

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
2863  
as of Nov. 16  
2006

# El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz"  
Lic Benito Juarez

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## Rebuke of GOP by Hispanics Runs Deep

By José de la Isla

**The 2006 mid-term election revealed a lot about the political future of nation's 44 million-and-growing Hispanics.**

Mainly, it showed the Latino romance with Republicans is over.

Hispanics nationwide, according to the William C. Velásquez Institute's exit polling, nearly seven out of ten Hispanic voters favored Democratic candidates, with Republicans appealing to only 27 percent. There was an 11 percent GOP drop from

the mid-term election in 2002.

The realignment is a shattering setback for President Bush and his advisor Karl Rove. They have been counting on escorting more Latinos into the Republican ranks to form a new party base as significant as their Southern strategy.

The President was trading on his 2004 race when he increased his gain over 2002 from 33 percent to about 40 percent, some exit polls claimed. The disconnect came less with Bush himself as with the hard right-wing of his party.

Hispanic voters, by 78 percent, favor some form of legal status for undocumented immigrants, contrasted to 57 percent of all others, an exit poll carried by the Wall Street Journal reported. Additionally, 37 percent of the polled Latinos called the issue of illegal immigration "extremely important" to them. That compared to 29 percent for all demographic groups.

Nay-sayers were gleeful before the election that Latino voter-registration drives provoked by the spring immigration-reform demonstrations appeared to have fallen on their face. Many experts predicted Hispanic voters would fail to turn out in large numbers. Besides, they observed, most of the critical races were in states with relatively low Hispanic populations.

Instead, the Latino turnout was about eight percent of the total, roughly equal to its 2004 record. Since 1974, Latino voting has averaged nearly half a million increase each mid-term election.

Unquestionably, immigration reform did the Republicans in. White voters divided almost right down the middle between Democrats and Republicans on key candidates. The Latino bloc became the fulcrum tilting the contest.

"Hispanics said 'adiós' to President Bush's Republican Party" is how distinguished Miami Herald columnist Andrés Oppenheimer put it.

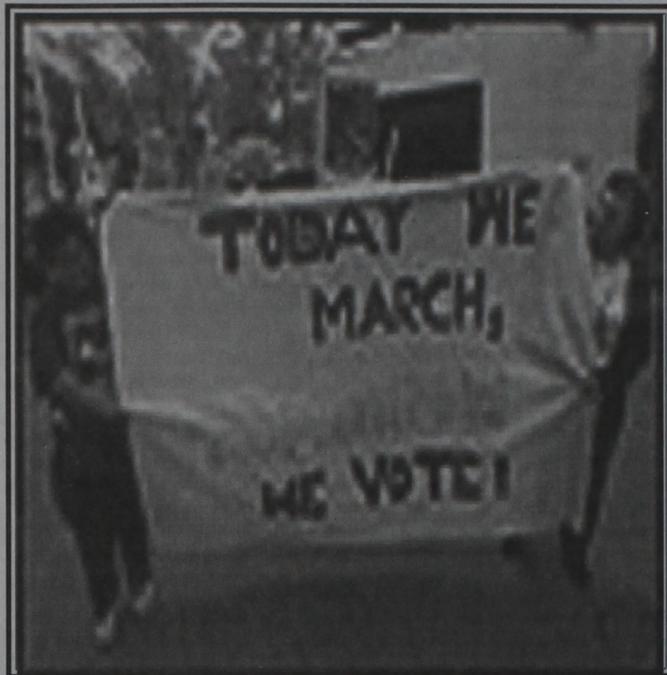
If Republicans expect growth in absolute numbers, they must moderate, maybe by going back to their Main Street political tradition - standing for small business, small government, low taxes and balanced budgets. The election terminated the careers of most supply-siders, neo-cons and voodoo economists.

But let's get straight what really did them in. Immigration. Demagogues within the party thought the public couldn't see through their immigration mask. Poor people needing work were portrayed as terrorists. Mexico, this country's second-largest trade partner, was billed as Sodom. Claims about immigrant costs were shouted but its benefits weren't even whispered.

The public was asked to tolerate a low-intensity pogrom waged at home against Hispanics. It may have been the hateful tradition's last gasp.

So what's in store in the new era? The focus now will shift to 75 congressional districts with populations of 100,000 to 300,000 Latinos. The U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute expects the vast majority of those districts to be represented by Hispanics in the next 20 years. The current 5,000 elected Latino and Latina officials at all levels of government could become 50,000 in that time period.

In his statement summing up Nov. 7, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean singled out the re-election of New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Latino who coasted to victory; and Senator Bob Menéndez's election to a full term.



He also mentioned Colombian-American Patricia Torres Ray, who won a state-senate seat in Wisconsin and Cuban native Luis García, who joined the Florida legislature.

The Democratic Party's near-term future depends on local leaders, the same target Republicans were eyeing but lost.

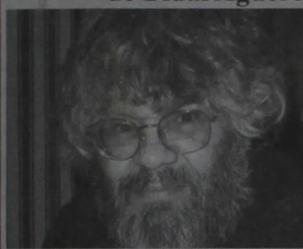
The irony here is that the President's father George H.W. Bush was largely

responsible for Republican successes with Hispanics since the 1970s. That work has come unraveled during his son's administration. It is a virtual metaphor of success beset by failure, similar to what happened to father and son in Iraq.

[José de la Isla is author of *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power* (2003) by Archer Books. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and can be contacted at joseisla3@yahoo.com.] (c) 2006

## Comentarios

de Bidal Aguero



You might notice that we did not run any letters from our readers in our community voices this week. This week we sent out a question asking about the new Chancellor of Texas Tech. Apparently no one has anything to say to Mr. Hance about what needs to be addressed concerning Hispanics at Tech. We don't believe that and think (hopefully) that everyone is getting busy with the holidays and didn't have a chance to write. We are sending the question out again and hope that our readers will get a chance to write us their opinions.

This year's 4TH ANNUAL YOUNG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE hosted by Miss Lubbock will be held on November 18, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at White Nights Ballroom, located at 1413 Texas Ave. Ticket cost for the event is \$5.00. Last year the event had an average of 200 to 250 young women from all surrounding communities partake of this event. According to organizers, "another exciting addition to this year's conference is to educate our women on a prominent health issue. In an effort to promote Breast Cancer Awareness, we will give a financial contribution to support our honored guest, the Susan G. Komen Foundation-Lubbock Area Affiliate."

For more information on the Young Women's Conference or if persons are interested in attending please feel free to contact Lisa Zerrata 806-544-7577 or Ashley Hamm 806-698-1900 with any questions or concerns

Our City Fathers are being generous or is it careless when it comes to city streets. It seems that millions will be used to repair a street that was just recently built. Perhaps it is time for a rebellion here in Lubbock like the one Republicans experienced nationally.

We encourage everyone to read Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez comment on Page 2 about what he thinks Democrats need to do concerning the war in Iraq. Bring out boys home is the main answer.

Lubbock Centro Aztlan, El Editor and this writer is proud to announce that it will once again produce the play "The Wondrous Santa Suit. The play will this year be directed by Director Alicia Tafoya who has many years of experience in other productions throughout West Texas. The play will be performed on December 9 and 10 at the Lubbock Underwood Center of the Arts IceBox locale. More detail on this in the next couple of weeks.

Send you questions, comments to Bidal at [leditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leditor@sbcglobal.net)

## ¿Hasta Donde Llega la Reprimenda Hispana del Partido Republicano?

JOSE DE LA ISLA

Se acabó el romance entre los latinos y el partido republicano.

A nivel nacional, de cada diez hispanos, siete votaron por candidatos demócratas, mientras que sólo un 27 por ciento favoreció candidatos republicanos, de acuerdo con encuestas de salida realizadas por el Instituto William C. Velásquez. Desde las elecciones de medio término del 2002, la buena disposición de los hispanos hacia el partido republicano descendió en 11 por ciento.

Esta redistribución implica un revés profundo para el presidente Bush y su asesor,

Sin lugar a dudas, lo que causó el fracaso de los republicanos fue el tema de la reforma del sistema de inmigración. Los votantes blancos se dividían prácticamente en dos bandos entre los demócratas y los republicanos en cuanto a los candidatos claves. El bloque latino se convirtió en el fulcro que decidió la contienda.

"Los hispanos le dijeron 'adiós' al partido republicano del presidente Bush" escribió el distinguido columnista Andrés Oppenheimer del Miami Herald.

Si los republicanos quieren ver aumento en cifras absolutas, deben moderarse, volviendo quizá a su tradición política de apoyar al pequeño empresario, de reducir el tamaño del gobierno, de impuestos bajos y de presupuestos balanceados. Estas elecciones acabaron con la carrera de la mayoría de los promotores de la economía en base a la oferta, los neo-conservadores y los economistas del vudú.

Pero veamos bien lo que en realidad los derribó. La inmigración. Los demagogos del partido pensaron que el público no los veía tras su careta de inmigración - los pobres pintados de terroristas; México el segundo socio más grande de este país en términos del comercio, tildado de sodomita. Lo que los republicanos decían a gritos de los costos de la inmigración opacaba lo que ni se susurraba de los beneficios.

Al público le pidieron que tolerara un pogrom de baja intensidad en casa contra los hispanos, lo cual puede haber resultado en la última boqueada de aquella tradición odiosa.

¿Qué nos depara la nueva era? El enfoque pasará ahora a los 75 distritos del Congreso con poblaciones de entre 100.000 y 300.000 latinos. El Instituto de Liderazgo Hispano de los Estados Unidos anticipa que la gran mayoría de aquellos distritos la representarán hispanos en los próximos 20 años. En el mismo periodo, se podría incrementar el número de funcionarios electos latinos y latinas de los 5.000 actuales a 50.000.

En su discurso de resumen de los hechos del 7 de noviembre, el director del comité nacional demócrata, Howard Dean, realizó el que ganara con una victoria fácil el gobernador de Nuevo México, Bill Richardson, latino; al igual que el senador Bob Menéndez, con su elección a un término completo.

También mencionó a la colombiana-norteamericana Patricia Torres Ray, quien salió victoriosa en la contienda por un escaño en el senado estatal de Wisconsin, y el cubano Luis García, quien se unió a la legislatura de la Florida.

El futuro a corto plazo del partido demócrata depende de los dirigentes locales, el mismo objeto por el que iban los republicanos y que



Karl Rove, quienes han querido contar con atraer a más latinos al partido republicano para formar una nueva base, tan importante como fue su estrategia al sur del país.

Según indicaron algunas encuestas de salida, el presidente se valía de su popularidad después de la campaña del 2004, en la que superó las cifras del 2002 de un 33 por ciento a un 40 por ciento. La falta de conexión esta vez se dio menos con Bush mismo que con el ala de extrema derecha de su partido.

Los electores hispanos, en un 78 por ciento, están a favor de algún tipo de normalización de los inmigrantes sin documentos, en contraste con el 57 por ciento de todos los demás electores, reportó una encuesta de salida realizada por el Wall Street Journal. Además, el 37 por ciento de los latinos encuestados indicó que el tema de la "inmigración ilegal" le es "en extremo importante", comparado con el 29 por ciento de los demás grupos demográficos en total.

Los de opinión contraria se alegraban antes de las elecciones que se hubieran desinflado los esfuerzos de registrar más latinos como votantes, que fueron provocados por las manifestaciones de reforma del sistema de inmigración que se dieron en la primavera. Muchos peritos proyectaron que no saldría a votar grandes números de hispanos; es más, observaron, la mayoría de las contiendas críticas se daban en estados con poblaciones de hispanos relativamente reducidas.

En realidad la presencia latina llegó a un ocho por ciento del total de votantes, en paralelo al número que alcanzó en el 2004. Desde 1974 el voto latino se ha incrementado en medio millón de votantes en cada época de elecciones de medio término.

## Hispanics make presence felt in midterms

By ANNA M. TINSLEY

Hispanics made their voices heard this year, protesting in the streets against plans to criminalize illegal immigrants; marching nationwide against other proposed anti-illegal immigration measures; even boycotting working and spending money for a day to show their economic power.

Then last week, as many as 60 percent of Hispanics nationwide -- and nearly 25 percent in Texas -- may have turned out to vote in the midterm elections, according to preliminary turnout results by the William C. Velásquez Institute, a nonpartisan Latino-oriented research group with offices in San Antonio and Los Angeles.

For the most part, they helped the Democratic revolution, ousting Republicans nationwide, exit polls show.

The polls showed that 63 percent of Texas Hispanic voters said they cast ballots for Democratic candidates for Congress.

"Latinos are still Democratic," said Lydia Camarillo, vice president of the San Antonio-based Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. "In the governor's race, they understood it was [Gov. Rick] Perry's to lose. Some chose to stay with Perry and some looked at other candidates, as did other voters in Texas. Hutchison was a star, and Radnofsky didn't have any money."

"The Latino population will continue to grow, continue to register," Camarillo said. "They will stay Democrat."

Nationwide, about 5.8 million Hispanics, or 60.2 percent of the 9.7 million registered to vote, may have cast ballots. At the same time, an average number of Texas Hispanics -- about 711,247, or 24.73 percent, of the 2.8 million registered to vote -- may have gone to the polls, according to preliminary Velásquez Institute reports.

The institute stresses that these numbers are estimates, based on analysis of exit poll data, preliminary turnout numbers and historical voting trends. The institute plans to release revised figures as more information becomes available. The national margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points; the Texas margin of error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Texas races  
"Texas Latinos were all over the map on Election Day this year," said Antonio Gonzalez, president of the institute.

At the top of the ballot, in the U.S. Senate race, more than half of Hispanic voters supported incumbent Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison over Democrat Barbara Ann Radnofsky, who drew nearly 36 percent of the Hispanic vote, exit polls by the institute show.

In the governor's race, Democrat Chris Bell picked up the largest chunk of support, with 39.5 percent of the Hispanic vote. He was followed closely by independent Carole Keeton Strayhorn, with 28.6 percent, independent Kinky Friedman with 14.3 percent and Republican Perry with 13.9 percent, exit polls show.

The fact that the Hispanic vote wasn't clearly for Democrats in the U.S. Senate or gubernatorial race is not necessarily a sign of change, Camarillo said.

In the governor's race, Bell didn't have the bankroll for much of the campaign to deliver his message to voters. Then, many traditional Democratic supporters gave their money to Democrat-turned-Republican-turned-independent Strayhorn, which sent a message that she was their candidate of choice, Camarillo said.

Perry then began airing TV commercials, some featuring Hispanic lawmakers near the border who supported him.

"All of that sent a message that Perry was going to win, he was the one with the money and he's not that bad," Camarillo said.

And many Hispanics weren't able to learn about Radnofsky, who also didn't have the money for mass TV ads to deliver her message.

Either way, Texas Democrats say they are committed to getting out their party's message, and those of future candidates, to Hispanic voters.

"In the areas where Democrats performed well, we performed very well in the Hispanic community," said Amber Moon, a spokeswoman for the Texas Democratic Party. "The party is fully committed to advancing our Hispanic outreach."

"We want to make sure that our Democratic voters -- and we consider Hispanics to be a key and very valuable part of our base -- are getting out to vote."

National perspective  
CNN exit polls show that Hispanics supported Democrats nationwide this year, with nearly three-fourths of Hispanics voting for Democratic Party candidates.

That support, some say, can at least be partially traced to the Republican-sponsored plan to build a 700-mile fence along the Mexican border as well as a GOP House plan that would have made felons out of millions of undocumented workers.

Immigration2006.org tracked 15 races where immigration was a key issue and noted that 12 were won by immigration moderates.

"With respect to immigration, the Republican Party handed the Democratic Party a gift," said Democratic activist Andrea LaRue, co-chairwoman of Immigration2006.org. "The GOP's mishandling of this issue has alienated the fastest-growing group of new voters in the nation."

"The implication for the presidential race of 2008 and for the future viability of both parties is profound," she said.

El Editor, Week of Nov. 16 to Nov. 21, 2006

## NEIL BUSH MILKS COWS

by Jim Hightower

George W's "No Child Left Behind" program is being perverted into "No Bush Left Behind." You might recall brother Neil Bush from his "Hi Yo Silverado" days, when he headed a Colorado S & L that went broke, costing us taxpayers a billion bucks to bail it out. Now, Neil is in the education game. As honcho of an outfit called Ignite! Learning, he goes around to school districts hustling a computerized learning center dubbed COW, for Curriculum On Wheels. Made up to look like a purple cow, it's wheeled into classrooms where it uses jingles and cartoon videos to "teach" students. Each COW costs \$3,800 and at least 13 school districts have used No Child Left Behind money to purchase them. That money is primarily intended to help disadvantaged kids learn reading and math - yet, Neil's COWs don't teach either of these subjects. Curious. Additional money to place COWs in various schools has come from such Republican stalwarts as Rev. Sun Myung Moon and such longtime Bush beneficiaries as the Saudi Arabian oil company. Also, Neil's investors come from afar - including millionaire businessmen from Kuwait, China, and Russia. Odd. Both Daddy and Momma Bush are investors as well. Barbara is so committed to the enterprise that when she made a donation to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees who had moved to Houston, she required that all of the money be spent buying Neil's COWs. How charitable. Ignite's ethics are also on display in a company video on its website. A Texas teacher named Lori gives a glowing testimonial about how COW did wonders for a young student named India. Only, Lori is really not India's teacher. She's Ignite's marketing director. Ignite says Lori was not lying... just role playing. So is Neil. He's pretending that Ignite would be getting these federal dollars, investors, donations, and sales even if his name was, say, Neil Jones.

## It Was a Hectic Election for Hispanic Candidates, Too

By Verónica Macías

For Latino candidates on Election Day, the drama spread wide. Two were re-elected to major office. One newcomer will become the 20th member of the all-Democrat Congressional Hispanic Caucus in January. Two others - one Democrat and one Republican - just missed in their first congressional bids. And two veteran legislators will compete in a special election runoff in Texas next month.

The highlights:

\* In New Mexico, the nation's only Latino governor, Democrat Bill Richardson coasted to a second term. He's contemplating a run for the presidency in 2008.

\* In New Jersey, another Democrat, Senator Robert Menéndez, was elected to a full six-year term.

\* Also in New Jersey, Albio Sires (D) captured the House seat vacated by fellow Cuban-American Menéndez. Menéndez moved to the upper chamber earlier this year.

\* In Florida, Puerto Rican Joe Negrón (R) lost his House bid by just two percentage points.

\* In New Mexico, state Attorney General Patricia Madrid came up about a thousand votes short in a House race she's yet to concede.

\* In Texas' 23rd U.S. House district, seven-term incumbent Henry Bonilla, Congress's lone Mexican-American Republican, failed to capture 50 percent of the vote and must face former Rep. Ciro Rodriguez in a special election runoff next month.

All 22 other Latino members of Congress won re-election with relative ease.

At the state level, Latinos were elected to 238 legislative seats, dropping two from 2004 in senate competition and gaining two in assembly races.

In New Mexico, Latinos were elected to three statewide offices. In addition to Richardson, Democrats Mary Herrera is its new Secretary of State and Héctor Balderas becomes State Auditor.

In California, Cruz Bustamante, termed out as Lt. Governor, lost in his bid to become the state's Insurance Commissioner.

In Idaho, Republican Tom Luna won election as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In Oregon, Susan Castillo gained re-election for a similar position in its May primary.

Texan Bonilla captured 49 percent of his

district's votes, with five Democrats and one Independent candidate dividing the rest. Former Congressional Hispanic Caucus chair Rodríguez came in second with 20 percent, followed by fellow Democrats Albert Uresti, 12 percent, and Lukin Gilliland, 11 percent.

The district was redrawn and a special election ordered after the U.S. Supreme Court found that the Voting Rights Act was violated when a GOP-orchestrated gerrymander moved 100,000 Latinos out of Bonilla's old district.

"Anti-Republican sentiment is playing out in that district," political analyst Andy Hernández, former chair of the Hispanic Caucus at the Democratic National Committee, told Hispanic Link News Service. "He is a Latino incumbent. He campaigned with a budget of \$2 million... He should have won."

The number of Latinos in the House will remain at 23, and depending on the outcome of the Texas runoff, the Latino configuration in the House will be 19-4 or 20-3 Democratic. The other three GOP members are Florida Cuban Americans.

Hispanic senators Mel Martínez (R-Fl.) and Ken Salazar (D-Col.) were not up for re-election. Menéndez, appointed to the Senate to complete the final year of Jon Corzine's term when he was elected governor, defeated Thomas Kean Jr., 53 percent-45 percent.

Democrats gained a majority in Congress for the first time in 12 years. When the 110th Congress opens in January, they expect to hold an edge in the House of at least 28 seats and to control the Senate, 51-49.

Hernández said that Latino candidates are now smarter and better at running with "20 years under their belt." There are many Latino candidates considered "cross-over elected officials" who appeal to all voters, he said.

In Florida, Democrat Tim Mahoney defeated Negrón 50%-48% in a race where disgraced Mark Foley's name was listed on the ballot instead of Negrón's. Foley resigned from Congress too late to make the change. Voters were informed that a vote for Foley counted as a vote for Negrón.

(Verónica Macías is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reach her care of editor@HispanicLink.org.)

## Los Candidatos Latinos También Tuvieron Un Movido Día de Elecciones

Verónica Macías

Para los candidatos latinos, el drama se extendió ampliamente el día de las elecciones. Dos fueron reelectos a puestos electivos altos. Un neófito se convertirá en el miembro número 20 del, totalmente demócrata, Caucus Hispano del Congreso. Otros dos, un demócrata y un republicano, en su primer intento, perdieron por pocos votos un escaño en el Congreso. Y dos legisladores veteranos se enfrentarán el próximo mes en una segunda vuelta electoral en Texas.

Los principales eventos:

\* En Nuevo México, el único gobernador latino de la nación, el demócrata Bill Richardson, revalidó fácilmente para un segundo término. Está considerando presentarse como candidato presidencial en el 2008.

\* En New Jersey, otro demócrata, el senador Robert Menéndez, salió electo para un término completo de seis años.

\* También en New Jersey, Albio Sires (D) ganó el escaño de la Cámara que dejó vacante el compañero cubano-americano Menéndez cuando, temprano este año, se movió al Senado.

\* En Florida, el puertorriqueño Joe Negrón (R) perdió en la Cámara por un porcentaje de sólo dos puntos.

\* En Nuevo México, Patricia Madrid, la Fiscal General del estado, no pudo lograr los casi mil votos necesarios para ganar un escaño en la Cámara en una contienda que todavía no ha concedido.

\* En Texas, en el distrito 23 de la Cámara de EE. UU., Henry Bonilla, titular durante siete términos y el único congresista mexicano-americano que es republicano, no pudo lograr el 50% de los votos y deberá enfrentarse el próximo mes al ex-representante Ciro Rodríguez en una segunda vuelta electoral.

Todos los otros 22 miembros latinos del Congreso ganaron su reelección con relativa facilidad.

A nivel estatal, los latinos ganaron 180 escaños legislativos. Comparado con el 2004, se perdieron dos puestos en los senados y se ganaron dos en las asambleas.

En Nuevo México, los latinos salieron electos en tres puestos a nivel estatal. Además de Richardson, la demócrata Mary Herrera se convirtió en la nueva Secretaria de Estado y el también demócrata Héctor Balderas, en el nuevo Auditor del Estado.

En California, Cruz Bustamante, que había terminado su término como vicegobernador, no logró convertirse en el Comisionado de Seguros de su estado.

En Idaho, el republicano Tom Luna salió electo Superintendente de Educación Pública del Estado.

En Oregón, Susan Castillo ganó la reelección para una posición similar en la primaria de mayo.

El republicano texano Bonilla acaparó el 49% de los votos de su distrito, y cinco demócratas y un candidato independiente se dividieron el resto. Rodríguez, ex-presidente del Caucus Hispano del Congreso, llegó segundo con 20%, seguido por el compañero demócrata Albert Uresti con 12%, y Lukin Gilliland con 11%.

El distrito había sido redefinido y el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos ordenó una elección especial luego de encontrar que se había violado la Ley de Derecho al Voto cuando se sacaron 100,000 latinos del antiguo distrito de Bonilla, en una división injusta del territorio orquestada por el propio partido republicano.

"El sentimiento anti-republicano está presente en ese distrito", le dijo a Hispanic Link News Service el analista político Andy Hernández, ex-presidente del Caucus Hispano del Comité Nacional Demócrata. "Es un titular latino. Hizo campaña con un presupuesto de \$2 millones... Debí haber ganado".

El número de latinos en la Cámara se mantendrá en 23 y dependiendo de quién gane la segunda vuelta electoral de Texas, la relación en la Cámara, entre demócratas y republicanos latinos, será de 19 a 4 ó de 20 a 3. Los otros tres republicanos son cubano-americanos de Florida.

Los escaños de los senadores latinos Mel Martínez (R-Fl.) y Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) no se disputaron en estas elecciones. Menéndez, quien había sido designado al Senado para completar el término de Jon Corzine cuando Corzine fue electo gobernador, derrotó a Tomas Kean Jr., 53% a 45%.

Los demócratas lograron mayoría en el Congreso por primera vez en doce años. Cuando el Congreso Número 110 abra en enero, los demócratas esperan tener una ventaja en la Cámara de sobre 28 escaños y controlar el Senado 51 a 49.

Hernández dijo que los candidatos latinos son más listos ahora y saben cómo competir mejor con "20 años de experiencia bajo el brazo". Muchos candidatos latinos son considerados "funcionarios electos aceptables", que apelan a todos los electores.

En Florida, el demócrata Tim Mahoney derrotó a Negrón 50% a 48% en una contienda donde el nombre del desacreditado Mark Foley figuraba en la papeleta en vez del de Negrón. Foley renunció al Congreso muy tarde para que pudiera hacerse el cambio y hubo que informar a los votantes que un voto para Foley era un voto a favor de Negrón.

## Democrats Must Set Their Own Agenda in Iraq

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

Republicans talk a good talk but seldom walk the walk. In the 12 years they've controlled Congress, they gave the US a \$10 trillion national debt, squandered a \$280 billion budget surplus and turned it into a \$350 billion deficit. They gave us bigger government, massive federal programs, increased costs for college. They gave themselves pay raises and increased corporate welfare by hundreds of millions. They funded a bridge to nowhere and botched Katrina relief. But, the worst Republican failure is the badly mismanaged war in Iraq. The hallmark of their incompetence is their policy of "stay-the-course" in Iraq. They stubbornly maintain this policy even after 70% of Americans told them on November 7th that the war is a disaster. Even the newly nominated Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates, admits it.

Following last week's staggering defeat, a new word is echoing in Republican circles: "Bi-partisanship." After 12 years of total control of Congress, and 12 years of failed policy, all of a sudden the Republicans are ready to work with the Democrats. After 12 years of denigrating and demonizing the Democrats, and barely allowing them to use the capitol toilets, they speak of cooperation and their willingness to work in a spirit of "bi-partisanship." Yet, the insults and name calling continues at the hands of pro-Iraq war, pro-Republican extreme right-wing radio talk show hosts who continue to spew their message of "fear." This was their chosen strategy before the election, a strategy which proved unsuccessful on election day, but remains their strategy of choice.

Extreme right-wingers like Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, and TV's Lou Dobbs and Bill O'Reilly, and Lubbock's local Robert Flatt just don't get it. Someone should tell them, their message of "fear" failed!!!

Fortunately 70% of America does get it. These Americans saw retired Generals come out in unprecedented fashion to warn the Republican Congress about the badly mismanaged Bush/Rumsfeld war. A credible journalist wrote an entire volume exposing their "State of Denial." Yet the Republican Congress, in lock step with the President, and urge on by extreme right wing radio DJ's, stubbornly championed the "stay-the-course" path to disaster.

Fortunately our military leaders know it is bad strategy to fight a war on the enemy's terms. The principles of war are basic: know your enemy, use the element of surprise, take the initiative, exploit the enemy's weakness, and of course the common soldier's favorite; shoot, scoot, and communicate.

Military leaders know getting mired in Iraq is playing into the enemy's hand. It is exactly what the enemy wants. The enemy wants our sophisticated military equipment to degrade under harsh desert conditions, they want to weaken America so that we will be unable to defend ourselves against terrorists around the globe, they want our economy to collapse, and they want terrorists around the world, including terrorist nations, to join them in the fight against an America that is bogged down in Iraq.

The right wing radio talk show hosts, lament that the American people are smart enough to know the war is Iraq is getting worse. The Joint Chiefs of Staff know it too and warned that Iraq is moving towards civil war and the insurgency against US troops is worse. American soldiers are suffering horrible disfiguring wounds and dying because Iraqi politicians refuse set aside religious hatred of each other to live in peace. Some soldiers are serving their third and fourth tour of duty in combat. A policy which requires soldiers to put their life on the line a third and fourth time is insane. This week General Abizaid told Congress that America has reached its manpower limit. Nothing corrodes morale more than repeated tours of duty in combat. The anguish of families at home is trice compounded.

The Bush/Rumsfeld policy of stay the course is insane. No one with a sense of history or military insight would order their military to occupy a nation of 25 million with a force of 150,000. Only Bush/Rumsfeld. They stand alone in the annals of history on this one.

Only the Democratic policy is sensible. American soldiers should not be asked to die in an Iraqi civil war. Religious factions whose hatred of each other dates back 1,000 years will continue to fight and kill each other whether American soldiers are there or not.

Fortunately, the American people are smart enough to know we are not winning in Iraq, and we are making Vietnam style mistakes there. And the American people have stated clearly - They want the US out of Iraq.

Only the Democrats are willing to do the will of the American People. Only the Democrats are smart enough to set the US on a new course in Iraq.

Had the Republicans won on November 7th, their victory would mean "stay-the-failed-course." The war in Iraq would continue without end. The policy would bankrupt the US. The Republicans would continue spending over \$100 billion annually in the "no end in sight" and "no strategy to get out" war in Iraq. The US National debt is already \$10 Trillion. Only the Democrats have the will to remove this burden of paying for the President's spending from our children and grandchildren. The Bush administration is borrowing money from China and Japan to finance the war. The President's "borrow and spend" policies are weakening the US dollar. All these would continue unabated under a Republican Congress.

As strange as this sounds, the extreme right-wing radio DJ's want the Republican failures to continue. Extreme right-wingers even tried to discredit the highly credible NIE report warning that the Bush/Rumsfeld strategy is growing more terrorist. Lubbock's Robert Flatt like the national pro-war crowd of Limbaugh, Beck and others would have America continue down a ruinous path, while calling themselves patriots. It is unbelievable.

Extreme talk radio, missed the mark entirely stating that Democrats are "anti-war." Democrats are not anti-war. Democrats stand with 70% of the American People against the failed policies and tactics Bush/Rumsfeld in Iraq.

Republicans want to "stay-the-course" but, Democrats have heard the generals, journalists, and most importantly the voters. There must be a change in strategy in the global war on terrorism. Democrats must set their own agenda to fight against terrorists but must first get out of Iraq in accordance with the wishes of the American people and in keeping with sound military principles of war. This is the only course that makes sense.

The first priority for Democrats in the war on terror should be the unmasking of America's real terrorists enemies. America's real enemies are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Korea. America needs a strategy to end terrorism in a decisive way. Democratic policy should hold nations that sponsor terrorist accountable for the acts of its citizens, but we must never repeat the folly of Bush/Rumsfeld in Iraq. The Colin Powell doctrine would serve America well in a global war on terrorists.

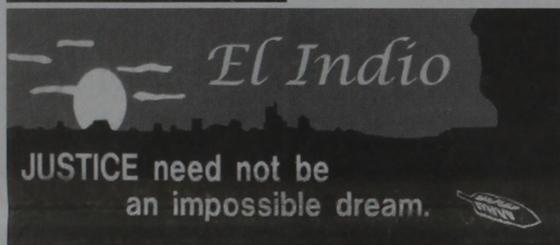
The Democratic leadership is now tasked with taking the country in a new direction. They must ignore the extreme-right-wingers in the same spirit as the American voter did on November 7, 2006. This must also be done here in Lubbock. Extreme right-wing radio relies on a message of fear poorly disguised as news and commentary.

Fortunately Americans are too smart to be swayed by Robert Flatt flavor of extreme right-wing propaganda. Extreme right-wing radio jock's call to stay the course like the Republican strategy is insane.

## EL EDITOR

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## The Watershed Election, Part III: Musings and Meanderings

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

November 2006 was indeed a "Watershed" election...just like 1994, the massive shift of Congressional seats from one party to another signals a massive shift in policy as well. Just in time, the Iraq quagmire might come to a timely end, and the "War on the Middle Class" that Lou Dobbs talks about might be slowed a little.

Of course, the time has also come to view potential Presidential candidates, both Democratic and Republican, by the standards of the real world, rather than the distorted perspective of "Liberal" and "Conservative". The true issue that cuts across all political spectrums is the issue of the so-called "free trade" which, of course, is anything but "free". The so-called "free trade" is really a mask for corporate domination over our political and economic lives...many other issues, which truly affect the life of the people, are bound up in this one issue. The survival of American...and Mexican...jobs, businesses, industries are at stake. The minimum wage, affordable housing, the budget deficit, the trade deficit, are all contained in this one concept.

If a candidate like Sen. John Edwards opposes so-called "free trade", we should all take note, and disregard that less important label of "Liberal" or "Conservative". If a candidate like Sen. Hillary Clinton, who has always been a "free trader" is elected, her purported "Liberal" views seem a lot less "Liberal" if viewed in this context. If "Liberals" wind up voting for programs which hurt the middle class and the poor, just how true is that label?

The symbolic issues which have dominated our national debate for years...abortion, gay marriage, flag-burning, posting of the Ten Commandments, the naming of various airports, roads, etc.

are issues which do not affect most of us...and only divert attention from issues which truly affect the life of the people...minimum wage, affordable housing, accessible education, the budget deficit.

Let us hope that Congress pushes aside the symbolism and goes for the gut with the issues that REALLY matter!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 This writer went to Texas Tech on Wednesday and saw Wes Studi speak...Wes is the famous Indian actor who played Magua in "Last of the Mohicans" and a Pawnee leader in "Dances With Wolves". Wes Studi is a great gentleman who represents the Indian community in the most positive way...bravo to Texas Tech and various Tech organizations who had the foresight to bring him to campus!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Wouldn't you know...that The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal declared the "Super Precincts" a "Win-Win" success...despite the fact that many voters waited in long lines, were treated imperiously by the minimum wage election clerks which replaced seasoned precinct chairs, and cast votes on electronic machines which could not be verified by paper trails.

County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez stated in an A-J article that he had supported the "Super Precinct" concept on the premise that it would attract more voters on Election Day, the "greater turnout" argument...yet, the figures do NOT bear this out.

Let's take the Governor's race in Lubbock County for example: in 2002, 31,448 voters cast ballots on Election Day, and 24,112 citizens participated in early voting, for a total of 55,560. In 2006, with the "Super Precincts", only 24,360 voters cast ballots on Election Day...a decline of 7,088. Since 28,983 citizens participated in early voting in 2006, a shift of 4,871 voters went from Election Day to early voting...and 2,217 voters stayed home. As this writer predicted in the public hearings on the subject, all "Super Precincts" did in the end was gut Election Day in favor of early voting. The Legislature must be made aware of this critical fact in the next session, before this half-baked idea is imposed on the whole state. "Super Precincts" were a "LOSE-LOSE" proposition for Lubbock County voters...the hoped-for large turnout on Election Day developed into a "Gone Fishing" event!!!

Let's return the voting polls to the neighborhoods where they belong...and send "Super Precincts" to the dustbin of history!

# Dallas Cowboys Report:

Cowboys coach Bill Parcells was pleased with Sunday's victory against the Cardinals but acknowledged it came at great expense, considering the season-ending injury suffered by linebacker **Greg Ellis**.

Ellis, one of the team's top pass rushers and a captain, tore his left Achilles tendon. He will have surgery on Tuesday.

Parcells is hopeful Ellis, who made a smooth transition from defensive end to linebacker in the off-season, will be back next season.

"Obviously that'll be a long rehabilitation for him, but hopefully a successful one," Parcells said. "I know I've had several players have this injury and returned to play successfully, so hopefully that will be the way it goes for him."

His immediate concerns are deciding on how the team will move on without Ellis.

He was one of only two pressure players on the team, so losing him is bad news with Peyton Manning and the Colts coming to Dallas on Sunday.

"This is not a good day for me," Parcells said.

Contenders to replace Ellis include **Junior Glimph**, **Al Singleton** and disappointing first-round pick **Bobby Carpenter**.

This is a time for Carpenter



to step up, but Parcells acknowledged the Cowboys could use a combination of players to replace Ellis, especially against the Colts, when they primarily will be in the nickel defense.

"The decision that you have to make on how to do things are not as simple as, 'Oh, well,

this guy goes in and he's the starter,' because of the packages we use," Parcells said. "The problem we have is that Greg is one of our better run defenders and better pressure players, so how to get that combination into the game may take more than one person. And so now we haven't

made any decisions yet, so we're thinking over the possibilities that maybe Junior or maybe Al could do something on the early downs and Bobby could do something on the nickel or vice versa or that's kind of where we are. We have to see how we approach the Colts first before we get to that."

Terrell Owens was fined \$5,000 by the league for a touchdown celebration against the Redskins two weeks ago when he went to the ground and pretended to take a nap. He apparently learned his lesson. A touchdown against the Cardinals was followed by a high-five in the end zone with WR **Sam Hurd** and the spelling of T.O. with his arms before running to the sideline.

--RB **Marion Barber** led the Cowboys in rushing against the Cardinals with 14 carries for 65 yards. It was the first time he had more carries and more yards than starter **Julius Jones**. He also recorded his seventh rushing touchdown of the season. Coach Bill Parcells said Barber gets better the more carries he gets.

--K **Mike Vanderjagt** will face his former team, the Colts, for the first time, and he is looking forward to the game. But he said he is not talking to the media about it this week. "You're not going to get a lot out of me," Vanderjagt said.

--WR **Miles Austin** did a



good job returning kicks in his first time out, Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said. He said Austin, who returned two kicks for 39 yards, didn't get much help from his blocking. Austin also did a good job covering punts on special teams, Parcells said.

**Terrell Owens** and passing

game coordinator **Todd Haley** are continuing their season-long feud. Owens ignored Haley following his touchdown catch against the Cardinals. The two exchanged words in the locker room following the game. Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said he is not concerned and it's nobody's business.

## De La Hoya, Mayweather to meet in big-money title bout

LAS VEGAS -- Oscar De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet in a highly anticipated fight in May that could be one of boxing's richest bouts.

Mayweather will move up in weight for the fight, which will be for De La Hoya's 154-pound title and will be held May 5 either in Las Vegas or Los Angeles.

De La Hoya previously said the fight would be the last in a pro career that began after he was the only U.S. boxer to win a gold medal in the 1992 Olympics. He's the biggest box-office draw in boxing, though he has fought only sporadically in recent years.

Mayweather is generally regarded as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the sport, and is coming off a near shutout win over Carlos Baldomir on Nov. 4 for the 147-pound title. Though Mayweather dominated the bout, he was criticized for not trying to knock Baldomir out.

Following that fight, De La Hoya gave Mayweather a week to come to terms if he wanted to fight him. Terms of the agreement weren't disclosed.

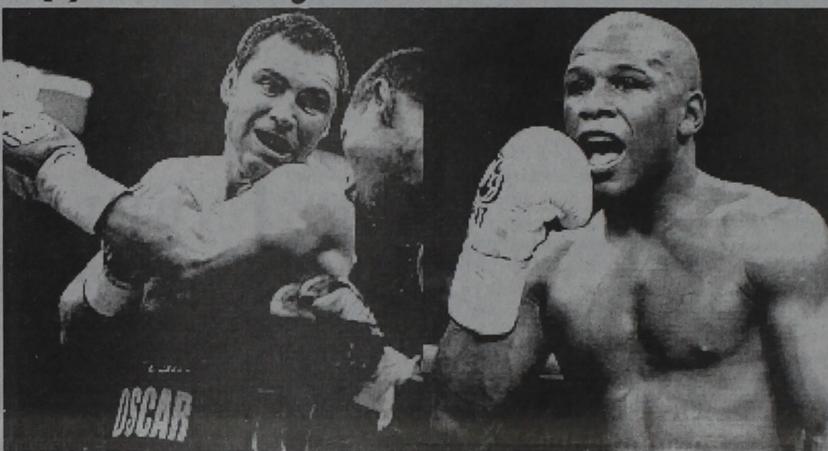
Richard Schaefer, the CEO of

new home loans could be extended to Latino purchasers.

But the credit scoring inadequacy problem extends far beyond Latinos. Fair Isaac Corp., developer of the FICO score, estimates that as many as 50 million Americans -- of all ethnic backgrounds, ages and incomes -- are difficult to score because there is minimal information at the national bureaus.

But there is good news: Growing numbers of lenders and mortgage brokers understand the thin-file issue and have begun offering alternatives.

Bottom line: Just because there's not a lot on file about you in the big three credit bureaus no longer means that you can't obtain a home mortgage on favorable terms. You just need to ask about -- or demand -- scoring alternatives from lenders that give you a fairer shot



De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, said the fight has the potential to set records for pay-

per-view sales. The previous record was set when 1.99 million customers bought the sec-

ond Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson heavyweight title fight in 1997.



## Marine se declara culpable de asesinato en Irak

FORT CAMPBELL, Kentucky -- Un soldado estadounidense se declaró culpable hoy de la violación y asesinato de una adolescente iraquí y de la matanza de su familia.

El soldado James P. Barker además accedió a declarar en contra de otros tres soldados y de un ex soldado involucrados en el caso, dijo su abogado.

A cambio de ello, Barker no será condenado a muerte, dijo el abogado.

La fiscalía pide la pena de muerte para otros dos de los acusados en el caso.

La matanza cometida en Mamudiya, una aldea situada a unos 30 kilómetros al sur de Bagdad, fue una de las peores atribuidas a personal militar estadounidense en Irak.

El sargento Paul E. Cortez y el soldado Jesse V. Spielman, ambos miembros de la 101ra

División de Paracaidista al igual que Barker, podrían ser condenados a muerte de ser convictos por un consejo de guerra en Fort Campbell.

El presunto cabecilla del grupo, el ex soldado Steve Green, de 21 años, se declaró inocente la semana pasada de las acusaciones, entre ellas homicidio y agresión sexual.

Green fue licenciado del ejército debido a un "trastorno psiquiátrico" antes de ser tratada la denuncia y la fiscalía no anunció si solicitará la pena de muerte en su caso.

Green y los otros son acusados de violar a la muchacha y de quemar su cadáver para ocultar los delitos. Además, Green y otros cuatro soldados estacionados en un control militar cercano mataron al padre de la muchacha, a su madre y a una hermana de seis meses.

## Alternative credit scoring helps minorities

Picture this: You've lived in this country for 15 years, earned a decent wage, raised a family, always paid your rent, utilities, cell phone bills and other expenses on time, month after month. But you made little or no use of the conventional banking and credit systems -- avoiding bank loans, credit cards and debts in general.

Now you go to apply for a mortgage to buy your first home and get smacked with this sobering news: Sorry, but there is not enough information in your national credit bureau files to score your credit. We've got to charge you an interest rate well above prevailing rates or reject you altogether.

That scenario is what large numbers of Latino families now face, according to a new survey. The 14,000-member National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals -- Latino and non-Latino realty agents, builders, mortgage bankers and lenders, attorneys and credit counselors -- polled 500 of its members and found that:

• Nearly one-third said their clients end up paying high rates on mortgages because their limited credit histories make them appear high-risk when lenders use traditional FICO scores.

• Nearly 80% said that for every Latino household they help put into a home of their own, they're forced to turn

away two prospects solely because they can't pass muster under traditional score-based underwriting programs.

The chairwoman of the Hispanic realty association, Frances Martínez Myers, estimates that if mortgage lenders used alternative credit scoring models that factored in rent, utilities and other types of payments that are not reported to the national credit bureaus, an additional \$200 billion in

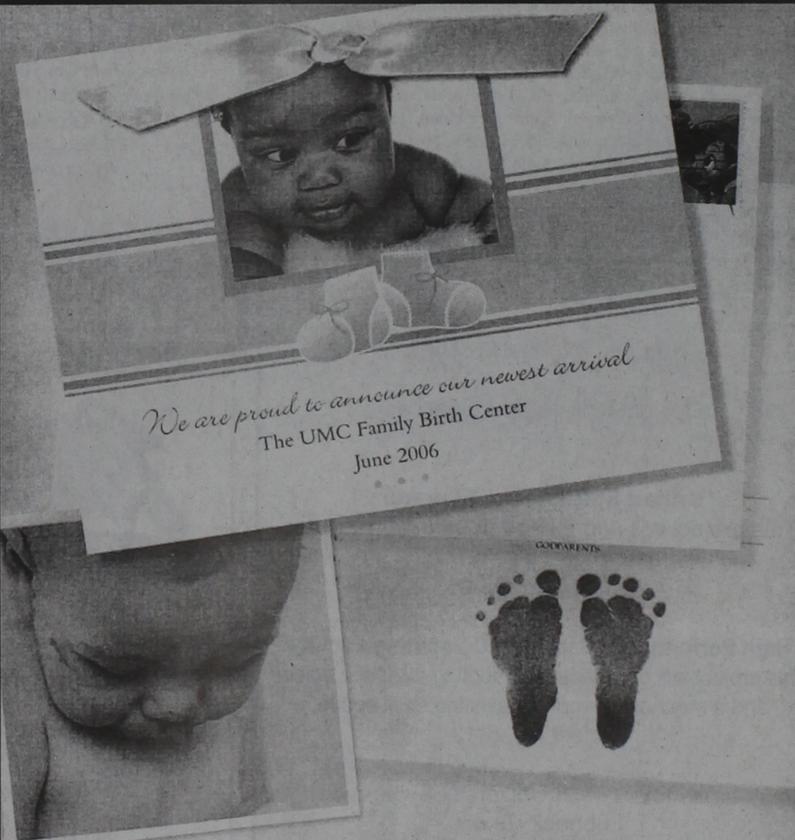
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# Grave impunidad en asesinatos de mujeres

Guatemala — La Red de la No Violencia contra la Mujer, formada por una veintena de organizaciones, denunció la impunidad que reina en Guatemala en los asesinatos de mujeres.

De los más de 2,800 asesinatos de mujeres que se han perpetrado en Guatemala desde 2001 hasta la fecha, sólo 20 casos han sido juzgados y condenados por los tribunales, aseguró a periodistas la dirigente de la Red Giovanna Lémus.

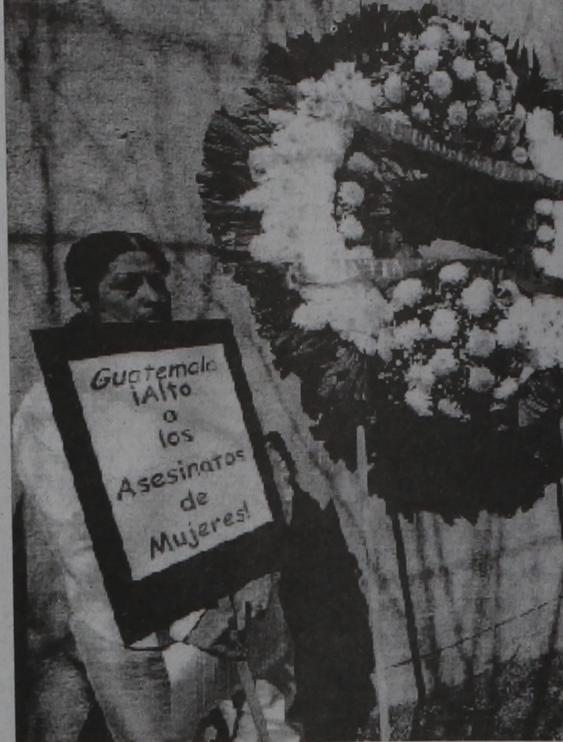
En lo que va del 2006 se han perpetrado 485 asesinatos,

otras 825 mujeres han sido violadas y más de 10,000 han sufrido agresiones físicas, según las estadísticas de la Red.

Lémus afirmó que el Estado guatemalteco no tiene capacidad ni voluntad para investigar los asesinatos de mujeres, por lo que exhortó al Gobierno a poner en marcha programas para prevenirlos.

"Falta mucho para terminar con la impunidad", dijo la defensora de los derechos humanos.

Según el Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales (IECCP), la falta de co-



ordinación entre la Policía, el Ministerio Público y el Organismo Judicial contribuye a que no se resuelvan los asesinatos de las mujeres. En un estudio presentado

ayer en un hotel de la capital por la Asociación Doses (privada), se asegura que los asesinatos de las mujeres se han caracterizado por "una brutalidad excepcional y numerosas víctimas han sido objeto de violencia sexual, mutilación y descuartizamiento".

El sistema carcelario El Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas para la Prevención del Delito y Tratamiento del Delincuente (Ilanud) calificó ayer como grave la situación del sistema carcelario en Guatemala por la sobrepoblación y la aplicación de la pena de muerte.

El director de Ilanud, Elías Carranza, dijo a la AP que "Guatemala ya ha ejecutado a algunas personas, tiene las tasas de homicidio más altas de la región".

El experto participa en el encuentro "Sistemas penitenciarios y derechos fundamentales de los privados de libertad", junto representantes de los

Afirmó que está comprobado que países que tienen las políticas más duras y las penas más severas son los que tienen la criminalidad más alta. Resaltó que hay que tener justicia penal pero "sobretodo políticas sociales adecuadas".

sistemas penitenciarios de Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Paraguay y Venezuela.

El director del Sistema Penitenciario de Guatemala, Alejandro Giammatei confirmó la sobrepoblación carcelaria en su país y citó como ejemplo la cárcel de Barrios diseñada para 250 reclusos y que actualmente tiene 345 reos.

No obstante, indicó que están ampliando ese centro para una capacidad de 400 privados de libertad.

Señaló que el caso más dramático es Pavón pues está diseñado para 1,144 reos pero mantiene a 1,600.

Entre las soluciones que mencionó están la construcción de dos centros penitenciarios más que estarán listos para julio de 2007.

Agregó que construirán una cárcel de condena de alta seguridad con el apoyo del Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica.

"Será un lugar con alto nivel tecnológico como no hay en Centroamérica pues 18 guardias podrán controlar a 1,000 reclusos", destacó.

Adelantó que piensan reforzar con cinco cárceles para 250 reclusos más en diferentes regiones del país.

## Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofia T. Martinez

"Hagan esto en memoria mía" (Lucas 22, 19).

En este breve texto del evangelio de San Lucas se contiene una verdad fundamental de nuestra fe, inseparable de la eucaristía, sacrificio del nuevo testamento: La institución del sacerdocio ministerial cristiano. El Señor después de instituir la eucaristía, que se convertiría en el centro y raíz de toda la vida cristiana, ordena a los apóstoles que se encarguen de perpetuar, de hacer presente lo que el acaba de hacer para que, mientras haya hombres sobre la tierra, renueven de modo incesante el sacrificio redentor del calvario.

La iglesia nos enseña que el sentido y el alcance preciso de aquel mandato del Señor "Hagan esto en memoria mía" es precisamente la institución del sacramento del orden; que reciben aquellos hombres que se sienten llamados por Dios a dedicarse por completo a la salvación eterna de sus hermanos los hombres.

Hoy en día hay una notable desorientación sobre la figura del sacerdote, se habla mucho de buscar su identidad; parecería que se pone en duda el significado que, en el mundo actual, tiene la entrega a Dios en el sacerdocio. Es verdad que la condición de todos los fieles cristianos laicos o sacerdotes es igual, porque a todos nos llama Dios a la plenitud de su amor. La santidad de los laicos no es de segunda categoría, pues al igual que los sacerdotes debemos esforzarnos por estar constantemente en gracia de Dios y vivir el evangelio como Cristo quiere, el es nuestro modelo. La plenitud del amor no depende del estado soltero, casado, o sacerdote sino de la respuesta de cada uno a las llamadas del Señor. Sin embargo, la dignidad y la grandeza de la vocación sacerdotal no puede ser superada en la tierra, ya que, aunque todos los cristianos podemos y debemos ser otros cristos, solo el sacerdote lo es en forma sacramental. Esto significa que, "por el sacramento del orden, el sacerdote se capacita efectivamente para prestar a nuestro Señor la voz, las manos, todo su ser".

El sacerdote es por tanto, y por encima de cualquier otra cosa, instrumento especial de la gracia salvadora que Cristo nos concibió en la cruz. En él, el sacerdocio ministerial se une al sacerdocio común que ya recibió con el bautismo y la confirmación: forma parte, como todos los demás cristianos, del pueblo sacerdotal que es la iglesia. Pero además está marcado con el carácter del orden, que lo distingue esencialmente y no solo en grado (Const. Apost. 22 de las gentes n.10) del sacerdocio común de los fieles.

Nuestra vida diaria debe ser cultivar nuestra alma sacerdotal, para que nuestro corazón se asemeje cada vez más al de Cristo. Sabemos que el Señor prolonga en la tierra hasta el fin del mundo su acción redentora y santificadora, a través de todos los miembros de su cuerpo místico. Los cristianos estamos llamados por el cada uno en conformidad con sus circunstancias específicas, a realizar la gran tarea de acercar a los hombres a Dios. De ahí la responsabilidad apostólica del alma sacerdotal, que siente la urgencia divina, de correr con Cristo.

Los cristianos laicos no podemos por tanto, limitarnos a ayudar al clero en los apostolados eclesiales, nuestro apostolado no tiene por que ser siempre una simple participación en el promovido por la jerarquía. El campo de actividad de los cristianos laicos se concreta a través de su profesión, de su oficio, de su familia, de sus amigos y colegas. Por eso el "alma sacerdotal deseosa de hacer fructificar en obras el sacerdocio espiritual recibido es espíritu apostólico, afán de servicio, empeño en convertir las acciones mas normales de cada día, las relaciones familiares y sociales, el trabajo profesional ordinario, en ocasión eficaces de un encuentro filial y continuo con Dios."

## King Honored at Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony

Only a select number of Americans have been honored with individual monuments on the National Mall in Washington. There are no monuments to historic African-Americans. And few, if any, of those enshrined there were ever jailed.

But that's all about to change.

Nearly 40 years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., construction began Monday on a National Mall memorial honoring the civil rights icon.

King's enduring legacy brought out presidents past and present, celebrities and a slew of supporters on a cool,

gray day for the memorial's groundbreaking ceremony, where praise for the civil rights leader was in no short supply.

"Dr. King was on this Earth just 39 years, but the ideas that guided his work and his life are eternal," President Bush said at the ceremony. "Here in this place, we will raise a lasting memorial to those eternal truths. Honoring Dr. King's legacy requires more than building a monument, it requires the ongoing commitment of every American."

The King monument will be built near the Lincoln Memorial, where in 1963 King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Some 43 years later, Bush said that the new monument would stand as a testament to the ideals King espoused on that August day.

"An assassin's bullet could not shatter the dream," the president said. "Dr. King's message of justice and brotherhood took hold in the hearts of men and women across the great land of ours. It continues to inspire millions across the world."

Just steps from the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and the Washington Monument, King's memorial places the civil rights leader in the pantheon of renowned American leaders. The National Mall has for years been an exclu-

sive club for memorials, and King can soon be added to a list that includes just four presidents and a Civil War hero - engineer John Ericsson, designer of the iron-plated USS Monitor - with individual memorials.

President Bill Clinton signed legislation in 1996 approving construction of the monument, 12 years after members of the national black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha began calling for a King memorial.

The \$100 million memorial will feature flowing water, stones and trees that designers say will represent themes of democracy, justice and hope. The stones will be inscribed with text from King's speeches.

Project organizers have raised \$65.5 million for construction of the memorial, mostly from corporate donors, and completion is planned for the spring of 2008.

On Monday, Clinton testified to King's ideals, saying his messages resonate in today's world.

"When the real battlefield is the human heart, civil disobedience works better than suicide bombing," Clinton said. "Fighting your opponents with respect and reason works better than aspersion and attack."

"I suspect if he were here speaking at his own dedication, Dr. King would remind us that the best way to honor him is to pursue his dream and embrace his means to combat terror and create a world with more partners and fewer terrorists," he said.

Clinton said the King memorial, standing among monuments to other great Americans, would serve as a reminder that the civil rights leader fought to advance the ideal of equality set in motion by his predecessors.

Among the notables attending the ceremony were members of King's family, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, writer Maya Angelou and Jesse Jackson.

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# CDC urges more people to get flu shots

U.S. health officials said Monday they are worried that an abundance of unused flu vaccine this year may lead to millions of doses being thrown out, discouraging manufacturers from making as much in the future.

They are urging Americans to get flu shots even after Thanksgiving, a time when public demand customarily drops off, even though the flu season typically doesn't peak until February.

"We are concerned that we're going to have more doses of flu (vaccine) than we might use," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 110 million doses, a record amount, are being made for the 2006-07 flu season. The previous record was 95 million in 2002-03. That year 12 million doses went unused and one manufacturer quit making shots.

CDC officials said they want to prevent a repeat of that experience and are promoting Nov. 27-Dec. 3 as "National Influenza Vaccination Week."

Between 5 percent and 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu each year, according to the American Medical Association. The ill-



ness leads to about 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations each year, according to federal officials.

Flu shots are made by private companies, and both sides of the supply and demand equation for flu vaccine are complicated. CDC officials have tried to increase demand through public health campaigns and by expanding flu shot recommendations to include health care workers, pregnant women and children ages 6 months to 5 years.

Today, the CDC's flu shot recommendations cover 218 million of the nation's 300 million people, although only a fraction are expected to get them. The expanded rec-

ommendations helped lead to this year's record production.

However, even as federal officials urge almost everyone to get vaccinated, many people are unable to find a shot because of chronic distribution problems.

About 77 million doses were distributed by Nov. 3, but not every doctor or clinic got what they ordered. There are scattered shortages throughout the country. The Alabama Department of Public Health, for example, has received less than half its order for adults, and only about 30 percent of its order for children.

"We're having a problem," said Dr. Donald Williamson,

Alabama's state health officer.

Meanwhile, an advocacy organization of parents with autistic children sounded a warning about thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative in most flu shots.

The group, PutChildrenFirst.org, held a teleconference with reporters Monday. They said few Americans understand that most flu shots contain thimerosal, which they contend contributes to autism and other disorders of emotional and intellectual development in children.

There is not good evidence proving such a cause-effect relationship, Gerberding said. The life-saving benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risk alleged by PutChildrenFirst.org and similar groups, she added.

Thimerosal was phased out of other childhood vaccinations in 2003. But flu vaccine sold in multidose vials still contains the preservative.

About 9 million of this year's vaccine doses are thimerosal-free, a CDC spokesman said. Those doses, which are targeted for young children, are made by only one manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur.

"Our organization is urging people not to get flu shots that contain thimerosal. And in this year's flu shot supply, 90 percent do contain thimerosal," said J.B. Handley, co-founder of PutChildrenFirst.org.

CDC officials said more thimerosal-free doses are not provided because demand for it has never met the supply. "It has never sold out," said Dr. Jeanne Santoli, deputy director of the CDC's immunization services division.

This is the first year of a California law that bans thimerosal from vaccines given to pregnant women and children younger than 3. But citing a shortage of thimerosal-free doses, the California Department of Health and Human Services this month suspended enforcement for six weeks, until distribution problems can be resolved. AP

## Women's Diversity Conference Big Success!

LHCC held its 1st Annual Women's Diversity Conference on Friday, Nov. 3 with the Welcome Reception honoring our Keynote Speaker Ms. Arcilia Acosta, TAMACC's Chair Elect and 2006 Businesswoman of the Year on Thursday, Nov. 2nd. LHCC also welcomed Ms. Carol Martinez who is the Chair for Women's Initiatives on the TAMACC Executive Committee. The conference had over 100 ladies in attendance for Friday's event. The various workshops on Access to Capital, Financial Savvy/Your Bank & Communications, Strategic Sales, Marketing strategies, and Diversity in the Work Place were directed by very professional and capable presenters, whom we salute for a great job! The conference had many compliments on the sessions and all the workshops. Special thanks to all the sponsors of the event: WorkSource of the South Plains, Sam's Club and Wells Fargo Phone Bank. Also special "GRACIAS" to our reception sponsors: All American Concrete, and Lubbock Economic Development Alliance. And a very special thanks to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, not only for co-sponsoring the reception but also for Co-hosting the Women's Conference with the chambers.



Mrs. Linda DeLeon, Lubbock City Councilwoman and owner of All American Concrete was honored as "Business of the Month", Fri., Nov. 3rd at the 1st Annual Women's Diversity Conference, shown with her LeRoy Montoya, Committee Chair, Arcilia Acosta, keynote speaker for the conference, Esther Sepeda and Velma Medina, LHCC Chair.



Pictured at head table of Women's conference; Mrs. Velma Medina LHCC Chair, Arcilia Acosta keynote speaker and Ms Carol Martinez, and Esther Sepeda, LHCC President.

## Americans Want Better Health Insurance: Survey Indicates

Americans want more coverage and choice in their health insurance plans -- as long as they don't have to pick up the cost, according to a national survey published online Tuesday by the Journal Health Affairs.

The survey also found that the uninsured are more likely than those with insurance to reject policies that require people to buy health insurance, and that 28 percent of Americans favor charging obese people higher insurance premiums.

The University of Chicago researchers who conducted the survey of 1,517 people said their findings suggest that Americans have difficulty making trade-offs to reform the health system and to make coverage more widely available. Instead, Americans want to put the onus on government and employers.

"Overall, Americans seem to be hoping for a better deal: there is little evidence of self-sacrifice," study co-author Daniel Gaylin said in a prepared statement.

While mandatory health insurance may appeal to some state and federal policymakers, support for such policies varies depending on a person's situation, the survey found. More than 75 percent of respondents without health insurance opposed the idea of mandatory health plans.

This could be because these people feel coverage is too expensive or because they've

made a decision to forego coverage and want to reserve the right to make that choice, the researchers said.

The survey also found that most of the respondents believe that people with unhealthy behaviors should have to pay more for health

insurance. A majority said that smokers should have to pay more, while 28 percent said obese people should pay more. Californians were especially in favor (43 percent) of charging obese people higher health insurance premiums.

## Number of Uninsured Hispanics in US Increases

Since the early 1990s, there's been a rise in the number of uninsured Hispanic people in the United States, says a study released Tuesday by researchers at Columbia University and Montefiore Medical Center.

The study found a steady increase in the number of uninsured Hispanics between 1993 and 2004, while the number of non-Hispanic whites without health insurance remained about the same. The findings appear in the November issue of the Journal Health Affairs.

Between 1993 and 2004, the number of uninsured non-citizen Hispanics increased by 3 million and the number of U.S.-born Hispanics without health insurance increased by 2 million, the study said.

The researchers analyzed federal government data on

health insurance coverage for Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Cubans, and Dominicans and found some "striking differences" in coverage trends among Hispanic sub-groups.

For example, the researchers concluded that welfare reform in the 1990s had a disproportionate effect on Puerto Ricans, whose rates of Medicaid coverage declined from 35 percent in 1993 to 21 percent in 1999. Among Mexicans, the rates decreased from 19 percent to 14 percent over that same period.

In 2004, one-third of all Mexicans and 25 percent of all Cubans and Dominicans living in the United States had no health insurance. Among immigrant Hispanics who weren't U.S. citizens, 57 percent did not have insurance.

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## Online Tools help US consumers assess Nutrition Labels

The U.S. government has introduced two new learning tools to help Americans use the Nutrition Facts label so they can select healthy foods and control their weight.

The tools include an interactive Web-based learning program called Make Your Calories Count that's designed to help consumers understand and use the Nutrition Facts label to plan a healthy diet while managing calorie intake.

There's also a new downloadable Nutrition Facts Label brochure that tells consumers how they can use the Nutrition Facts label as they shop and plan meals.

"By making it easier for consumers to understand the Nutrition Facts label, the FDA is helping them make quick and informed food choices that contribute to lifelong healthy eating habits," Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, acting FDA commissioner, said in a prepared statement.

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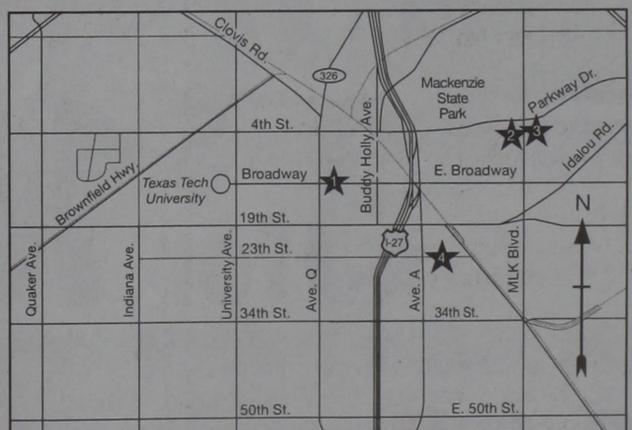
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# 'Ugly Betty' a runway hit

America Ferrera stars as an assistant at a fashion magazine in ABC's new hit "Ugly Betty." Among Hispanics, the comedy is the No. 1 new English-language show in total viewers as well as those in the 18-to-49 demographic.

Betty may not be a beauty queen or have the best fashion sense but she's got heart and confidence.

Mirror, mirror on the wall: Who's the fairest new TV character of them all?

Her name is Betty Suarez, the 22-year-old magazine editorial assistant you might know as "Ugly Betty," ABC's fresh and spunky superstar. More than 14 million viewers, mostly women of diverse ethnic backgrounds and ages, have made "Ugly Betty" the No. 1 new show in total viewers.

Not only has the comedy helped put ABC back on the all-important Thursday map without any help from a lead-in show, it also ranks among the top 20 shows with 18- to 49-year-olds, the demographic advertisers covet most, and ranks as a top-20 show among viewers who earn \$100,000 or more, according to Nielsen Media Research.

"To think that last year at this time I was in New York doing

some research, sitting at a Starbucks, writing the first few scenes of this pilot," creator Silvio Horta said. "I had no idea if it was going to go anywhere. But I guess it just goes to show that this character's strength, honesty and optimism seems to resonate. She's really tapped into a void."

The show, inspired by one of the most popular telenovelas in history, the Colombian "Yo Soy Betty, la Fea," has been a smash hit everywhere it has been remade, including Russia, India and Germany, and its most recent incarnation on Spanish-language television, "La Fea Mas Bella" on Univision. It seems it was only a matter of time before Americans fell in love with the bespectacled, bushy-browed, braces-wearing Betty, played with aplomb by America Ferrera ("Real Women Have Curves" and "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants").

Comedies don't typically compel fans to take to the Web the way serialized dramas such as "Lost" and "Heroes" do. But "Ugly Betty" is an exception.

"It's different from everything else that's on television right now," said 32-year-old Natasha



Walcott, who likes the show so much she's created a fan Web site for it, the Ugly Betty Online Forum at .com/UglyBetty/. "I think people are just tired of the whole magazine look and women having to be a certain weight. It shows that character is what's really important. Plus, it's a very funny show, and that turns everything on its ear."

Starting with ABC's expecta-

tions. Originally scheduled for Friday nights, ABC pulled an eleventh-hour switch, airing "Ugly Betty" before the No. 1 show on television, "Grey's Anatomy," which moved from Sundays to Thursdays. Expecting it to click with women and younger viewers, the network has been surprised by how wide-ranging the audience is and how well it is faring against CBS' pe-

renial time-period winner "Survivor," ABC Executive Vice President Jeff Bader said.

Of its 14 million viewers, 10.5 percent are black, 9.25 percent are Hispanic and 42 percent are 18 to 49 years old, according to Nielsen Media Research. (Nielsen does not provide other data on ethnicity). Seventy-two percent of the audience is female.

"We were just trying to get our foot in the door on Thursdays," Bader said. "I think the surprise is that the audience is as broad as it is. But this show has worked everywhere that it's been done. It seems it's always been the right time for this show. There's just something special in this character."

Betty Suarez is a Latina from Queens who lives with her father (Tony Plana), sister (Ana Ortiz) and nephew (Mark Indelicato) and works in Manhattan as an assistant to the editor of Mode magazine, played by Eric Mabius. Betty may not be a beauty queen or have the best fashion sense - she showed up to her first day of work wearing a colorful poncho - but she's got heart, personality and confidence, qualities of which fans can't seem to get enough.

"She's not trying to fit into anyone's mold," said Leslie Janis Jennings, 31, of Tampa, Fla. "The show has so many positive messages. If you look at her character and her family's strong roots, everyone else has money and beauty, but they're so unhappy. And she who has no money or doesn't come from it, is just as happy as a clam."

"We all like the show, and nobody should be ashamed of that," said Seon McDonald, 20, a Trinidad and Tobago native who lives in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

"Everybody in my family, we all sit together because it's basically a family show," he said.

**Watch Ugly Betty Thursdays 8/7c on ABC**  
www.eleditor.com

## CELEBRITY CHEF LALA DISHES UP BIL-LINGUAL SHOWS



LMNO Productions, executive producer of the new daytime talk show, "The Dr. Keith Ablow Show," has entered into an exclusive partnership with internationally known celebrity Chef LaLa, to create bi-lingual television shows, including a daytime talk show. The announcement was made today by Eric Schotz, President and CEO of LMNO Productions and Jeremy Brown, President of Sliced Up Entertainment. "Chef LaLa has what it takes to be a successful daytime host," stated Schotz. "She is funny, compelling and smart about her

business and has that rare combination that crosses over between English and Spanish speaking audiences. We are thrilled to be working with her."

The multi-talented Cordon Bleu-trained chef and nutritionist is best known for focusing her culinary exploration on healthy preparations in the Latino kitchen and for her numerous television and radio appearances. She is also the author of the best-selling cookbook, "Latin Lover Lite."

"Forming a great team is like a perfect dish. All the right ingre-

dients, heaping amounts of talent," commented Chef LaLa. "A dash of passion and perfect timing. The partnership with LMNO Productions and Sliced Up Entertainment is a recipe for success."

The talk show, tentatively titled 'U' LaLa, is being developed to attract a culturally diverse audience and will be much more than a cooking show. It will be fast-paced, informative and entertaining with an emphasis on living not lifestyle. The show will have a daily connection to the audience presenting useful information with practical applications.

Guests will come from a variety of backgrounds - not all necessarily celebrities.

Chef LaLa has a large, extremely diverse fan base that makes her the perfect host for bi-lingual programming, commented Brown. "Producing these shows in both English and Spanish will be a big undertaking and we couldn't think of anyone better than LMNO Productions to do this."

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