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El Editor

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Lubbock, Texas

In Precinct 3 County Commissioner Race Which Issues Will determine Voter's Choice?

By Abel Cruz

As Precinct 3 County residents, at least those who are voting in the Democratic Primary participate in early voting for Precinct 3 County Commissioner to decide who will represent them in the November General Election against Republican Frank Gutierrez, what are the issues or candidates' actions which have been brought up during the campaign which will impact their decision?

Will it be about the candidate who has made the most impact on county residents in their campaign as they have gone from door to door trying to convince voters that they are the right person? Or will it be about which candidate has done all the necessary qualifications; or which one has waged the most positive campaign?

Of course there may be other factors as well which will come into play before voters cast their final vote; some factors which have been discussed privately and some which may not be suitable for publication here.

To say that the race has been fairly contentious bordering on nasty and negative would be an understatement; although a lot of the issues have been brought up, has been brought up by the supporters of each candidate.

But will voters have made their final decision before they arrive at the voting location to turn the wheel to land on either Ysidro Gutierrez or Gilbert Flores? Or will they wait and turn the wheel at the last minute? The answer to this question will be read during the last few days of what has been a less than positive campaign.

For the two Democratic candidates, the campaigning began long before the filing period. Many Precinct 3 residents speculate that the decision by Flores to run again for the position he held in 2004 was immediately after he lost in the run off election between the two political rivals. A runoff won by Gutierrez which resulted in a 4 year wait for Flores to try and recapture the position he held for 12 years.

But what is different this time around is that this time as an incumbent, Gutierrez has a 4 year record which he is running

on; and which his opponents has attacked and been critical of Flores latest campaign material. It is out that he will "end the gridlock"; while it can be seen as a reference to the very public political clashes between Gutierrez and Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon. He is also critical of Gutierrez's participation on the local Tejano Times talk radio show which includes some of his co-hosts and which Flores says "divides the community with his (Gutierrez's) pardons on the radio criticizing Presidential candidates, Democratic leaders and city officials".

In short, Gutierrez actions and involvement in causes and issues outside of his sphere of responsibility as a County Commissioner have come under fire from his opponent.

On the other hand, Gutierrez has consistently questioned the veracity of his opponent and has taken him to task for the re-election signs he used at the beginning of the campaign. He has also pointed out many of his statements concerning other county issues and his lack of educational accomplishments.

In a statement to El Editor for a story in last week's edition, Gutierrez accuses Flores of engaging in "double talk" when he said that his campaign was strong that "Since the start, his whole campaign has been full of misrepresentations and distortions of the facts"; a reference to the public statements made by Flores which Gutierrez has disputed.

One of the issues surrounded the controversial Flores made concerning the county's General Assistance Fund.

During the Democratic Campaign Kick Off on January 13, Flores made it clear that he would base at least part of his campaign on the fund and more specifically his assertion that the fund had been neglected since Flores took office and that \$25,000 dollars had been "turned back to the county's general fund" since Gutierrez first year in office; 2005.

Flores provided what he said were budget figures from the county office to back up his assertion and told El Editor that it

was a case of "The more you get, the less you use" and in that same email indicated that the program was in danger if funds were not being used and that he felt that county commissioners might use that as a

Editor asked the person in charge of administering the fund, Director Diane Salazar who heads the office, to provide us with some county numbers. Salazar and her staff are responsible for administering



judication to privatize or discontinue the program.

Gutierrez immediately responded by sending out a statement of his own in which he accused Flores of making the "outlandish statements about my record" and "distortion of the facts" and attempted to show that the GAF "was alive and well"; that Flores was wrong in his assertion and that there was in fact "more money budgeted in his 3 years on the court than in Flores' final 3 years in office".

So which candidate's numbers are correct?

In order to determine the basis for each candidate's claims concerning the funds El

fund and for qualifying potential indigent families to make sure they qualify for county services. The fund which is funded by county taxes meets the needs of indigent families on a temporary basis.

According to Salazar the fund has been in existence since 1982 and the information she had. Since then at least, and probably from years before, county residents who meet specific requirements have been the recipients of some of the money in the fund for the following categories; shelter, utility fees, emergencies, and funerals. Sadly, it is not up to the budgeted money.

(continued page 6)

The Mexican American Experience

News Briefs

US Family and Medical Leave Act in Bush's Radar

If you are one of those folks who have been fortunate enough to have the family and medical leave act as a job benefit and used it; consider yourself lucky that you did before the law changes.

If the Bush administration has their way, changes to the act may have the potential of watering down the act and hurting individuals who find themselves in a medical bind.

In a 127 page document issued to House 11 according to national media sources, the administration is trying to change the law to favor employers rather than employees. For years, employers have complained that the law which allows employees to take as much as 12 weeks of unpaid leave, without fear of losing their job, is too employee friendly and they have been trying to convince the Bush administration that the law should be narrowed. Democrats in Congress though have pushed for the act expansion.

One of the major changes being pushed by the administration would allow employers to contact health care providers to verify the medical conditions and another would require more frequent updates of changes in the law.

Assistant Labor Secretary Victoria Lippus who oversees administrators the law says that "it's not our intent to make it harder for people to take leave" and that "the proposals are designed to clear up ambiguities in the current rule, which applies to companies with at least 50 workers, according to the report. But by all indications the changes are designed to do precisely what Lipps says they are designed not to do. It would seem that changes to the law might have the effect of discouraging employees from taking advantage of the law since they may feel their right to privacy according to patient rights laws may be in danger of being violated.

It was not clear if the changes would be approved, but for those workers who depend on the law to take care of an elderly parent or chronically ill child and not worry that they will lose their job, the best we can hope for is that a Democrat captures the White House and that Democrats retain control of the House and Senate after November.

UMC Issues Code Purple

This past week, University Medical Center issued a code purple. What's a code purple you ask; it's a designation which means that the hospital had reached full patient capacity and was out of hospital beds.

Greg Bruce, vice president at UMC told the Daily Toreador that "We have a number of patients that are waiting in our emergency room for beds in the hospital, and what we're doing is taking pause for the safety of all of our patients, reallocating our staffing resources, working with our medical staff, seeing if we can discharge patients from the hospital to free up additional beds to take care of this influx of patients".

According to the news media report, Bruce attributed the problem to having "a lot of people with the flu" who have a lot of people sick with pneumonia, so we're just seeing a lot more patients than we typically have".

Bruce also told the newspaper that UMC was coordinating with other hospitals to "see that patient's medical needs are met".

But by late Wednesday night, the Daily Toreador was reporting that the situation at the hospital had returned to normal.

Email: editor@sbglobal.net

Don't Forget to Vote Twice

When former President Bill Clinton was in Lubbock recently to campaign on behalf of wife Hillary Clinton, he told the crowd gathered at Lubbock High School that Texas was the only state where you could vote twice and get away with it. And it's perfectly legal to do so.

And voters participating in precinct conventions or caucuses which will take place when polls close on Election Day will be able to do precisely that.

The primary rules actually allow voters to cast their vote for the candidate of their choice who results in 65% of delegates being apportioned and then voters get to vote for delegates who support the voter's candidate.

According to a NewChisel 11 report, there will be "91 precinct convention across Lubbock County".

There are 228 delegates at state. Out of those 228, 65% or roughly 148 will be apportioned to each candidate based on the popular vote. The rest, or 35% of the delegates, will be based on votes for delegates at the precinct convention.

Precinct conventions will be held at the precinct location where a voter has cast their vote. The easiest way for a voter to know, especially who voted early at a different location, is to look at his or her voter registration card. The precinct information can be found at the front of the card and conventions will begin at 7:00 PM, right after the polls close.

Email: editor@sbglobal.net

Colleagues Library (SWCSCL) staff members will be at St. Joseph's Church at 102 Ave. P on Sunday March 9th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., disseminating information concerning their efforts to document the Mexican American experience in Lubbock and surrounding communities. This event is in collaboration with Alice Lozada and her efforts to assure pictures are available for possible inclusion in the Lubbock Centennial book. Father Peña will encourage people to bring items for scanning after each of the morning masses.

Logistically, only a few items can be scanned on-site; however, the SWCSCL staff will discuss the importance of collecting our cultural history through scrapbooks, photographs, movies, diaries, letters, other primary materials and oral histories. They will also bring the Mexican Americans in Sports: Crossing Boundaries as an exemplar of what can be created using such materials. These panels were the result of Daniel U. Sánchez's efforts to document the impact Mexican Americans have played in local athletics.

After this brief introduction the SWCSCL will generate contacts for follow-up and two scanners will be available for on-site scanning of selected material. This project is part of the SWCSCL's long-term goal of collecting material of historical importance; as such the emphasis will be on gathering the material and returning it ASAP.

This strategy will afford the SWCSCL the flexibility to look through everything that is loaned or donated and find items that are unique, historical, etc. and these items will be scanned first. Thus the material should be available by the Centennial book deadline.

However, given their charge to acquire, preserve and make available the history of Lubbock and the Southwest, the SWCSCL is focused on looking beyond the centennial.

SPIN AND WALTZ IN AUSTIN OVER MEXICO

By José de la Isla

AUSTIN, TEXAS — In the two-minute lead up to the Texas Democratic primary debate, Lou Dobbs was spewing his usual anti-prop comments on CNN against the so-called NAFTA tiny vote.

He claimed the candidates wouldn't touch the issue because it

meant a daughter of Mexican immigrants whose father was out of a job before leaving long ago, she said flatly, Mexico doesn't have a middle class. "They need to fix the economic policy. The Mexican economy is out of whack."

That part about the middle class seems to be a curious and popular belief. Yet Business Week reported in 2006, "The Mexican middle class swelled "to nearly 40 percent of all Mexican households, vs. 30 percent just a few years ago."

In October of last year, Mexico's former president Vicente Fox was in town touring his book and bragging about the ascent of the middle class — after a tragic decline in numbers during the '80s and '90s.

We don't seem to get it straight. Yes, Mexico's growth is too slow. It needs reforms. But the picture we paint is of an economy on the ropes.

This past Christmas, Mexican consumers brought up retail spending on the U.S. side of the border about five percent over last year, while the rest of the U.S. was flat line or worse. That ought to serve as a real-life reminder how Mexico, our third largest trading partner, doesn't just trade but gives.

There's no need to fake the truth about it. And the mutual issues between us are clear: We need your help.

It's also clear for instance, our illicit drug habits promote crime and corruption in Mexico. So it's important to control lawlessness by bringing our drug habits under control. That also why it was stunning that Obama sounded like Nancy Reagan mouthing "just say no" in a four-point agenda for talks with Mexico that included investing in anti-drug education on both sides of the border. Huh?

Something more like treatment, decriminalization and taking the economic profit out of drug dealing would make more sense.

Federico Peña, Bill Clinton's former transportation secretary and an Obama advisor, told me after the debate that what is needed is to replace Bush's Latin America policy in "a way for

(Continued on Page 6)

Gonzales Responds to Martinez Letter to
LULAC Members

Armando Gonzales, no stranger to taking a stand on controversial issues, this past weekend responded to a story which appeared in last week's El Editor with a letter of his own to local LULAC members.

In last week's story, we excerpted comments from a letter in which local civic activist and Latino Lubbock Publisher Christy Martinez Garcia alleged that former Avalanche Journal Editor Randy Sanders, who also co-hosts a local morning radio program had "publicly made an ignorant comment on his morning radio program implying that Hispanics must get their priorities straight, focus on people with filled honest bellies".

But according to Gonzales, Sanders was commenting that there were more important issues that Hispanics could focus on instead of the street renaming efforts which Martinez has been a proponent of.

In his letter, which was addressed to LULAC members also, Gonzales states that he will "endeavor to correct the error originated by the uncontrolled rage of Christy Martinez Garcia".

Go on to say that Randy Sanders "did not insult anyone and his comments bring attention to issues and problems that must also be addressed by Hispanics". He also refers to problems that must be addressed such as the high school drop out rates, poverty, and apathy when it comes to voting; among other issues.

Gonzales' letter also says that "The naming of a street should not be Hispanic's number one priority in Lubbock. Wake up Lubbock Hispanics: THE HOUSE IS BURNING!" Randy is trying to put out the fires of inequality, unemployment, and teacherless apathy. Randy is moral, ethical, and respectful person".

He also reminds LULAC members that the organization's president, Sanders, is the author of the AJ "For helping the advancement of the Hispanic community" and continues that the Hispanic Chamber honored Sanders with its Man and Business of the Year Award".

Gonzales concludes his letter by saying that "I cannot remain silent when the babble of Christy Martinez Garcia means the character of a good man" and that "Randy Sanders has an easier reason and does well to chastise someone who speaks of the devil without having ever lived in Hell".

"I am proud to say that Randy Sanders is my dad," said Gonzalez.

El Editor could not ascertain what it was exactly that Sanders said which prompted the letter from Martinez Garcia in the first place.

Email: editor@sbglobal.net

El Editor
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Guerra: Candidates need to give Hispanics a reason to vote

You won't find a more amazed "Hispanic" – or I term it made up after Reagan's Department of Commerce created the term "Hispanic" – than this guy.

In 1968, I was an unapologetic political activist, a self-proclaimed Chicano who bristled when the national media characterized Latino voters as a "sleeping giant."

The metaphor was based on demographic reality. "Latin Americans," as we were then called, were a large and rapidly expanding populace, growing faster than other groups.

And political operatives in both parties were eyeing the growing mass enviously.

They are religious, conservative and hardworking, said Republicans. They will certainly side with us over issues like abortion, family values and taxes on small businesses. They are working-class, liberal and hardworking, said Democrats. They will certainly side with us over work-site safety, health care and educational opportunities.

The Sleeping Giant, once awakened, will vote our way, said both.

Of course, I wasn't the only one infuriated that the Sleeping Giant metaphor played so well into the stereotype of the sleeping Mexican sombres, pulled down and, inexplicably, leaning back asleep, on a thorny cactus.

Latinos are not a lazy lot, we screamed, nor are we prone to sleep more than any other group and certainly, are not immune to the pain inflicted by leaning back on a cacti.

Latinos are not a lazy lot,

Unheard, we resorted to math, that seeming to be the logic of last resort.

If we don't turn out to vote in percentages comparable to other groups, we pointed out, there are good reasons for it, reasons that are now far better documented by many sources.

Then, as now, Latinos are a young population group with a far higher percentage younger than the voting age. At the time, Hispanics had also far higher percentages of their population who were not citizens and were, therefore, ineligible to vote.

Since 1968, the number of Hispanics has grown dramatically, and the percentage who are citizens and of voting age has increased almost as dramatically.

But I will never forget one of several conversations I had about the topic with William C. Velasquez, the late champion of voter rights. Willie and I were friends who did not always agree. But we were always two guys who, despite our sometimes heated differences, stayed so touchy so we could catch another couple of cold ones and renew our arguments.

He tended to side with Democrats, and I tended to side with non-Democrats.

Among the discussions with Willie that I most vividly remember is one in which I apparently won by arguing that, as Willie said, "Democrats were always for the poor," and I retorted that yes, they were, and, by voting so faithfully for Democrats, Chicanos remained in poverty.

But repeatedly, we returned to questions about the anemic political participation of Latinos.

"Not voting," Willie reasoned that day with a smile, "is also a valid political statement, in and of itself. Our people aren't politically dumb, but they need to have their own reason to vote."

So Republicans and Democrats, take heed.

Give Texas Latinos a reason to vote, first, and second, to vote for you.

Talk to us about health care for children, the aged and for veterans. Talk to us about federal officers demanding access to our property to build fences and to threaten our livelihoods. Tell us why veterans have to drive 250 miles to VA hospitals and tell us why we don't have affordable prescriptions. And most of all, talk to us about getting our kids through high school and paying for college.

Give us the reason to vote. Then, give a reason to vote for you.

Hispanic group calls for boycott of Houston Rodeo

A group of Hispanic leaders said just one type of music. This year's Go Tejano Day on March 16 will feature Duelo, a norteno band from Roma, and Los Horoscopos de Durango, a duranguense act from Chicago.

He said that a Tejano act won't take center stage because the genre's popularity has been waning. Tejano bands are scheduled to play on smaller stages.

Show organizers say this isn't the first time Go Tejano Day lacked a traditional Tejano artist on the main stages.

"If, in fact, they're asking people to stay away because they're trying to keep this genre of music on a big stage, then they're asking people to go against the very essence of what this day is," Shaffer said.

"They're asking them not to come out and celebrate being Hispanic," he said.

Cubillos also says that not enough of the show's scholarships go to Hispanic students and that the show doesn't have enough Hispanics at the executive level.

Show organizers said that nearly a third of the 927 students who attended Texas universities on show scholarships last year are Hispanic.

The executive committee, the show's highest level of volunteer leadership, includes 11 active members and six lifetime members, but no Hispanics. Those members are elected based on years of service and leadership, as well as economic contributions to the show.

"We have several people on track to get on that committee but they will not be short-changed," Shaffer said.

Several members of the show's Go Tejano Committee also said they didn't agree with the boycott, the Houston Chronicle reports.

"They're completely out of line," said George Hernandez, a committee volunteer. "We're not chartered by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to hear Tejano music. If they want their music heard, they should join a music association."

Clearer Focus

tered to vote. Only 26% favor a temporary guest worker program, and 6% favor declaring illegal immigrants felons and deporting them.

Latino Decisions' poll in Texas is one in a series of statewide polls that provide independent analysis on Latino opinions regarding policy issues. The polls focus on states in which the Latino vote plays a significant role in the 2007 and 2008 elections, and are intended to provide information for organizations and candidates to reach out to voters.

Latino Decisions will continue its research through the 2008 general elections. Reports from the Texas, Nevada, and California surveys are available now.

Latino Decisions is a joint effort of Pacific Market Research, Dr. Gary Segura, and Dr. Matt Barroco, both of whom are Senior Researchers at Latino Decisions and Professors at the University of Washington. Texas & M University researchers collaborated on the Latino Decisions Texas poll.

Statewide Poll of Latino Voters in Texas Brings

abily by 48% of all respondents, but unfavorably by 31%.

In hypothetical head-to-head match-ups against Senator McCain, both Clinton and Obama do extremely well, though Senator Clinton's advantage persists. Among all Latino voters without regard to partisanship, Clinton outpolls McCain 61% to 20% (19% undecided).

Obama outpolls McCain 46% to 25% (29% undecided).

* Clinton holds a commanding lead over Obama among Latino registered voters in Texas. Clinton was the choice of 62% of self-identified Democrats and Democratic-leaders, Obama had 22% while another 15% remain undecided.

* Both candidates, however, are viewed favorably by the entire electorate, with 76% of all respondents viewing Clinton somewhat or very favorably, while 66% view Obama somewhat or very favorably.

* Likely GOP nominee Senator John McCain is viewed favor-

able by 48% of all respondents, but unfavorably by 31%.

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Obama outpolls McCain 46% to 25% (29% undecided).

* President Bush is viewed

unfavorably by 55% of the respondents, and favorably by only 34%. Republicans in Congress have less support at 28%.

39% of the respondents favor a significant policy shift. Just 9% favor the current policy, while another 7% favor escalation.

* On Immigration, 31% favor amnesty for those currently in the country, while another 32%

favor some form of earned legalization and a path to citizenship. This total of 63% support for either amnesty or earned legalization is notable since the sample is

entirely among US citizens regis-

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JLo "Very Happy" With Her Babies

A source close to the singer talked about López's first days of motherhood.

Jennifer López is ecstatic to be a mother. According to sources close to the singer, she and her husband Marc Anthony feel blessed to have the twins in their lives.

López's friend, Maid in Manhattan producer Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, told People.com that the new mom "sounds very peaceful and happy and happy and blissful." She said "I can't take my eyes off of them."

"She and Marc are so ready for

a family," Goldsmith-Thomas continued. "They love each other so much and built this beautiful life together. It feels like the only thing missing were these children and now they have them."

López, 38, and Anthony, 39, welcomed twins last Friday at a hospital in Long Island, N.Y. Their daughter was born first, and the boy came along minutes later. "Marc and Jennifer are twice blessed and they couldn't be happier," the producer gushed.

"She and Marc are so ready for

Murió el actor Alan Ledesma

The Best Supporting Actor winner gave his speech in English and Spanish.

Javier Bardem Dedicates Oscar to His Mom

The Best Supporting Actor winner gave his speech in English and Spanish.

Just as expected, the Best Supporting Actor Oscar went to Javier Bardem Sunday night during the 80th annual Academy Awards ceremony at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre.

The Spanish actor won the statue for his role as the villain in *Joel and Ethan Coen's No Country for Old Men*, and he dedicated the award to his mother Pilar Bardem.

"Whoa," Bardem, 38, said as he held on tight to his trophy. "This is pretty amazing. I have to speak fast here, man."

The Oscar winner then switched to Spanish, dedicating the statue to his mother. "Mom, this is for you, for your grandparents, for Spain's comedians, for Spain and for all of us. Thank you very much," he exclaimed amidst a burst of applause.

El mexicano perdió su lucha contra el cáncer a los 29 años de edad; participaba en Las tantas no van al cielo

A los 29 años de edad, el actor mexicano Alan Ledesma falleció producto de un cáncer de estómago el pasado lunes en Ciudad de México.

El joven había comenzado un tratamiento de quimioterapia el pasado 13 de febrero, por lo que debió abandonar su participación en la telenovela Las tantas no van al cielo, de la productora Rosy Ocampo.

"Me detectaron un tumor muy grande y me cortaron seis pulgadas de intestino, después se me había ido al hígado, me quitaron una parte. Luego, vinieron quimioterapias y la reconexión del intestino", explicó semanas atrás el fallecido actor al programa La oreja (Televisa).

Entre otros proyectos, el artista participó en los programas mexicanos Otro rollo, Toma libre, Mujer, Casos de la vida real, Punto de quebra y En carterita.

Los restos de Ledesma fueron incinerados ante la tristeza de amigos y familiares, quienes recordaron la bondad del actor.



Pablo Montero da positivo en pruebas antidroga

Pablo Montero da positivo en pruebas antidroga. Seis muestras de orina del cantante indicaron que ha consumido marihuana, cocaína y alcohol.

El cantante y actor Óscar Daniel Hernández, mejor conocido como Pablo Montero, está metido en serios

problemas. Luego de haber sido sorprendido por la policía de Florida con cocaína en su vehículo el agosto pasado [la cual aseguró no ser suya] y de haberse comprometido a ingresar a un programa de prevención de drogas para evitar ser acusado, todo indica que ha vuelto a consumir

narcóticos.

La agencia Notimex informó que aunque él niega depender de estupefacientes, de acuerdo al juez de la corte de Florida, Jeffrey Rosineck, en seis de los exámenes de orina realizados al actor de 38 años como parte de su proceso legal, se hallaron

residuos de cocaína, alcohol y marihuana.

El programa de prevención y educación de drogas al que accedió ingresar voluntariamente Montero requiere periódicas muestras de orina por parte del actor, para demostrar que ya no consume sustancias prohibidas.

Según el consejero que atiende al mexicano, los recientes resultados indicaron que éste requiere una terapia más intensa, puesto que aún no acepta que tiene un problema.

El juez citó al protagonista de Fuego en la sangre para que se presente en la Corte el próximo

3 de marzo, fecha en la que se dictará una medida sobre su caso.

Hasta el momento, Montero asegura que no ha consumido estupefacientes. Poco tiempo después, panol.com se comunicó con la oficina de prensa de Montero, sin obtener respuesta hasta el momento.

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all people to benefit."

So far there's not much to show how that's done.

Now the negotiations are good. But where do we go from here? When do the candidates geting instructive about the practical reality of life in North America? Are we getting fed more than fact? Or OMG are we getting walked once more.

I posed Obama's statement to Congressman Henry Cuellar. He was in the spin room supporting Hillary Clinton. His Texas district borders Mexico and he was the only one to bring up sovereignty. "They (Mexico) have to come up with their own solutions. Can't tell them what they ought to be doing," said Cuellar.

That night, more college degrees were congregated at the Universi-

Piruetas y Valses en Austin Sobre Mexico

José de la Isla

AUSTIN, TEXAS — En los dos minutos anteriores al debate de los demócratas sobre la primaria en Texas, Lou Dobbs vituperaba sus comentarios propagandísticos en el canal de cable CNN contra la tal llamada carreta de NAFATRA (Frente de Libre Comercio Nordamericano).

Mantuvo que los candidatos no se acuerdan siquiera al tema por lo que "deja también divididos a los hispanoamericanos". Los candidatos, sin embargo, no querían perturbar el muy importante voto latino en Texas el cuatro de marzo.

En realidad, Barack Obama ya había admitido en Dallas que, "Tenemos que mejorar nuestra relación con México para que su economía produzca empleos de ese lado del charco", dijo.

Durante el debate, Cuellar dijo que George Bush "ha estado tan obsesionado con Irak que no hemos visto el tipo de asistencia y trabajo el colaboración que aseguraría que la economía mexicana funcione no sólo para los muy pudientes en México, sino también para toda la gente".

En el salón de la manipulación favorable del mensaje de cada candidato, le pedí a la representante del estado, Ana Hernández, sustituta para Obama, que me explicara lo que Obama iba a decir. Hija de inmigrantes mexicanos que por más de tres quedó descolgado ante de irse hace mucho tiempo, dije sin ambages que México no cuenta con una clara medida. "Tienen que arreglar su política económica. La economía mexicana está desbaratada".

Lo de la clase media parece ser una creencia curiosa y popular. Sin embargo, la revista Business Week reportó en el 2006 que, "La clase media mexicana se infló" a prácticamente el 40 por ciento de todos los hogares mexicanos, versus el 30 por ciento hace unos años."

En octubre del año pasado, el ex presidente de México, Vicente Fox, se encontraba en Houston promocionando su libro y jactándose del ascenso de la clase media — tras un decisivo trágico en las elecciones de los 1989 y 1990.

Parce que no lo entendieron por entero. Si el presidente de México es como escondido Jento. Requiere de reformas. Pero la imagen que dibujamos es de una economía que está en sus últimas.

Esta Navidad pasada, los consumidores mexicanos hicieron aumentar el gasto por motivo de al por menor de lado estadounidense de la frontera en un cinco por ciento, mientras que el resto de los Estados Unidos se estancó o peor. Que es algo similar de la vida de una persona.

Méjico es un país que tiene tener socio comercial más grande no solo toma simo que también la hoy necesidad de fingir la verdad del tema. Y los temas mutuos entre nosotros y México no tienen que ver solamente con la inmigración.

Queda abundantemente claro, por ejemplo, que nuestro hábito de consumo ilícito de drogas prueba el crimen y la corrupción en México. Entonces, es importante controlar la ilegalidad y lograr control sobre los hábitos de consumo de drogas. Es por esto también que fue asombroso que Obama sonara como Nancy Reagan articulando "di que no simplemente" en un programa de cuatro puntos para discusiones con México que incluía inversión en la educación anti-drogas de ambos lados de la frontera. ¿Qué cosa?

Algo como el control, la legalización y la eliminación la ganancia económica del tráfico de drogas tendría más sentido.

Federico Peña, anterior secretario de transporte bajo Bill Clinton y un asesor de Obama, me dijo

después del debate que lo que es esencial es reemplazar la política latinoamericana de Bush con "una manera que toda la gente se benefici".

Hasta el momento no hay mucho que mostrar sobre cómo se logra eso.

Sin duda son buenas las intenciones. Pero, ¿dónde están las ideas?

¿Cuáles se pondrán instructivas los candidatos sobre la realidad práctica de la vida en América del Norte? ¿Se nos está dando más de lo que hacen? O por Dios, se nos está dando pistetas de valsas o vez.

Le planteé la declaración de Obama al congresista Henry Cuellar, quien se encontraba en el salón a favor de Hillary Clinton. Su distrito en Texas tiene frontera con México. Y yo le dije que traer a un político de México que tiene sus propias soluciones. No podemos estar diciéndoles lo que tienen que hacer", dijo Cuellar.

Esa noche había más titulares universitarios congregados en la Universidad de Texas salvo el día de la graduación. Aquí se encuentra la escuela de políticas de renombre internacional, Lyndon B. Johnson. La Universidad tiene una de las mejores colecciones de biblioteca sobre América Latina en todo el mundo.

Fue sorprendente que la conservadora sobre políticas fuera algo hueca. Hasta finita.

Si, como tanto sugiere la gente de Obama, la transparencia es el camino a lograr mejores políticas, quisieren recordarles que 7.6 millones de personas los venían por CNN y Univisión.

[José de la Isla, autor de "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003), redacta un comentario semanal para Hispania Link News Service. Comuníquese con él a jdeisla3@yahoo.com.]

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Commissioner - from page 1

Based on the numbers provided by Salazar, essentially both candidates are correct in their assertions. When Flores says money has been returned to the fund; that's true and since Gutiérrez told El Editor that he had been returned. But that has been so because any unused monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year are automatically returned back to the county's general fund; County has the choice of keeping the unused funds in the budget and rolling them over to the next year.

So when Flores says that a large amount of money has been returned, it is correct in his claim but not in the amount he returned; but that happens because of county practices and it happened during his tenure in office as well.

In Flores' last full year in office, 2003-2004, \$50,000 dollars went unused in the fund and consequently were returned to the General Fund.

What is surprising when one looks closely at the numbers is how much money is not being used. We pose the question as to why Salazar and Gutiérrez are doing this is that "This doesn't necessarily mean that the need is not there; the coverage can be attributed to several factors, including but not limited to the vendor not claiming their applications or vendors finding assistance elsewhere, landlords and/or some vendors refusing to accept payment, and clients not returning purchase orders for payment". So it would seem that Salazar is correct in his claim.

Gutiérrez claims that the overages for the overtimes returned to the general fund, that assertion is not totally accurate.

Salazar says that county residents team up with Gutiérrez through the month of March by calling 211. They are also referred to the program by other assistance agencies or through the county's web site. But this case, it could be a situation where requirements are so stringent that not many county residents qualify or simply an issue of county residents not being aware of the fund and not making use of it?

Amounts budgeted for each category of funeral one time in a year stay in a county in which approximately 20% of residents live under the federal poverty level, monies budgeted for food and emergencies is being returned. In Flores' first year in office in 2003, out of \$2,500.00 worth of money for indigent funerals \$652.00 was returned unused. In Gutiérrez third year in office, \$3,000.00 was budgeted and \$1,509.00 was returned.

In the category of indigent funerals, the budgeted amount has not changed in any of the years we looked at. The budgeted amount has stayed constant at \$80,000.00, and in 2007 had to be supplemented towards the end of the year by \$4,000.00 to meet the needs of funds. Typically though, an average of about 22% of the money budgeted for indigent funerals has been returned every year. But this category is out of anybody's control.

As for Flores, he told El Editor in an email that "I feel very comfortable and at peace with the positive response from everyone. As for winning, it is up to our community to decide. We have tried our best. Whatever I will serve our community well."

So finally it is up to the voters to decide. Will they vote for another 4 years of Gutiérrez's leadership or will they vote for Flores to follow him for 12 more years?

As the old saying goes, only time will tell; and in this case, we should know shortly after the polls close on March 4, Election Day.

Unless of course, the contest results run off like it did 4 years ago when these two candidates first met?

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Brink

Owner, Storefront, Small Business, 28 Years.

Party Organizing

- Organized block-walking for Clifford Cinesmith, Lubbock County was his only win.
- Organized 2002 DreamTeam Banquet and got write-up in Austin American Statesman.
- President, West Texas Coalition of Democrats, 2000-2006
- Organized 2002 West Texas Campaign Caravan for state and regional Democratic Candidates, setting up rallies with local organizers in a four-day swing through all of West Texas.
- Instrumental in securing the funds to purchase the debt-free, year-round Democratic Headquarters.
- Help organize Annual Fundraising Banquet and Annual Art Auction.
- Charter Member, Texas Democratic Women, South Plains Chapter.
- Participated in the following local and regional campaigns:
 - ▲ Maggie Trejo ▲ Marina Garcia
 - ▲ Gilbert Flores ▲ Todd Klein
 - ▲ Mary Neil Maths ▲ Joe Heflin
 - ▲ Charlie Sternhom

Lawyer

Party Organizing

▼ Zero

Attendance Annual Fundraisers:

▼ Two?

Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

▼ Zero

Cooperation with County Chair:

▼ Zero

Party Participation

Attendance: Precinct Chair Monthly Executive Committee Meetings:

▼ Zero

Attendance Annual Fundraisers:

▼ Two?

Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

▼ Zero

Cooperation with County Chair:

▼ Zero

Attendance Annual Fundraisers:

▼ Two?

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Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

▼ Zero

Cooperation with County Chair:

▼ Zero

Attendance Annual Fundraisers:

▼ Two?

Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

▼ Zero

Cooperation with County Chair:

▼ Zero

Attendance Annual Fundraisers:

▼ Two?

Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

▼ Zero

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Consistent Local-Party Financial Contribution:

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