Newman said. "Now we've got a little bit of pressure to go out and make it to the Super Bowl and win it."

The Cowboys have not won a Super Bowl since beating Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XXX. They haven't won a playoff game since 1996. So should this team be talking Super Bowl or bust?

They say it's largely unavoidable and they're just answering the questions posed to them, but their thoughts are in line with what fans think, too.

"I don't think anybody's saying, 'I hope they make it to the playoffs,'" wide receiver Patrick Crayton said. "They're saying, 'I hope they make it to the Super Bowl.' It's a real good thing when the stakes are high like that. It's back to like when I was young, watching Michael [Irvin], Emmitt [Smith] and Troy [Aikman]. That's what it was, NFC championships and Super Bowls."

In Jerry Jones' first seven seasons as owner and general manager, the Cowboys won three Super Bowls with a team that largely grew together while adding valuable players such as Charles Haley, Ray Donaldson and Deion Sanders through trades and free agency.

The 2008 Cowboys have largely grown together while adding valuable players such as Leonard Davis, Hamlin, Owens, Adam Jones and Thomas through trades and free agency.

"Jerry as an owner is committed, but as a general manager, he's trying to get players," Phillips said. "That's what he's done. My job is to get the players to play well, and it's up to them to play well. Coaching is part of it, and certainly the players have a big part of it."

In 2004, Pittsburgh rolled through the regular season 15-1 but lost the AFC Championship Game to New England. A year later, the Steelers won Super Bowl XL. In 2005, Indianapolis was upset by Pittsburgh as the AFC's top seed but came back the following season to beat Chicago in Super Bowl XLI.

Philadelphia lost as the NFC's top seed in 2002 and '03 before getting to Super Bowl LXXXIX, though the Eagles lost to the Patriots.

The Cowboys, last season's top seed in the NFC, are hoping they can finish this time.

"There's no way we can go under the radar," linebacker Bradie James said. "With all the talent we have, all the high-profile players we've got, it's an all-star team. For me to say there won't be any Super Bowl talk, I'd be nae to say that. ... Now we've got to make that materialize."

"It's tough to talk about last year, but you've got to talk about last year. Last year we learned how to win. But we also learned it's not just about winning. It's about winning at the right time."

NUEVA YORK (AP).— Estados Unidos puede presumir de las luminarias más rutilantes —desde Michael Phelps hasta Kobe Bryant— pero su predominio en el cuadro de medallas de los Juegos Olímpicos corre más peligro que nunca.

Los estadounidenses encaran el gran desafío de China, que en las últimas ediciones ha venido recortando distancias, y ahora aspira a aprovechar su condición de local para situarse por primera vez al frente de la repartición de preseas cuando las justas de Beijing concluyan el 24 de agosto.

"Con la ventaja de ser anfitrión y los vastos recursos que ha destinado para su equipo olímpico, China tiene que ser considerado como el favorito para llevarse la mayor cantidad de medallas", afirmó Jim Scherr, director ejecutivo del Comité Olímpico de Estados Unidos.

"Y no se olviden de Rusia. Tiene un equipo fuerte, probablemente más fuerte de lo que mucha gente piensa", añadió.

Hace cuatro años, en Atenas, Estados Unidos superó 102-63 a China en el total de medallas, y Rusia obtuvo 92. Pero el margen entre Estados Unidos y China fue más reñido en la columna del oro 36-32.

Otro barómetro fue la medición de los resultados de los campeonatos mundiales o torneos equivalentes realizados en 1996, en los que China ganó 43 medallas de oro, la misma cantidad que Estados Unidos.

La cautela en cuanto a los pronósticos ha marcado hasta ahora los análisis de los estadounidenses, cuidadosos de hacer proyecciones ambiciosas que después no se pueden cumplir, y que también pueden tener el efecto contraproducente de presionar más de la cuenta a sus atletas.

En vez de proclamar a los

cuatro vientos una meta de 100 medallas, como se hizo previo a Atenas, Estados Unidos ahora

Coughlin.

Otro monopolio dorado podría darse en el atletismo, con fuertes

principales figuras.

China, no obstante, aquí sí pone contrapeso. El año pasado se cor-

EEUU ante gran desafío



enfata en otros aspectos, y el prioritario es contar con un equipo que compita sin ningún tipo de escándalo de dopaje o que no deje mal la imagen del país con actos de mala conducta.

Como siempre, los pilares están en el atletismo y la natación. Hace cuatro años, esas dos disciplinas se combinaron para conseguir 53 medallas del acumulado final de 102.

Pero los chinos pueden darse gusto en clavados y levantamiento de pesas, además de los "deportes chicos", como badminton, tenis de mesa, etc.

Estados Unidos debe barrer en el "Cubo de Agua", la ultramoderna sede de la natación. Su figura estelar es Phelps, quien aspira a ganar ocho preseas doradas y superar el récord de siete que su compatriota Mark Spitz logró en Munich 1972.

Pero no sólo dependen de Phelps. Katie Hoff, participante en seis modalidades, podría ser su par entre las mujeres, sin obviar a Amanda Beard y Natalie

opciones en las pruebas de velocidad, los relevos y carreras con vallas. Un anticipo fue la actuación en el Mundial de Osaka el año pasado, cuando acapararon 26 medallas, 14 de ellas de color dorado.

Pero no todo está a pedir de boca.

Tyson Gay, quien en Osaka completó un doblete en los 100 y 200, sólo competirá en los 100 luego de sufrir una lesión muscular en los 200 durante el torneo clasificatorio.

Además, Gay ahora enfrenta en los 100 metros planos al jamaicano Usain Bolt, quien en mayo fijó el nuevo récord mundial con 9"72/100 de segundos.

La mejor opción de China la tiene Liu Xiang, el campeón mundial de los 110 metros con vallas, pero el mes pasado el cubano Dayron Robles le arrebató el récord mundial.

Estados Unidos también es potencia en gimnasia, contando con Shawn Johnson, Nastia Liukin y Paul Hamm como

onaron campeones en la prueba por equipo del Mundial. Yang Wei, Xiao Qin y Chen Yibing ganaron pruebas individuales.

A nivel de las competencias por equipos, Estados Unidos confía llevarse ambos en el basquetbol masculino y femenino, en el futbol femenino y softbol.

Ninguna, sin embargo, se da por descontado.

Bryant, LeBron James y compañía tiene claro que ya no pueden fiarse del resto del mundo con oponentes como el vigente monarca olímpico Argentina y el campeón mundial España.

Ni las mujeres pueden darse como seguras, ya que este año sufrieron una derrota ante China en la final de un torneo de exhibición.

También Estados Unidos buscará repetir como campeona en el futbol femenino, pero Alemania y Brasil, finalistas del pasado mundial, se perfilan mejor.

"No somos los favoritos y creo que eso nos va a ayudar. Va a ser una bendición", consideró Scherr.

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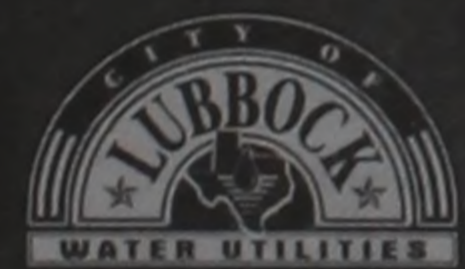
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* Note: Lawns require more water when first planted.

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Miss Universe Proud to Represent Latin Women

The new Miss Universe, Venezuela's Dayana Mendoza, said in an interview with Efe that she is eager to show the world the power of Latin women during the upcoming year of her reign, for which she says she is totally ready.

"I'm excited to begin my reign, I'm going around the world and I'm going to be able to show the whole world once again what we Latin women are," the Venezuelan beauty said while raising her hands in a symbol of victory, a sign that once more a Latin girl has been judged the most beautiful.

On Jul 13, the 22-year-old beauty walked off with the crown, valued at more than \$120,000 and made especially for the winner in Vietnam, where the contest was held.

The beauty queen, 1.76 meters (5 feet 9 inches) tall with brown skin that accents her green eyes, said that she's still getting used to the idea that she really did take the prize at the pageant.

She also said that after being crowned she immediately called her parents, who were unable to accompany her on the trip, and heard all the rejoicing at their house celebrating her victory. She will, however, have to wait until September to rejoin her family, when she will travel for the first time back to her own country as Miss Universe.

She said that as soon as she is there she wants to eat the arepas - a kind of cornmeal bun - that she likes so much, as well as her mom's home-cooked meals that she already misses.

"Although I can get them in New York...I miss the fried plantains that my mom makes. I miss the pabellón too, Venezuela's most typical meal (rice, black beans, shredded beef and fried

plantains), but when my mom makes the meal, it's always a little different," she said.



"And the arepas, there's a place in Caracas where I love to go eat them," she said nostalgically, but immediately smiled upon reflecting that she would soon be there.

One commitment of the Miss Universe franchise has been to disseminate the message about AIDS prevention, which will also be one of the duties of Mendoza, who started her modeling career at 15.

"We're working to make people understand what AIDS (Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome) means. That will be part of my work, as well as traveling the world and representing Latin women," she said.

She also expressed a desire to plead, from her position, for an end to the divisions that affect all nations, to which she attributes the widespread violence.

"What happens in one country affects the others and I believe we should realize we can't exchange our country or our planet. Therefore we have to do our bit for each and understand that violence is not the solution to any problem," she said.

"Violence," she added, "is only the solution for those who are just wrong."

With regard to the Miss Universe pageant, she said that some countries, because of their religion, are opposed to these beauty contests, and immediately underscored the triumph of Latin girls in these competitions.

"Latin women have taken on the whole world. I'm here to keep riding that horse," Mendoza said.

Mendoza preferred not to say whether she has undergone cosmetic surgery because "that's like asking a woman her age" and said that it was an entirely personal decision.

Los premios ALMA reconoce talento hispano

Los Ángeles (EE.UU.), 21 de Julio (EFE).- La décima edición de los premios ALMA (American Latino Media Arts Awards), que reconocen los logros hispanos en el mundo del espectáculo en EE.UU., tendrá como protagonista a Shakira, "Ugly Betty" y "La misma luna", hizo público hoy la organización.

En un acto celebrado en los decorados de la serie "Desperate Housewives" en los estudios Universal en Los Ángeles, la actriz Eva Longoria y el actor Cristián de la Fuente dieron a conocer la lista de nominados y algunos de los premiados en la gala 2008.

"La misma luna" será la triunfadora en la categoría de cine, al ser considerada por el jurado la mejor película emitida en español el año pasado, mientras que "Ugly Betty" fue considerada la mejor serie de televisión con intérpretes latinos por segundo año consecutivo.

La historia de "Betty la fea" protagonizada por América Ferrera paliará en parte la decepción que sufrió el año pasado después de que fuera la

comedia favorita en los Emmy y finalmente se quedara sin recompensa.

En la ceremonia, que tendrá lugar el 17 agosto en el Civic Auditorium de Pasadena y será emitido por la cadena ABC el 12 de septiembre, se homenajeará a Shakira junto a la veterana cantante Linda Ronstadt y al diseñador de origen cubano Narciso Rodríguez por sus contribuciones al entretenimiento y a la cultura estadounidense.

La artista colombiana ya recibió un premio en 2006 por su álbum "Fijación Oral".

"Nuestra imagen lo es todo y los premios ALMA son muy influyentes porque a través del cine y la televisión se dan referentes a los niños de lo que son y de lo que pueden llegar a ser", comentó Longoria en la presentación.

La latina de Wisteria Lane decidió por voluntad propia retirar su nombre de la carrera por las nominaciones ya que consideró poco apropiado estar en esa lucha cuando al mismo tiempo es presentadora

y productora de los galardones.

Quienes sí optarán a un premio como mejor actriz principal por un drama televisivo serán Valerie Cruz (The Dresden Files), Cote de Pablo (NCIS), Lana Parrilla (Swingtown), Sara Ramírez (Grey's Anatomy) y Roselyn Sánchez (Whitout A Trace).

Como protagonistas masculinos, el jurado destacó a Enrique Murciano (Without a Trace), Edward James Olmos (Battlestar Galactica) -que logró este galardón en 2007 por ese mismo papel-, Danny Pino (Cold Case), James Roday (Psych) y Adam Rodríguez (CSI- Miami).

En cuanto a los papeles principales en comedia el jurado optó por los actores Charlie Sheen (Two and A Half Men), Jake T. Austin (Wizards of Waverly Place), Joshua Gómez (Chuck), Carlos Mencia (Mind of Mencia), Óscar Núñez (The Office) y Johnny A. Sánchez (MADtv).

La reina de la comedia,

título que logró el año pasado América Ferrera, saldrá de entre las nominadas María Canals-Barrera (Wizards of



Waverly Place), Selena Gómez (Wizards of Waverly Place), Anjelah Johnson (MADtv), Judy Reyes (Scrubs), Nadine Velásquez (My Name is Earl) y Persia White (Girlfriends).

Los premios ALMA, creados en 1995 por el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR), reconocerán este año la interpretación conjunta de latinos en una película, un galardón que disputarán "Bella", "El Cantante", "Illegal Tender", "Love in the Time of Cholera" y "Tortilla Heaven".

Shakira desea hijos, pero no boda

La maternidad es algo que esta "latente" para Shakira, pero no así una boda, pues la estrella colombiana prefiere mantener el romanticismo de un "noviazgo eterno", según afirmó en una entrevista difundida el miércoles.

"Lo de la maternidad lo tengo muy latente. No es casualidad que haya salido en mi álbum de 'Fijación Oral I y II con bebés en cada portada', dijo Shakira en una entrevista con la revista Elenco, del diario bogotano El Tiempo. "Obviamente hay dentro de mí una voz que dice: '¡Hazlo ya! ¡Ten un hijo!' y es algo que creo que puede pasar muy pronto", añadió la cantante entrevistada en Madrid, en un intervalo del trabajo para su nuevo disco.

Pero a una pregunta sobre si era necesario casarse para tener ese bebé, Shakira respondió que había un aspecto del matrimonio "que me asusta y te lo voy a confesar: Antonio

(de la Rúa) y yo estamos comprometidos hace mucho tiempo (ocho años). Pero el matrimonio me asusta porque me parece más romántico ser la novia eterna, que el hombre se esfuerce, que no se duerma en sus laureles".

"La verdad es esa, que a mí me da miedo. Me parece más romántico ser su novia eterna y tener sus hijos y conformar una familia", recalcó.

Dijo que vive con el argentino de la Rúa en Las Bahamas, pero que él dedica parte de su tiempo a atender su propio negocio de bienes raíces y a la vez "hace seis años decidí encargarme de todos mis asuntos artísticos".

"Tomamos juntos todas las decisiones, es mi mayor apoyo y maneja mis contratos", aseguró. Con 31 años y una carrera internacional en ascenso, Shakira dijo además que aparte de su trabajo como cantante se mantiene muy pendiente de su

fundación Pies Descalzos, con la que ayuda a niños pobres en Colombia construyendo escuelas y ofreciéndoles servicio integral de comida y salud. Actualmente la organización beneficia a unos 5.000 niños y el año entrante espera llegar a unos 6.500, dijo.

"Cuando ofrecemos una oportunidad a un niño desprotegido, estamos rompiendo el círculo vicioso de la pobreza, pero también le estamos dando las herramientas para que la comunidad se sienta inspirada. La inspiración se contagia", declaró.

"La educación es un arma poderosísima en la estrategia de la paz. Sabemos que una persona que tiene pocas opciones de estudiar, de alimentarse, que no tiene oportunidades en la vida, tiene más posibilidades de unirse a un grupo armado, de terminar en negocios oscuros, en el crimen".



Dijo que "sueña" con una "movilización de artistas por la paz" de Colombia, sumergida en un conflicto interno desde hace más de cuatro décadas.

"Haría todo lo necesario para alcanzar esa paz definitiva desde mi humilde lugar de artista", indicó Shakira sin entrar en detalles.

Con 30 canciones ya escritas para su próximo álbum, dijo que aún sigue "buscando un par más" y que espera que la producción este lista a mediados del 2009.

Antonio Allbritten's New CD Mixes Eclectic Styles, Latin Flavor for a Wholly Unique Sound

Singer/songwriter Antonio Allbritten says the inspiration for his complex arrangements often comes in those moments between sleep and waking. His dreams must be beautiful ones, because Allbritten's new album, "El Oscuro Paso (The Dark Passage)" (Fantasy Phase Four Music Production Company, LLC, <http://www.myspace.com/antonioallbritten>), evokes images of tropical beaches and lush rainforests, even as it features disco backbeats and woodwinds wrapped around electronic melodies.

Available for purchase at

iTunes and Amazon, "El Oscuro Paso" showcases Allbritten's indie sensibility. From "Antigua Samba Arbol (The Old Shade Tree)," which really does sound like the music one would hope to hear while sitting under a shady tree, to "La Demente Sombrero (The Mad Hat)," a laid-back instrumental reggaeton (fusion of reggae and Latin American music) song, the album delivers the intricately layered compositions for which Allbritten has become known. And though they are thoroughly modern, all ten songs of "El Oscuro Paso" sound like the music

one might hear during a stroll through any long-established Central American neighborhood.

In his review of "El Oscuro Paso," HOY magazine's Tommy Calle wrote that Allbritten "... manages to captivate the audience from start to finish ... The material combines very slow and fast [rhythms and] seems devoted to a love of the past, nostalgia and nature." [Translated from the original Spanish.]

Early iTunes reviews of "El Oscuro Paso" were equally positive. "The beats are to die for," wrote one reviewer. "[The album] reminded me of my trip

to the Bahamas with the tropical beats put in here. I am a huge fan!"

"Listening to Antonio [Allbritten] is definitely a trip to exotic locales where there are only you and your music," wrote another. "I recommend listening in a moment of total relaxation." [Translated from the original Spanish.]

Those interested in previewing or purchasing the music of "El Oscuro Paso" can do so at iTunes or Amazon. To learn more about Allbritten and his newest album, visit the artist at <http://www.myspace.com/antonioallbritten>.

Ximena Sariñana Introduced to MTV Tr3s Audience

Ximena Sariñana is the latest hot new artist tapped by MTV Tr3s for its highly popular Descubre & Download program. The multiplatform music discovery platform has been lauded by music executives as "critical" in launching new careers and by Rolling Stone Magazine as "career changing."

Ximena is a Mexican singer-songwriter-pianist who at age 22 is being celebrated as an extraordinarily mature and distinctive recording artist, one who combines echoes of Ella Fitzgerald and Edith Piaf recordings with her own unique cultural sounds. Ximena has been a well-known professional actress in Mexico since the age of four. She released her first album, Mediocre, there in February of this year and achieved a level of success unprecedented for a new artist: The album debuted at the top of the album charts and remained there for five weeks, earning her Gold sales status in the recording's first few months on sale. The album is still in the top ten.

She says "I am thrilled to be

able to share my music with my Latino brothers and sisters in the U.S. and there's no better way to do that than through MTV Tr3s."

"We love Ximena's unabashed musical style and her originality. She is a unique and gifted artist with an album that is genre breaking and full of surprises. Our audience will immediately connect with her incredible lyrics and her creative visual style. We are excited to be part of the launch of Ximena's career," said Jesus Lara, Senior Vice President, Music and Talent for MTV Tr3s and MTV/VH1 Latin America.

Ximena will get aggressive on-air exposure, interactive online elements, wireless content distribution and other off-air promotional and marketing elements designed to reach today's multitasking music fan. Her single "Vidas Paralelas" is available as free, exclusive downloads at <http://download.mtvtr3s.com>. In addition, Ximena will have a dedicated artist page at mtvtr3s.com where her bio, behind-the-scenes photo gallery, and snaggable music and D&D videos will also be available. MTV Tr3s Radio will feature Ximena's Des-

cover & Download vignettes and MTV Rhapsody fans will also

have links to the her Descubre & Download pages.



Mitos del café: bueno o malo?

El café: ¿bueno o malo? Para saber a ciencia cierta qué beneficios o perjuicios trae consigo el tomar esta deliciosa bebida, tome en cuenta esta información:

Mito: Los padres deben evitar dar a sus niños alimentos o bebidas que contengan cafeína.

Realidad: Este es el primero de los mitos. La realidad es que, de acuerdo con estudios del Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental, casi ningún niño reacciona de manera adversa a la cafeína con las porciones que consumen de manera típica.

Mito: La cafeína crea adicción.

Realidad: Según las definiciones aceptadas y en opinión de la mayoría de las autoridades, la cafeína no crea adicción. Al suspender

de forma brusca el consumo regular de cafeína, algunas personas pueden padecer dolores de cabeza, fatiga y somnolencia, estos síntomas no persisten más de un día y pueden prevenirse reduciendo el consumo de cafeína de forma gradual.

Mito: La cafeína aumenta el riesgo de sufrir enfermedades cardíacas.

Realidad: Numerosos estudios realizados a gran escala revelan que el consumo de cafeína no aumenta el riesgo de padecer enfermedades cardiovasculares, ni incrementa los niveles de colesterol, ni produce alteraciones del ritmo cardíaco. En individuos sensibles a la cafeína se observa un ligero aumento temporal de la tensión arterial, si este es el caso, se recomienda consultar al médico.

Mito: La cafeína provoca cáncer.

Realidad: Existen pruebas científicas de peso que demuestran que la cafeína no incrementa el riesgo de padecer cáncer. Dos estudios a gran escala llevados a cabo en Noruega y Hawái y el análisis de 13 estudios realizados con más de 20 mil personas, revelan que no existe ninguna relación entre el consumo regular de café o té y el riesgo de contraer cáncer.

Mito: La cafeína es un factor de riesgo en lo relativo a la osteoporosis.

Realidad: Algunas investigaciones sugieren que el consumo de cafeína puede incrementar la pérdida de calcio en la orina; sin embargo, se ha comprobado que dichas pérdidas son mínimas y el consumo de

cafeína en dosis normales no afecta al nivel de calcio ni a la densidad ósea.

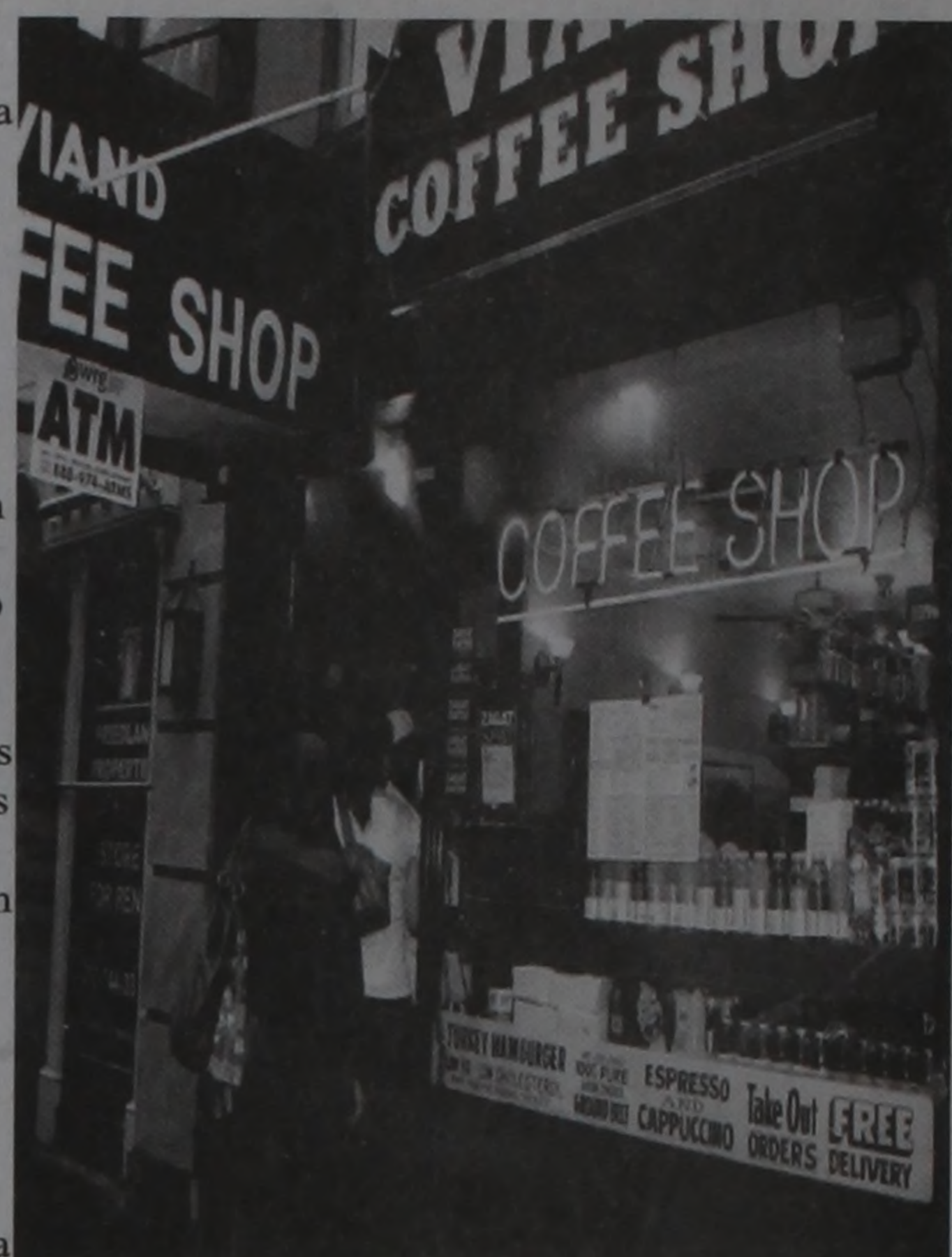
Mito: Las mujeres embarazadas o que intentan quedar embarazadas deben evitar la cafeína.

Realidad: Los efectos de las bebidas con cafeína en los factores reproductivos han sido objeto de análisis en un gran número de estudios. Los datos indican que el consumo moderado de cafeína es inofensivo tanto para la mujer embarazada como para el feto. En dos relevantes estudios realizados en Estados Unidos no se halló correlación alguna entre el consumo de cafeína y el desarrollo del embarazo o posibles malformaciones del bebé.

Mito: La cafeína tiene efectos negativos en la salud infantil.

Realidad: En general, los ni-

ños tienen la misma capacidad de asimilar la cafeína que las personas adultas. Las investigaciones en niños muestran que el consumo moderado de alimentos o bebidas que contienen cafeína no desempeña un papel perceptible en la hiperactividad ni en los problemas de la cafeína que las personas adultas. Las investigaciones en niños muestran que el consumo moderado de alimentos o bebidas que contienen cafeína no desempeña un papel perceptible en la



Diversión de belleza

En lengua nahuatl "acapulco" significa "lugar de los juncos" porque, según cuenta la leyenda indígena, dos jóvenes estaban enamorados pero pertenecían a grupos tribales enemigos; era un amor imposible, por lo tanto se convirtieron: la muchacha en mar y el joven en juncos... para estar siempre unidos.

La bahía de Acapulco es una de las más bellas del mundo. Los conquistadores quedaron prendados de la belleza y de la ubicación de este puerto natural de México. Testimonio de ese poder estratégico es el Fuerte de San Diego, bella construcción de piedra, levantado en 1616 y que actualmente es un museo histórico en el que se lleva a cabo el espectáculo Luz y sonido, donde se narra la historia del puerto, los avatares de la Revolución y el desarrollo del balneario moderno, en un marco de majestuosa vista panorámica.

En 1927, cuando se construyó la carretera entre Ciudad de México y Acapulco, se levantaron varios hoteles al borde del mar. El presidente Alemán dio un gran impulso turístico a la región y, durante las décadas de los 40 y 50, Acapulco se transformó en un centro de fama internacional. Millonarios, políticos, estrellas de Hollywood y productores de cine, edificaron bellas casas y residieron allí durante temporadas.

Lugar de muchos famosos Liz Taylor y Michael Tood vivieron aquí un apasionado romance y María Felix inspiró al compositor Agustín Lara para la melodía María Bonita. También el pintor mexicano Diego Rivera dejó su huella en la casa de doña Dolores Olmedo, donde realizó varios cuadros y un extraño mural, que se puede visitar.

Actualmente, celebridades como Plácido Domingo, Bill Gates y Luis Miguel pasan épocas de descanso en la zona. Otras personas, en cambio, van en busca de la "gran movida".

"Acapulco siempre es temporada", confiesa Juan, que maneja un coche a caballos, "en invierno llega el turismo internacional y el resto del año tenemos festivales, conferencias y muchos enamorados que pasan su luna de miel".

Son famosos los festivales de música, los torneos de pesca internacional y las conferencias de negocios, además de ser un lugar ideal para bodas y romances.

Ariban al año más de un

millón de turistas que disfrutan de las extensas playas sobre la bahía, gozan de paseos y excursiones, y de un sinnúmero de atracciones.

La infraestructura hotelera es excelente. Hay más de 500 hoteles, algunos de gran turismo como Las Brisas o Maya Palace, en Punta Diamante, y otros más económicos, sobre la Costanera Miguel Alemán, con acceso directo a la playa y con todas las comodidades.

En los restaurantes frente al mar, podrá degustar de un cocoloco (bebida típica), disfrutando la maravillosa puesta del sol.

Las playas como Puerto Marqués, Punta Diamante, Pie de la Cuesta y La Caleta, están apartadas y ofrecen servicios para hacer deportes náuticos. Se alquilan equipos para esquí acuático, paracaidismo, y motonaves. En el Parque CICI, puede nadar con los delfines, lo que es una experiencia muy singular.

Excursiones para todos Los amantes de la pesca tienen varios sitios donde practicar el deporte, con barcos equipados y capitanes experimentados.

Si gustan de excursiones, recomendamos un paseo a la Laguna de Coyuca y, para emociones fuertes, el río Papagayo, con los 'shotover-Jet' o barcos rápidos.

Caminar por el Zócalo y hacer compras en el colorido Mercado (tianguis) es una alternativa entretenida y muy útil, ya que hay muchos regalos para escoger: variadas artesanías y muy bonitas joyas de plata a precios accesibles, aunque siempre es bueno regatear. Verifique el sello de plata que se encuentre en la alhaja.

Los vestidos mexicanos bordados son muy bellos, igualmente las telas de manta y los sarapes de colores. Las cerámicas y la cestería, ponen a prueba la creatividad de los artesanos mexicanos.

Algo que no debe perderse es el espectáculo de los famosos clavadistas, en La Quebrada.

"Yo practico todo el tiempo", dice Chucho Díaz, un joven clavadista de 12 años. "Me gusta mucho, aunque siento el peligro cada vez que lo hago".

Los clavadistas surgieron en la época de los 40, cuando los pescadores se lanzaban a bucear, observando el flujo de las mareas y complaciendo a algunos curiosos.

Hoy el lanzamiento de estos nadadores es un espectáculo único en el mundo. Los clavadistas están asociados, se entrenan constantemente y se tiran de 35

metros de altura; durante la noche portan antorchas y parecen pájaros humanos.

La "movida" nocturna es excepcional, Acapulco se ilumina y su bahía adquiere un encanto especial durante la noche. Discotecas, bares y lugares para "trago-largo" abundan. En los grandes hoteles hay espectáculos con baile y música, mientras que en los restaurantes de la costa, las bandas y los con-

marco tropical.

Caminar por la playa al atardecer, gozar de una buena cena junto al mar saboreando mariscos o platillos mexicanos rociados con tequila, escuchando el sonido de las olas, con un clima agradable y tibio, es algo inolvidable.

También es inolvidable navegar en los barcos que realizan excursiones por el mar, disfrutando del ensueño de la bahía iluminada por la luz de la luna.



Acapulco lo espera con su suave brisa, la belleza de sus playas, la diversión permanente, la buena comida y la historia de un puerto que mantiene su fama internacional y toda su magia romántica. Como bien dice Agustín Lara en su canción 'Acuérdate de Acapulco, María Bonita...'

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AVISO LEGAL

Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 28 de julio de 2008. Tienes hasta el 24 de enero de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de estos juegos:

- Juego #785 10 Times Lucky (\$10) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.43
- Juego #1002 5X Winnings (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.12
- Juego #1037 Majestic Jewels (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.79
- Juego #1061 Sum it Up (\$1) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.97



Las probabilidades mostradas aquí son probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio, incluyendo los premios que son el valor del boleto. Las probabilidades de la Lotería están sujetas a cambios sin previo aviso. Premios de \$500 o más tienen que ser reclamados en un Centro de Reclamación de la Lotería o por correo con un formulario de orden de la Lotería completado, sin embargo, premios anuales o premios de más de \$500,000 tienen que ser reclamados en persona en la oficina central de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas en Austin, Llanos de la Loma de Servicio al Cliente 1-800-527-0775. Visite la página de internet de la Lotería en www.lottery.com para más información y la dirección del Centro de Reclamación más cercano. La Lotería de Texas no es responsable por el error o la pérdida de boletos, o por boletos extraviados en el correo. Boletos, transacciones, jugadas y ganancias son sujetas, y sujetas y ganancias están de acuerdo con reglas con todas las leyes que se aplican en el momento de la compra. Las reglas de la Comisión, regulaciones, normas, directrices, instrucciones, condiciones, procedimientos y decisiones finales del director aplicables. Un juego de raspar puede raspar y verificación con cuidado bajo las premisas mayores han sido cobradas. Tienen que tener 18 años de edad o más para poder comprar un boleto de la Lotería de Texas. JUEGA RESPONSABLEMENTE. La Lotería de Texas aparece en la rotulación en Texas. © 2008 Texas Lottery Commission. Todos los Derechos Reservados.

AVISO PARA UN PERMISO FEDERAL PARA OPERAR PRELIMINAR

PERMISO PRELIMINAR NÚMERO: 01298

SOLICITUD Y PERMISO PRELIMINAR. Texas Tech University, Environmental, Health, and Safety, P.O. Box 41090, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1090, una planta de Colleges and Universities NEC facility, ha presentado una aplicación ante la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) para la Renovación de el Permiso Federal de Operación, No. 01298, con el propósito de operar las instalaciones ubicadas en calle of Main y Hartford, en la ciudad de Lubbock, Condado de Lubbock, Texas. Esta aplicación fué presentada ante la TCEQ el November 5 de 2007.

El propósito de un Permiso Federal de Operación es mejorar el acatamiento general de las reglas que gobiernan el control de la contaminación atmosférica, claramente definiendo todos los requisitos aplicables como estan definidos en el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Tejas § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10, por sus siglas en inglés). El permiso preliminar no autoriza construcciones nuevas, ni tampoco el aumento de emisiones del sitio. El Ejecutivo Director de la TCEQ ha concluido el análisis técnico de la aplicación y ha preparado un permiso preliminar para la revisión y comentarios del público. El permiso preliminar, si es aprobado, establecerá las condiciones debajo de las cuales el sitio debiera operar. El director ejecutivo recomienda que se otorgue este permiso preliminar. La aplicación completa y el permiso preliminar estan disponibles para ser revisados y copiados en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. E, First Floor, Austin, Texas, y en la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Lubbock Regional Office, 5012 50th Street, Suite 100, Lubbock, Texas 79414-3421 y Lubbock County Courthouse, 904 Broadway, Lubbock, Texas. En la oficina central y la oficina regional tambien podra revisar y copiar todos los demas documentos pertinentes al permiso para operar preliminar, así como los permisos para la Revisión de Fuentes Nuevas que han sido incorporados por referencia. Personas que tengan dificultades obteniendo estos materiales debido a restricciones para viajar pueden comunicarse con la oficina central al teléfono (512) 239-1540.

LISTA PARA ENVÍO DE CORREO. Usted puede solicitar ser incluido en una lista para envío de correo para recibir información adicional con respecto a esta solicitud. Para ser incluido en una lista para envío de correo, envíe su petición a la Oficina del Secretario Principal (Office of Chief Clerk) a la dirección que se encuentra a continuación en el párrafo titulado "Información."

COMENTARIOS/NOTIFICACIÓN PÚBLICA Y AUDIENCIA. Usted puede presentar comentarios publicos y/o solicitar una audiencia de notificación y comentarios sobre esta solicitud. El proposito de la audiencia de notificación y comentarios es el prover la oportunidad de hacer comentarios de parte del público y hacer preguntas sobre esta solicitud.

Cualquier persona afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos de este sitio puede solicitar una audiencia de notificación y comentarios. La TCEQ puede otorgar una audiencia de notificación y comentarios con respecto a esta aplicación si una petición por escrito es presentada dentro de los treinta días después de la publicación de este anuncio. El propósito de la audiencia de notificación y comentarios es prover la oportunidad para someter comentarios orales o por escrito acerca del permiso preliminar. Si se concede una audiencia de notificación y comentarios, todas las personas que presentaron comentarios por escrito o peticiones para audiencia recibirán confirmación por escrito de la audiencia. Esta confirmación indicará la fecha, hora y lugar de la audiencia. **Una noticia de la acción final, incluyendo respuestas a los comentarios públicos y denotando cambios hechos al permiso preliminar, será remitida a todas las personas que hayan presentado comentarios públicos, solicitudes para audiencia o que hayan solicitado ser incluidas en la lista de correo.** Esta noticia tambien proveera instrucciones para hacer peticiones públicas a la Agencia Para la Protección del Medio Ambiente (EPA), solicitado la reconsideración de la acción final propuesta por el director ejecutivo. Al recibir una petición, la agencia EPA solamente podrá objetarse a la promulgación de permisos que no se acaten a los requisitos de sus reglamentos o a los requisitos de 30 TAC Capítulo 122.

Comentarios públicos por escrito y peticiones para audiencia de notificación y comentarios deben de ser presentados a la Oficina del Secretario Principal (Office of Chief Clerk), MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 dentro de treinta días después de la publicación en el periódico del anuncio del permiso preliminar.

INFORMACIÓN. Para más información, usted puede llamar a la Oficina de Asistencia Pública (Office of Public Assistance), sin cargo, a el 1-800-687-4040. Información general concierne a la TCEQ puede encontrarse vía internet en www.tnrc.state.tx.us.

Mas información puede ser obtenida de Texas Tech University en la dirección en el primer párrafo o llamando a Randy Nix a el teléfono (806)742-3876.

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