

Casualties of War in Iraq
4,091
as of June 5, 2008



El Editor

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"El Respeto al Derecho
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Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

Richard "Riché" Lopez; Beane Replaces Jones on Council; Remembered as Champion for the Poor Price Holds on to Seat

By Abel Cruz

He advocated for the poorest of the poor. He believed in the struggle for civil and human rights. He tried to defend those who couldn't defend themselves.

And he did it in a quiet and reserved way. He was not one for self-aggrandizement; and perhaps he himself would have been uncomfortable by the public displays which have followed his death?

Those who knew him for most of their life all agree; he was a reserved person and what he gave; he gave from his heart and he did not like to be recognized for it. He did not seek recognition; but during his lifetime; recognition found him.

Sadly, on Sunday the "voice for the poorest among us and the voiceless" was silenced by a heart attack.

Richard "Riche" Garza Lopez passed away after suffering a heart attack early Sunday morning.

Mr. Lopez was the Executive Director of the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation; a non-profit organization. He is also credited with co-founding the South Plains Food Bank; which also plays a major role in the lives of the less fortunate.

For 31 years or so; the organization he headed reflected his views about helping the poor; the homeless; the forgotten migrant workers.

It has been sad days for a community which considered Lopez "one of their own". To the community in general; Lopez represented someone to admire and in general most people knew of his important work; deeds; and acts of kindness.

Many knew him for the park which was named after him. Lopez Park is located at Auburn Street and Chicago.



Messages of condolences came from throughout the area and state. El Editor received an email from Lubbock native Georgia Lucero which read in part: "I am currently working in Waco and hate that I missed the funeral of such an extraordinary and genuinely good and kind man".

Another Guadalupe neighborhood resident told El Editor that he saw Lopez Saturday afternoon; making his rounds in the barrio; just like he always did. He says Lopez waved at him; smiled and looked happy.

The official funeral services period began with a Rosary held on Tuesday night at San Jose Catholic Church.

One person who attended the Rosary told El Editor, "the building overflowed with people; some stood outside". San Jose Deacon Benny Brito led the Rosary and paid "homage" to Lopez; according to our source.

On Wednesday morning; the streets in the Guadalupe Barrio were lined with car after car of service attendees. The row of cars from the church went all the way east to Ave O; a 2 block length. Cars were double parked up North Ave P; with the rows on either side going all the way to the middle of the 200 block. The street to the west was lined as well and stretched all the way past the Guadalupe Elementary School parking lot. The church was full as well; and people we spoke to said that there was standing room only.

Inside, the mood was somber but "peaceful" according to our source. One of the speakers recalled that when he called Lopez to see how things were going; his usual response was "aqui fregando"; which when translated to English implied that he was "working hard". That was his trademark response; and one he repeated to nearly everyone who called him.

Zenaída Agüero remembers Lopez fondly for his helping ways. She told El Editor: "Not only was he there to provide food or clothing for the poor, but he helped others like myself or anyone else who needed space (building) for whatever reason, you just asked him and he would say "yes, hita, whatever you need. Just like Deacon Brito from San Jose said at the rosary; 'what we need to do now is be there for him, in ways that he was there for us by helping his wife continue his work. Because she will be there to continue his work. This city will not be the same without him."

Another person who attended the service at the Peaceful Gardens Cemetery where Lopez was laid to rest; remarked to El Editor about the songs that were sung in a gesture of "goodbye".

Lopez was born in Edinburg, Texas in April of 1934. He had just celebrated his 74th birthday two months ago.

His parents were Juan and Ercelia Lopez; and he leaves his wife of 46 years; Rachel; behind.

Aside being the Executive Director of GESC; Lopez was associated with numerous local and state organizations. They ranged from his being named to a housing task force by former Texas Governor Mark White to being a member of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies.

Lopez was a Catholic and was a member of the Guadalupanos Society; a beneficent church organization.

Besides his wife Rachel; Lopez is survived by his children, Jaimy Torres and his wife, Stacy, of Amarillo; Javier Lopez and his wife, Nicole, of Lubbock; Grace Muniz and her husband Ed, of Pueblo, Colo.; sisters, Lupe Blanco and Carmen Sosa, both of Lubbock; brothers, Joe Lopez and his wife Linda, of Slaton, and Nick Lopez and his wife Vila, of Lamesa; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

El Editor Publisher, Bidal Agüero was a personal friend and had known Lopez for many, many years. Agüero says that Lopez will be missed; but that we need to continue doing the work he did; in commemoration of his life.

El Editor's publisher and wife Olga; wish to express "our most sincere condolences" to Lopez's wife Rachel and the rest of his family.

He will be greatly missed.
Email: acruzsc@aol.com

BY ABEL CRUZ

After all was said and done; Paul R. Beane won the right to advocate for the taxpayer for the next 4 years; just like he said he wanted to do.

But in the case of the District 2 race; Armando Gonzales came up short in the race to unseat incumbent Floyd Price.

Price held on to his seat by a margin of 108 votes; according to unofficial final results posted on the City of Lubbock web site.

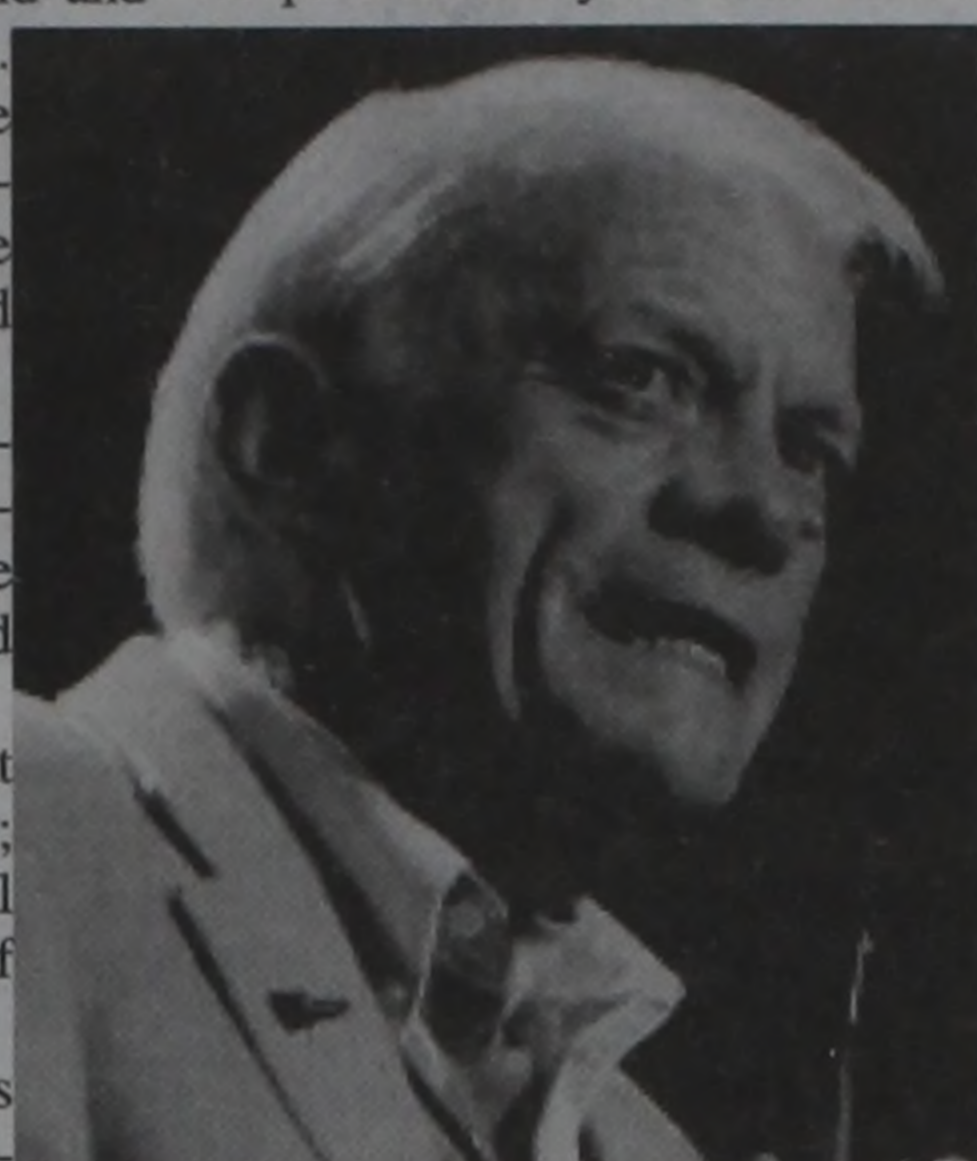
Now it's another four years of District 2 residents wondering just when they are going to get the same kind of attention to their problems as other parts of the city do.

Gonzales though says he "tried his best" and doesn't regret putting his name in the ring. He says that he did pay a price and wonders if this race will discourage others from entering the political arena.

He says the campaign was tough but on his radio show Tejano times; he was very gracious in defeat and congratulated Price. He said he was ready to move on and would continue to work to try and improve the conditions in District 2.

Many issues surfaced in the days leading up to the election. But by all indications; it seems the race came down to skin color. Gonzales says that the numbers he has seen seem to indicate that he won in the major-

ity Hispanic precincts as opposed to the predominately African Ameri-



can boxes.

He provided information which seems to confirm his conclusion.

For example; Gonzales says he won precincts 19 by 63 to 36 percent; precinct 25 by 62 to 38 percent and precinct 26 by 74 to 25 percent; and precinct 29 by 51 to 49 percent.

He says that these precincts are located in predominately Hispanic areas; except for precinct 29; Atkins Junior High. There he says; the vote was almost evenly split in an area comprised of Hispanics and Anglos.

Where he lost the race; was at 3 precincts at Alderson and Mae Simmons; all 3 located in predominately African American neighborhoods. At Alderson for example, Gonzales says he received 32 per-

cent to Price's 68 percent. Alderson was used for two precincts and the percentage is a combination total. At Mae Simmons; Gonzales lost big.

Mae Simmons is located in the Dunbar Manhattan Heights and price won 89 percent to Gonzales' 11 percent. Gonzales says he "was shocked" when he found out that he received only 1 vote on election day at Mae Simmons.

Consequently, he says that is how he has concluded that it came down to a black versus Hispanic type of election.

In a story published in this publication after the May 10 regular election written by Bidal Agüero; Agüero came to the same conclusion after a close examination of the numbers. From the data he looked at Agüero also concluded that it was "a skin color vote".

As in all elections there are stories about voting irregularities.

For example; Gonzales says he received a call that an employee at Mae Simmons; a city of Lubbock employee was talking to voters as they came in and encouraging them to vote for Floyd Price. He says there was a confrontation between the unidentified employee and one of his campaign workers; after the campaign worker informed him he could not do that.

Gonzales says that Dorothy Kennedy; Lubbock County Elections Administrator was called and that she went to Mae Simmons and approached the employee.

El Editor could not confirm this

information before going to press; but Gonzales says he has no reason to say that if it had not happened.

He says he will wait a few weeks to gather some information and



then decide if further action is necessary.

For Price, the seat he has held for four years will in all probability get hotter. After El Editor published a story last week about the conditions in District 2; we heard from several people complaining about the "deplorable east side" conditions and the inequity in the city services and lack of economic development.

One person even pointed out that gas prices at Cherry Point and Parkway are at \$4.10 for a gallon of regular unleaded; higher than anywhere else in the city. El Editor confirmed the price on Wednesday June 11, 2008.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net or acruzsc@aol.com

Editor's note: If you had an unusual experience while voting or anything you would like to tell us about the election; please email us

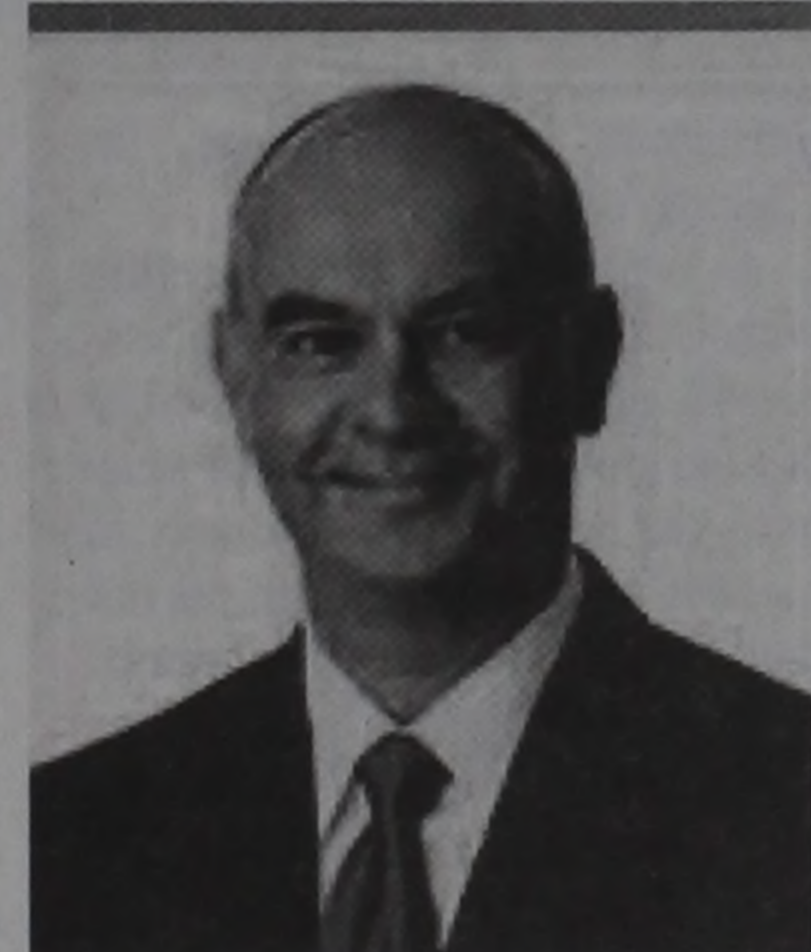
United States Senate Candidate to Visit Hub City

If you are not familiar with the name Rick Noriega; you might be after June 24.

On that day a group of Lubbockites will host a "Rick Noriega For U.S. Senate Rally".

The group's spokesperson, former Democratic congressional candidate Robert Ricketts told El Editor that area Democrats are excited about the candidate's visit to the hub city.

This race promises to be one



that will have a lot of Texas voters watching and paying attention.

Voters will go to the polls in November to decide between Democratic State Representative and Democratic nominee Rick Noriega and incumbent Republican Senator John Cornyn.

Cornyn will be vying for his second year term; but early polling is showing that Noriega represents a "credible and best opportunity for Democrats to take the seat and add to the majority in the Senate" according to Ricketts.

The Noriega campaign recently announced that he would be visiting here on June 24. The event is planned at the American Wind Power Museum located at 1701 Canyon Lakes Drive.

It will be from 5:30PM - 7:00PM and organizers are hoping for a large turnout.

When asked why the museum had been selected as the site for the free event; Ricketts told El Editor that it was because it "reflected Noriega's commitment to exploring new ways to lessen our dependence on foreign oil". He says, "what a better location than one which showcases wind power;

the energy of the future".

Noriega highlights the energy issue on his web site www.ricknoriega.com. According to the site; one of Noriega's priorities is "to develop alternative sources of energy, to create high-tech environmental jobs, and to free ourselves from our dependence on foreign oil. We must make a serious effort to invest in clean, alternative, renewable sources of energy including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass".

Ricketts emphasizes that the event "will be free and structured as a meet and greet with the candidate. It will last an hour and a half, giving people an opportunity to visit with him one-on-one and ask questions, make suggestions, etc. During the meet and greet period, we will have a band (Hat Trick—they often play at Abuelo's), along with wine, water, beer, and snacks. Of course, Rick will also address the entire crowd and talk about the issues he wants to emphasize during the campaign".

Ricketts also says that in addition to Noriega "there should be other candidates for office in attendance. We are optimistic that this event will be one of those rare opportunities where the whole spectrum of the Democratic Party will join together in support of one of our most impressive candidates. In the process, we can kick off the post-primary election season in Lubbock, and show the community that the Democratic Party is alive and thriving in the Lubbock area".

Ricketts also says that he wants to personally invite El Editor readers and "folks from the community". "I hope all your readers can make it", said Ricketts.

This is a race that will be worth



following. Cornyn has been in office for 6 years and he has come under fire from Noriega and other state Democrats for his stances on veteran's benefits; and his stance on

immigration.

It will definitely be an event popular voters will not want to miss.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net or acruzsc@aol.com

News Briefs City Employees Organize Employee Association

NewsChannel11 reported this past week that city of Lubbock employees have formed an employee association.

Here's an excerpt from www.kcbd.com: "Safety in numbers is the belief of Lubbock City Employees as they join forces in a union for job protection. It's called "The City of Lubbock Employee Association" and the organization's president, Kevin Overstreet, says the need for the association stems from the negative politics at city hall".

The report did not mention specifically why employees felt their job security was in jeopardy. But it did go on to quote Overstreet: "There is a lot of uncertainty; you open up the paper almost on a daily basis and see negative politics day in and day out, and then of course the FBI running the search warrant on city hall; there is a lot of uncertainty out there."

The full story can be accessed on the kcbd.com website.

One city of Lubbock employee; who we agreed not to identify; told El Editor that he had not heard anything about the association.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Disturbing Findings on Drug Use and Suicide Among Hispanic Youth

A recent survey by the federal government has found that "Hispanic teens try drugs and commit suicide at higher rates" than their counterparts.

In a story reported by the Associated press; the report says that "Hispanic students were more likely than either blacks or whites to attempt suicide, ride with a driver who had been drinking alcohol, or use cocaine, heroin or ecstasy. Hispanics also most often drank alcohol on school property, were offered or sold illegal drugs and occasionally skipped school because they feared for their safety, according to the 2007 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

That we have a problem here in Lubbock is evident when one sees the high drop out rate in the Hispanic community. It is the extent of the problem which is not known because these types of issues are never publicly explored or debated by the Lubbock Independent School System administration or school board.

At least El Editor never receives press releases or other information related to the problems experienced by local teens.

What we do know is that teens here practice unsafe sex and experience more cases of sexually transmitted diseases than most of the other areas of the country.

Perhaps, it is an issue for District 1 School Board member, Mario Ybarra; to explore; since he was recently re-elected to office.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Question of the Week

Why is price of gas higher on the east side in district 2?
According to a website which publishes gas prices in all areas of the country; including Lubbock; (www.gasbuddy.com); the price of a gallon of regular unleaded is higher in District 2 than anywhere else in Lubbock. Gas prices at a station at Parkway Dr and Cherry Point is going for \$4.10 a gallon. The price for the same grade at the Chevron on 4th and Frankford is 3.85.
Could it be price gouging at a location where competition is non-existent?
Councilman Floyd Price; would you like to answer that question?
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net or acruzsc@aol.com

Read El Editor on the Net: eleditor.com
or pick it up at your favorite retail store

Editorial

City Elections

The conclusion of the city election cycle has led us to conclude a few things which we will share with readers this week.

To paraphrase Gerald Ford; who followed Nixon in the White House after Nixon was forced to resign: "Our long local 2 year nightmare is over"; we have a new Mayor and a revamped city council.

We live amongst some people who are more interested in getting even than getting ahead; and you know who they are. They are political neophytes who do not have a clue as to how politics work. But then again we are not sure they know the meaning of the word "neophyte" either. We are sure they are disappointed in how little influence they had when all was said and done and Tom Martin and Paul Beane were elected.

Yes, we understand that they can point to the Price victory as their victory. But they would be premature in their celebration. A small group of malcontents who somehow think they control and influence the whole Hispanic community and have appointed themselves as experts in everything Hispanic should take a close look at the numbers.

Gonzales won the Hispanic vote. Price won because of the greater black vote. Period!

The District 2 race; based on the actual precinct by precinct numbers came down to a Brown versus black race. It seems that African American were willing to do just enough to hold on what has become known to them as the "black seat" on the council; even if it meant re-electing an ineffective representative.

That plantation politics are alive and well.

We have to allow for the possibility that folks in certain areas of District 2 are satisfied with dirt roads; dumps; boarded up buildings; so they are satisfied with the status quo and did not bother to vote.

That when it comes to some people who still cling on to a culture of racial politics; for example; "you need to support so and so because she is Hispanic"; do major flip flops in a hypocritical fashion and do not practice what they preach because they are more interested in getting revenge.

The rest of the city and people in district 2 whose population is about 32,000 will have to live with a decision that was made by only a little over 800 voters. That is sad.

The rest of the city will have to also pay the price of ineffective leadership from Price.

We have to conclude that the majority of voting age residents did not care enough about their area to take the time to vote. It is convenient; it is easy; what's the problem?

We also have to allow for the possibility that those who didn't vote are satisfied with Councilman's Floyd Price's ineffective representation; they don't care to make changes.

That several people who assured campaign workers from the Gonzales campaign that they would vote; just plain seemed to tell them what they wanted to hear and didn't have the decency to keep their word.

That perhaps if some smart entrepreneur had set up a bar at each voting location on election day and advertised "50 cent Longnecks" we may have had a huge turnout.

Now we move on and will watch what Price does on the council; we will see how he pays back the overwhelming number of campaign donors from South and Southwest Lubbock who live outside of the district; how he will repay their "political generosity"?

And all the while; Rome will be burning so to speak; it will be another long and dusty summer on the east side; and the one person who voters have charged to carry the first pail of water to put out the fire will probably be too busy mowing his lawn to hear the alarm.

National Elections

So we move on from the city elections to the national stage and two races which we plan to watch closely is the local contest for District 19; and the US Senate race between Republican incumbent John Cornyn and Democratic candidate Rick Noriega. Perhaps you have seen the story already about Noriega's upcoming visit to our fine city.

In every election there are different points of views; and each candidate has a right to present them to potential voters. It is when candidates refuse to debate or run a credible campaign that voters are left to decide who wins based on campaign ads and sound bites.

That is why El Editor believes that voters here in Lubbock and the surrounding region should attend the planned campaign event for Noriega; and other political candidate's forums.

Why? Because then voters can make an informed decision when they go to the polls in November.

And to our friends on the other side of the aisle; the same applies for Cornyn. We won't be disingenuous here and pretend that we will support John Cornyn. But what we do strongly support is each candidate's right to speak to the people in an open forum of their choosing; and to let the voters hear their message.

We will be there.

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Obama Faces Major Task in Mobilizing Hispanics

OBAMA FACES MAJOR TASK IN MOBILIZING HISPANICS

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Hispanic leaders and analysts are expressing enthusiasm over the Democratic presidential nomination of Barack Obama but maintain he has yet to win over the Latino vote.

This, they claim, will be critical for him — or John McCain — to reach the presidency.

Generally, Latino leaders hailed the nomination of the first black presidential candidate of a major party as a historic national milestone.

Obama gained the 2,118 delegates needed to clinch his party's nomination in the Montana and South Dakota primaries June 4. Several super delegates endorsed him that day. His delegate count is 2187.5 to Hillary Clinton's 1927.

"He will need the Hispanic vote to win. He's going to have to work hard for it. One cannot take it for granted," said Andrés Ramírez, vice president for Hispanic programs of

the pro-Democrat think tank NDN.

Most Latino support in the primaries went to Clinton. In California and New York, Latinos backed her by about a 2 to 1 margin.

Analysts stress Hispanics will be critical in November in swing states such as Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico.

Ramírez credited Obama with showing much initiative in reaching out to Hispanics. He maintained both Democratic candidates set records in Spanish-language advertising expenditures during the primaries.

The NDN hailed as "landmark" a 30-second ad Obama delivered in flawless Spanish during the Puerto Rico primary.

But Los Angeles' La Opinión, the country's largest Spanish-language daily, criticized his campaign for not communicating enough with the Spanish-language media. Columnist Pilar Marrero wrote May 31, "The Barack Obama presidential campaign's indifference to

El Hijo Del Alacrán

(The Son of the Scorpion)

Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now



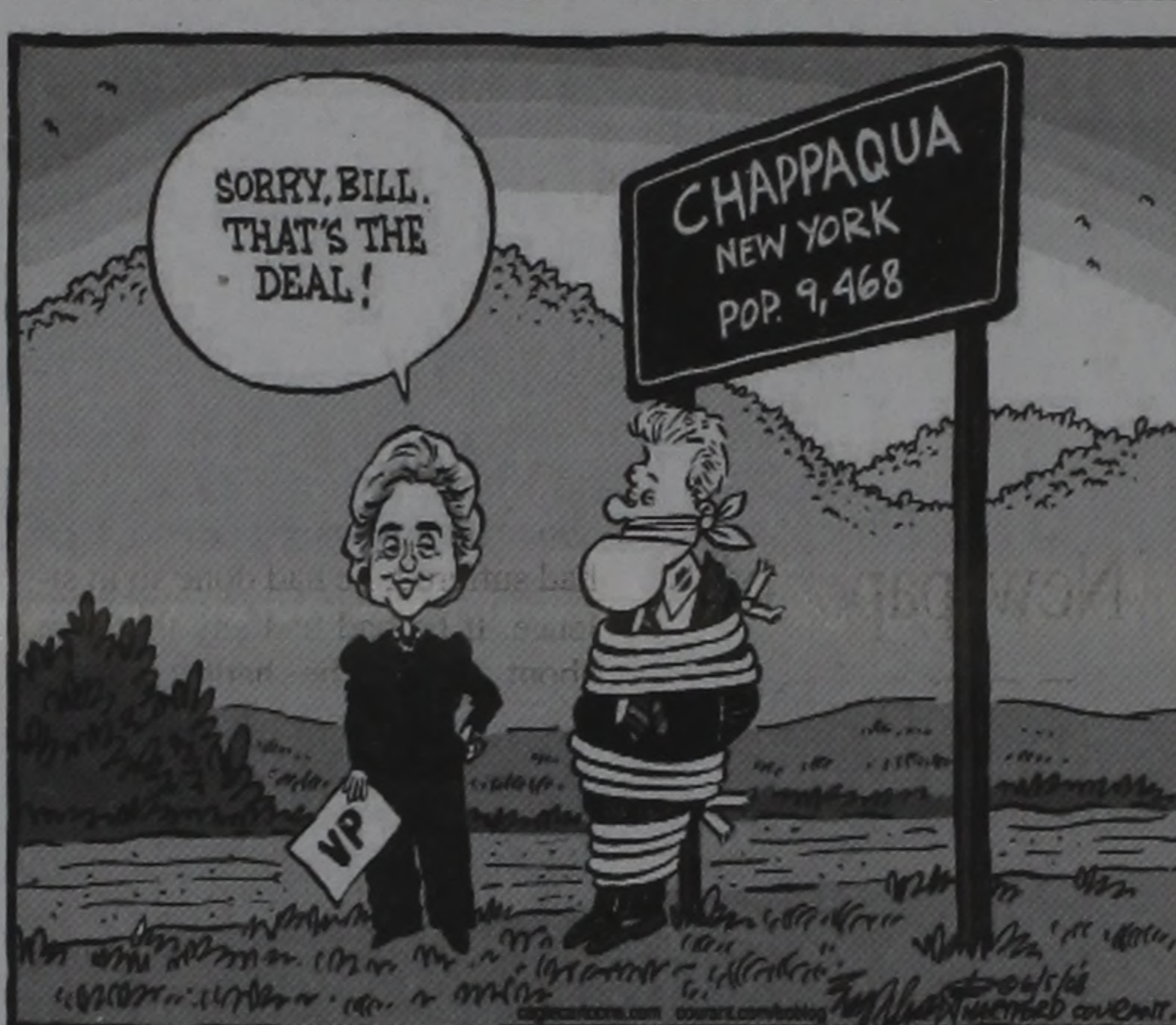
¡Bueno ya los del east side no tienen por que llorar! Ya cuando necesitan algo que se pertenezca que el Concilio haga la decision si sí ir bi oyede ur cib sy representante Floyd Price pa que le cante un hymo y los mande por su lado. Ah pero cuando vean que no les puso atencion puede ir con Christy Martínez o Clyde James pa' que les ayude.

Ha y se escucha por ahí que ahora si una persona quiere correr pa' un puesto electoral, tienen que pedirle permiso a el DeLeon Política Mafia que incluye a Linda DeLeon, Christy Martínez, Clyde Jones y Roger Settler y unos cuantos mas quien se mirara en el cercano futuro en su nuevo TV show, "los pajasos blanquesidos del barrio".

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Brown on Brown Crime?

Well, if it isn't a crime it should be! If this past week's city runoff elections taught us anything it's this, that there are Hispanics in this community who will do anything to keep other Hispanics down. District 2 is predominantly Hispanic and has been for years, if not decades.

And yet, all the Hispanics in District 2 couldn't elect one of their own. But, the real question is why? Could it have been that the candidate wasn't right? Could it have been that Hispanics just don't go out and vote in enough numbers to carry the day? Could it be that District 2 belongs to the African-American community and no one else? Or could the reason be more sinister and deceitful?

The African-American community stuck together like peanut butter on white bread, but the Hispanic community got split by at the very least, two groups. First, there was the Gilbert Salinas' group who, by everyone's account, and in my opinion, joined the race in order to split the Hispanic vote. Even when he was ready to do the right thing and throw in the towel, was convinced to stay in the race to keep Armando Gonzales from winning. Gilbert Salinas might be a Knight of Columbus but it seems he has more "devilish moves than angel" in him. I will give Gilbert Salinas credit though, he accomplished his mission and forced a run-off between Price and Gonzalez.

The second group of anti-Hispanics is comprised of a certain city elected official and Lubbock county candidate. Apparently, they hate us so much, that they launched a successful whisper campaign against the Hispanic and in favor of the shuck and grin African-American.

Phone calling and talking to everyone they knew, letting them know that, even though they thought Floyd Price was a joke, they could control him. On the other hand, you have Armando Gonzalez who they knew they couldn't control and who would have made them out for what they really are. Again; in my opinion; "vendidos".

So they both called the little old folks who don't know any better and who trust in self-serving people. The little old folks did as they were told and voted for Price over Gonzalez.

I know that time will ultimately take care of these people. The sad part of all of this is that, instead of being able to take our rightful place in this city now, we will have to wait until self-serving, anti-Hispanic hypocrites are long gone...whispering their lies and misleading their own people.

RMS, Lubbock

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Publisher Bidal Aguero
Business Manager
Olga Riojas Aguiar
Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz
Circulation: Daniel Peres and Maribel Perez

ADVERTISE CALL
806-763-3841
Asst. Director of Sales
Amalia Aguiar
eleditorsales@sbcglobal.net

Obama Enfrenta un Reto Mayor en Mobilizar Votantes Hispanos

Alejandro Meneses

WASHINGTON - Líderes y analistas hispanos están expresando entusiasmo ante la nominación presidencial demócrata de Barack Obama, pero mantienen que debe aún ganarse el voto Latino que aseguran será crítico para sus aspiraciones de llegar a la Casa Blanca.

A la vez aclaman la nominación del primer candidato presidencial afro-americano de un partido grande como un suceso "histórico".

Obama sobrepasó los 2,118 delegados que necesitaba para asegurar la nominación al concluir las primarias de Montana y South Dakota el 3 de junio y ganar el patrocinio de varios superdelegados. Su cuenta total de delegados es de 2187.5 comparado a los 1927 de Hillary Clinton.

"El necesitará del voto hispano para ganar. Va a tener que trabajar duro por el voto. Uno no debe darle por hecho," dijo Andrés Ramírez, vice presidente de programas hispanos de la organización progresista NDN.

La mayoría del voto hispano en las primarias

demócratas fue para Hillary Clinton. En estados como California y Nueva York, Obama perdió el voto latino en una proporción alrededor de 2 a 1.

Los analistas mantienen que el electorado hispano jugará un papel crítico en las elecciones de Noviembre principalmente en estados como Colorado, Florida, Nevada y Nuevo México.

Ramírez dijo que Obama ha mostrado iniciativa para comunicarse con los electores latinos. Sostuvo que ambos candidatos demócratas rompieron cifras en gastos de anuncios en español durante las primarias.

La organización elogió como un acontecimiento histórico un anuncio de Obama en Puerto Rico donde el candidato graba su mensaje completamente en español.

Pero el diario La Opinión, el medio impreso en español más grande del país, y el cual ha endorsed a Obama, recientemente criticó a su campaña diciendo que no le está prestando suficiente atención a los medios en español.

Su columnista Pilar Marrero sentenció de

indiferente la atención de su campaña hacia la prensa hispana y añadió que ha sido un problema desde el comienzo de la carrera presidencial.

Juan José Gutiérrez, director de Latino Movement USA en Los Angeles y partidario de Obama, expresó que hasta el momento Obama no se ha caracterizado por movilizar a la comunidad latina como lo ha hecho con los afro-americanos, los jóvenes y otros sectores.

"Tenemos que presionar desde ahora y tenemos que asegurar que somos visibles en esta campaña," dijo.

Pero a la vez añadió que si las primarias se tuvieran que repetir con el conocimiento que el público ahora tiene de Obama, "el latino no apoyaría a Hillary Clinton de la misma manera que lo hizo en un principio."

Gutiérrez ha movilizado a la comunidad hispana e inmigrante para presionar al gobierno federal que apruebe una reforma migratoria que ofrezca la legalización a los indocumentados, como lo hizo durante las demostraciones

masivas pro-inmigrante de 2006.

Obama se reunió con Gutiérrez y una docena de líderes hispanos en diciembre de 2007 y les aseguró que haría todo lo posible por pasar una reforma migratoria amplia durante su primer año si fuera elegido presidente.

Gutiérrez sostiene que Obama expresó su compromiso para abordar el asunto antes de que lo hiciera Clinton.

"No más de quince se reunieron con él," dijo. "Ahora va a ser necesario que llene la arena deportiva de latinos," añade, si es que aspira a la presidencia.

Gutiérrez se convenció tras la reunión de que Obama era el candidato a seguir. Sostiene que sus metas en una amplia gama de asuntos, por ejemplo su apoyo a favor de una reforma migratoria o terminar la guerra en Iraq, tienen gran resonancia con la comunidad latina.

"No he conocido a un político en mi vida que me haya hecho sentir que con este señor se pueden hacer las cosas, que haya una sinceridad, una apertura, una originalidad. Es una persona

genuina," expresó. "No es fácil encontrar a este tipo de políticos especialmente a ese nivel de la política."

El analista político José de la Isla explicó que Obama representa el cambio político que el público estadounidense exigía cuando le dieron a los demócratas la mayoría en el Congreso en 2006.

De la Isla dijo que la movilización de la comunidad latina en 2006 fue una expresión de este llamado al cambio y la comunidad en sí un agente para que el cambio sucediera. Añadió, sin embargo, que el liderazgo demócrata falló en cumplir reformas prometidas.

"(Obama) es el cambio del que la gente habla," dijo. "Fue muy hábil en percibir lo que el público decía y el resto del partido demócrata no lo hacía."

Gutiérrez dijo que Obama ha ofrecido puntos de vista políticos frescos en varios temas, incluyendo su enfoque hacia Latinoamérica, en particular en lo que se refiere a hablar, "sin precondiciones," con Cuba.

fers to speaking, "without preconditions," to Cuba.

Republican National Committee spokesperson Hessay Fernández said Obama's willingness to talk to "hostile leaders" while turning his back to "friends" like Colombia through his opposition of a free trade agreement speaks to his "inexperience."

Gutiérrez responded, "It indicates that with Barack Obama there will be a different dynamic of doing politics," but he added that as in all politics, "there will be possibilities, but no guarantees."

He said, "The fact that we support Senator Obama doesn't mean we're giving him a blank check, and that once he reaches power he can do whatever because we'll be satisfied history was made."

(Alex Meneses Miyashita, based in Washington, D.C., is a correspondent with the Mexico City daily El Universal. Email: meneses377@aol.com) ©2008

(Alejandro Meneses escribe para el diario El Universal. Email: alexcm377@hotmail.com) ©2008

The Fathers in My Life

By Abel Cruz

As men, we all can find experiences during our lives with our fathers to use as metaphors or examples of what they have meant to us. Some of us have lost our fathers to illness or age or some tragic accident; some still have them with them; some have lost them due to the father's irresponsibility and neglect.

That is not a judgment; but rather just an observation and I would be less than truthful if I did not acknowledge it. It happens way too often; and it is sad; but we do not live in a perfect world and there is no sense in pretending otherwise.

And at the end of the day, it's the man who helped raise you who matters most. It's the father who woke up nights when the child was sick; who stayed up late waiting for their child to come home; the one who cried when the child got married or was hurt by someone else; the one who worked day in and day out to provide the best he could; the one who felt your happiness and felt your pain; that's the real father.



The one who dried your tear with his strong and rough hand; days after your life had changed forever.

When we die, I don't think God will judge us by how we were treated by our fathers but rather by how we as fathers treat our children. For those who don't have children by choice, that's ok too. But for those that do, we must always remember that when we made the decision to have them; or to adopt them in some cases; we signed on for the rest of our lives.

As we celebrate Father's Day, I am reminded of the "fathers" in my life.



My childhood friend and little league teammate Rudy and I once went to the cemetery where his father is buried to try and find his father's gravesite. I think he told me he lost his dad when he was barely 9 or 10. Rudy knew my dad; I unfortunately never met his.

But on that Sunday afternoon, as grown men I still felt like a kid helping a friend from the barrio look for his father. When we found his father's final resting place the look on his face was like one of a proud child remembering the baseball glove his father had given him when he was young.

His father had taken him to Sears to choose the glove; and was proud of it. It meant more than what he realized; and it had certainly become more memorable and meaningful after his dad passed away.

He didn't realize just how meaningful until after his younger brother had lost it.

Both of our dads gave us something special; both Rudy and I inherited our baseball playing skills from our fathers; and we still can't stop talking about our undefeated season, our city championship title in 1965; and our making the All Star team 2 years in a row! For those of you from those days; we played for the Swabbies.

Our paths still cross frequently today; we've shared stories about our dads; me more than him; he understands.

My friend Alex's father and my dad worked together when Alex and I were in elementary and for many years after that. But neither one of us knew until many years later. Coincidentally; Alex and I worked together at the old Fields and Company in the 1970's.

His mother used to tell him that she always got a kick out of the way my father walked so fast. She told Alex that my dad walked so fast; his dad was always about 3 steps behind. Funny; because no one could keep up with my dad before age slowed him down. You've heard all the old sayings; "early to bed, early to rise" and "the early bird gets the worm". My dad believed in being early and getting to where was going by the most efficient way; and he definitely did not believe in "burning daylight" or being late; that was definitely a no!

Alex tells me that his father would speak fondly of my dad. To this day Alex and I still speak often. When he

lost his dad; I shared his pain; when I lost mine; he was there for me. When my dad found out that Alex's father was ill; his few words said it all; "Alejandro; es un buen hombre"; "Alejandro is a good man"; "may God Bless him; and tell Alex I am praying for him and Carmen too".

On June 9, 2008; a few days ago; Alex marked the second anniversary of his father's death; we talked; we remembered. "Alejandro" Reyna passed away a few days before Father's Day in 2006.

When my father died; Rudy and Alex were there for me; each in his own way; and for that they have my unending love and gratitude. They are both very good fathers and grandfathers too.

Aside from my father Florentino, I have met other extraordinary fathers in my short lifetime. Ok; for those who know me; no short people jokes here.

There was Marcos, my brother in law; he reinforced my love and joy of music; he would play the guitar and I would sing; pretending I was on stage somewhere in Mexico singing "Volver Volver"; He would look up from the guitar and say something like; "Man Chub; you can sing"; I liked how he said my nickname; which has always described me to a tee (ok; no "fat jokes" here either now; besides I would rather be pleasantly plump than kind of ugly; I can lose weight; what can an ugly person do?).

Anyway, even though I knew Marc was being kind; to him there never was a bad song written or a bad singer. That's just the way he was; very respectful of people's feelings and always welcoming.

Back in the 60's when I was going to Thompson Jr. High, I would walk downtown to the law office where he worked after every school day and would wait for him to give me a ride home. We would talk about things; he taught me a lot on those ride homes.

He helped me to get through my ninth grade year; as I should have been going to Mathews in Arnett Benson since we moved there from the Guadalupe Barrio in 1969; right before my ninth grade year. And we lived only a block and a half away from the Mathews.

But I had decided that I would do whatever I had to do to finish out my junior high school days as a Thompson Cowboy. After all; I wanted to follow the rich tradition of those from the barrio who had

gone their too. Marcos was born with the music of life in his heart and he shared it with our family; too many times to count. Since we lost him I've felt that there has always been a void in our family gatherings and somehow that love of music hasn't been quite the same as when he was alive. It was as somehow the strumming of the guitar strings provided a way for me to express myself and still today I still hear the music and songs we shared together.

Cancer took him from us; I miss him a lot. He was a good father to my niece and nephews; and not surprisingly they were all born with musical talent. I hear his grandson's are following in their grandfather's musical footsteps.

Now that is a legacy. And then there was my brother in law and friend Daniel. He was one of those unforgettable characters; like the ones we used to read about in "Reader's Digest".

He too showed me what it means to be a father. He was taken from my sister and their children, son in law and grandson way to soon; but he could have lived to be a hundred and that still would have been too soon.

During one of our last conversations, a good while before the doctors told him he had cancer; he spoke to me about his love for life; his love for his family. Perhaps even then he knew that his time on earth had been measured already. But when he talked about life you could see the glow in his face and the sparkle in his eye; as his love came pouring out.

From him I would learn that we do not need to live life as if we are rushing to a fire; at a hectic pace. From him I learned that no amount of worry and anxiousness will change the course of our lives. In him I always saw serenity.

In his hands I saw a talent to make others feel better.

Towards the last few years of his life; he achieved his goal of helping people feel better and feel better about themselves; after he became a certified massage therapist. I would always admire how he would come home after a long day at work and hit the books. I saw what it took to accomplish what he set out to do when he was in his 50's.

Determination; dedication; steady-

ness; they were there in full view.

I was fortunate enough to spend time with him and my sister when I left Washington, DC in 2000 and relocated to Texas. He opened his home to me; he was also generous.

He impacted my life more than anyone will ever know. It is still too hard to tell them.

On May 23; I remembered him on the fourth anniversary of his death.

So I leave it you to reminisce about your own fathers and your own father figures in your lives. As someone who is always searching for life's answers; I often wish we could all do a better job of being fathers. We hear the stories all the time; dad's who have mastered the art of abandoning their responsibility after their child is born. That is not good; and it happens way too often.

But I did not write this to preach or judge your fatherhood; but rather it is just my view.

I was blessed with 2 wonderful; healthy and beautiful daughters. And although they live far away; they are never far from my heart. They know what they mean to me; I have shared that with them and I know what I mean to them. They have made it a point to tell me because they know I will leave them too someday.

I just pray they do not leave me first; I don't know if I could survive that like so many other fathers and mothers have had to.

And we too have gone through and thankfully weathered the storm; as all parents and children do.

For us we are trying to make sure there will be no regrets. We are making sure that even though we have gone through some rough seas together; just like any other kids and dad; we never forget what we mean to each other. And we are trying to pass along that to my 2 grandkids Katrina and Jacob; and the future ones to come if God so chooses.

Katrina was born shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans; and she definitely has her hurricane moments from time to time. But that's ok; the "terrible twos" will be gone soon.

And when they are old enough to understand; they too will know the meaning of the love of their fathers and grandfathers.

Happy Father's Day to all the other "Cunados"; brothers in law; fathers in my family; Lu; Dave; Eric; I love you all.

Email: acruzisc@aol.com

El Editor, Lubbock's Newspaper of RECORD

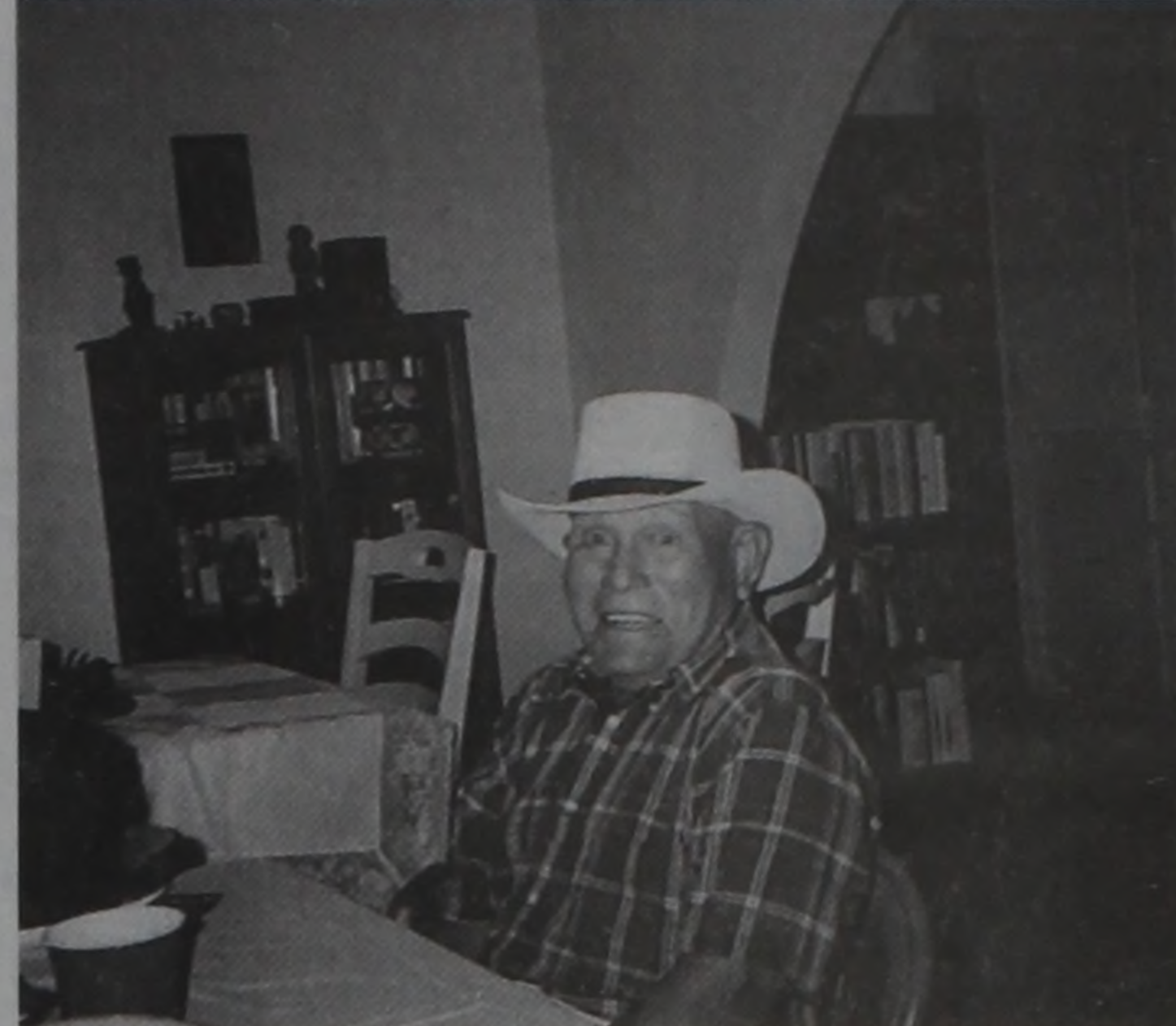
His Father's Son

By Abel Cruz

In the months before his father would let go of this world and enter into everlasting life; he somehow had finally started to grow; just like that last cotton plant at the end of the row which the farmer is tempted to cut; but then lets it live; and somehow it winds up surviving and blooming just like the rest of the healthy plants.

It seemed like the root had finally begun to take hold and produce an inner peace.

Not that there was inner peace every day but slowly; sometimes



so painfully slow; the inner peace was beginning to dominate the regrets and the anger.

The image of the last good bye to the man who was nearing the end of his 95 year life; was vivid in his memory. The look of peace on his father's face; the knowing look that he would finally be reunited with the love of his life; his wife who had gone to her resting place to be with God a few years before. His father firmly believed that. That was the kind of person he was. Although he had shared with the son on one occasion that he had not always been Faithful to God; once he tapped into his faith; he had never wavered.

He still recalled some of his prayers he would pray when offering prayers after his wife had died; powerful words which he was sure God heard...

During that time; his father had not complained nor commented about his impending death; if he had suffered; he had done so in silence. If he had had any thoughts about dieing; he hadn't shared them.

Unwavering consistency; steady-

ness; reliability; timeliness; correctness; early riser; hard worker; dependability; these were just some of his qualities. Of course he had some that were not quite as good; but then again who among us doesn't?

Throughout his life; he had been a man of few words; and it seemed rather appropriate now that the end was near; the long day would soon be over; he would not act any differently.

Consistency; that was some-

He began to realize just how much he had learned from the unspoken wisdom which his father had shown him since the day he was born. He realized that the values and philosophy of life had finally begun to take hold and he realized that the last goodbye to his dad; might be the catalyst; the final push; which would allow him to grow and mature.

This third Father's Day without his father; instead of regrets there would be a sense of gratitude to God for all the years he had given him. There would be sadness of course and he would miss him; but that would be offset by an inner calm; an inner peace.

He would cry his usual tears but he would remember the last time he had stroked the right cheek of his father in the last few moments of his life and told him what he had failed to tell him so many times in life; "I love you dad". He would whisper those words to him once again when he would visit his final resting place next to his mother.

This year he would let the love he had overlooked help him defeat the things that stood in his way; and remember that although things change every day; that life is fleeting and tragedy and misfortune may be just around the corner; nothing; absolutely nothing could ever change that he finally realized he was in many ways just like his father; and that wasn't such a bad thing.

Somehow; he finally understood what it meant to be "his father's son".

Email: leifelesssons@clearwire.net

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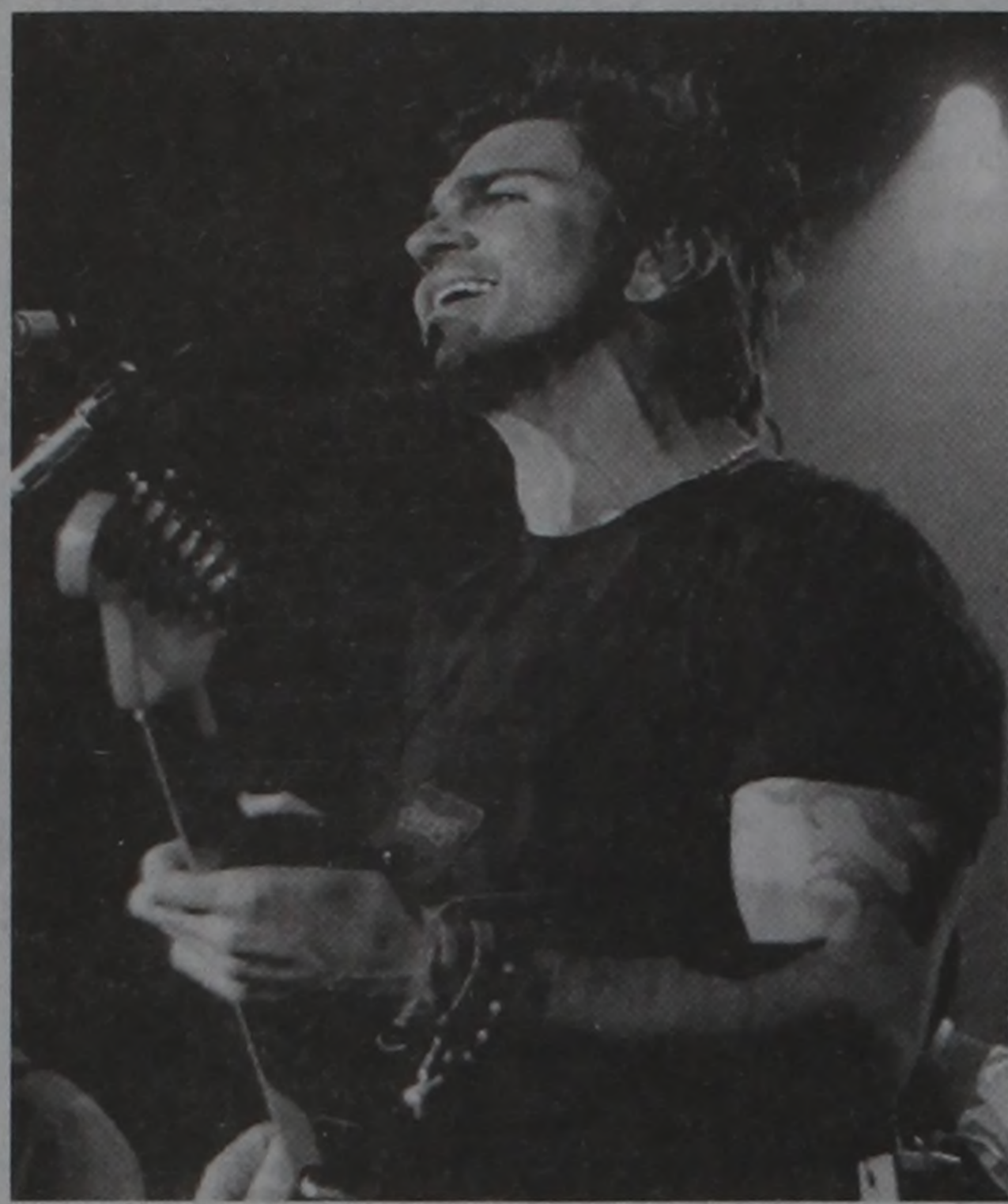
Latin Performers Take Center Stage this Summer in the Country's Top Tourist Destination

"This summer, Latino artists, comedians and entertainers are in the spotlight in the country's top travel destination: Las Vegas. Visitors from around the world are flocking to the Strip at the height of travel season to see award-winning musical talents such as Juanes, Ozomatli and Camila, as well as comedians like Carlos Mencia and George Lopez. In a city already known for world-class entertainment, these Latino acts are drawing sellout crowds.

Recently, Carlos Mencia, the Honduran-born host of Comedy Central's "Mind of Mencia" showcased his comedy at Pearl Concert Theater at The Palms Casino Resort; while Juanes, a three-time Latin Grammy-winning Colombian artist was at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Ozomatli, the Grammy-winning Latin fusion band, performed poolside at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino; Camila, the hit Mexican band, prepares for their live performance at The Joint (also at the Hard Rock) on June 20. The Grammy-nominated Mexican trio's third single, Todo Cambió, recently reached the #1 spot of Mexico's Top 100 Singles Chart.

The Strip is already preparing for Mexican Independence Day. Already lined up for the weekend, September 12-15, at

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace is Luis Miguel. Leading Latin



Pop Star Alejandro Fernández brings his new tour "VIENTO A FAVOR" to the Mandalay Bay Events Center Monday, Sept. 15. Tickets for Fernández are on sale now, while Miguel's are on sale June 7.

Packing an entire summer's worth of fun into one trip has never been easier than in fabulous Las Vegas. Whether it's the hottest new headliner, a chic restaurant opening or a VIP event at a trendy nightclub, there is always something exciting happening in Vegas.

There's a good reason why Las Vegas is called the "Entertainment Capital of the World." The biggest shows and brightest stars are within walking distance on the famed Strip. Elton John, Bette Midler and Cher have taken over The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, while Barry Manilow performs at the Las Vegas Hilton. The curtain rises on Mamma Mia! at Mandalay Bay and Jersey Boys at The Palazzo, while five different Cirque du Soleil shows entice guests to enjoy a different world. Beginning in September, Cirque du Soleil will add another show to the Strip with Criss Angel's Believe. Tickets are available now.

Las Vegas has redefined the culinary and wine experience by offering world-class restaurants, more Master Sommeliers than any other city in the world, more wine sold per capita than in any other destination and the most comprehensive collection of celebrity chefs including Guatemalan native Eduardo Perez, who command their own fan base of fine diners and culinary enthusiasts. Perez worked his way up within the renowned Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group family, and is now the executive chef of Trattoria del Lupo at Mandalay Bay.

As the dining scene evolves in Las Vegas, new restaurants continue to open nearly every month, providing unique experiences for repeat visitors. Some of the many new restaurants include: Mario Batali's first steakhouse Carnevino and fiery Brazilian SUSH-ISAMBA in The Palazzo, Payard Pâtisserie & Bistro at Caesars Palace, DJT in Trump International Hotel and Tower, RUB BBQ inside the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Kerry Simon's Simon at Palms Place and Hard Rock Hotel's AGO. Stephen Hanson and B.R. Guest opened Dos Caminos Las Vegas, at The Palazzo Resort Hotel Casino, the first outside of New York City.

Enter any casino resort and discover amazing shopping opportunities around every corner. From Manolo and Jimmy Choo to Prada, Fendi, Louis Vuitton and Gucci, more than 700 different retail outlets and 11 million square feet of shopping fill the destination. One-of-a-kind shopping venues include Wynn Esplanade, The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, Mandalay Place, Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood, Via Bellagio, Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian, Fashion Show Mall, Town Square and The Shoppes at Palazzo. For those looking to really indulge, The Strip is home to the Penske/Wynn Ferrari-Maserati dealership, as well as Lamborghini Las Vegas in The Palazzo.

Narcotraficante habría hospedado a Penélope y Salma en México

México, 10 jun (EFE).- Las actrices Penélope Cruz y

si lo llegaron a ver o si fueron simplemente víctimas de la mala

El Universal asegura que los periodistas duranguenses que cu-



Salma Hayek presuntamente se hospedaron en 2004 en el rancho de un narcotraficante mexicano durante el rodaje del filme "Bandidas", aseguró hoy el diario El Universal, con base en declaraciones ofrecidas a la fiscalía de México por testigos protegidos.

Según el informe, las estrellas pasaron varias noches en el rancho de Sergio Villarreal Baragán, alias "El Grande", en el estado norteño de Durango.

Villarreal es un narcotraficante que opera en Durango, Coahuila, y Sinaloa, otros estados del norte de México, precisa la nota periodística que cita documentos de la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR, fiscalía).

Fuentes de la PGR consultadas por Efe dijeron no tener todavía información sobre el caso e indicaron que van a averiguar la veracidad de la información.

Al parecer, la vivienda fue alquilada por la producción de la película para alojar a Hayek, indica el rotativo, que no precisa si las reconocidas actrices conocían la identidad del propietario del inmueble,

lógica.

Villarreal, dice el diario, es integrante de la organización de los hermanos Beltrán Leyva, antiguos socios en el cartel de Sinaloa del capo Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, y ahora aliados de "Loz Zetas", ex militares que trabajan también como sicarios del cartel del Golfo.

Sin embargo, otros medios de comunicación lo sitúan como uno de los líderes del cartel de Juárez.

El rancho en el que presuntamente durmieron las dos estrellas de Hollywood está ubicado cerca de la presa Peña del Águila.

En su declaración a las autoridades mexicanas, según la versión periodística, un testigo protegido dice que en ese rancho "Salma Hayek se quedó a dormir cuando tenía que hacer una presentación de una película en Durango".

Otro declarante, un presunto sicario al servicio de Villarreal, indicó también que en esa hacienda "es donde se hospedaron Salma Hayek y Penélope Cruz, cuando grabaron la película 'Bandidas'".

brieron el rodaje de "Bandidas", escrita y producida por el francés Luc Besson, aseguran que Hayek se desplazó por la región siempre en compañía de varios escoltas y camionetas.

Por el contrario, Penélope Cruz mantuvo un perfil más bajo y menos ostentoso, asegura el rotativo.

Los periodistas locales dijeron además que Salma Hayek habría ofrecido varias fiestas en el rancho de Villarreal, propiedad que se mantuvo durante su estancia bajo fuertes medidas de seguridad.

Los invitados a esos convites acudían en autos de lujo como "Hummer H2, Porsche Boxter, Mercedes Benz, Cadillac Escalade, BMW X5, Ford Lobo, Ram Charger RT y Gran Marquis", según indica uno de los testimonios de la investigación preliminar de la PGR en poder del periódico.

Las autoridades mexicanas acusan a Villarreal, un hombre de 38 años y 1,98 metros de estatura, ex agente de la Policía Judicial y de la PGR, de traficar cocaína hacia Estados Unidos y se le investiga por su presunta participación en varios homicidios, entre ellos el de algunos agentes de los cuerpos de seguridad.

Frida Kahlo vuelve a San Francisco

El Museo de Arte Moderno de San Francisco (SFMOMA) se viste de gala para unirse a la celebración de los cien años del natalicio de la legendaria pintora mexicana Frida Kahlo, a través de una exposición que lleva su nombre.

La muestra, que se inicia el próximo sábado y permanecerá abierta hasta el 28 de septiembre, está compuesta por unas 50 obras pintadas por la artista entre 1926 y 1954, cuando murió a los 47 años de edad. La muestra que describe a Kahlo como artista, icono y revolucionaria, presentará, además, una colección de objetos personales nunca antes vistos, entre los que destacan fotografías en blanco y negro que Frida Kahlo personalmente envió a su amigo, el doctor Leo Eloesser a San Francisco.

"De hecho [esas fotografías] vivieron aquí en San Francisco cerca de 50 años hasta que fueron vendidas en Nueva York. Aquí vas a tener la oportunidad de ver detalles de su intimidad, cosas que eran suyas", dijo

John Zarobell, curador asistente del SFMOMA a El Mensajero.

La exposición, compuesta por los populares autorretratos y otras reconocidas obras, se inició el año pasado en el Centro de Arte Walker de Minneapolis. Hayden Herrera, biógrafa de la célebre pintora, trabajó en la coordinación de la muestra y en la selección y conservación de la obra. Kahlo realizó 66 autorretratos y 80 pinturas entre retratos de amigos, objetos y naturaleza muerta. De las piezas más sobresalientes disponibles en la muestra del SFMOMA figuran Las dos Fridas, obra maestra realizada en 1939, la cual refleja el sufrimiento que vivió Kahlo tras la infidelidad de su esposo Diego Rivera.

Destacan también El hospital Henry Ford de 1932, en donde Frida ilustra el aborto que sufrió en ese nosocomio de Detroit. También La columna rota de 1944 pintado durante la recuperación de una operación en la columna vertebral.

"Lo que más me interesa es

exponer la historia de Frida Kahlo en San Francisco. Observar el tiempo que ella pasó aquí, cuando se volvió a casar con Diego Rivera aquí en 1940 y también echar un vistazo a la manera en que la gente de San Francisco contribuyó a su reputación póstuma", señaló el curador Zarobell acerca de la exhibición.

La exposición de Frida Kahlo viene acompañada de un catálogo de 304 páginas con más de cien láminas en color, fotografías de la colección de Víctor Zamudio-Taylor y un ensayo crítico de Hayden Herrera.

Además de la parte cultural, la tienda del museo planea aprovechar la muestra y durante la exhibición ofrecerá a la venta artesanía mexicana relacionada con la artista, como muñecas de Frida hechas a mano, objetos de Talavera, textiles y joyas realizadas en barro negro. Y para vivir la experiencia de Frida con el paladar, la cafetería del museo SFMOMA incluirá platillos especiales del recetario de la mismísima Kahlo.



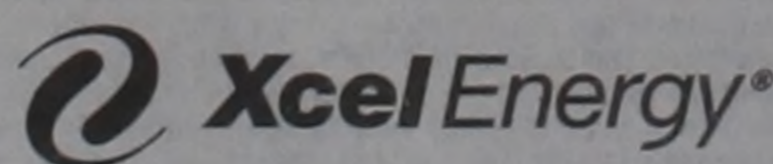
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U.S. plans to announce Olympic squad before camp begins

So much for the training camp competition for the final spots on the Olympic team. The United States will pick its squad without a tryout.

The Americans have changed their plans and will select the 12 players headed to Beijing before they report to Las Vegas later this month. Originally, the team was to have potentially 16 players in camp and cut down to 12 on June 30.

"The staff really is more interested in getting down so that they can get to work in terms of preparation. We have switched our thinking," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Our plan is to go ahead and announce our team sometime before we get to Las Vegas."

Colangelo said the announcement likely would come after the NBA Finals end. The Americans are to begin workouts on the UNLV campus June 28.

There are more than 30 players in the national team program, but Colangelo and coach Mike Krzyzewski are down to about their top 14. They will decide on the final two spots, probably at point guard and power forward, in the coming days.

With the team's minicamp expected to last only two days, Krzyzewski told Colangelo there wasn't enough time to make cuts, and asked to bring in just the Beijing-bound players so they could focus on the summer ahead.

"That's basically a plan rather than a tryout of 16 or 15 or whatever the number might have been. We've got a pretty good handle on the 13, 14 names, and it's more about preparation," Colangelo said. "They want to get on with it."

Colangelo will get to work on one decision shortly, flying to Chicago to check on Dwyane Wade, who has been working out after missing the final 21 games this season because of chronic soreness in his surgically repaired left knee. Wade likely will get a spot if he's healthy, but Colangelo wants to get a "real read" on the Heat guard's rehab.

While there, Colangelo also will get a look at Chris Paul, one of the players on the bubble, whom Wade has invited to work out with him. The New Orleans point guard, runner-up to Kobe Bryant in the MVP voting, might have to beat out Chauncey Billups, Deron Williams, and perhaps Wade for a spot.

There could be an opening in the frontcourt, where Amare Stoudemire might have talked himself off the team. The Phoenix Suns star said after his season ended that he needed to see how his body felt before deciding to play, and his indecision seems to have created some doubt in Colangelo's mind.

"Amare still may or may not be under consideration," Colangelo said. "We have decisions to make relative to Amare, and that works both ways."

Toronto's Chris Bosh, who played in the 2006 world championships but was injured last summer, and Utah's Carlos Boozer are the leading candidates to claim a forward spot.

Bryant, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Jason Kidd and Dwight Howard were the starters last year when the Americans went undefeated in the Olympic qualifying tournament. Stoudemire, Billups, Williams, Michael Redd, Tayshaun Prince, Tyson Chandler and Mike Miller also were on the team.

The deadline to submit the Olympic roster is July 1. The Americans will return to Las Vegas in mid-July to train and play an exhibition game against Canada before departing for China. They face the host Chinese in their Beijing opener on Aug. 10.

Unbeaten Mayweather Jr. retires: 'I just can't do it anymore'

Although Floyd Mayweather Jr. has retired at least twice before, boxing's pound-for-pound king says he's really taking off his crown this time.

Mayweather abruptly retired Friday at the peak of his athletic skill and earning power, releasing a six-paragraph letter in which the unbeaten five-division champion said he no longer feels the passion that propelled him to the top of the family business.

Mayweather, a 31-year-old former Olympic bronze medalist, is calling it quits at the close of a remarkable 18-month stretch in which he beat Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton, made more than \$50 million in the ring and became a bankable celebrity outside it.

"This decision was not an easy one for me to make, as boxing is all I have done since I was a child," said Mayweather, the son and nephew of three former fighters who all became top trainers. "However, these past few years have been extremely difficult for me to find the desire and joy to continue in the sport."

The WBC welterweight champ (39-0, 25 KOs) hasn't fought since knocking out Hatton last December, but was widely expected to take on De La Hoya in September in a rematch of their May 2007 bout, the richest fight in boxing history. Instead, Mayweather's retirement clears De La Hoya's schedule and opens a vacancy at the top of boxing just when it's undergoing a revival built partly on Mayweather's brilliance and showmanship.

Mayweather also made less-convincing retirement announcements after each of his last three bouts, but his letter somberly described his reasons to "permanently retire from boxing."

"I loved competing and winning and also wanted to continue my career for the fans, knowing they were there for me and enjoyed

watching me fight," Mayweather said. "However, after many sleepless nights and intense soul-searching, I realized I could no longer base my decision on anything but my own personal happiness, which I no longer could find."

Though Mayweather cashed two huge paychecks in 2007, he has lately seemed much more interested in fame than fighting. In the last few years, he evolved from the endearingly cocky "Pretty Boy" to the wealth-obsessed "Money May" who was estranged from his father, De La Hoya trainer Floyd Sr., and uninterested in all but the most lucrative bouts.

In the past year alone, Mayweather has appeared on "Dancing With the Stars," worked on his record label, served as the honorary starter at the Indianapolis 500 and entered the wrestling ring for a choreographed tussle with the 440-pound "Big Show" at WrestleMania in Orlando, winning what's currently his final fight with a set of brass knuckles.

"Floyd was a very talented fighter, no question about it, but he got to a particular point where it was just for the money," said Bob Arum, Mayweather's longtime promoter with Top Rank before the boxer began promoting his own career. "Which is all right, it's a professional sport, but there's nothing wrong with his decision. It's a rational decision."

Though fans and promoters have clamored for Mayweather to take on unbeaten welterweight Miguel Cotto or another top competitor in perhaps boxing's deepest division, Mayweather had repeatedly dismissed the idea. Instead, he was in talks for another fight with De La Hoya, whose own career-ending plans will be altered.

"There comes a time when

money doesn't matter," Mayweather said. "I just can't do it any more. I have found a peace with my decision that I have not felt in a long time."

De La Hoya had hoped to fight Mayweather and perhaps Cotto this year before turning full-time to his lucrative career in charge of Golden Boy Promotions.

"I am surprised a bit about the timing of it, but if he decides he wants to retire, that is his right," Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer told The Associated Press. "We did not announce that fight (between Mayweather and De La Hoya), so I can't really say that something fell apart. Floyd was certainly the name that we were focusing on for a September fight, so now we will go down the list and find, I'm sure, other names that will ensure a megafight."

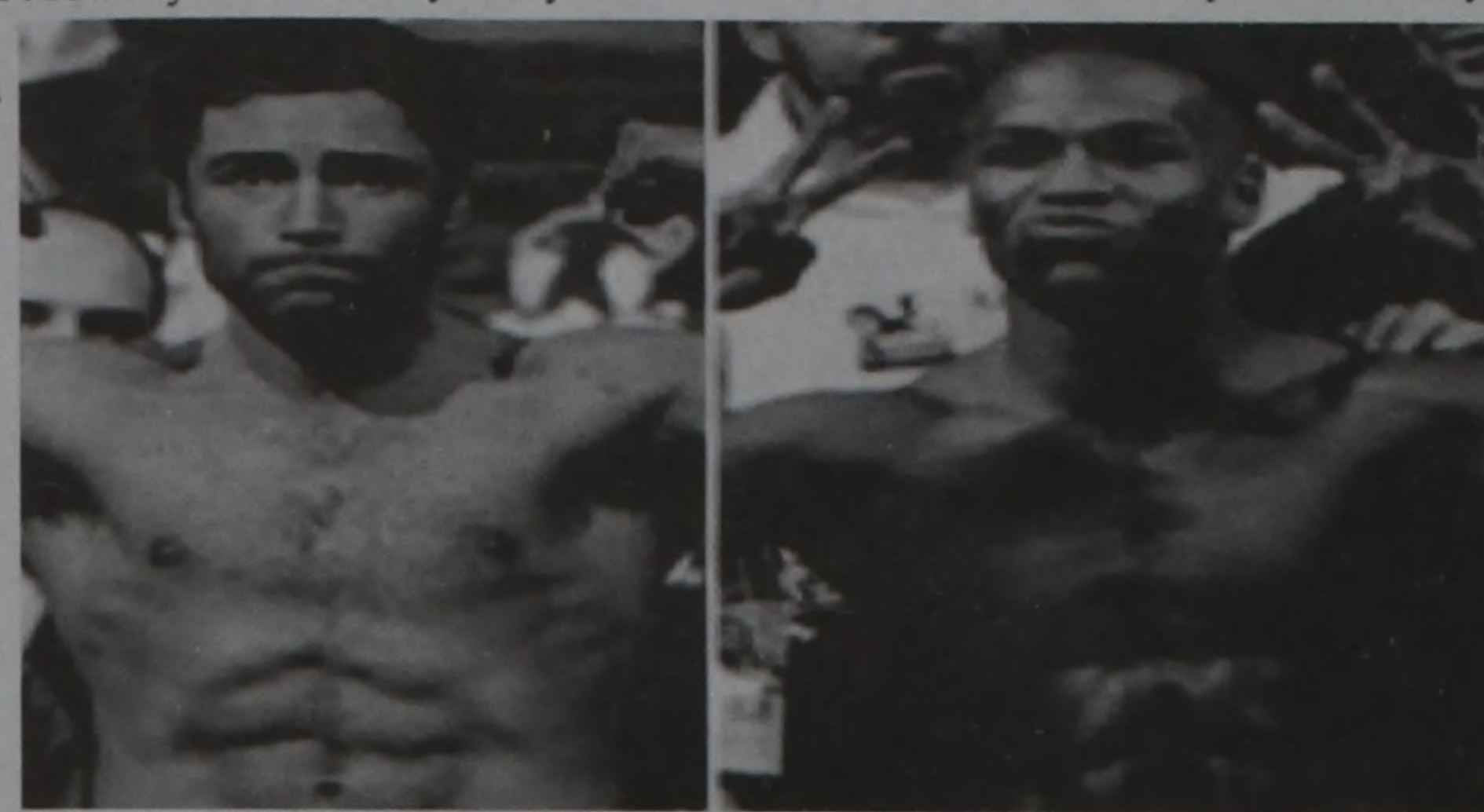
Schaefer confirmed De La Hoya still intends to fight Sept. 20. Several welterweights will jockey for the chance to meet him in a guaranteed big payday, while every big name in boxing's middle weight classes from Hatton to Manny Pacquiao also could get in the mix.

Mayweather rose swiftly through the sport after his solid effort in the Atlanta Games. With peerless hand speed, superb athleticism and a grinning swagger, Mayweather won his first title at 130 pounds in October 1998, upsetting Genaro Hernandez.

He grabbed a lightweight crown in 2002 with back-to-back wins over Jose Luis Castillo, and he beat Arturo Gatti in June 2005 for the light welterweight title. Mayweather then won the IBF welterweight belt by beating Zab Judah in April 2006, and he added

a light middleweight crown against De La Hoya last year.

ous split, knows many fans still won't believe Mayweather is truly



"I am sorry I have to leave the sport at this time, knowing I still have my God-given abilities to succeed and future multi-million dollar paydays ahead, including the one right around the corner," Mayweather said.

Arum, who fostered Mayweather's development into a dominant champion before their acrimoni-

finished.

"You never know, but I will say the language was different this time," Arum said. "This time the language sounds like he might be done for good. ... I can hardly blame him (for retiring). We should commend him for what he's done. He's retiring at the height. Is there anything greater than that?"

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U.S. Hispanic Women Face Osteoporosis Epidemic

Osteoporosis is a disease that can be crippling, leaving bones brittle, weak and easily broken. There are already some 8 million women in the U.S. who suffer from osteoporosis* and experts say that number could soon skyrocket.

She may not quite understand the language yet, or the technology behind the test, but Sandra Ramos knows the importance of a simple heel scan.

"I'm told with time, my bones can get weaker," says Ramos.

If they are, a quick 5 minute heel scan can tell her. In many ways, Sandra is lucky. She never heard much about osteoporosis in her native Mexico, and experts fear millions more Hispanic women will not hear enough about it after settling in this country - leading to a serious health issue in the near future.

"We are facing, as a country I think, a potential epidemic for osteoporosis if we don't do something proactively," says Kevin Evans, PhD at Ohio State University Medical

Center. That's just what Dr. Evans is doing. He's conducting studies on hundreds of Hispanic women to see how brittle their bones might be. Treating broken bones in Hispanics due to osteoporosis already costs more than 750 million dollars a year in the U.S.* That number is expected to skyrocket to more than 2 billion dollars* unless programs like these can get the word out early about prevention.

"We really want to see if

we can do something to affect them building bone mass. Osteoporosis is considered a disease classically for people over the age of 50 or 60. We want to do something before they get there," says Evans.

He says Hispanic women are rarely included in studies looking at osteoporosis. By doing more heel scans, that might change, and so might their risk of falling to this crippling disease. Evans says another challenge is to get more calcium products into the Hispanic diet. Hispanics.



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The Veneno Fast Pitch Softball Club scored another win this past weekend by taking the 2nd Place trophy in the 20th Annual Hub City NIT Tournament that was held at Berl Huffman Complex. Veneno took wins over teams from Midland, Amarillo, Lubbock and surrounding towns. photo by Maribel Perez



Girls Ages From 5 To 12 Years Old Were In Attendance. Many Of The Girls Wore Sandels, Maybe Worn Tom Tennis Shoes Or No Shoes At All. For Many Of The 100 Girls, This Was Their First Basketball Camp. With Gas Costing \$4.00

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Cooper-Rawlings Community Center to Host Open House

The Copper-Rawlings Community Center will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, June 12, 2008, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The event is free, and food and entertainment will be provided. The Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Clinic will be providing free health screenings, and ATMOS Energy donated part of the food for the event. Rawlings was recently remodeled with new interior paint and flooring. The public is welcome to come and see these changes and to learn about the great programs this center offers throughout the year.

Rawlings Community Center offers classes and programs for youth, adults and seniors including Summer Camp, Tex-Mex Cooking, Sewing and Quilting, Kids Café, Computer classes, and much more. Their regular operating hours are Monday - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. For more information, call 767-2704.

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