

Casualties of War in Iraq  
4,172  
as of Sept. 25, 2008



# El Editor

Celebrating  
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"El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz"  
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## Our Community's Dropout Dilemma: From Student to Statistic

By Abel Cruz

According to the Texas Education Agency, the state agency charged with oversight of the Texas Public School system; 74 Hispanic students dropped out of Lubbock High School in the 2006-2007 school year.

When compared to the number of students from other ethnic groups; the numbers seem to confirm that for the Hispanic community in Lubbock; the fact that Hispanic students drop out at a higher rate than other ethnic groups is one of the greatest challenges to the community. And it brings close to home the fact that Hispanic high school students represent the most at risk group; at risk of facing insurmountable odds in the future.

According to the TEA; "a dropout is a student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not graduate, receive a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, continue school outside the public school system, begin col-

lege, or die".

In study after study, the result always seems to be the same: the number of Hispanic students who fail to finish high school is generally higher than other ethnic groups; and in a lot of cases it is considerably higher. Although an argument could be made that one of the reasons could be because Hispanics make up a large number of the student population; that alone does not seem to be the reason.

And the problem will begin to be more noticeable as we go further into the future and begin to feel the economic effects of those who dropped out; especially in these uncertain economic times.

The numbers are disturbing; if in fact one still feels a certain sense of connectivity to their ethnicity; but it is a problem which should concern us all since most high school drop outs present a potential economic drain on our social services institutions.

For example; say someone drops out at the age of 16 in the year 2000; in 2008 they are about 24



years of age and chances are they have either gotten married or have started a family; and possibly may be a single parent already with their own kids in public school.

As they grow older; their needs increase and multiply by the number of dependents they now have; housing; health care; childcare;

education costs for their kids, etc become realities.

But what has not kept up with their needs is their education level. Their earning power does not increase unless they are fortunate to be in an industry where their skill level is in demand; perhaps in the construction or automotive fields. But even in those kinds of jobs; especially the automotive fields; jobs are becoming more and more technical requiring at least a high school diploma. A lot of blue collar jobs are now based on being at least computer literate and most high school dropouts have little to no experience with computers; especially if they dropped out in the 8th grade.

The youth of today might know about "game-boys" and "x-box"; but that is a long way from learning the computer programs now required in higher paying jobs.

For example; here in Lubbock,

local media reported that while unemployment continued to grow in other parts of the country; this city is experiencing a labor shortage. The question could be asked; is this job shortage directly or indirectly tied into the high level of high school drop outs in the LISD system?

In 2006-07; TEA figures show that 483 LISD students dropped out between the 7th and 12th grades. The ethnic breakdown confirms that Hispanics represent the highest number with 313 students or 64% of the total. The 313 number also represents 5.4% of the total number of the 5,806 Hispanic students enrolled for that year in grades 7-12.

For whites; that number is 85 or 17.5% of the total. Out of the 4,937 white students enrolled; 1.7% dropped out

(Continued Page 2).

## John Cornyn: 4 Million Reasons Not to Be Angry About the Financial Crisis

The proposed massive \$700 billion taxpayer bailout for Wall Street, which is due to the financial industry's greed and insufficient oversight by Washington, has angered millions of Americans. The Cornyn campaign recently described U.S. Senate candidate Rick Noriega as "Angry Rick," but it seems as though the only person in the country not upset by the economic meltdown is John Cornyn. Which begs the question:

"Why isn't John Cornyn angry?" The answer? There's four million of them.

Yesterday, OpenSecrets.com compiled a list of the top recipients of financial industry largesse. It revealed that Senator John Cornyn was the recipient of nearly \$4 million in contributions from the financial industry - the most of any candidate who hasn't run for President or run a Senate committee.

"While his Wall Street friends were driving the economy into a ditch, John Cornyn wasn't providing responsible oversight," said Martine Apodaca. "Just four months ago, Cornyn said 'the free market is certainly more efficient and more nimble than government.' Now the free market is asking the government for a massive handout - directly on the backs of hardworking Texas families."

If John Cornyn is serious about protecting the taxpayers, he should give every penny of that money back and make a \$4 million down-payment on the financial bailout. After Cornyn's six years in Washington, Texas families are now faced with an economic crisis, on top of the housing, energy, foreign policy, and health care crises. Can we really afford more of John Cornyn's failed leadership?

## Hispanic Agenda set by NHLA

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda; a consortium of national Hispanic organizations has been in existence since 1991. Some of its members include the League of United Latin American Citizens; and the National Council of La Raza; and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In all there are 26 national organizations which participate in an effort to shape the debate about what the national political agenda should be for each national political party.

The Chair for NHLA, John Trascina is leading this year's efforts "to ensure that our nation's public policies meet the needs of the Latino community". He recently presented the 2008 NHLA Hispanic Public Policy Agenda to both the Democrat and Republican Party officials at their respective conventions.

According to NHLA; the Democratic Party platform has "numerous common elements" with the NHLA's own agenda. But on the Republican side; NHLA sent a letter to Republican Presidential nominee John McCain asking him to change some of the positions on the platform. In particular; NHLA cited McCain's repudiation of McCain's prior stances on "comprehensive immigration reform, bilingual education, and other Latino policy priorities".

Parts of the agenda call for unity among Latinos around the country "to provide the Hispanic community with greater visibility and a clearer, stronger influence in our country's affairs".

The six areas selected by NHLA as its main platform items are as follows: education; civil rights; immigration; economic empowerment; health; and government accountability.

In addition to outlining its primary agenda; NHLA has also committed to crafting "more extensive transition plans for the incoming administration". To accomplish that the organization will identify "qualified Hispanic candidates for Cabinet, judicial, and political appointments across the administration and identify certain posts" in which NHLA will expect whomever is appointed whether they be Hispanic or not, to be "sensitive" to Hispanic constituent's needs.

Among the many other things NHLA will participate in is to actively "promote the full participation of Latinos in the 2010 Census to assure that communities receive fair federal funding and representation in the reapportionment and redistricting processes following 2010".

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## Group to Host Meeting on East Side Two Year College

Proponents and supporters of a two year college in East Lubbock will meet to discuss the idea and see if establishing a two year college on the east side is something within reach.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday September 29th from 7-8:15 PM at the Estacado High School cafeteria located at 1501 East Itasca; Itasca and MLK Boulevard.

Armando Gonzales; one of the proponents and organizers had called for the establishment of the college when he ran for the District 2 city council seat in this past May's city election. He now leads the effort to make his idea become a reality.

The meeting will include Lubbock County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Ysidro Gutierrez; Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin and other Lubbock city council members; South Plains College Vice President Darrell Grimes and Dean of Arts and Sciences; Yancy Nunez.

Aside from a discussion about the college; supporters are also hoping to recruit volunteers for a "steering committee".

Others expected to attend include officials from Workforce of the South Plains; Texas Tech Health Sciences Center; David Vasquez, Estacado Principal; former District 2 Councilman T.J. Patterson; and Presidents of the East Lubbock Area Churches.

All Lubbock residents; and not just east side residents are invited to attend.

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## The struggle to court Hispanic voters

Both presidential candidates are working at it

By Diego Vasquez

The latest polls show Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama running virtually neck-and-neck among the general population with just over a month to go until the Nov. 4 presidential election. Thus once again, Hispanic voters are expected to play a crucial role in deciding the presidency. Many have said that President George Bush would not have won the presidency in 2000 had it not been for the support of Hispanic voters, whom he courted aggressively as the former governor of a border state, Texas. McCain and Obama have also been targeting Hispanics, with the latter spending a reported \$20 million nationwide on Hispanic media. Still, while both candidates are making

them to do any better in the message content.

They're not telling their story effectively.

What are some examples of past media campaigns that connected effectively with Hispanics?

Interestingly, a past media campaign that I can tell you about is the Bush 2000 campaign. I think the then-governor did a terrific job in the selection of his Spanish communications team, and they did an excellent job for him and generated votes.

One thing he did differently is he hired one of the most respected advertising guys in the country. He's one of the pioneers and pillars of our community and he generated a much higher level of voting for Bush among Latinos.

The other campaigns haven't reached out to other professional



an effort to reach out to these minority voters, whether their efforts will bear fruit is up for some debate. Hector Orci, CEO of La Agencia de Orci, talks to Media Life about the presidential candidates' media plans, why they're not as effective as they could be, and how they could improve.

What types of messages most resonate with this audience?

Messages that are authentic, that can be trusted, and are from someone who knows and respects me. When you hear stuff from these people, it seems they don't know me and therefore they can't give respect.

What have both campaigns done in terms of Hispanic media outreach so far?

It's been deficient, in my opinion. And I don't have any evidence to suggest that either campaign will get any smarter between now and November.

They might spend more money but I don't expect to see much stronger outreach in media, and I also unfortunately don't expect

Hispanic advertising and marketing people. I get the sense that their Hispanic stuff is being done by amateurs.

If I had one piece of advice it would be to use professionals. And I'm not pitching anyone, by the way.

Has either candidate thus far had a more effective Hispanic media strategy?

I would think that the Obama campaign has done a better job. First of all, I think they've been more flexible and their presence is larger. I also believe that Mr. Obama has done a nice job of surrounding himself with young, vibrant Hispanic voters, and that imagery does very, very well.

What he's also done well is taken a positive point of view, and Latinos in advertising don't like one brand to criticize the other.

They want to know what your brand has to offer, they resent the negative advertising. It's a big turn-off and it makes a big impact in the voting.

## News Briefs

### GESC Issues Statement Regarding Flores Campaign Signs

Last week, we reported that some actions involving campaign signs by Democratic candidate for Precinct 3 County Commissioner Gilbert Flores might be jeopardizing the non-profit status of the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation.

As a non-profit, GESC is required to remain non political when it comes to their support of one candidate over another.

This week: Sam Guzman, who was appointed as acting Executive Director by the GESC board after the passing of Richard Lopez issued the following statement in response to last week's story:

"No one on the Board of Directors of GESC and/or staff authorized the activities regarding these signs nor does the organization get involved in partisan political activities including the endorsement of candidates".

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### Lubbock County Jail Cancels Food Service Contract

Lubbock County Commissioners have voted to terminate the food services contract for the Lubbock County jail with Mid America Services.

NewsChannel 11 reported this past week that County Commissioners voted to terminate the contract within 90 days with the company who's President, Robert Austin Jr. pleaded guilty to giving a gift to Potter County Sheriff Michael Shumate. Mid America was also the food services contractor for that jail.

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### Lubbock Music Festival Will not Receive City Funding in 2009

After 4 years of receiving funding to stage the Lubbock Music Festival, the Lubbock city council has decided that it's time the festival pays for itself.

The festival which is being held this weekend had been funded by hotel and motel tax revenues for the past 4 years at a rate of \$175,000 per year.

Two years ago, the council approved a plan brought before the council by festival organizers to give all festival proceeds to Civic Lubbock Inc. so that they could fund other arts and entertainment programs. Consequently, the revenue needed to make the festival a self sustaining event never materialized as had been expected.

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### October 6 Last Day to Register

If you plan on voting in the November General Election; a good day to keep in mind is October 6. That is the last day a person who is otherwise eligible to vote can register and still vote in November.

In order for a person to be eligible to vote certain requirements must be met: A person must be 18 years of age; a person must be a United States citizen; have not been determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court; have not been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, A) have fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote; and must be a resident of the state.

According to the Lubbock County Elections office web site, to obtain a voter registration form; a person may call the Lubbock County Elections office at 775-1339 and they will mail a form or forms can also be found at: Post Offices located inside the City of Lubbock; Department of Public Safety (6th and Avenue L); Texas Department of Human Services; Texas Department of Health Services; Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Public Libraries; Marriage license office of the County Clerk; High School Principals; Tax Assessor/Collector Motor Vehicle offices; 916 Main St, Rm 102; 5211 Brownfield Hwy, Ste 105 - City Bank; 8009 University - City Bank; 240 W Garza, Slaton, Texas Courthouse Annex.

To check your registration or obtain a registration form, contact the Lubbock County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 775-1339, 1308 Crickets Ave. (formerly Ave. G). A registration form can be downloaded from <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/regvrshtml>. In Lubbock County it should be mailed to: Elections Administrator, Dorothy Kennedy, P.O. Box 10536, Lubbock, TX 79408

### First Presidential Debate set for September 26

By the time you are reading this week's edition of El Editor, the first presidential debate between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain may be in the history books; or it may not be.

The first of 3 presidential debates is scheduled to be held at The University of Mississippi on Friday September 26, 2008. Start time is 8:00 PM and will be nationally televised. The moderator will be PBS' Jim Lehrer and will focus on Foreign Policy and national security issues.

But as El Editor was going to press this past Thursday; national media was reporting that the John McCain campaign had proposed suspending its campaign, including the debate with Obama so they could return to Washington and deal with the financial problem facing Congress.

The other debates are scheduled as follows:

Vice presidential debate: Thursday, October 2 at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Moderator: Gwen Ifill Senior Correspondent, The NewsHour, and Moderator and Managing Editor, Washington Week, PBS

Second presidential debate (town meeting): Tuesday, October 7 at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn. Moderator: Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent, NBC News

Third presidential debate: Wednesday, October 15 at Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y. Moderator: Bob Schieffer, CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent, and Host, Face the Nation

All debates will be televised and will begin at 8PM CST.



# On the Internet -www. eleditor.com Wall Street Meltdown

By Ysidro Gutierrez

Disaster, disaster, disaster. Fay, Gustav, Hanna, Ike, a 100 year flood in Lubbock, Russian invasion of Georgia, Korea going nuclear, Obama choosing Biden. When you think it can't get worse - Wall Street Melts Down. Wow, What a Ride!!!

For those of you who haven't fallen on your knees - think seriously about doing so - Now! Cause you ain't seen the last of it yet. GE, the financially solid rock is rumored to be crumbling.

Last Wednesday John McCain in a brilliant act of Presidential style leadership called for a few days delay of the Presidential Debate to allow him to help solve the financial crisis. He invited Obama to join him. Poor blundering Obama refused. He thought the political debate was more important than saving the homes and life savings of millions of Americans. Not too smart - Obama.

Why is it important to have Presidential leadership? Because the American people needed it and wanted it and John McCain had to experience to recognize the will of the people and moved. Obama's blunder was worthy of Joe Biden. They were made for each other.

John McCain was smart enough to know that neither the war nor Friday's Presidential debate will impact the lives of ordinary Americans more directly than the collapse of the world financial system. John McCain understands its importance and asked for the debate to be rescheduled in order to devote himself to finding solutions to the meltdown. Obama refused but in the end was swayed by a personal phone call from President Bush pleading with him to come to Washington. Obama relented.

Unless you live under the proverbial rock - you know that the proposed solution is for the US Congress to authorize \$1 Trillion tax payer dollars to bail out the bankrupt financial institutions and it has to be done by Friday - the day of the debate.

As expected, the usual alarmist rhetoric was being bandied about - "We have no choice. If we don't do this, things will be worse. And the perennial favorite: We have to

do it to save the small guy." Many believe this is pure hooey.

On the surface the rhetoric seemed reasonable - yet the din of suspicion arose from every American in every corner of the country.

Perhaps the greatest cause for alarm came for the proponents themselves. The big problems as they admitted is that there are absolutely no assurances that the \$1 trillion bailout will work. In fact there is mounting evidence that it may do more harm than good. Throwing good money after bad is never the prudent course in a "Free Market System."

This reason alone casts plentiful doubts. Most Americans are troubled that the \$1 trillion dollars for the bailout will be borrowed from China. The money will be used to buy "toxic paper" held by China. Common sense seems to be in short supply. The US Congress is proposing borrowing from China to rescue China and paying them interest.

Another infuriating facet of the plan is the willingness of Congress to allow failed CEO's who drove the financial institutions into the ground to walk away with millions in obscene golden parachutes.

Americans blood pressure rose too when the plan called for buy out of "toxic paper" from foreign businesses.

The American people are loud and clear. They are mad and solidly united against the plan. The President and Congress better listen.

If there are any reasons to have confidence in the future here are two: Billionaire Warren Buffett bet that Wall Street would bounce back from its current crisis. He bought a \$5 billion stake in Goldman Sachs Group. Bank of America also invested. The message for the country is clear. We are battered and bruised but unbowed.

My apologies to readers if my commentary missed late breaking news, as I pen this piece. This is a dynamic and changing story. On Thursday morning at 10 a.m. President Bush is hosting a bipartisan meeting of Congressional leaders. No way to know what will come from it. Hope it's good and solves the problem.

## El Hijo Del Alacrán (The Son of the Scorpion)

Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion"

Ha pues que los de Wall Street quieren \$700 billion pa' salirse del poso. Va estar muy ca...rajo y se me hace que ya dandose lo, van a querer mas. Hay veremos

\*\*\*\*\*

Y aqui en Lubbock todavia siguen los politicos locales en sus travesuras. Pues ya es mas de una persoana que nos cuentan que nos estan robando el periodico. Ya lo pescaremos, pa' eso hay camaras.

\*\*\*\*\*

Y el 12 de Octubre habra un debate entre Flores y Gutierrez. Eso es si no se raja Gilbert. Eso lo digo porque los organizadores nos dice que ya se esta rajando. Hay veremos. Le estremos informando.

\*\*\*\*\*

Y Ysidro nos sigue diciendo sus aventuras con los republicanos. Pue ahora escuche una buena dicucion en la radio donde nos explican las verdaderas sobre "Pro-choice" y "Pro Life. Nos dicen que nomas porque son "pro-choice: no quiere decir que esta a favor del aborto. Pien-salo Ysidro.

\*\*\*\*\*

cal number or office is provided on the website.

In short, the oldness of the statements reveals just how little attention is placed on the drop out problem by LISD administration.

It would seem to be more effective if the problem was acknowledged by administrators, and resources and help programs overly publicized so that guardians would feel comfortable turning to educators and administrators if they thought their child was at risk. And for whatever reason, a lack of communication between those responsible for the student and educators and administrators seems to be one of the major problems.

So, we have a problem but if I have to base my perception about how LISD is doing to address or bring attention to the problem; based on what I see; I will have to give the school system a failing grade.

According to TEA stats, most students drop out in 12th grade. The latest figures for Texas show that 4,394 students dropped out in 11th grade and 9,612 in 12th grade.

Proving that Garza is correct when he says that if schools and parents wait until the later years; they will not be able to prevent the problem and the cycle and legacy of a youth not prepared to succeed in society will only continue to get worse.

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... AND THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WILL BE GETTING BIG FAT CHECKS FROM ALL OF US SOON!!

# "Freedom of Expression"

## An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net  
Symposium on Single Member Lawsuit

The symposium held in Lubbock this weekend (September 13, 2008 during Fiestas del Llano) was overdue. We need to remind the voters that Lubbock has Hispanic and black representatives mainly because of the lawsuit and other subsequent lawsuits.

I was disappointed in the turnout for the meeting, but was encouraged by the enthusiasm of those present. It did surprise me that those who were in office or had been in office did not appear, except for Maggie Trejo. It just seemed to me to be the event to attend by all sitting minority representatives. They could have used the event to encourage voters to participate in the electoral process and use the system to resolve our problems.

Even more important is the fact that there very few young persons at the symposium. The significance of the event was obviously not communicated to our youth. They, the youth, must know that the single member lawsuit was the action of a person who saw a problem, no minority representatives and no voice in government, and the action he took to resolve that problem, successfully. All problems are solved basically in the same manner. Someone must take the lead, convince others to help and take action to resolve the problem. Our youth must be educated and shown how to lead others to resolve our future problems.

It was good to be in Lubbock again. I miss all my friends there and I am sorry I did not have time to talk to everyone of them.

Tomas Garza, Austin, Texas  
Mr. Garza formerly lived in Lubbock and practiced law here. He was one of the attorneys who led the effort in the single member lawsuit against the city of Lubbock

## Watershed Year for Latinos

On behalf of the 26 national Hispanic organizations comprising the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), I am pleased to present our platform. This platform, a product of meetings and input from Latino leaders and advocates from around the nation, focuses on civil rights, economic empowerment, education, government accountability, health and immigration not only from the perspective of what is good for the Latino community but what is essential for the nation's future. (See www.maldef.org for link to platform)

Today, as Latinos account for one-sixth of the population on the mainland United States, Puerto Rico and the territories, every issue facing the Latino community has a national impact. Every family, every business and every community is touched by Latinos, whether we have resided here for generations or whether we are the newest of the newcomers. The NHLA agenda highlights policies and solutions in priority areas where federal government policy can make a difference in the lives of members of our communities. These policies do not simply "serve" the community, they enable the Latino community to better serve the nation and to fulfill their own dreams and aspirations for a better life.

This year will be a watershed year for Latinos in the election. We have candidates and parties that are seeking the Latino vote and the Latino vote is likely to be decisive in a number of the swing states in the presidential election. Whichever candidate is elected has a responsibility, with Congress, to uplift and advance the Hispanic community and the nation. The NHLA Policy Agenda presents a pathway forward. Whatever the outcome of the election, NHLA organizations will work with the new Administration making the case for policies and programs that better the lives of Latinos, and we will identify Latinos for key appointed positions in the next administration. In addition, we will identify key posts where the decisions made have a special impact on our ability to succeed as a community and as a nation.

Whoever is appointed to those positions must have an understanding, appreciation and sensitivity to the contributions and needs of Latinos. Here is our agenda for our nation and our future. We call upon elected officials, candidates, political parties, the media and the general public to consider and adopt this Agenda and ensure that the interests of the Latino community for the betterment of the nation are carried out. Join us in that effort.

Sincerely,  
John Trasviña, Chair, NHLA  
Go Out and Vote!

I am writing this letter to all registered voters to go out and vote this coming election on November 4th and vote for the person who you think is most qualified.

Honest and a good Christian, someone who is not afraid to speak against injustice a person who does not overlook or ignore when improvement is needed, to my knowledge Frank Gutierrez, is that man.

On the past elections I voted Democrat but with today's circumstances and problems, we need a man who was raised with good morals and values, who was taught to be respectful to all people, someone who was raised to be a good Christian that is why I am voting for Republican Frank Gutierrez.

As a voter I have the right and privilege to vote for the most fair and honest candidate.

Sincerely, Epifanio Aguirre, Lubbock

## Two Candidates for Commissioner's Race

I think you all miss the point about the Commissioner's race. There are TWO candidates.

Frank Gutierrez represents the Republicans, who want to build a wall against Mexicans,

who tried to kill health insurance for poor kids, who support 100 more years of war in Iraq, who deregulated our banks so much we risk falling into another Great Depression, who shred the US Constitution every single day with power grabs, who want to kill all US unions, who are against universal health insurance for all Americans, who are in bed with big oil companies, who gave the ultra rich trillions in tax cuts, and who try nationwide to erase Hispanics from the voter rolls.

Is this the kind of people we want our Commissioner to be running with?

Gutierrez continues for weeks on end to violate the same Ethics laws that he raves and rants about his opponent violating for a day ten months ago.

Gutierrez said that maintaining roads in the rural areas is silly, while Flores wants to bring them back up to proper standards.

To its eternal credit, El Editor has always supported progressive Democratic candidates, and for the most part does so today. Please reconsider your support of the Republicans in the commissioner's race.

C James, Lubbock

# Editorials

## Don't Forget to Register to Vote

As we approach early voting in the General Election; nothing will be more important than making sure you are registered to vote; and that you actually vote.

Year after year, we hear that the number of registered voters is up; yet when election numbers are counted; we are once again disappointed in the turnout in the number of predominately minority voters.

Call it disillusionment with the politicians seeking office or call it a reaction to being ignored by those seeking our votes for many years; but if we are to ever change some things in the system we are dissatisfied with; then we have to believe that change starts at the ballot box.

What do we mean by change?

Change means that in order to be considered a political force; we must be willing to change our voting habits, go out and register if we haven't yet, and then simply go out and vote.

## Crossover Voting

Another thing that is on our minds this week is cross over voting. We have heard that many voters who voted in the Democratic Primary are under the impression that they must vote for a Democrat come November. That is not true.

If you voted in the Democratic Primary; then you are free to vote for a Republican candidate in the General Election whether it be for President or any of the state or local races such as the one for Lubbock County Commissioner Precinct 3.

In other words; a voter can vote for either a Democrat or a Republican in any race and cross over to vote as often as he or she wishes.

Whether a person decides to vote for Republican or Democrat is that person's prerogative. But what we are saying is that regardless of your preference; the important thing is that we exercise one of our most fundamental rights and vote for the candidate of our choice.

In a few weeks we will make our choices known via this editorial page; until then we urge voters to sift through all the rhetoric and to get informed about the candidates and about the issues.

The upcoming debates between the respective presidential and vice presidential candidates and the upcoming debate on October 14 between Republican Frank Gutierrez and Democrat Gilbert Flores would be a good place to start.

## Taxpayer Bailout is Corporate Welfare

You've heard the expression; "stuff rolls downhill".

Well, American taxpayers should get ready for a whole lot of stuff as those responsible for minding the store have once again raided the shelves and left us high and dry. Seven hundred billion dollars!

That's right; that's how much money the Bush administration and Congress is haggling over this week so as not to endanger the corporate pockets of Wall Street.

In our view, the billion dollar bailouts given to Bear Stearns; Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and this week insurance conglomerate AIG is nothing but corporate welfare.

Imagine yourself having more debt than you can handle and Uncle Sam giving you a hand by taking the debt off your hands? Never would happen would it?

The real culprits here are the top executives and top managers who will all walk away with a golden parachute after making bad loan decisions which enriched their own bank accounts.

It is estimated that both CEO's of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae stand to make over \$12 million dollars as part of their severance package. How in the world does it make sense for taxpayers to foot the bill for that?

It doesn't. Just like about 99% of the things that happen in Washington. Sad part is; aside from voting for the candidates we believe will change things; there is very little else taxpayers can do at this point. Talk about feeling helpless!

We say; "It's time to throw the bums out!" But then there would be no politicians left in Washington.

Editorials are strictly the opinions and views of El Editor's editorial board and do not represent the views of our advertisers or anyone else associated with El Editor.

## Dropouts (from front page)

There were no specific numbers provided for African American students due to TEA criteria, but based on the total; one could infer that African Americans accounted for the remainder 98 students; although that number could be higher.

In terms of gender; males accounted for 245 of the students and females for 238.

One of the striking figures is that 237 of the total number of dropouts; 50%; were categorized as "economically disadvantaged". This would seem to confirm what former LISD educator and Principal Jesse Garza told El Editor for a previous story; that one of the primary reasons is a socio economic one. In this case, one could guess that at least 237 of the students who dropped out may have done so for economic reasons or as Garza put it, "a lack of home resources relative to school work required by the schools and a strong desire to find a job, work, buy a car".

Furthermore, in a recent PEW Hispanic Research report on Hispanics and education the report also found that "More than a quarter of Hispanic students (28%) live in poverty, compared with 16% of non-Hispanic students. In comparison, more than a third of non-Hispanic black students (35%) reside in poverty and about one-in-ten non-Hispanic white students live in a poor household".

In some people's views; our children's education begins at home; and Garza says that school systems have failed to keep up with the cultural changes in the community and the definition of what home means and who lives in the home.

He uses the simple example of how school administrators and teachers still use the term "parents" to address the child's guardians; Garza says that in a lot of cases; the term no longer applies. In a lot of cases; it is either a single parent or grandparent or even a sibling who is responsible for a student. But that school administrators are still under the illusion that most family units consist of a 2 parent household. He says that when he was visiting parents in their homes when he was still with LISD; he ran into multiple parenting situations.

That's one of the reasons Garza favors the "middle school concept" whereby 6, 7, and 8th graders are in school together; and where students can be grouped together and taught

by a team of teachers. In this system; Garza says that a "team advisory concept" can be employed with "team advisory leaders" which can keep track of "home issues" and educate teachers on how to deal with students from diverse households.

In this system; teachers and students form what is known as a "family" unit for building cohesiveness and a sense of belonging" and teachers are always aware of student's strengths and weaknesses and "home issues" which are communicated within the team.

Two other concepts involved include interdisciplinary teams and collaborative teaching.

Garza says that by using this system in the earlier years teachers will also be able to learn how to deal with students that are at risk from diverse households long before they make a decision to drop out. Otherwise he says that if we try to address the problem in even 9th grade; many times it is too late.

When asked if he thought LISD administration was doing a good job of addressing the drop out issue; Garza compares the administration to firefighters and says they spend most of their time "putting out fires" and reacting to problems instead of being proactive and trying to figure out a way to reduce the number of people who drop out.

In an example of just how little attention is paid to this issue; on the LISD web site; there is a section entitled Communities in Schools (CIS); with a slogan says helping kids stay in schools and prepare for life. A worthy goal; but unfortunately the newest press release is from March 4 of this year; where Senator Duncan visited Cavazos High School and another is an announcement about their women in excellence program; at least it was when I recently visited the site.

CIS is a nationwide program which supposedly puts over 5000 area students in touch with resources to help them stay in school and build a foundation for a lifetime of success. If one clicks on a tab which reads "Schools we serve" the visitor is directed to a page with unintelligible language. Overall it is not a very informative or effective to the casual observer and probably not very informative to a parent who is desperately looking for any information which will help them address the problem. Not even a lo-



# Richardson Trumpets Obama as Candidate for Immigration Reform

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson fired up a group of Barack Obama supporters Saturday in Greeley, Colo., saying the Democratic candidate for president will deliver sensible federal immigration policy, stimulate the economy, help the middle class and bring a "new generation of leadership" to Washington.

About 150 Obama supporters filled a room at the Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center for Richardson's half-hour speech. He was joined by local Latino leaders Polly Baca, Sylvia Martinez and Pres Montoya.

Richardson, dressed in cowboy boots, jeans and a casual button-down shirt, also took questions. One woman, speaking in Spanish, asked why the divisive immigration issue remains unresolved.

Richardson said the issue is "reaching epic proportions" and that workplace raids around the country are "a symbol of a failed

at-risk schools and the American people."

Loud applause followed this statement: "America used to be a nation that everyone respected and we used to lead. We need a president that's going to make us the moral, human rights and democracy leader."

At the end of the rally, Charles Archibeque, a Greeley city councilman and registered Republican, took the microphone and pledged support for Obama.

Jerry Trujillo, 53, another Greeley Republican and Archibeque's son-in-law, said he also will vote for the Democrat.

"I think the way the economy is going lately, we need a change in America now," he said. "Being a minority, I think (Obama) is going to take all those changes on for us, and I think we're overdue."

Trujillo said he feels Obama will take the country "in the right direction" on immigration reform.

Taking note of the crowd's "rainbow of diversity" Saturday, Richardson said he believes Obama will capture Latino votes by focusing on them as American mainstream rather than a voting bloc.

Latino voters and the presidential election

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Saturday that Sen. Barack Obama will be able to win over Latino voters in New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada, each of which voted for President Bush by margins of between 2 and 3 percentage points in 2004. He said the three states are keys to victory in November for Obama.

Latino voters make up about 35 percent of voters in New Mexico and 12 percent of voters in Colorado and Nevada, according to a recent Pew Hispanic Center poll.

An earlier survey found that 66 percent of Latino registered voters support Obama and 23 percent back McCain.

The issue of immigration is a major concern this presidential year, according to the poll. Thirty-four percent of Latinos say the issue is extremely important, compared to 28 percent in 2004.

President Bush received 40 percent of the Latino vote in 2004, an unprecedented level for a Republican presidential candidate.



immigration policy." He said Obama would be a "unifier" on the issue and immediately bring about a comprehensive reform package.

The policy, he said, would increase legal immigration and provide more border security; punish employers who hire illegal workers; and create a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Richardson praised Republican presidential candidate John McCain's proposals on immigration reform, but "his party has taken over what used to be a sensible position on his side."

Richardson, who also spoke Saturday in Pueblo, Alamosa and Colorado Springs, addressed the war, the economy, education, health care, renewable energy and foreign policy.

On the war in Iraq, he said, "When you're spending \$10 billion on this war every month, that is money that has to go to, and should go to, health care, to

## The \$700 Billion Question - And Some Answers

News reports about the upheaval in the world of finance have been full of esoteric terms like mortgage-backed securities and credit default swaps, but the crisis has resonated for people who know little about Wall Street and who did not think they would ever have to know. Here are several questions and answers of concern:

The bailout program being negotiated by the Bush administration and congressional leaders calls for the government to spend up to

\$700 billion to buy distressed mortgages. How did the politicians come up with that number, and could it go higher?

The recovery package cannot go higher than \$700 billion without additional legislation. As for that figure, it lies between the optimistic estimate of \$500 billion and the pessimistic guess of \$1 trillion for the cost of fixing the financial mess. But the \$700 billion is in addition to an \$85 billion agreement on a bailout of the insurance giant American International Group, plus \$29 billion in support that the government pledged in the merger of Bear Stearns and JPMorgan Chase.

On top of all that, the Congressional Budget Office says the government bailout of the mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could cost \$25 billion.

Who, really, is going to come up with the \$700 billion?

U.S. taxpayers will come up with the money, although if you are bullish on America in the long run, there is reason to hope that the tab will be less. After the Treasury buys up those troubled mortgages, it will try to resell them to investors. The Treasury's involvement and the speed with which Congress is responding could generate long-range optimism and raise the value of those mortgages, although it is impossible to say by how much. So it would not be correct to think that

the government is simply writing a check for \$700 billion. It is just committing itself to spend that much, if necessary.

So is it fair to say that Americans who are neither rich nor reckless are being asked to rescue people who are? What is in this for responsible homeowners of modest means who might be forced out of their homes, perhaps for reasons beyond their control?

Yes, you could argue that people who cannot tell soybean futures from puts, calls and options are being asked to clean up the costly mess left by Wall Street. To make the bailout palatable to the public, it is being described as far better than inaction, which administration officials and members of Congress say could imperil the retirement savings and other investments of Americans who are anything but rich.

But it is a good bet that the negotiations between the administration and Capitol Hill will include ideas about ways to help middle-class homeowners avoid foreclosure and perhaps some limits on pay for executives.

How is it that the administration and Congress, which have not tried to find huge amounts of money to, say, improve the health insurance system or repair bridges and tunnels, can now be ready to come up with \$700 billion to rescue the financial system? And is it realistic to think that the parties can reach agreement and get legislation passed in a hurry?

The first question will surely come up again, involving as it does not just issues of spending policy but also more profound questions about national aspirations. As for rescuing the financial system, elected officials in both parties became convinced that the entire financial system could not be allowed to collapse.

And, yes, the parties are likely to reach an accord. Many members of Congress are eager to leave Washington to go home and campaign for the elections.

## Covenant to Host Free Depression Screening

LUBBOCK - Covenant Health System will offer free, anonymous mental health screenings on National Depression Screening Day, Friday, Oct. 10th, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., on the third floor of the Covenant Neuroscience Institute at 3610 22nd St. Patients will receive information about depression and an interview regarding test results after the screening is complete. No appointment is needed. The screening is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 806.725.6395.

## Hablan español 35 millones en EEUU

Alrededor de 35 millones de personas en todo el país, que representan al 12.3% de la población, hablan el idioma español según la más reciente información de la Oficina del Censo.

En Arizona, California, Nuevo México y Texas, los estados de mayor influencia de la lengua hispana, al menos uno de cada cinco residentes habla español.

El informe del censo señala también que la población nacida en el extranjero alcanzó el punto más alto de todos los tiempos con 38.1 millones en 2007, lo cual representa el 12.6% de la población de Estados Unidos.

De ese total, 12 millones son originarios de México, señala el censo.

El estado con el porcentaje más alto de las personas nacidas en el extranjero es California, donde el 27.4% de su población es inmigrante. Le siguen los estados de Nueva York con 21.8%, New Jersey con el 19.9%, Nevada con 19.4%, y Florida con el 18.9%.

Los datos son el resultado de la Encuesta sobre la Comunidad Estadounidense, un estudio anual que hace la Oficina del Censo sobre las características sociales, económicas y de vivienda de la población que tiene una muestra de tres millones de cuestionarios.

De las 20 mayores áreas metropolitanas del país, Miami (37%) y Los Ángeles (34.9%) cuentan con el mayor porcentaje de personas nacidas en el extranjero, mientras que San Luis, en Missouri, tiene el más bajo con sólo 4%.

"El número significativo de hispanoparlantes en Estados Unidos demuestra que la diversidad cultural y lingüística ya es un hecho. El reto está en cómo la sociedad estadounidense adopta estos cambios sociodemográficos sin caer en el proteccionismo y nativismo", comentó Jorge Mario Cabrera, portavoz de la Coalición de Los Ángeles para los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (CHIRLA).

Las cifras del censo también muestran una reducción considerable en el número de inmigrantes que llegan al país. Durante 2007 hubo casi 500 mil nuevos inmigrantes mientras que en 2006 la cifra fue de 1.8 millones, según datos que revela la agencia de noticias AP. Esa baja, estiman, se debe a la crisis económica por la que atraviesa Estados Unidos.

Are you interested in learning the Catholic Faith? Do you wonder about the constant changes in the Catholic Church? The Catholic Hour Radio Program each Friday from 3:00-4:30 pm KRFE - 580 AM, Lubbock

Is there a difference between the New Mass and the Latin Mass? Do you wonder why there is a loss of respect and the reverence in your Catholic Church? Come see and hear the difference at "Come see and hear the difference at" Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church 1114 30th St., Lubbock Sunday Latin Mass at 9:00 am - 744-6363

## Sabor Hispano Committee congratulates the winners of Sabor Hispano 2008 El Ritmo y Pasión de la Vida

The TTU/TTUHSC Latino(a)/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association's Sabor Hispano Committee congratulates the winners of Sabor Hispano 2008 El Ritmo y Pasión de la Vida. They are as follows:

- Art: Photography  
1. ¡Oh, Vas a Llegar Muy Lejos!, Destiny Lopez Strong  
2. Woman? Toledo, Spain, Stephen Kennedy  
3. Flamenco Dancers, Stephen Kennedy  
Honorable Mention Series: Guitarra Clásica, Stephen A. Hermann  
Art: Painting/Mixed Media  
1. Her Passion Still Lives On, Kelly J. Reyna

2. Untitled, Cristobal Almanza  
3. Boots, Cristobal Almanza  
Honorable Mention Colores En Mi Mente, Destiny Strong  
Poetry: Nonprofessional  
1. República Dominicana, Laura Penélope Marte Araujo-Bilbao  
2. La Semana Sin Ti, Tatiana Artamanova  
3. Mi Único Deseo, Alfonso Abad  
Poetry: Professional  
1. Estaciones de la Palabra, Minerva Aguilar  
2. At the Window of Abuelas Kitchen, Ruben Quesada  
3. At 59, my mother has decided to move out, Ruben Quesada  
Honorable Mention Doña Ana No Está Aquí, Esteban Valle

Best of Show: Art  
¡Oh, Vas a Llegar Muy Lejos!, Destiny Lopez Strong  
Best of Show: Poetry  
Ultimo Capitulo, Minerva Aguilar

Tuesday, September 16th attendees at Sabor Hispano 2008 spent their evening enjoying wonderful art, poetry, food, music and weather. Thanks to thank the artists, poets, Pasión, Montelongo's, the attendees, our committee and Larry Simmons and the rest of Tornado Gallery staff for an incredible event. The art and poetry will remain on exhibit through September 26th at the Tornado Gallery. Again, congratulations to all our winners!

El promedio anual de nuevos inmigrantes desde 1990 era de un millón, incluyendo indocumentados.

Rick Oltman, vocero de Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS), consideró que la cifra de 12 millones de mexicanos en el país está subestimada.

Calculó que si la Patrulla Fronteriza ha hecho casi un millón de arrestos en la frontera cada año durante la última década y se cree que sólo atrapan a uno de cada cuatro que cruza la frontera de manera indocumentada, el número de mexicanos, sin importar su estatus migratorio, es mucho más alto.

Recientemente el Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS) estimó en casi siete millones el número de "inmigrantes no autorizados" procedentes de México que hay en el país.

"Estoy seguro que los estimados están muy por debajo de la realidad", dijo el representante de CAPS, un grupo que pide mayor control de la inmigración ante

el aumento de la población en Estados Unidos.

La Oficina del Censo aclaró

ciudadanos hijos de inmigrantes deberán aprender a hablar el inglés con fluidez, ya que ese

es el lenguaje de la economía y para que tengan la oportunidad de participar con igualdad de los beneficios de este país.

Más de la mitad de los residentes mayores de 5 años de edad en el área metropolitana de Los Ángeles (53.6%) hablaba un idioma en el hogar que no era el inglés. Miami ocupa el segundo lugar con 49.1%.

"La globalización que conlleva a la migración es un factor que está afectando a grandes y pequeñas naciones, por lo tanto, la integración de nuevos inmigrantes trae consigo nuevos retos y nuevas oportunidades que determinan en gran parte cuáles son los valores de una sociedad y su gobierno. Las leyes migratorias en Estados Unidos todavía no se ajustan al siglo XXI y están muy lejos de ser justas, humanas, y prácticas", agregó el vocero de CHIRLA.

que las estadísticas están sujetas a errores del muestreo, pero que los resultados se han sometido a pruebas y se ha concluido que son estadísticamente significativas en un 90% del nivel de confianza.

Otro de los datos que refleja el censo es el aumento en el porcentaje de personas que hablan otro idioma que no es el inglés. Actualmente el 19.7% de la población habla otra lengua, mientras que en el año 2000 el porcentaje era de 17.9% y en 1990 del 13.8%.

Oltman dijo que los niños

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# Don't doubt them Cowboys: Dallas gets better with age

Last year the Dallas Cowboys ended the season with a 13-3 record and were the favorites to go to the Super Bowl. They defeated the New York Giants twice in the regular season and had home-field advantage for the playoffs. Another win over the Giants and then a rematch at home against a Green Bay Packers team they had already beaten earlier in the season was all that prevented them from going to the Super Bowl.

We all know what happened. Dallas lost to the Giants and was eliminated from the playoffs.

Rookie Felix Jones is a change-of-pace back who effectively spells Pro Bowl starter Marion Barber. (US Presswire)

Rookie Felix Jones is a change-of-pace back who effectively spells Pro Bowl starter Marion Barber. (US Presswire)

This season's Cowboys are better equipped to handle the playoffs. It starts with the coaching staff having a better understanding of the players. This allows them to use their personnel to the

best of their ability.

Much has been said about Tony Romo's mistakes in the past two playoffs. We have to remember he is only in his third year as a starting quarterback in the NFL. His style is that of a gunslinger at times, but in talking to him during the past two years at training camp, I see a young quarterback who is gaining experience.

Romo talks about being more patient in the pocket, not sliding up into the protection in front of him or forcing the ball into coverage, and working to get the ball to the secondary receivers.

Also, Jason Garrett is in his second year as an offensive coordinator. That is huge for the Cowboys. Garrett did a good job last year and will only get better.

The Cowboys are significantly better at running back. Marion Barber seems improved over last year and Felix Jones is an upgrade over Julius Jones. When Julius Jones came out of college, he was taken in the second round and most people did not have him

rated that high.

Felix Jones, however, was rated by most people to be a first-round or early second-round pick, mainly because of his speed. The Cowboys have to be careful not to overuse Jones. He will best be used the way they are using him now, as a kick returner and a change-of-pace back. They do need to use him to take the load off Barber, whom you have to keep fresh for late in the season.

With the combination of Garrett, Romo and an improved running back situation, the Cowboys offense should be better late in the season and in the playoffs.

The defensive line is improved because the players are a year older and more experienced.

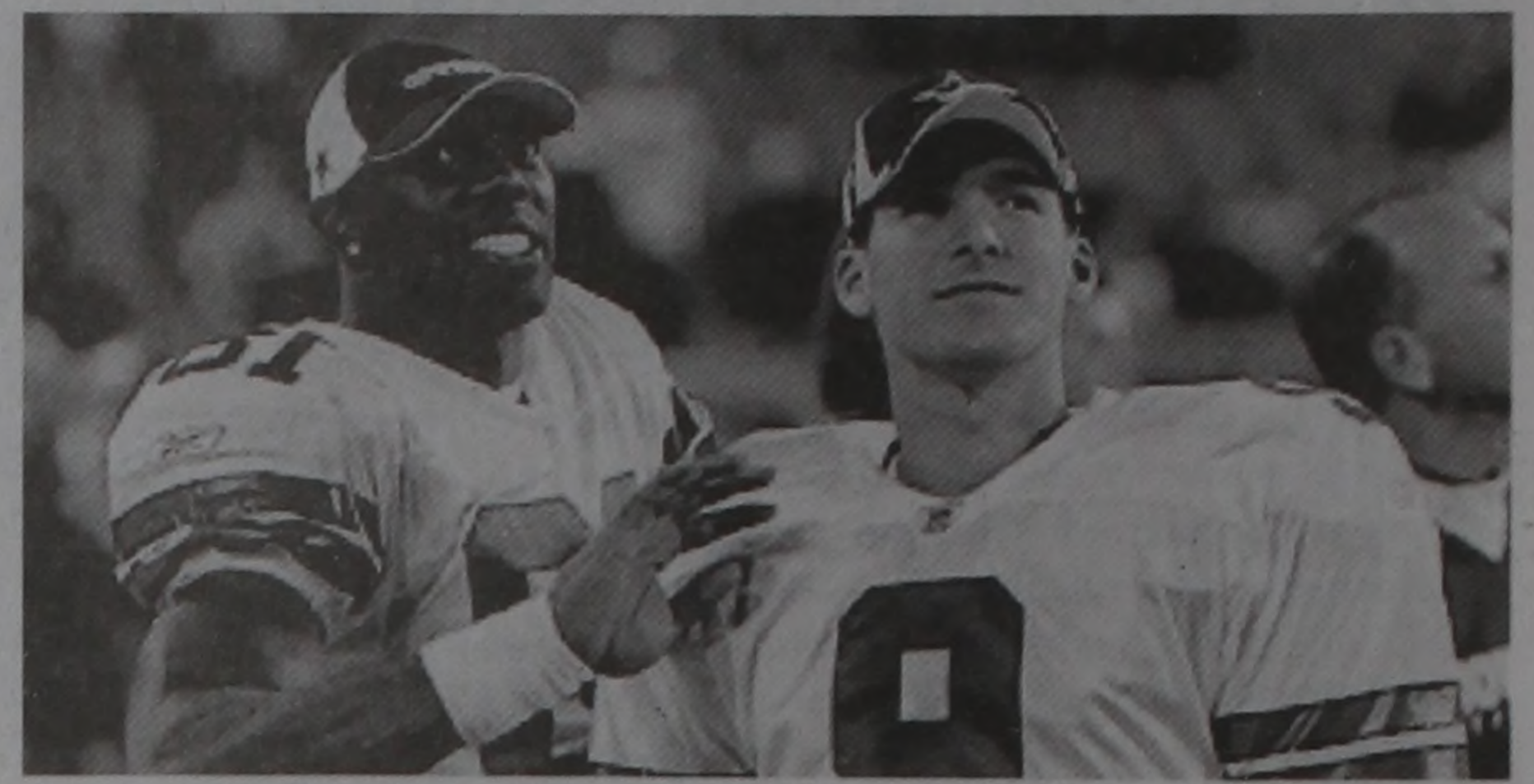
This is a young group which will continue to improve even as the season progresses. Their best defensive linemen right now is nose tackle Jay Ratliff. He is quick and explosive with a high motor. This group does not have a dominating player, but its depth is its strength.

At linebacker, two aspects

stick out. The first is DeMarcus Ware. He is the type of player who can take over a game when it counts, as well as someone you build your game plan around. His play at outside linebacker also makes everyone around him better because of the attention opposing offenses give him. The Cowboys do a good job of moving him around to make it harder for the offense to block him.

The other linebacker who has impressed me is Zach Thomas. He still has the ability to make plays in the running game, plus I think his work ethic is a great example for other players. I think he will be an asset in the playoffs, meeting rooms and locker room.

The other area the Cowboys have improved is cornerback. Adam Jones should continue to get better as the season goes forward. He is a little rusty. He



was never technically sound, so to learn a new system after being out for a year is going to hurt him early in the season. He should be much better late in the season than he is now. Also the two rookie corners, Mike Jenkins and Orlando Scandrick have been good additions to a secondary that was lacking at cornerback last year.

Defensive coordinator Brian Stewart, who is a bright young coach, has a staff that he is more familiar with than last year and he

also knows his players better in his second year as defensive coordinator. I expect the Cowboys to better on defense this year.

Sometimes, a team has to experience a tough loss in the playoffs to understand what it takes to win in the playoffs. I think this where the Cowboys are this year. The only issue that bothers me is the number of penalties the Cowboys accumulate. They must overcome this problem to win in the playoffs.

## Chavez Jr., Vanda set for boxing rematch in Vegas

A disputed decision win for Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. that led to fans tossing debris in his Mexico homeland has prompted a rematch with Matt Vanda on Nov. 1 in Las Vegas.

Chavez (37-0-1, 29 KOs) seeks to redeem himself against Vanda (38-7, 21 KOs) at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in a fight announced on Monday.

Also on the card will be a world title bout between IBF flyweight king Nonito Donaire and South Africa's Moruti Nthalane.

In July, Chavez tired badly in a 10-round fight with Vanda in Hermosillo, Mexico. Chavez was favored by four points on one judge's card, while

another favored Vanda by one point and a third judge gave all 10 rounds to Chavez.

Fans tossed debris at Chavez, the judges and anyone nearby. Even Chavez disagreed with the third judge.

"I felt I won the fight, but it was close," said Chavez, the son of former world champion Julio Cesar Chavez.

"I don't think I won the fight, but I don't think I lost," Vanda said. "At worst it was a draw."



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# JOIN OUR NEW AMIGOS TEAM

*At The Job Fair*  
*Únete a nuestro nuevo equipo de Amigos en la feria de trabajo*

Join us at the Amigos Job Fair September 26-27. Amigos is hiring 60 new Team Members to fill positions available at the new Amigos store coming soon to 112 N. University, including market, food service, bakery, checker and sacker positions. Offers will be made during the job fair with employment to start immediately, so don't miss it!

Acompáñanos en la Feria de Trabajo de Amigos el 26 y 27 de septiembre. Amigos está contratando a 60 nuevos Integrantes de Equipo para llenar posiciones disponibles en la nueva tienda Amigos que se abrirá pronto en 112 N. University, incluyendo puestos en el mercado, servicio de alimentos, panadería, de cajeros y empacadores.

Las ofertas se harán durante la feria de trabajo para empezar a trabajar inmediatamente, ¡asi que no faltes!

**WHEN:** Friday & Saturday, September 26-27  
**TIME:** Friday, 5-9 p.m. & Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Cavazos Middle School

(on University across from the store • en University, frente a la tienda)

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# Triste Gael García con ola de violencia en México

A Gael García Bernal le invade la tristeza. El actor mexicano dijo que le duele la distancia que lo separa de su país y siente que la violencia que azota a México, donde en las últimas semanas se han registrado matanzas, decapitaciones y ataques con granadas que han dejado dece-



nas de muertos, atenta contra sus recuerdos, que al final es lo único que mantiene de los lugares de su infancia. Con una prosa complicada, García Bernal hace un recuento de cómo ha cambiado su vida y cómo la nostalgia se apodera de él ahora que está viviendo una temporada en España y que dice sentirse "más lejos que nunca". "Veó dónde estoy: lejos de donde nací, tratando de no esperar la cuenta de los muertos de cada día", se lamenta el actor en una columna publicada el martes por el diario El Universal. "¿Por qué al ver tanta violencia

siento como si la agresión se hubiera perpetrado en contra de mis recuerdos o de mi identidad, de mí?", expresó. El ataque más reciente fue en Morelia, una ciudad a 215 kilómetros (134 millas) al oeste de la capital, donde en medio de las festividades por el Día de Independencia se lanzaron dos granadas que dejaron ocho fallecidos y más de 100 heridos.

Días antes, 12 hombres fueron decapitados en el sureste del país, mientras que 24 fueron asesinados en las afueras de la ciudad de México. "Cada muerte parece robarle libertad a mi memoria, atentando contra el horizonte, que es hacia donde apunta desde que existe", declaró García Bernal.

El protagonista de cintas como "Amores perros", "El crimen del Padre Amaro" y "Diarios de motocicleta" también dijo sentirse impotente.

"Me gustaría encontrar algo -la solución, una frase, una imagen, un sonido- para encontrar la manera de cambiar las cosas. Si la hallo, no sé si la podré explicar".

"Pero una cosa sí puedo explicar: la libertad es la búsqueda personal del bien común. Por lo menos esa búsqueda me hace sentir libre. Y no quiero renunciar a ese camino".

García Bernal, quien promociona la cinta "Blindness", se estrenará como padre en los próximos meses junto a la actriz argentina Dolores Fonzi.

Ana Gabriel confirmó una vez más la noche del sábado que con su talentosa voz no sólo llena al



máximo el Anfiteatro Gibson de Universal City, sino que también enardece a sus fans con el sentimiento profundo y la pasión con que interpreta las baladas, rancheras, boleros y música de banda que hablan de amor y desamor, tristeza y alegría.

Su peculiar habilidad para cautivar el corazón de sus fanáticos fue evidente desde el primer momento en que la cantante apareció en el escenario — con los brazos abiertos y ante una luz blanca tenue que dio dramatismo a la blusa de velo negro decorada con pedrería que destallaba con el golpe de la luz — media hora más tarde de lo previsto. Esa tardanza fue compensada con casi tres horas de música ininterrumpida.

Con un público ya eufórico con tan sólo su presencia, la diva sinaloense inició la velada con el tema Y aquí estoy.

Después siguió Mar y arena y Ay amor, con las que motivó el canto a todo pulmón por parte de

la audiencia. "Buenas noches Los Ángeles... Hace años que los visito.

Para mí es un gran compromiso estar aquí y déjenme decirle que esta ciudad es uno de los lugares donde me pongo sobre el escenario más nerviosa porque es mucho lo que ustedes me dan y poco lo que yo les traigo en canciones nuevas. Pero, este año les traigo un corazón nuevo, renovado y muchas canciones de antaño que expresan mis sentimientos", dijo la cantante al público, generando una explosión de gritos.

Movidos por la euforia, varias decenas de fanáticos emprendieron un desfile hacia el escenario para entregar a su cantante ramos de rosas rojas y rosadas, osos de peluche y pulseras de diversos estilos que ella fue colocando en sus muñecas, creando unas multicoloridas muñequeras que llegaban casi a mitad de cada antebrazo.

Las fotografías y las libretas que solicitaban autógrafos no se hicieron esperar, como tampoco los padres que acercaban a sus hijos hasta el escenario para alcanzar un apretón de manos o un beso de Ana Gabriel.

"Déjenme contarles que el

pasado lunes cumplí 34 años cantando. La fecha me alegró porque marcó un aniversario más en mi carrera, pero me entristeció porque fue un lunes fatídico para México... para los mexicanos de Morelia que perdieron la vida mientras disfrutaban con sus familias la fiesta de Independencia... y yo, como comunicadora de sentimientos que soy, me veo en la obligación de levantar mi voz para pedirle a las autoridades que pongan un paro a esto", susurró la diva, y agregó: "Por eso, quiero hacer con las siguientes canciones un homenaje para esos mexicanos caídos y esas familias fracturadas por esta guerra que fue declarada hace años en nuestro México de paz, que me ha roto el alma".

Y antes de que hubiera concluido la oración con el sonido de unas trompetas entonó la popular canción México lindo, que causó arrebatos a la fanática y dio manivela a un amplio repertorio de música ranchera, boleros y música pop que Ana Gabriel interpretó con su orquesta y el Mariachi Juvenil Herencia Mexicana.

Cuando sonaron los acordes de Cuánto te extraño (que la cantante compuso a una hermana que hace poco falleció), y de la canción Luna (de la autoría de Juan Gabriel), el ambiente

del anfiteatro se impregnó de melancolía, que fue cortada con Hice bien en quererte y Pecado original, dos popurrís que impulsaron a los presentes a ponerse de pie para bailar y ondear sus brazos con entusiasmo mientras que la ganadora de 10 premios Lo Nuestro — y un sinfín de discos de oro, platino y bronce — se despedía de su audiencia.

Pero ante los gritos de "otra, otra, otra" que emitieron sus seguidores, la cantante retornó al escenario y después de honrarlos con una calurosa reverencia pidió a la orquesta la interpretación de Mi gusto es, un son de música de banda puramente sinaloense que provocó un éxtasis de efervescencia en sus admiradores.

El concierto, que formó parte de la gira Renacer que Ana Gabriel efectúa por varias ciudades de Estados Unidos y México para festejar sus 34 años de carrera artística, finalizó con el tema Mariachi sin tambor y la sorpresiva explosión de un montón de serpentina que marcó la despedida inolvidable que hizo la autora de La reina: tomó una bandera tricolor que uno de sus fans le había regalado, envolvió su cuerpo en ella y caminó por todo el escenario con el orgullo y la seguridad de las grandes estrellas internacionales de México.

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# Julio Iglesias cumple 65 años

El cantante español Julio Iglesias cumple hoy 65 años repleto de vitalidad y con la pasión de seguir cantando para mantenerse en los escenarios con la misma energía y vigor de siempre, según dijo a Efe.

Iglesias, quien nació en Madrid el 23 de septiembre de 1943, pasará hoy su 65 cumpleaños en su casa de Miami con su esposa Miranda y los cinco hijos de ambos, su hija Chábeli y su nieto Alejandro, contó el artista a Efe en una conversación telefónica en la tarde del lunes.

"La verdad es que cuando se pasa de los 50 ya poco importa los años que uno cumple. Lo importante es mantener la misma pasión por lo que uno siente y hace de corazón", explicó Iglesias.

Su 65 cumpleaños lo celebrará, pues, en la intimidad y con una tarta que él mismo ha decorado con un número 65 muy grande, pero que

según por donde se mire -indicó- se puede ver también como 56.

Julio Iglesias comentó que se siente dichoso y feliz por las oportunidades que le da la vida de volver a los sitios en los que ya estuvo encima de un escenario.

Cuarenta años que comenzaron el 17 de julio de 1968 cuando ganó el Festival de Música de Benidorm con su célebre canción "La vida sigue igual".

Desde entonces, Julio Iglesias ha vendido más de 250 millones de discos y logrado más de 2.600 discos de platino y oro, algo que ningún otro cantante ha logrado en la historia de la música.

A pesar del éxito, Julio Iglesias reconoció a Efe que todavía tiene mucho que aprender.

"Sobre todo, -añadió- trato de ser muy disciplinado para poder tener la fuerza física que me permite estar

encima de un escenario transmitiendo siempre esa pasión y esa vitalidad al público".

Al artista español no se le pasa por la cabeza hacer otra cosa que seguir en los escenarios con "la fortaleza física que permite hacer un trabajo de calidad".

Por ello, a sus 65 años confiesa que se siente con el estímulo de seguir actuando y cantando con el mismo brío, sobre todo, cuando otro de los grandes artistas de la historia de la música, Charles Aznavour, mantiene a sus 84 años una vitalidad envidiable.

"Con Aznavour he grabado un dueto y resulta admirable", recuerda Iglesias que considera que si el cantante de origen armenio muestra ese ímpetu a los 84 cómo él no va a mantener el mismo entusiasmo cuando solo tiene 65 años.

El legendario Aznavour recibirá el próximo 19 de enero en Cannes

(Francia) el premio del éxito a toda una carrera artística de la asociación Midem, que representa al mercado internacional de la música.

A finales de este año Aznavour sacará al mercado un esperado disco titulado "Duos", una selección de duetos con los mayores artistas internacionales de la música entre los que se encuentran figuras como Elton John, Liza Minnelli, Sting, Paul Anka, Plácido Domingo y el propio Julio Iglesias.

"Cantar con Aznavour ha sido una experiencia increíble y constituye un estímulo para seguir encima de los escenarios, a pesar de que exige un esfuerzo y una enorme voluntad", afirmó el cantante español.

"Canto para vivir y vivo para cantar", aseguró Iglesias reiterando lo feliz y dichoso que es por conservar la enorme fidelidad y cariño del público que no se cansa de acudir a sus conciertos.

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