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Alaska Senator Guilty of Corruption

Alaska Senator Ted Stevens was found guilty of 7 counts of public corruption in a jury trial which concluded with the guilty verdict on October 27, 2008. Although Stevens had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, the jury clearly disagreed and found him guilty of making false statements by failing to report more than \$250,000 in gifts from a former business associate; among them Bill Allen who once headed Veco Corporation, and from other Alaska constituents.

Stevens is a 40 year veteran of the United States Senate and is one of the Senate's oldest serving Senators at 84 years of age. Federal prosecutors charged that Allen performed extensive renovation work at Steven's home in Alaska plus that he gave Stevens gifts "including a \$2,700 massage chair, a \$29,000 fish sculpture, stained glass art work, a gas grill and furniture" according to the charges.

Stevens is required by law and by Senate rules to report any and all gifts, including their value. Stevens maintained throughout the trial that he thought his wife had paid for the renovation work and that the gifts were either unwanted by him or just loaned to him. Stevens faces up to 5 years for each count or a total of 35 years although it is very doubtful that Stevens will serve any substantial amount of time in prison. Stevens is also up for re-election on November 4 and whether his conviction will be enough to help his opponent Democrat Mark Begich unseat Stevens is still up in the air. In a poll taken on October 21, during the trial, Begich was only leading Stevens by one percentage point. Sentencing is set for February 25, 2009; long after the election is over. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Poll Suggests Latino Voters Might be Difference Makers in Four Key States

A significant percentage of Latino voters in key election states - Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada - are either undecided or still open to persuasion in the presidential contest, according to a new national survey.

"The Latino vote will be critical in the Southwest and Florida, and results of this poll show very clearly that Latinos may well provide Sen. Barack Obama with the margin of victory," said Matt Barreto, a University of Washington professor of political science who is a co-partner on the research. The survey, conducted between Aug. 18 and Sept. 10 also showed that an unprecedented number of Latinos may vote - nearly 90 percent in those states. Given the growing Latino electorate in states like Nevada, where 59,489 Latino voters have registered since 2004, a high Latino turnout could determine outcome of the national election, Barreto said. Respondents also said the economy is their top priority. Nearly a third said they had trouble making mortgage or rent payments during the past year.

In 2004, all four Latino battleground states voted Republican. However in 2008, those states are leaning slightly toward Obama, a Democrat, according to poll averages collected by Real Clear Politics. In large part, this leaning may be due to strong support for Obama among Latinos, Barreto said. In Colorado, Obama received 71 percent support from Latinos compared to 18 percent for McCain. In Nevada, Obama was favored 67 percent to 20 percent, and in New Mexico, 67 percent to 23 percent. In Florida, where Latinos have traditionally voted Republican, McCain drew 45 percent of the vote compared with 43 percent for Obama. Added together, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada hold 19 Electoral College votes, and if only these three states change from a Republican majority to a Democratic one in 2008, Obama will receive 271 Electoral College votes - and garner the presidency, Barreto said.

"As the electoral map takes shape, it's increasingly clear the Latino vote may be decisive," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, which helped pay for the survey. "In key battleground states," he added, "Latino voters are ready to vote in huge numbers and a significant percentage is still persuadable. Underestimating the Latino vote could be disastrous for either party."

Latino Decisions, a public opinion firm whose partners include Barreto, Stanford University political scientist Gary Segura and Pacific Market Research, telephoned 1,600 Latino registered voters drawn equally from official statewide files in the four states. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 4.7 percent for each state.

Source: www.latinodecisions.com
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Voting Centers will be Used for November 4

Voting Centers will be Used for November 4 General Election

In 2006, Lubbock County was the only Texas County to conduct a voting experiment called a Super Precinct Program.

Under the guidelines of that program; voting centers were set up in 25 locations throughout the city allowing voters to vote at any one of the 25 locations on Election Day.

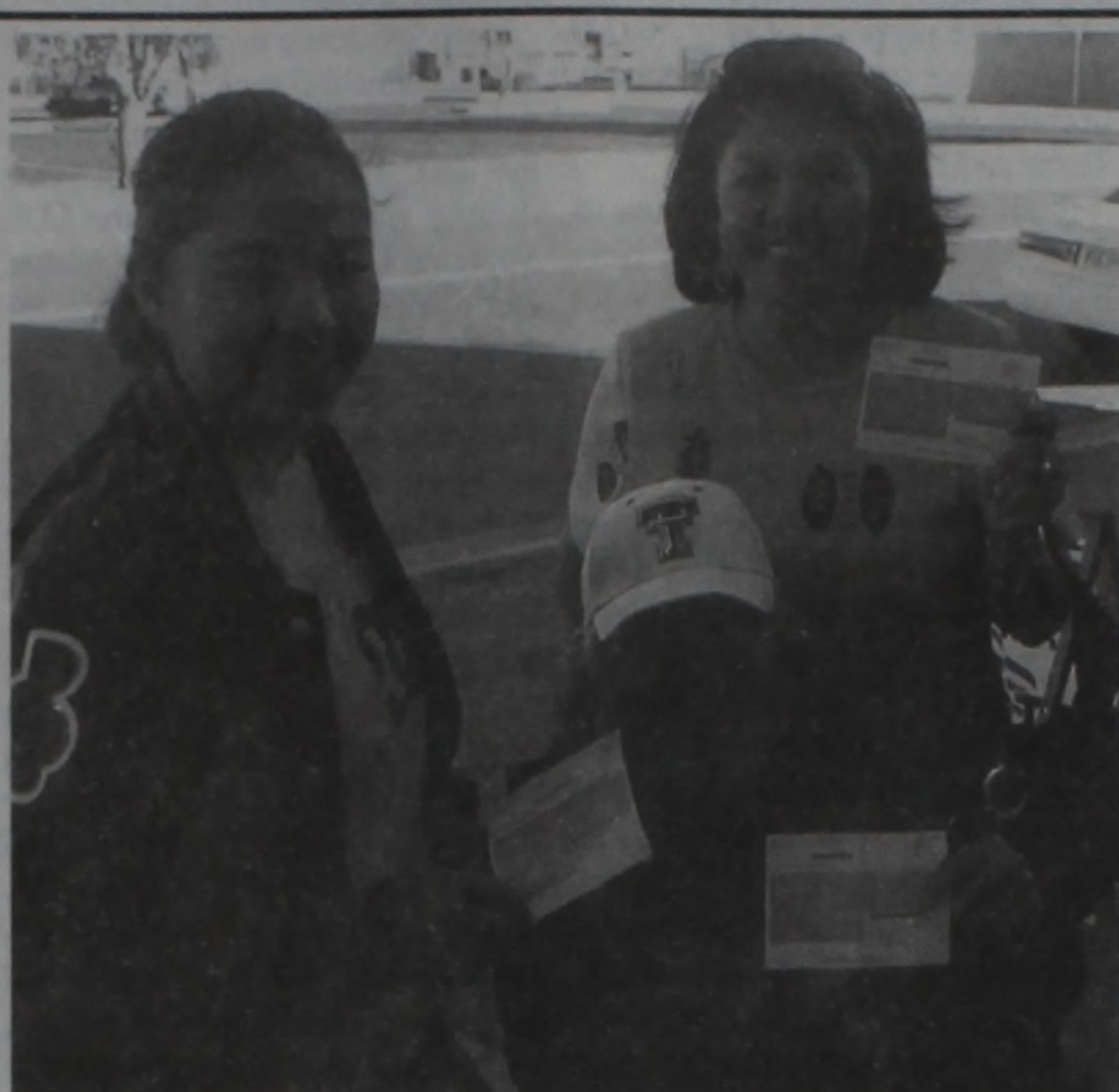
The difference in the 2006 November election and from traditional elections was that voters did not have to vote in their assigned precinct and the idea was to make it easier for voters to cast their ballot, thereby increasing voter participation.

While the concept of super precinct voting has not yet become the norm in cities throughout Texas; Lubbock once again will be allowed by the state to utilize voting centers in this year's General Election.

This year, a committee was appointed by Lubbock County Commissioners to come up with voting locations for the voting centers. Consequently the voting center site selection committee came up with and approved 50 locations where voters can cast their ballot on Election Day only; regardless of where they live in the county.

The locations will be open on November 4 from the hours of 7:00AM to 7:00PM.

Voting Center Locations for November 4 only are: All American Chrysler, 8716 E.Hwy.84, Slaton; Arnett Elementary School, 701 E. Queens St.; Bacon Heights Baptist Church, 5039 53rd St.; Bennett Elementary School, 101 Donald



Marisol Aguero voted for the 1st time and it was exciting to be with her parents, Olga and Bidal Aguero when this took place. Marisol and her parents encourages everyone to go out and vote! Every vote counts!

Preston Dr., Wolfforth; Broadview Baptist Church, 1302 N. Frankford Ave.

Byron Martin ATC, 3201 Avenue Q; Calvary Baptist Church, 5301 82nd St.; Casey Professional Building, 501 7th St., Wolfforth; Catholic Diocese Of Lubbock, 4620 4th St. Cavazos Middle School, 210 N. University Ave.; Celebration Christian Center, 8001 Upland Ave.; Church On The Rock, 10503 Slide Rd.; Combest Health Center, 301 40th St.; Elks Lodge No.1348, 3409 Milwaukee Ave.; First Assembly Of God Church, 3801 98th St.;

Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, 306 E.26th St.; Green Lawn Church Of Christ, 5701 19th St.; Highland Baptist Church, Gym, 4229 34th St.; Hodges Community Center, 4011 University Ave.; Idalou; Indiana Ave. Baptist Church, North Campus, 8315 Indiana Ave.; L2 Auto of Lubbock, 6202 Milwaukee Ave.; Lakeridge Methodist Church, Family Ministry Center, 4601 83rd St.; LIFE/RUN Center for Independent Living, 4902 34th St.; Lubbock-Cooper ISD Administration Building, 16302 Loop 493;

Will Pollsters be Proven Right on Election Day?

In 1982 the polls in California showed that Democratic candidate Tom Bradley would easily win the governorship of that state. After all; he was leading comfortably in every poll taken at the time.

At that time; the issue of race had been discussed as being a factor in the race since Bradley was African American and his opponent was white; but it had not occurred to pollsters that poll respondents had been less than truthful in their response to questions about whether race mattered to them and whether or not they could vote for a black candidate once alone in the voting booth.

In a case which is still cited by historians as a case study in political science and one which earned its own nickname; now known as "the Bradley effect"; the African American candidate Tom Bradley lost the election.

It wasn't until a year or so after the election that studies were conducted which suggested that perhaps poll respondents had lied to pollsters in order to not appear as racists or as having racist feelings toward Bradley.

So with less than one week before Election Day; there is widespread speculation about whether pollster's questions honestly and whether the results will mirror the poll results. In this race; all voters know that there is more than the presidency at stake; it could very well prove to be a racially defining moment for the country.

Barack Obama; should he win the Presidency; is positioned to be the first bi racial president of the United States. Obama considers himself an African American since he was born to a Ke-

nyan father and his mother was a white woman from Kansas.

Many argue that we have progressed quite a bit since 1982 and that the discussions surrounding race are overblown and much ado about nothing. They argue that if there are a percentage of voters who will vote against Obama because he is black; they are few in numbers and they will not impact this election.

Perhaps voting against a candidate on the basis of race is seen less at the local and state level; but at the national level and in a race for the highest office in the country; it would stand to reason that some voters will vote against Obama because of his race.

There are just too many sections of the country involved to come to the conclusion that it won't. While some areas of the country may now see it as no big deal; states in the Deep South may still be mired in these types of attitudes and it may impact their voting decision on November 4.

The question becomes; is Obama's lead in the polls legitimate and is it enough to get him elected in spite of something similar to what occurred in the 1982 California Governor's race occurring in 2008?

To be sure, the different national polls have been all over the board. While a recent AP poll showed the race tightening between the two candidates with a 3 percentage point spread; a recent CBS news poll showed Barack Obama with an 11 point advantage.

According to a recent Gallup Poll; daily tracking which is conducted between Friday through Sunday; Obama leads by 5 points over McCain; 50% to 45%.

But Gallup also says that there are a few examples of candidate's "mounting

a comeback" in the last week of a campaign which seems to suggest that McCain may not be out of it just because he is behind in the polls. And if he does stage a comeback, what will it be attributed to?

According to Gallup; " Gallup Poll presidential election trends since 1952 point to 1980 as the only case in which a candidate (Ronald Reagan) was behind in the Gallup Poll a week before the election, but went on to win the presidency. In 2000, Al Gore overcame a pre-election poll deficit in the final week to win the popular vote - but not the Electoral College". So there is precedent for a candidate coming from behind to win an election and it is possible that John McCain will pull it off. But will there be any way to know whether race played a part in the voter's decision to vote for one candidate over the other?

It's no secret that most Hispanics supported Hillary Clinton during the Democratic Primaries. And in fact; the Hispanic vote is credited with providing the margin of victory in some western states like Colorado and California during the primary battle.

But when she lost out on the nomination to Barack Obama; speculation began that Hispanics could not vote for Barack Obama because of his race.

But a look at one Gallup Tracking Polls dealing with a registered voter's preference for the General Election by race; race does not seem to be as much of an issue for Hispanics as once thought.

For example; Gallup polling conducted a weekly poll of registered voters which it refers to as "Preference for General Election by Race". In the

Lubbock-Cooper North Elementary School, 3202 108th St.; Lubbock-Cooper West Elementary School, 10101 Fulton Ave.; Mae Simmons Community Center, 2004 Oak Ave.; Maggie Trejo Supercenter, 3200 Amherst St.; New Deal ISD Administration Office, 410 S. Auburn St., New Deal; Our Lady Of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1120 52nd St.; Parkway Sommerville Center, 405 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.; Parsons Elementary School, 2811 58th St.; Patterson Library, 1836 Parkway Dr.; Region XVII ESC, Door 7, West Side, 1111 W. Loop 289; Roberts Elementary School, 7901 Avenue P; Roosevelt Clubhouse, 1400 C.R.3300; Roscoe Wilson Elementary School, 2807 25th St.; St. Isidore Catholic Church, Parish Hall, 17813 N.1-27, Abernathy; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 102 N. Avenue P; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1510 Avenue X; Shallowater Community Center, 902 Avenue H, Shallowater; Slaton ISD Administration Office, 140 E. Panhandle, Slaton; South Plains Church Of Christ, 6802 Elkhart Ave.; Sutherlands Lumber Co., 3701 50th St.; Texas Tech University, Recreation Center, Hartford & Main; Texas Tech University, Student Union Building, 15th & Akron; Trinity Church, Activity Center, 6701 University Ave.; and W.D. Wilkins Furniture, 3111 50th St. Early voting locations will be open through Friday October 31 and residents are encouraged to vote early so as to avoid the anticipated large number of voters going to the polls on Election Day. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Texas Tech; Hub City in National Spotlight this Weekend

The number one college football team in the nation coming to town; a national television audience watching a sports show televised directly from the Tech campus and the Red Raiders enjoying their highest ever ranking in the NCAA Bowl Championship Series; they all come together this weekend in the hub city to produce what will likely be Lubbock's biggest moment in the national spotlight in its 100 year history.

The Texas Tech Red Raiders with an undefeated record of 8-0 will take on the undefeated University of Texas Longhorns at Jones ATT Stadium Saturday night; culminating a week's worth of activities which will have included the kind of national exposure other cities just dream about. In a way; this is the kind of game which Tech officials covet so much for the national exposure and for the opportunity to showcase Texas Tech as a Big 12 conference school; in hopes that future and potential college students take notice. A check of the ESPN web site shows that their popular college football sports program called "College Gameday" will be televised live from Lubbock beginning this Saturday at 9:00AM. Already their website has a countdown clock to the show with graphics which say "Live from Lubbock, Texas". Normally, a Tech home football game like this one produces anywhere from 5 - 7 million dollars in additional business revenue for the city. But already, some city officials were predicting that this weekend would produce revenue numbers like never before. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Adequate Yearly Progress Reports not Quite Adequate for Lubbock High Schools

Local media reported last week that Lubbock High, Estacado, Coronado, and Monterey High Schools in Lubbock failed to meet academic requirements as set forth by the federal government.

According to the state agency charged with oversight of the Texas Public School system; "Seventy five percent of Texas schools and 66 percent of school districts met federal Adequate Yearly Progress standards in 2008". The federal evaluations are based on graduation rates for high schools and districts; attendance rates for elementary schools; and participation and passing rates on state tests for grades 3-8 and 10. For the first time this year, students with learning disabilities were tested based on their grade level as opposed to their individual level of ability as in prior years. This prompted a comment to NewsChannel 11 from LISD Superintendent Wayne Havens: "We're responsible for student's success, and we're not trying to back away from that at all. We're trying to say let's do it with an instrument that promotes student's success." Havens also told the television station that "(We will) give greater support to our teachers, give greater emphasis and remove roadblocks that will allow our parents to feel like they can be more involved on our campuses with their son or daughters education." For one Lubbock high school though; time may be running out on showing improvement and correcting the problems. Estacado High School has now failed to show adequate progress two years in a row which gives students the option of transferring to another high school campus. According to the TEA; the new tests caused fewer schools and districts to earn a "Meets AYP" label for 2008. This year 75% of schools met the standard versus 80% in 2007; a difference of 5%. In 2007, 87% of districts met the label and this year only 66% met the standard.

Voter Turnout on Record Pace

Through the first seven days of early voting, close to 40,000 registered Lubbock County voters had cast their ballot in the November General Election.

If this pattern continues; and if national figures are accurate; this election will produce one of the highest voter turnouts in Presidential elections. According to the Brookings Institute; it is expected that "more people will cast their ballot prior to Election Day than in any campaign in the nation's history". National media was reporting that "well over 10 million people have cast their ballot for this November's much anticipated presidential election". The figure is from statistics released by just a few states but already a trend can be seen. In the state of Georgia for example; "more people have already voted early than voted early in all of the last presidential election". Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Long Time Civic Leader Dies



Long Time Civic Leader Dies Eusebio G. "Chevo" Morales; a well known civic leader in the Hispanic and greater Lubbock community passed away in Lubbock this

past week. Morales, who was 57 years old at the time of his death, will long be remembered for his civic involvement as a member of the League of

United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and in particular local Council 263.

Throughout his many years of service; Morales held several positions within the organization including the office of President. He was also active on a state and national level and had also served in a state elected position.

Upon his death, El Editor received a copy of an email from former Lubbock resident Marcelo Tafuya informing his membership of Morales's passing. Included in the note was the following comment which shows just how some members in the organization felt about Morales: "At our

Elderly Conference State Director Julia Villaronga and myself, Marcelo Tafuya, will dedicate this Conference to his (Morales) many years of services to our family in LULAC".

But Morales's civic involvement did not stop with LULAC. He also served for 13 years on the Civic Lubbock Inc. Board and he helped many in the Hispanic community navigate the ways of city hall as they tried to obtain funding for their organizations.

Morales was laid to rest on Saturday October 25, 2008. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



June 9-15 poll; Hispanics preference for Barack Obama was at 59% while preference for John McCain was 27%. Four months later in an October 13-19 poll; the results remain fairly constant. Hispanics preferred Barack Obama by 61% and John McCain by 29%; a difference of only 2%.

For non Hispanic whites; the most recent number shows a 44% preference for Obama and 50% for McCain. Obama's numbers are up within that group from the June poll in which 39% of non-Hispanic white respondents showed a preference for Barack Obama and 49% showed a preference for John McCain.

In the latest Gallup Daily Poll Tracking conducted between October 17-22; results showed that "among those who have already voted or say they plan to vote before Election Day, 31% support Barack Obama and 29% support John McCain".

On November 5; or as soon as election results are available; we will see whether the pollsters were right. Or whether the issue of race remains as that unspoken about issue which we keep trying to push down out of sight and put out of our mind so as not to remind ourselves that it exists at all. Email: acruzts@aol.com



The Texas Diamonds took second place at the USSSA Monster Mash on Oct 25th and have now qualified for the World Tournament in 2009 From left to right on Top are as followed Krystle "Big Hur" Griffin; Alex "A-Rod" Garay; Eliana "NaNa" Reyes; Stephanie "Crash" Segovia; McKenzie "Big Mack" Cristan; Gabby "Squeaky" Martinez; Bottom Row L to R Kaylynn "Pretty Eyes" Gonzalez; Taylor "Roadrunner" Tetens; Kali "Flash" Garza; Mikayla "K.K." Salinas.

Editorials

LATINO PRESIDENTIAL VOTE HAS BEEN CRITICAL SINCE 1980

(Second of three parts on the Latino presidential vote)
By José de la Isla
The fact is Latinos have already made a difference in presidential elections.

You might think it silly to have to prove that but some people never get the news.

In fact, it is easy to argue that Latinos experienced presidential election success before they were even called "Latinos."

In 1960, John Kennedy got 85 percent of the national Hispanic vote in his razor-thin victory over Richard Nixon. He won Texas with 91 percent of the Mexican-American vote and a state plurality of only 50,000 votes. More to the point, Kennedy became president because he won Texas and Illinois.

Even without Illinois, because of Texas, Kennedy would still have had enough Electoral College votes to win the presidency.

So, for those who fret and worry and base their beliefs on big-picture scenarios, I suggest they simply look at history. It tells us what an extraordinary victory it was, especially because of the Viva Kennedy! organizations which sparked a movement to combine politics into a much sought-after civic identity.

Think about it this way: before there was Aztlán, there was Camelot.

The years that followed Kennedy's triumph formed one of the most amazing Hispanic chapters in United States history. The civic movement to bring about community improvements got legs after engaging in politics and running candidates at the local, state and congressional levels.

Expectations always ran ahead of results. And why not? From the start the Kennedy victory was a victory at the top while there was hardly any political building from the bottom up. The intervening 1970s and '80s were largely about that.

Those difficult years account for an extraordinary transformation. Some people may not want to hear about how hostile and negligent government had been to Hispanics. But it was.

While that transformation is not nearly complete, it needs to be looked at in the context of advances in democracy. The Hispanic contri-

bution has been unyielding in building a more responsive government through increased representation. It is about building the political infrastructure. Today there are 6,000 Latino election officials, 27 of them are in the U.S. House of Representatives. Three are U.S. Senators.

That representation goes hand-in-hand with voting involvement in presidential campaigns. In 1972, about 2.1 million Latinos participated. Their number has grown steadily over the past nine presidential elections. Nearly 7.5 million Latinos cast ballots in 2004. This year the number is expected to exceed 9 million.

If any evidence is needed to mark the Hispanic difference in presidential elections, you need only turn to the 2000 Florida vote count. That dispute was settled after the U.S. Supreme Court decided the matter. But a measly 537 votes made the difference and George W. Bush became president.

Let's look at Florida a bit closer. On election day, Cuban Americans cast a voto castigo, against the Democratic Clinton administration, with Al Gore as its vice president, for its action in Elián González's repatriation to Cuba and reuniting the boy with his father. Cubanos in Florida cast 50,000 more votes for Bush than they had for Bob Dole in the previous presidential election. During the exit polling, the Voter News Service interviewed two percent of Cuban American voters, who formed eight percent of the electorate, casting ballots four-to-one for Bush. Other, smaller Hispanic groups in the state voted 2-to-1 for Gore.

The undercount of Cubans, whose voters were significant to Bush's razor teeny-weeny win, was a contributor to the election night confusion.

Just as in Kennedy's victory in Texas, Bush's in Florida can be assigned to the Hispanic vote.

Now tell me again — is somebody disputing whether Hispanics have played decisive roles in electing presidents?

José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power," (Archer Books 2003) writes weekly commentaries for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail: joseisla3@yahoo.com | ©2008

Election Could Represent Historical Social Change

As we get closer to Election Day, we have become more conscious of the fact that this is not only a Presidential election about which candidate will lead this country out of this huge mess we are in both at home and abroad; but it will also serve to make a social statement about how far we have come in this country or perhaps how far we have yet to go.

Quite frankly, political decisions based on race or the racial makeup of a candidate have been part of the political process since our country was founded and we would have to be blind not to acknowledge it right off the bat.

As an example; in our history; minority voters have at various times voted for a candidate on the basis of race; we are not denying this fact. But we must be careful not to confuse ethnic unity and a desire to elect someone a person identifies with; or in some cases ethnic pride with outright racism. Our view is that in most of these types of situations; voters were voting for a particular candidate and not against another because the color of their skin

Some may call it reverse racism; but we think that would be comparing apples to oranges.

Remember; it was not until after the civil rights legislation of the 1960's that things began to open up and we began to see more and more minority candidates emerge to run for office with a legitimate chance of getting elected. It was only natural that voters had a desire to vote for someone they could identify with.

But even then, minority communities had to fight in some cases to motivate social and political change.

In our city, a group of residents joined together in the late 1970's to address the inequities on the Lubbock city council and it wasn't until the late 1980's that we saw a candidate from the Mexican American and African American communities able to win elective office on the Lubbock City Council.

But the change came about as a result of a court ruling and not from a genuine public sentiment or great social change that minorities were at a disadvantage when it came to getting elected to public office.

Our point is that prior to this election; most of the progress we have seen has been as a result of governmental or legislative action. It would have been more meaningful if the changes had come about as a result of a change in social attitudes and not through forced action; but we'll take it anyway.

In this presidential race we have heard that some people will not vote for the Democratic candidate Barack Obama because of the color of his skin. We hope that does not come to pass.

If we are to ever progress beyond the point of basing our voting decisions on race; we see this as a golden opportunity to take a step in the right direction. And whatever else voters base their decision on; we hope it is not race alone.

Because of it is; we think it will set us back more than a few years should the polls prove that all along voters were telling pollsters what they wanted to hear instead of what was in their hearts.

VOTE!

Once again; we will make an appeal that if you have not yet voted; that you make some time to go out and vote!

This election clearly represents an opportunity to be a part of the political process and not just stand on the sidelines letting others make decisions for us. It will also be a momentous and world changing election and all eligible voters should feel a sense of pride in being able to participate in such an election.

For too many years we have heard the same thing over and over again. Political pundits all say it; "The Hispanic vote could make a difference in this year's election". And in some areas of the countries; it has been proven more than once that the Hispanic vote has been pivotal for one candidate or another.

Unfortunately in other areas; and more often than not in our own city; we fall short of our potential and do not make our voice heard at the poll. It is not about being Hispanic and all voting in unison for the same candidate but rather about just participating in the political process.

Let's make this year a year of real change. We have made our public opinion known through our candidate endorsements and feel strongly that we have made the right decisions.

We list our endorsements one last time for your consideration. The choice as to which candidates you vote for is yours. But when it comes to voting or not; there is no choice to be made; we must vote and make our voice heard at the polls.

- President/VP - Obama and Biden
- US Senator - Rick Noriega
- Representative District 19 - Dwight Fullingim
- Precinct 3 Lubbock County Commissioner - Frank Gutierrez
- Precinct 1 Lubbock County Commissioner - John E. Miller

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Press May Ignore Latino Vote in Nov. 4 Coverage Says Expert

By Stephen Rintoul
Hispanic Link News Service
(Last in a series of three commentaries on Hispanic voter influence on the '08 presidential race.)

Despite talk of the critical Latino "swing" vote in the run-up to the Nov. 4 presidential election, national expert Andy Hernández raises the possibility that when the dust settles on Nov. 5, nobody will be talking about Latinos.

Hernández, of Austin, Texas, formerly headed the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and later, the Latino vote program for the Democratic National Committee. Here he provides Hispanic Link News Service with his scenario as to how English-language media will report the presidential election results:

"If Barack Obama wins in Ohio or Virginia or if he is victorious in North Carolina, or even Florida," Hernández explains, "you're not going to be able to claim the Latino vote won it for him. By the time we get to our states that are still competitive, like Nevada and Colorado, and to some extent New Mexico, he's already won the election for all practical purposes.

"When the polls close in Colorado, Obama could already be projected the winner. If that happens, nobody cares about the Latino vote. The story becomes white women and working-class whites, and to some extent blacks."

Geography and time zones, Hernández maintains, will play a critical role in how the U.S. press tells the story. On election night, as media pundits and television viewers watch returns roll in from across the country, starting with the eastern states, a narrative will develop around the results of demographics and exit polls from each state as correspondents check in.

Because Latinos are concentrated heavily in the Southwest, where the winter sun sets before 5 p.m. and polls close later, the Hispanic impact isn't even hinted at until after results from the big eastern states have been dragged across the screen a hundred times and analyzed to death.

By that time, Hernández says,

Obama may well have buttoned up the election, with little or no press mention of the decisive Latino electorates in the western swing states.

"The only scenario that we have a shot at," Hernández reasons, "is if John McCain is able to win Ohio and Florida and holds on to Virginia, and Obama picks up New Hampshire and Iowa. Then it's a Latino narrative because you have to wait all the way till you come to New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada to put him over the top. Then Latinos are the ones who put Obama in the presidency.

"That doesn't look like it's going to happen," Hernández adds, laughing. "In a way, the best Latino hope for recognition is that McCain carries Ohio and Florida."

Hernández explains with clarity how the election will be perceived by the talking heads and the couch potatoes who absorb the tube's analyses as gospel.

So will Latinos really be important?

One way to measure it would be to use raw numbers. A successful campaign cannot ignore the data. If a high percentage of the nation's 10 million Latino registered voters cast their votes the same way, with other factors remaining the same, the election will go to the candidate who carries the Latino vote.

But Hernández adds this hypothesis: Imagine the polls closing and the voting reports coming in from west to east. The political correspondents' and pundits' narratives would start out with Latino voters in California and quickly touch on such battleground states as Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado, each with very large Hispanic populations, creating margins that will determine victory or defeat. Then we would see, as Hernández calls it, "a Latino narrative."

That, of course, can't happen until the sun rises over San Francisco Bay.

(Stephen Rintoul is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. E-mail him at srintoul@gmail.com.)
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END

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Reader Supports Gutierrez for Commissioner's Seat

I urge all voters in Precinct 3 to vote for Frank Gutierrez for Lubbock County Commissioner.

Mr. Gutierrez has waged a sustained, inclusive campaign to earn the trust and votes of citizens in our precinct, which includes most of East and Northeast Lubbock.

Mr. Gutierrez has a long record of commitment to the community that includes service on various local boards such as Chairman of the Community Development & Services Board, Fiestas Del Llano, Inc; and Rise Academy Charter School. In fact, Frank has served with me as a Founding Board Member of Rise Academy since before the school opened in 1999.

I believe Mr. Gutierrez has a genuine commitment to serving the needs of our community and will act responsibly to that end. Unlike his opponent, Frank Gutierrez will not over-promise, but he will keep those promises that he does make. The other candidate, Gilbert Flores, has had his chance and the results were unimpressive. Vote instead for Frank Gutierrez for Precinct 3 County Commissioner.

Richard Baumgartner, Lubbock

The letter writer is the Director of Rise Academy

Marry his Horse?

I'm voting Democrat because English has no place being the official language in America. I'm voting Democrat because I'd rather pay \$4 for a gallon of gas than allow drilling for oil off the coasts of America.

I'm voting Democrat because I think the government will do a better job of spending my money than I could. I'm voting Democrat because when we pull out of Afghanistan and Iraq, I know the Islamic terrorists will stop trying to kill us because they'll think we're a good and decent country.

I'm voting Democrat because I believe people, who can't tell us if it will rain in two or three days can now tell us the polar ice caps will disappear in ten years if I don't start riding a bicycle, build a windmill or inflate my tires to proper levels.

I'm voting Democrat because it's a right to kill millions of babies as long as we keep violent, convicted murderers on death row alive.

I'm voting Democrat because I believe businesses in America should not be allowed to make profits. Businesses should just break even and give the rest to the government so politicians and bureaucrats can redistribute the money the way they think it should be redistributed.

I'm voting Democrat because I believe guns, and not the people misusing them, are the cause of crimes and killings. I'm voting Democrat because when someone with a weapon threatens my family or me, I know the government can respond faster through a call to 911 than I can with a gun in my hand.

I'm voting Democrat because oil companies 5% profit on a gallon of gas are obscene, but government taxes of 18% on the same gallon of gas are just fine.

I'm voting Democrat because I believe three or four elitist liberals should rewrite the Constitution every few months to suit some fringe element that could never get their agenda past voters.

I'm voting Democrat because illegal aliens are not criminals, are not sucking up resources through government aid, hospital services, education, or social services, but are just people trying to make a better life by coming to America illegally. We can't blame them for that, can we?

I'm voting Democrat because now I can now marry whatever I want, so I've decided to marry my horse.

It makes you wonder why anyone would ever vote Republican, doesn't it?

Don Parsons, Slaton

Freedom of Expression is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Ideas and opinions are strictly those of the writer and do not represent nor reflect anyone else's views and opinions. Submissions may be sent via email to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

More in Texas speaking Spanish at home, U.S. Census Bureau report says

Immigration is not only changing the face of North Texas, but also its speech.

According to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Statistical Area who speak Spanish at home increased by 400,000 in seven years — from 18.6 percent of the total population in 2000 to 22.9 percent in 2007.

The trend mirrors what's happening in the rest of the state, where 30 percent of the people said in 2007 that they speak Spanish at home, compared with 27 percent who did so in 2000.

"This growth is due to the amount of immigrants who have come to the country during the last 20 years," said Mark López, assistant director of the Pew Hispanic Center. "We're seeing many more Latinos in this country who speak Spanish."

The percentage of people in the United States who were born outside the country reached 38 million, or more than 12 percent of the population, according to the latest 2007 census numbers. Almost a third of the foreign-born, or 12 million people, come from Mexico.

The numbers are part of a report published by the Census Bureau and show that at least one in five people speak Spanish in the Southwestern states — Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. And all over the country, about 35 million speak Spanish, representing 12 percent of the population. Eight years ago, nearly 28 million spoke Spanish, or almost 11 percent of the population.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA, 1.3 million people spoke Spanish in 2007, compared with 890,000 who did so in 2000, according to the report.

There is also evidence that the language has been passed down from generation to generation. In the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA, the Spanish-speaking population between 5 and 17 years of age increased from 21 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2007.

"We're seeing many young Latinos learning Spanish from their families and growing up bilingual because of school," Mr. López said. "The language is being passed from one generation to the next, but that's a trend that historically has its limits."

There is also evidence that many Hispanics who speak Spanish as a native language are learning English or are bilingual.

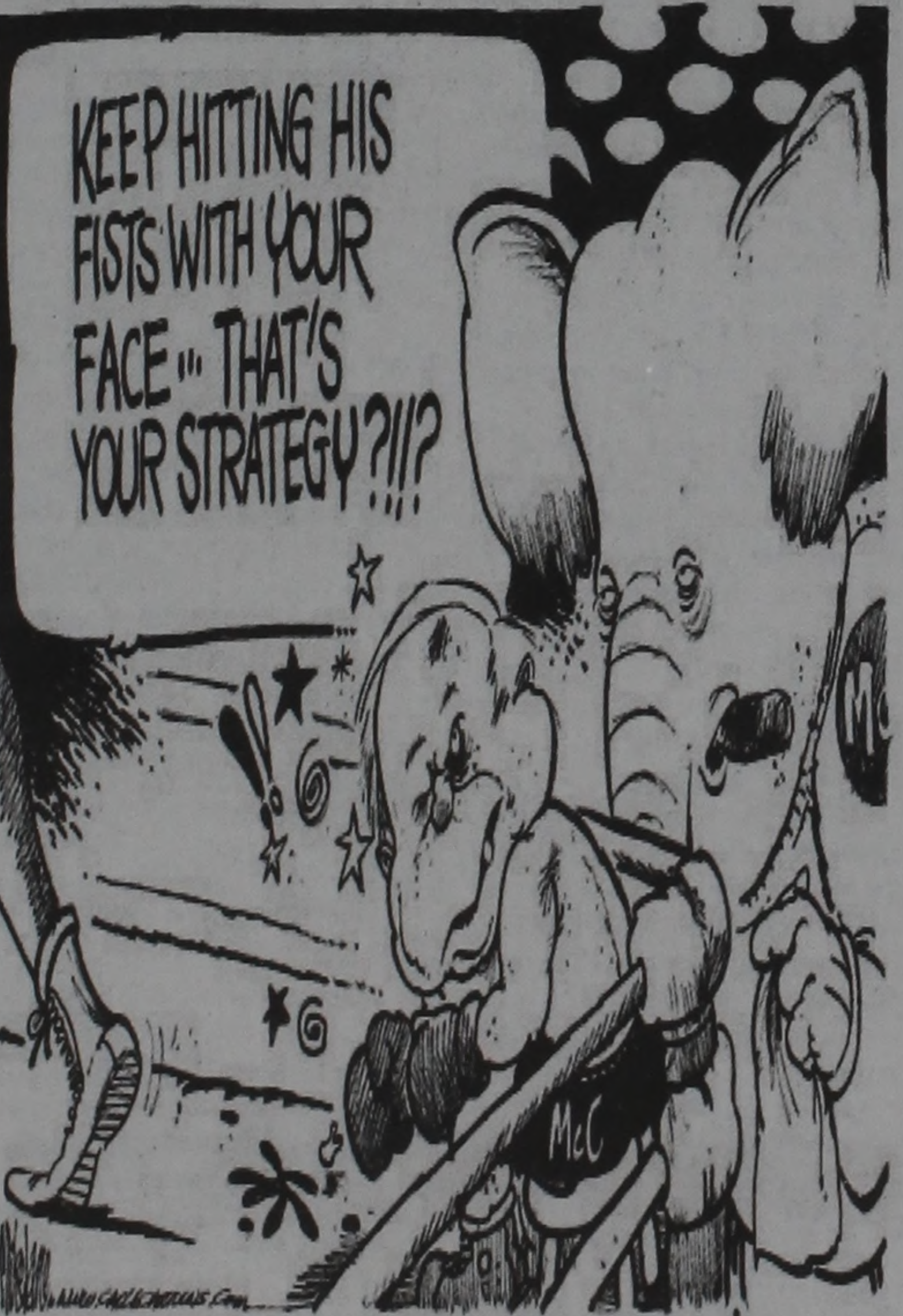
According to Texas state demographer Karl Eschbach, Hispanics who come to the United States after adolescence are less eager to learn English than the children of immigrants who go through the school system.

"Children tend to be bilingual," Mr. Eschbach said. "Many studies today suggest that the children of immigrants are learning English."

He said some studies suggest that even Hispanics older than 17 are learning English. "The pace of learning English has picked up in the state," Mr. Eschbach said. "It's an advantage to be bilingual. It gives you the skills and the competitive advantage in these times of global trade relationships."

Census data is not only reflecting increasing use of Spanish but also of other languages besides English.

In the entire country, almost 20 percent of people older than 5 speak a language other than English at home. In 2000, it was 18 percent of the population and in 1990, almost 14 percent. English is spoken in 80 percent of the homes in the country.



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The 9th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards announce David Lee Garza and many others as performers



"2008 Latin Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Vikki Carr, Flex featuring Belinda, David Lee Garza, Juanes, and Rosario are the latest performers announced for the 9th Annual Latin GRAMMY® Awards telecast, it was announced today by The Latin Recording Academy®. Actors Cristián de la Fuente and Patricia Manterola will host the Latin music industry's premier event. Confirmed to present awards are current Latin GRAMMY nominee Buika, and actors Karyme Lozano, Eugenio Siller, and Mayrín Vilanueva. The 9th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards will take place on Nov. 13 at the Toyota Center in Houston and will be broadcast on the Univision Network from 8 - 11 p.m. ET/PT (7 p.m. Central).

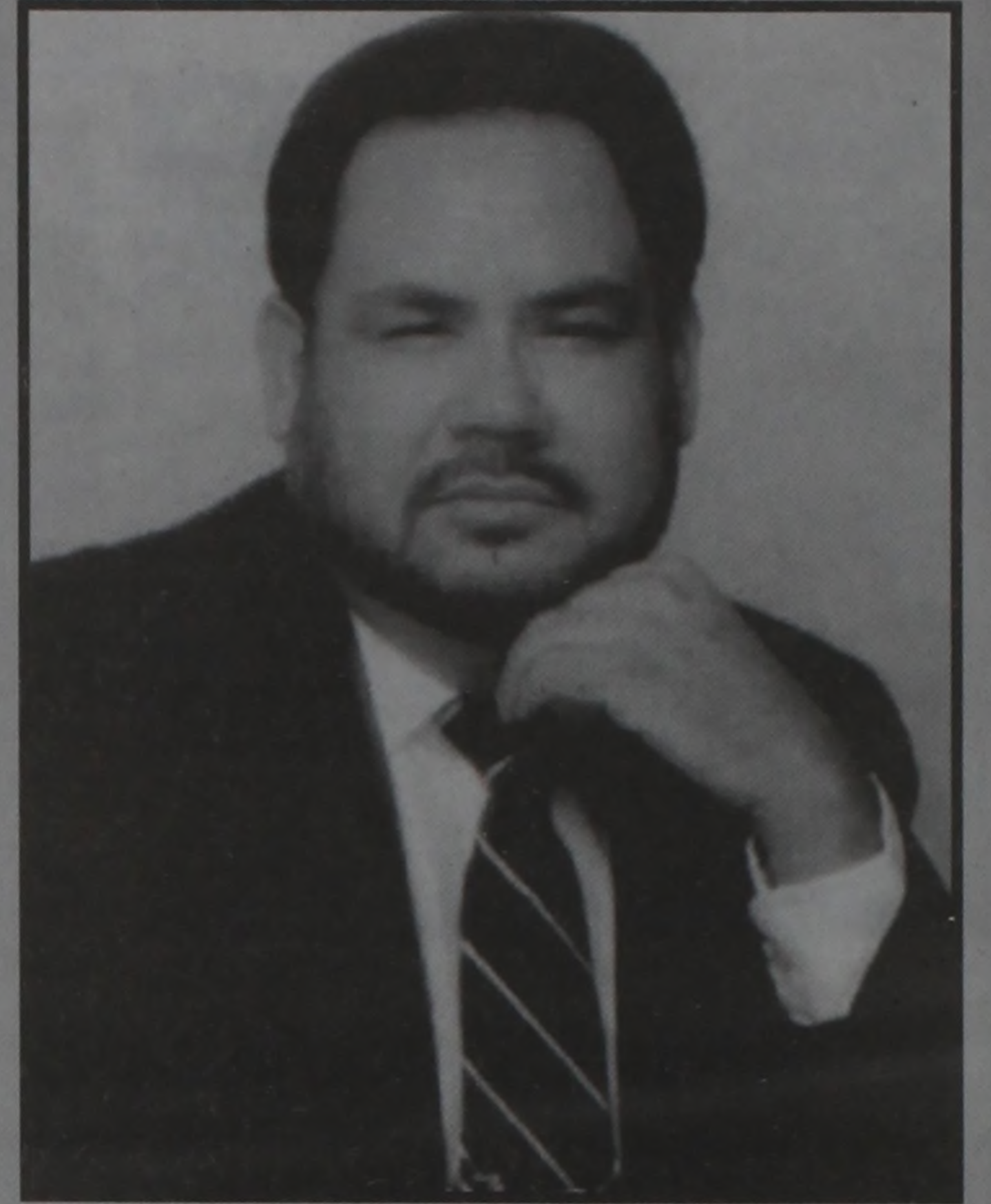
International superstar Juanes is nominated for five awards: Album Of The Year and Best Male Pop Vocal Album for La Vida...Es Un Ratico, and Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year and Best Short Form Music Video for "Me Enamora." Reggaeton artist Flex has two nods for Best Urban Music Album (Te Quiero) and Best Urban Song ("Te Quiero").

Latin pop artist Rosario is up for Best Female Pop Vocal Album (Parte De Mí).

Previously announced performers include current Latin GRAMMY nominees Café Tacvba, Kany García, Alejandra Guzmán, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Olga Tañón and Julieta Venegas. Previously announced presenters feature actors Daniela Castro, César Evora and Eduardo Santamarina; current Latin GRAMMY nominee Ednita Nazario and Ximena Sariñana; and two-time GRAMMY® and nine-time Latin GRAMMY winner Juan Luis Guerra.

Preceding the Awards show telecast, Univision will present exclusive "Noche de Estrellas" (Night of the Stars) coverage of the celebrity arrivals direct from the Latin GRAMMY Awards Green Carpet starting at 7 p.m. ET/PT (6 p.m. Central). Presented by "Primer Impacto" co-anchor Bárbara Bermudo and host of "Nuestra Belleza Latina" Giselle Blondet, "Noche de Estrellas" will feature live interviews and commentary on the stars and their fashions, and provide viewers an intimate and up close look at Latin music's most glamorous pop event.

In Memory Of Eusebio Moralez



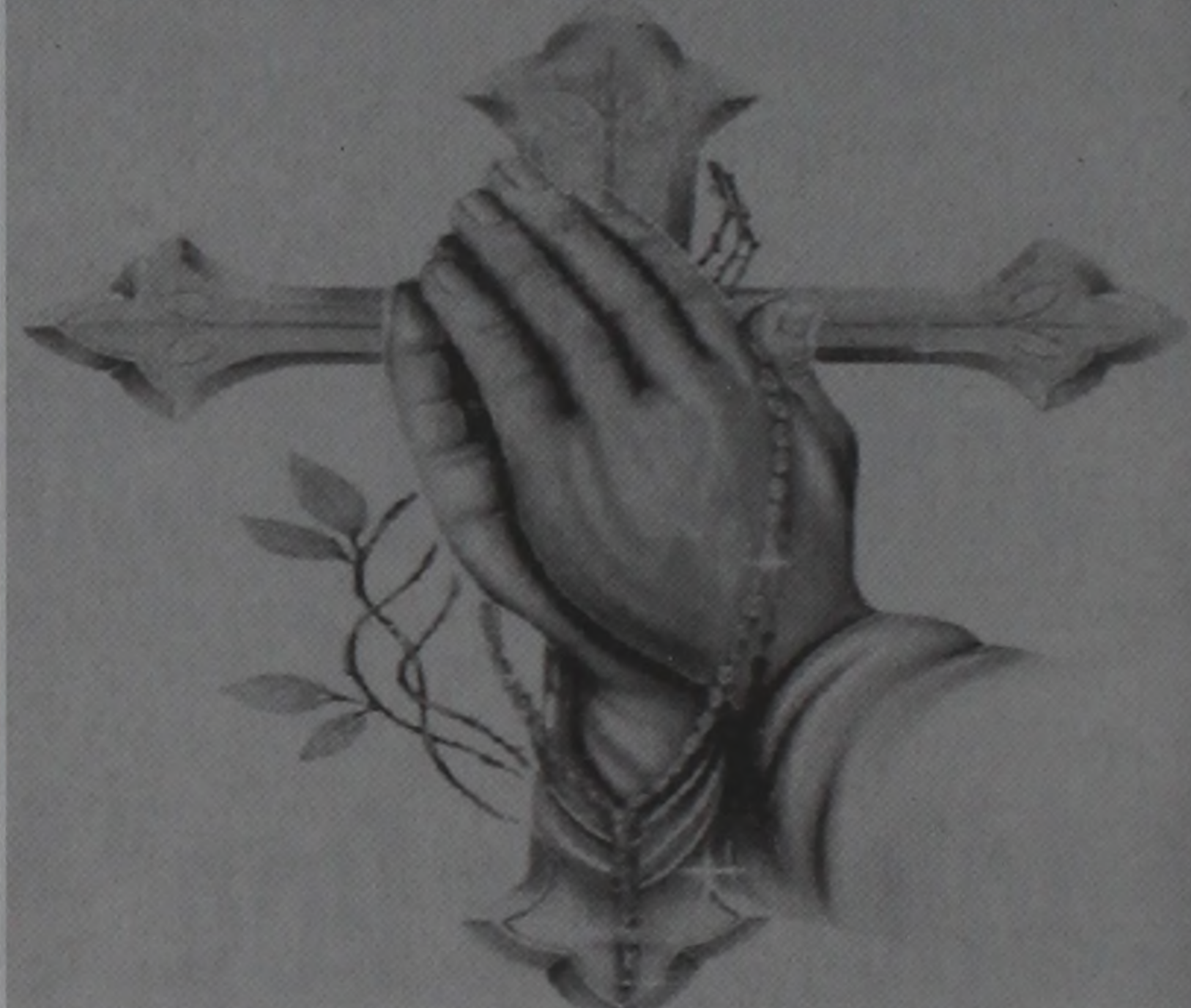
I first met Chevo when I was a sophomore at Tech as he wandered into one of the few spots available for Chicanos to gather in the Student Union Building. He soon became involved in the only organization available to Chicanos at Tech called Los Tertulianos. He served as vice president and president of the organization. Foremost, I can remember him spearheading many projects and as one of the main leaders of the organization for several years. He worked to establish many projects to benefit not only students but also the Lubbock community.

After we both left Tech, we ended up both becoming involved in LULAC in order to continue helping our community. Throughout the years, Chevo stayed heavily involved in LULAC and became involved in many projects that benefited the community. He also became involved in the national LULAC organization where he was nominated to several important positions and served as national vice president of the elderly.

More than anything, I know that Chevo will be remembered as a dedicated family man, a person devoted to the betterment of our community and that worked diligently through LULAC to accomplish that goal.

Chevo will be missed and remembered by everyone that knew him and I am sure by his family, his friends, his brothers and sisters in LULAC and very especially by me and my family.

My dear friend Chevo. May you rest in peace.



A Yáñez se le apagó el 'fuego'

Cuando le dijeron que habría una gira de Yáñez en la sangre, Eduardo Yáñez era uno de los más emocionados, tanto, que hasta tomó clases de canto; sin embargo, los constantes cambios en las fechas de arranque le bajaron los ánimos, a tal grado que ha decidido ya no participar.

El tour, que incluiría a los otros protagonistas de la novela, Jorge Salinas y Pablo Montero, recorrería México y algunas ciudades de Estados Unidos al terminar la serie.

Sin embargo, hace unas semanas se rumoró que se suspendería el tour debido a la posible cancelación de la visa de trabajo de Montero, quien fue sorprendido manejando en Miami bajo los efectos de las drogas. El actor y único cantante del trío, no cumplió con la orden del juez de mantenerse sobrio, por lo que quedó en entredicho la realización del tour.

"A mí cuando se me cae algo, ya se me cae y no regreso. Si me dicen algo [para que vaya a la gira], ya no voy, no creo", señaló el protagoni-

sta del melodrama.

Además, mencionó que la realización de las presentaciones ya no dependen ni siquiera del productor de la telenovela, Salvador Mejía, sino más bien de los ejecutivos de Televisa.

Con lo que el actor sí está muy contento es con el buen recibimiento que le dio el público a Fuego en la sangre, que este 2 de noviembre llegará a su fin en México.

"Le dimos vida y credibilidad a una historia que, para muchos de la prensa, parecía inverosímil o torpe o mal contada; sin embargo, nosotros nos encargamos de hacerla veraz", dijo.

"La prueba está en que el público creyó en la historia. La prensa tiene su ojo crítico y tiene todo el derecho, pero tampoco pueden ir en contra de los 30 y tantos puntos de rating que tuvimos diario", comentó.

Juan Reyes, su personaje dentro del melodrama, ya es para Yáñez un papel entrañable dentro y fuera de las cámaras, tanto así que la gente

en la calle lo para y le grita "¡Juan!".

Aunque agradece las muestras de cariño, admitió que tampoco es lo suyo estar sonriéndoles a cada momento a los fans.

"Soy un poquito freak; me 'friquee' un poquito. Eso que le peguen a la ventana del carro me pone de malas y a veces el productor te está hablando; te dice: 'Oye, oye' y la gente también y estás en medio; entonces, desespera un poquito".

Por lo mismo, agregó, evita los eventos donde se reúne mucha gente, como las firmas de autógrafos, pese a que pierda la oportunidad de ganar "un buen billete".

"No hago ninguna firma de autógrafos porque sé que no puedo; yo no tengo esa chispa, pero hay compañeros que sí lo hacen y para eso es el evento, para que sonrían, se tomen la

foto, para que cuenten uno que otro chiste. Para eso les pagan y adiós".

Pero añadió que lo que el



público sí puede esperar de él es su entrega al 100% en su trabajo, como lo ha hecho en Fuego en la sangre.

Al término de la telenovela, Yáñez se alejará un poco de la televisión y se irá a Los Ángeles para estar al lado de su hijo.

De su vida privada, Yáñez ha dicho en varias ocasiones que le enoja que se metan en ella. El año pasado agredió a un fotógrafo que lo captó en Garibaldi junto a la actriz Angélica Rivera. Y en 1992 fue arrestado en Miami por propiciar una riña en un restaurante.

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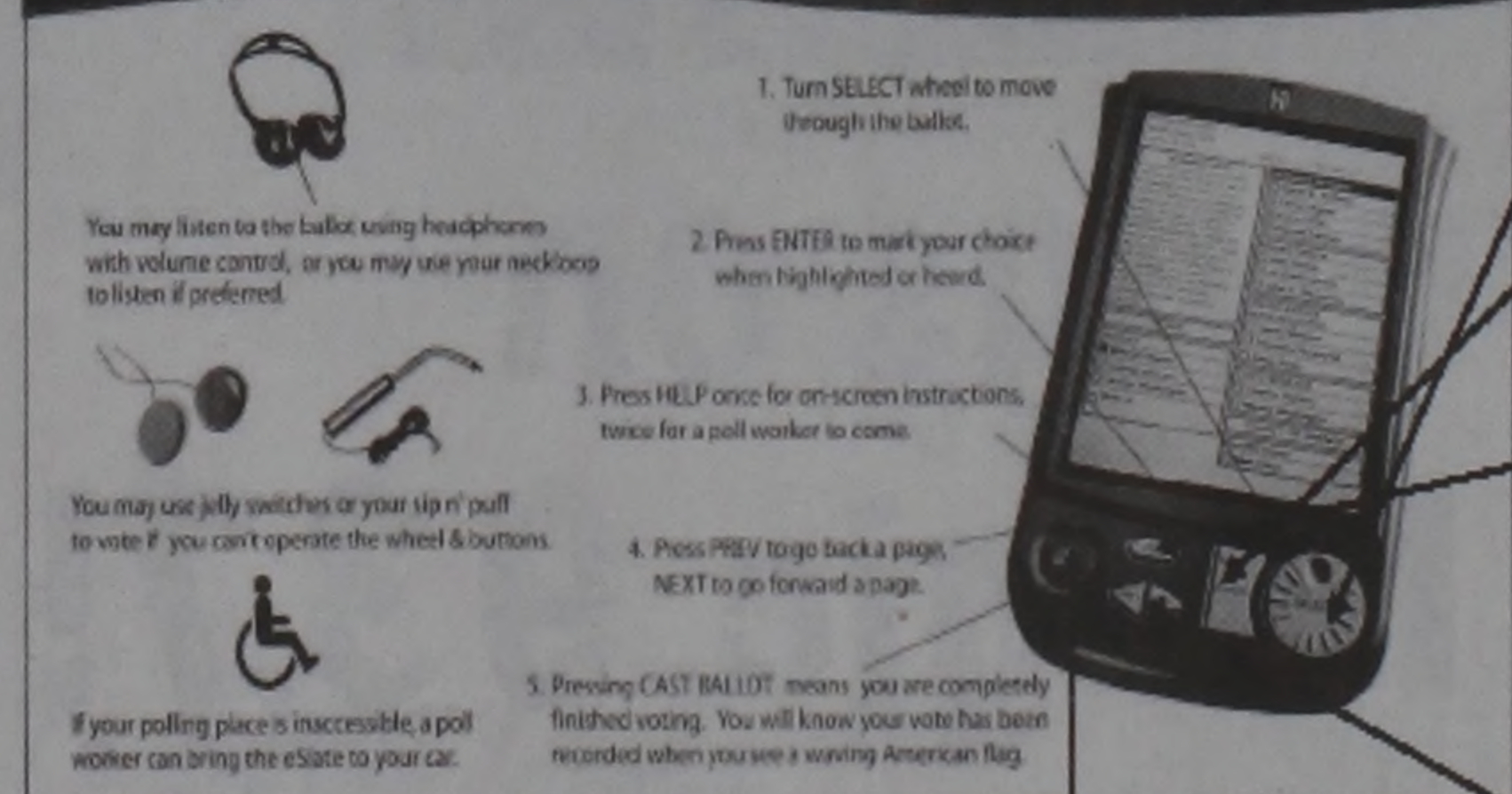
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How to vote using the eSlate



1. Gire la rueda SELECT para mover entre las paginas de la balota.
2. Oprima ENTER marque Frank Gutierrez.
3. Oprima ENTER una vez para INSTRUCCIONES en la pantalla, dos veces para ayuda de un empleado.
4. Oprima PREV para mover a las paginas anteriores, NEXT para mover a las paginas siguientes.

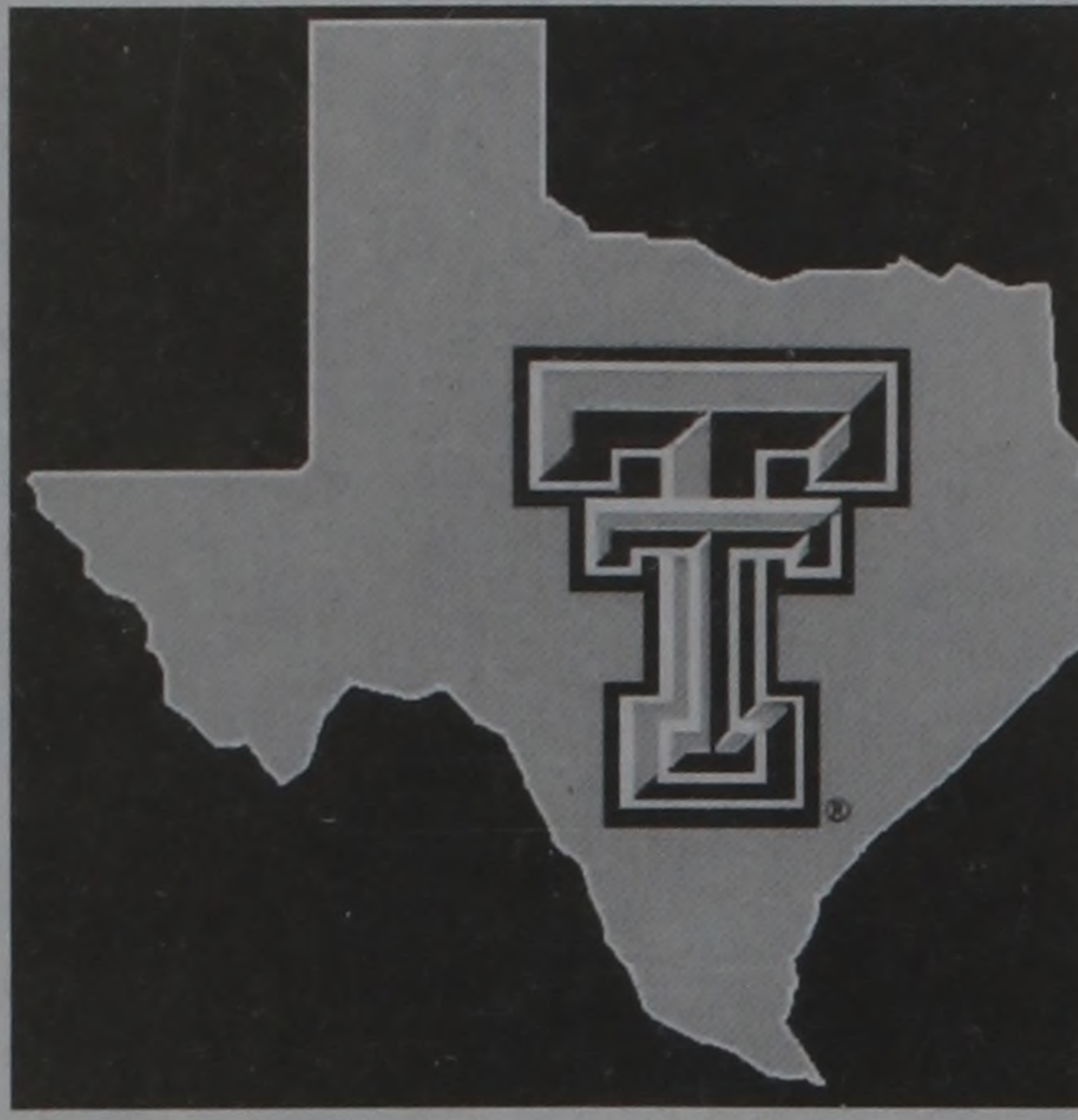
Puedes votar Demócrata derecho y tambien Votar por Frank Gutierrez. You can vote Straight Democrat AND crossover vote for Frank Gutierrez.

5. Oprimir CAST BALLOT significa que haz acabado de votar por Frank Gutierrez. Sabra que su voto se ha grabado cuando ve ondear la bandera norteamericana.

Texas Tech moves up for showdown with Texas

Texas Tech has its highest ranking in the AP Top 25 in 32 years, and a chance to make another momentous leap coming up.

No. 9 Oklahoma State dropped two spots after losing 28-24 in Austin to the Longhorns. No. 10 Utah, No. 11 Boise



State and No. 12 TCU all have hopes of breaking into the Bowl Championship Series from conferences without automatic bids. The Red Raiders moved up two

The Red Raiders moved up to No. 6 in the poll released Sunday as they get ready to host No. 1 Texas.

A second consecutive weekend when highly ranked teams ruled produced little change at the top of the media rankings.

Texas is a unanimous No. 1 for the second week in a row, receiving all 65 first-place votes, and the rest of the top five remained the same: No. 2 Alabama, followed by Penn State, Oklahoma and Florida.

No. 7 Southern California slipped a spot after edging Arizona 17-10 on Saturday night. No. 8 Georgia moved up a spot heading into its huge Southeastern Conference game against East Division rival Florida.

spots by overwhelming Kansas, 63-21 on Saturday. Texas Tech hasn't been ranked this high since Nov. 15, 1976, when coach Steve Sloan had the Red Raiders 8-0 heading into a big home game against No. 9 Houston. Texas Tech lost to Houston, 27-19, and finished that season 10-2 with a loss to Nebraska in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

For coach Mike Leach's Red Raiders, the Texas game will likely be the second of four straight against ranked teams.

Texas Tech's big win at then-No. 19 Kansas knocked the Jayhawks out of the rankings. After Texas comes to Lubbock on Saturday, the Red Raiders are home for Oklahoma State, then have a week off before playing at Oklahoma.

For the Longhorns, the Texas Tech game will be their fourth straight against a team ranked in the Top 11. The Longhorns has navigated safely through Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State in October, but those games were all at home or on a neutral field. The trip to Lubbock will be the Longhorns' toughest road test yet.

Ohio State dropped three spots to No. 13 after losing 13-6 to Penn State in a game for first-place in the Big Ten.

No. 14 is Missouri and LSU dropped four spots to No. 15 after a 52-38 loss to Georgia.

No. 16 Florida State, BYU, Ball State, Tulsa and Minnesota round out the first 20. The Golden Gophers, 7-1 after going 1-11 last season, have their highest ranking since the final poll of the 1999 season.

The final five include three teams that have yo-yoed in and out of the rankings this season.

No. 21 North Carolina and No. 22 Michigan State both dropped out last week but are back in this week.

No. 23 Oregon is back in the rankings for the third time this season and first time in a month.

No. 24 South Florida is the only Big East team left in the rankings. The Bulls dropped 10 spots after losing 24-20 at Louisville.

No. 25 Maryland is ranked for the first time since 2006.

Along with Kansas, falling out were Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech and Boston College.

McCoy, Harrell face off in big West Texas showdown

Call it the Shootout on the South Plains.

Big 12 football has become a weekly battle of gunslinging quarterbacks and only two

backs have thrown for more than 42,700 yards, more than 24 miles. Three Red Raiders, Harrell, Kliff Kingsbury and B.J. Symons, rank among only six quarterbacks

McCoy grew up in Tuscola, just the sort of tiny West Texas farming town that the Red Raiders typically mine for talent and where love of Texas Tech runs deep.

"Basically, my whole high school goes to Texas Tech," McCoy said, before quickly adding that he always wanted to be a Longhorn.

Like Harrell, he has written his name in the NCAA and school record books.

In 2006, McCoy tied a then-freshman record for most touchdown passes with 29. He's already set the Texas career mark with 72. His 27 career wins put him No. 2 at Texas behind Vince Young, who was 30-2.

While Harrell's numbers have almost become routine, McCoy's play has made him a surprise Heisman contender. After his stellar freshman



-Texas' Colt McCoy and Texas Tech's Graham Harrell - are still undefeated.

That ends Saturday night in Lubbock, the No. 1 Longhorns (8-0) and No. 6 Red Raiders (8-0) meet.

If last year's 59-43 Texas win is any measure of what to expect - McCoy and Harrell combined for 785 yards of total offense and 11 touchdowns - it could get wild in West Texas.

"They're both as good as any quarterbacks in the country," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

"They both run their systems perfectly and they're as accurate as any quarterbacks I've ever seen."

There are plenty of crazy numbers to support a statement like that.

McCoy is the No. 2 passer in the country with 2,285 yards, 21 touchdowns and an uncanny completion rate of 81 percent. His stellar play over the last three weeks in victories over No. 4 Oklahoma, No. 14 Missouri and No. 9 Oklahoma State have made him the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy.

Harrell could make his own claim for the Heisman with a victory that would put the Red Raiders in the national title hunt.

Harrell has riddled defenses for the last three years in coach Mike Leach's pass- and point-a-minute offense. This season he has 3,147 yards and 28 TDs.

His career numbers are staggering: He ranks No. 4 in NCAA history with 13,829 yards, and his 117 touchdown passes are tied at No. 3 with Hawaii's Timmy Chang (2000-2004).

But Harrell is sometimes dismissed as a product of Leach's system.

Since 2000, Tech quarter-

who have thrown for more than 5,000 yards in a season.

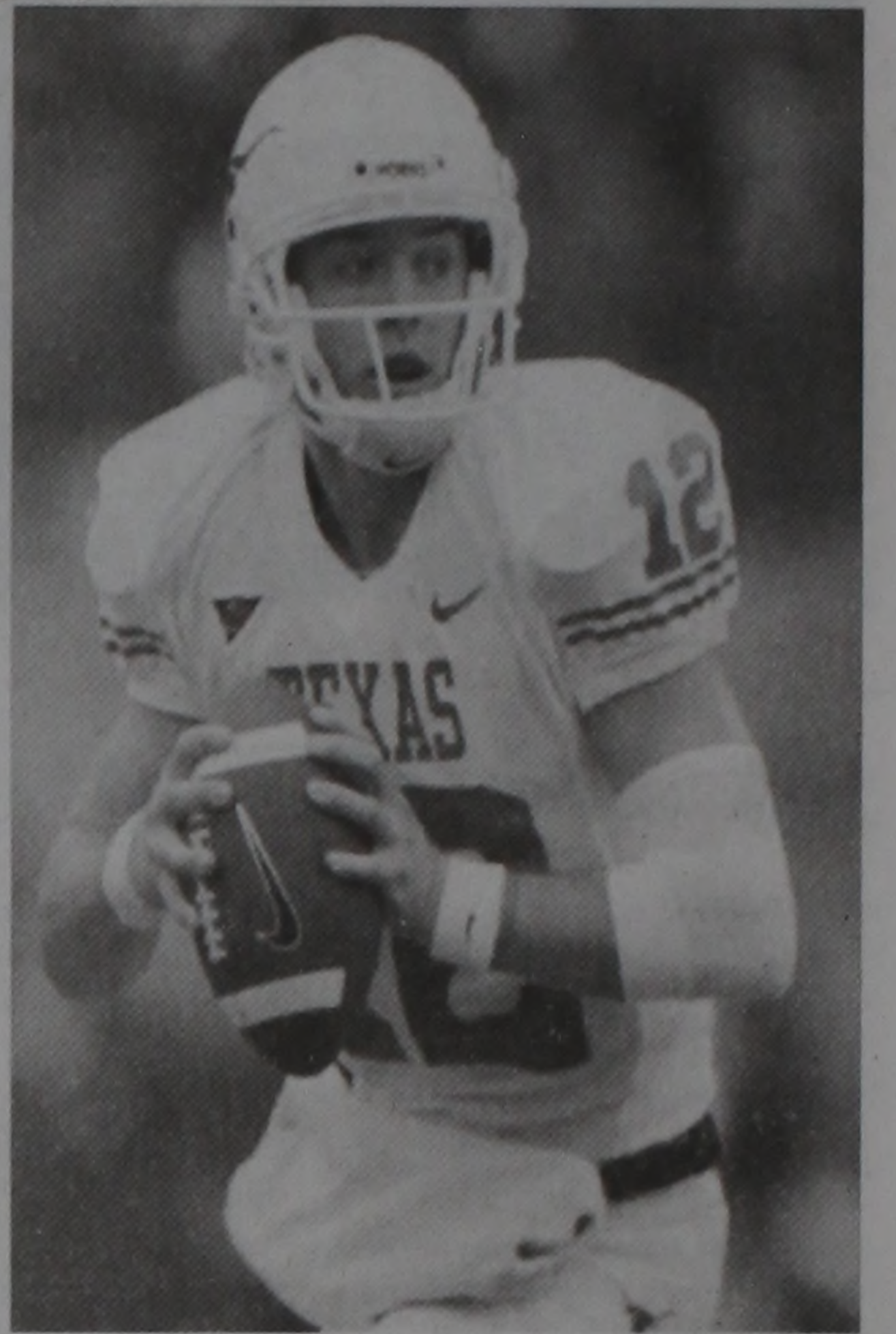
Those kinds of numbers impress McCoy regardless of the system. So do leadership and making plays to win games.

"I think every quarterback plays in a 'system,'" McCoy said. "You don't really think about that. You think about leading your team and what you have to do to make your team win."

These sons of high school coaches made a habit of winning under the Friday night lights in Texas, where both reached state championship games (Harrell won; McCoy didn't).

Harrell played in Ennis, a town of about 16,000 just beyond the reach of the Dallas-Fort Worth suburbs but still within a hotbed of big school recruiting.

Harrell was attracted to Tech by Leach's brand of offense that goes for it on fourth down when conventional wisdom says to kick and will let a quarterback throw and throw and throw.



season, McCoy seemed to take a big step backward with 18 interceptions in 2007. He's thrown only four picks this season with laser-like accuracy that rarely allows defenders a chance to make a play on the ball. Last week against Oklahoma State, he completed 18 passes in a row, setting yet another school record.

And after eight games, he's still Texas' leading rusher with 412 yards, averaging 5.2 yards per carry. He's rushed for seven touchdowns, and his 3-yard score against Oklahoma State proved to be the game-winner in Texas' 28-24 victory.

"He's not like any quarterback we have played this year," Texas Tech safety Darcel McBath said. "He is so versatile."

Alcohol Advertising Targets Hispanic Students

Alcohol advertising is heavier around schools with 20 percent or more Hispanic students than near schools with a smaller Hispanic population, according to a new study from The University of Texas at Austin's College of Education and the University of Florida's College of Medicine.

Dr. Keryn Pasch, an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, wanted to determine if the number and content of alcohol-related advertisements within 1,500 feet of a school varied according to the ethnicity of the students at the school. Her findings show youth attending schools with 20 percent or more Hispanic students see an average of seven times more alcohol ads each day than students at schools with a smaller Hispanic population.

"According to previous studies, Hispanic youth are at higher risk for alcohol use than either white or African American youth," said Pasch. "Exposure to alcohol advertising has been shown to increase alcohol use and intention to use alcohol, and marketers are aggressively capitalizing on the rapidly growing Hispanic popu-

lation, targeting their marketing efforts at this group. Given these facts, I think it's critical to determine if alcohol advertising around schools is related to the ethnicity of the students and, if it is, to take steps to reduce the exposure of high risk groups to this negative influence."

In Pasch's study, of the 27 schools with 20 percent or more Hispanic students, each had about 29 alcohol ads in the immediate vicinity, in contrast to an average of four alcohol ads near schools with less than 20 percent Hispanic students.

Alcohol ads also were more likely to be on bars and liquor stores near the schools with a higher concentration of Hispanic students.

The study indicated that alcohol ad themes varied according to the ethnicity of a school's student population. Schools with 20 percent or more Hispanic students had more alcohol advertisements that employed Hispanic culture as a theme, and ads near these schools were five to 12 times more likely to use cartoons and animals than ads near schools with fewer Hispanic students.

"Alcohol advertising around schools with 20 percent or

more Hispanic students used the culture of the community significantly more," said Dr. Kelli Komro, associate professor of epidemiology in the College of Medicine at the University of Florida. "Those ads employed visual elements like logos of local sports teams, Spanish words and symbols of Hispanic culture such as Mexico's national colors. This may build brand recognition early on, putting youth at even greater risk for early onset and long-term alcohol use. Previous studies have shown that Hispanic youth are at higher risk for starting to use alcohol at a young age and for high-risk alcohol use."

According to Pasch, the alcohol ads also were more likely to feature cartoons and animals. Past research has shown that youth tend to remember a product that is associated with these images and are more likely to use that product—in this instance, alcohol.

"Communities need to press for restrictions prohibiting alcohol advertising around schools," added Pasch, "with special attention to the targeting of ethnic minorities by alcohol advertisers."

Numero Uno Tejano Hit Station

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Study Finds Smog In Mexico Takes 2 Months Off Mexicans' Lives

A Harvard research study suggests that Mexicans would live an average of two months longer if they breathed cleaner air.

The study published on Monday found that some 7,600 people's lives were cut short each year by diseases related to air pollution between 2001-2005, representing about 1.6 percent of annual deaths in Mexico.

At least 38 percent of those deaths were in Mexico City, a mountain-ringed valley long known for its dense layer of smog.

The study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that the average life expectancy in Mexico is 72.3 years for men and 77.8 for women, but would be longer by 2.4 months if urban air quality were improved.

Death records and air quality monitoring data were used to estimate the number of people who died from lung cancer, cardiopulmonary diseases, respiratory infections and other illnesses as a result of breathing heavily polluted air. Then they estimated what Mexico's average life expectancy rate would be if those people had not died early.

The study also looked at the effect on mortality rates from the use of solid fuels, like coal and wood burning, and from unsafe water sanitation in Mexican homes.

About 3,000 people died each year from diseases related to using dirty water from 2001 to 2005, while household fuels caused illnesses that killed 3,600. The study estimated that

exposure to unsafe water sanitation shortened Mexico's average life expectancy by 1 month, while unclean fuels reduced it by 1.2 months.

Combined, these three factors killed 14,000 people a year, or 3 percent of total deaths in Mexico. Mexicans would live nearly five months longer if all three environmental problems were eliminated, the study found.

But while air pollution affected Mexicans of all income levels evenly, a disproportionate number of people in impoverished communities died from exposure to dirty household fuels and unsafe water, the study found.

For example, the study found that improving water sanitation would reduce the child mortality rate by 6.2 percent in the poor-

est Mexican communities, but would have little effect in the wealthiest areas.

Indigenous communities in the southern states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca were the worst affected. Some 50 municipalities in those states had nearly 6 percent of overall deaths and 16 percent of child deaths from the three environmental risk factors, even though only 1.5 percent of Mexico's population lives there.

Majid Ezzati, an associate professor at Harvard School of Public Health, said in Mexico, air pollution is responsible for far more deaths than other environmental conditions.

"On the other hand, if you look at the poor parts of the country, there is a much bigger affect from not having clean water and

not having clean fuel."

The study showed that air pollution affected mostly adults, while unsafe water sanitation and dirty household fuels had a bigger impact on children.

However, in the past two decades, Mexico has rapidly reduced the number of households using dirty fuel and unclean water, and that its overall child mortality rate was on par with wealthier countries at 5.7 per 1,000.

Ezzati said Mexico has managed to be extremely impressive

in reducing child mortality. "But there are pockets or areas remain-



ing where these things are still happening. So what has been done extremely effectively nationally should be done in the remaining areas."

6th Arroyo clean-up



6th Arroyo clean-up held Oct 25. Volunteers from the Texas Tech "Brothers under Christ". Pictured left to right Zack Laring, Alex Price, Brett Rodriguez, Brent Muzny and Councilman Todd Klein.

Cuesta cara la diabetes

Los estadounidenses con diabetes vieron sus gastos en medicamentos subir a casi el doble en apenas seis años, debido especialmente por la aparición de medicamentos nuevos y más costosos pese a la falta de evidencia de que los fármacos nuevos ofrecen más beneficios o son más seguros, dijeron estudiosos.

Según sus conclusiones, hay más personas bajo tratamiento por diabetes. El total de sus gastos el año pasado en Estados Unidos llegó a 12.500 millones de dólares.

El nuevo estudio sigue a actualizaciones en las recomendaciones de tratamiento de la diabetes del tipo 2, emitidas la semana pasada. En esas recomendaciones, un panel de expertos dijo a los médicos que empleasen inicialmente medicamentos más

viejos y baratos.

Un segundo estudio, también dado a conocer el lunes, ofreció evidencia nueva de que la metformina "una droga genérica barata usada sin problemas durante decenios" pudiera ayudar a evitar ataques cardíacos, mientras que Avandia, más nueva y cara, no mostró ese beneficio.

"Necesitamos prestar atención a esos detalles", dijo el doctor David Nathan, jefe de diabetes en el Hospital General de Massachusetts, en Boston, quien escribió un editorial pero no participó en los nuevos estudios. "Si usted puede conseguir el mismo nivel de control de glucosa a menor costo y con menos efectos secundarios, es eso lo que debe hacer", afirmó.

Los estudios, que aparecen en la nueva edición de la revista Archives of Internal Medicine, recibieron fondos federales.

En uno de ellos, investigadores de la Universidad de Chicago y la Universidad de Stanford analizaron cuáles píldoras e insulina prescribieron los médicos y los costos totales de los medicamentos. Los gastos en drogas para la diabetes subieron de 6.700 millones de dólares en el 2001 a 12.500 millones en el 2007, un período en el que los costos de metformina bajaron.

Más pacientes recibieron prescripciones para medicamentos múltiples a medida en que llegaron nuevas drogas al mercado. Más pacientes con diabetes se

estaban tratando, de 14 millones en el 2000 a 19 millones en el 2007.

"Ha habido un cambio considerable en los tratamientos de la diabetes y aumentos considerables en los costos de los tratamientos en los últimos años", dijo el coautor del estudio, doctor Caleb Alexander, profesor de medicina en la Universidad de Chicago.

En el otro estudio, especialistas de la Universidad John Hopkins analizaron los resultados publicados de 40 pruebas de píldoras para la diabetes que midieron los riesgos cardíacos. Comparado con otras drogas y con un placebo, la metformina mostró menos riesgos de muerte por problemas cardíacos.

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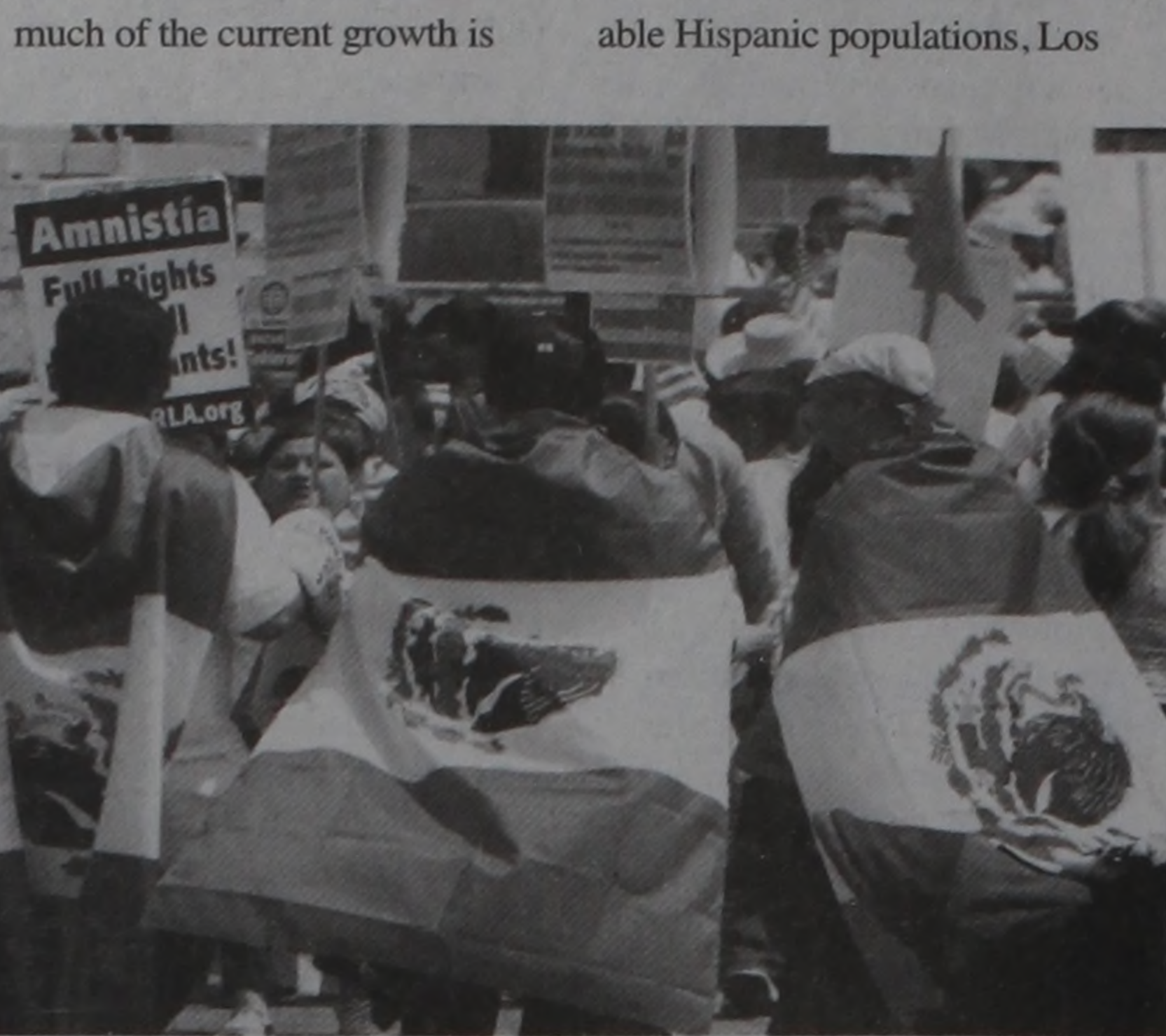
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Pew Hispanic Center: U.S. Hispanic Growth Soars to New 'Milestone'

Even though Hispanics are listed as only 15.1 percent of the population in the United States, a study released today shows that between 2000 and 2007, Hispanics accounted for just over 50 percent of the total growth in U.S. population. The survey, released by the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington D.C., says this report is a "significant new demographic milestone for the nation's largest minority group."

Statistics in the analysis, "Latino Settlement in the New Century," are presented both as total numbers and as percentages. It contains a series of Web-based interactive maps that illustrate the size and spread of Hispanic population growth since 1980, including easy access to detailed state and county-level data. It also displays a list of the counties with the largest Hispanic populations, as well as a directory of those counties with the fastest-growing Hispanic populations.

According to the report, there are two changes from Hispanic population growth in the 1990s. While Hispanics accounted for just under 40 percent of the nation's population growth then,



much of the current growth is from natural increase of the existing population, which is births minus deaths, rather than international migration.

The analysis also shows the 676 counties where Hispanic growth is greatest. This list includes areas where the Hispanic population numbers at least 1,000 persons, plus has had at least 41 percent growth compared to the 1990s.

The regions with the greatest growth in numbers — more than 400,000 each — were three counties that already had siz-

able Hispanic populations, Los Angeles, Maricopa (Phoenix), and Harris (Houston). But, on a percentage basis, the three counties exceeding 300 percent in growth are Frederick and Culpeper counties in Virginia and Paulding County in Georgia. In fact, since 2000, Virginia and Georgia also contain eight of the 10 counties with the highest percentage growth in the Hispanic population. The other two counties are Kendall County in Illinois and Luzerne County in Pennsylvania. There are also 148 counties

that were not affected by rapid growth in the 1990s that now have seen a sizeable increase in Hispanic population. This shows that while the South still had a greater share of overall Hispanic population growth than any other region, the West and Northeast also have experienced more growth than in the 1990s.

In addition, the study shows how much of the Hispanic population growth over the past decade has taken place in small and mid-sized cities and suburbs that had few or no Hispanic residents in the past. Overall, Hispanic population growth since 2000 has been widespread, escalating in almost 3,000 of the nation's 3,141 counties.

While a large number of areas have seen increases, the principal amount, or 79 percent of the Hispanic population, resides in just 178 counties, while 73 percent are concentrated in 100 of the largest Hispanic counties.

Comparatively, the geographic concentration of Hispanics is greater than the nation's black population. Nearly six-in-ten (59 percent) of the non-Hispanic black population lives in the nation's 100 largest non-Hispanic black counties.

Gutiérrez se Siente Confiado Sobre Votos que Cruzan del Partido Político

Durante el primer día de votación temprano: Republicano Frank Gutiérrez se presentó en los varios sitios de votación del precinto 3 y se siente confiado sobre las posibilidades que los votantes intentan cruzar partido y votar por él en su carrera política contra el Demócrata Gilbert Flores

Él dijo al El Editor que la gente se presentó en la United Supermarket en la calle Norte Universidad desde el lunes: este era el primer día en que los votantes podrían votar con anticipación; él vio el gentil como buen presagio para su campaña.

Gutiérrez dice que él ha continuado presentándose a los residentes del condado mientras sigue tocando puertas y caminando por el barrio y ha sido animado por la amable recepción que él ha conseguido de la gente.

Gutiérrez dice que los elementos principales que él oye sigiendo que los residentes del este del condado de Lubbock se sienten que durante los 12 años que Flores estuvo

en el puesto no se preocupó por ellos. Y además dijeron que el candidato Demócrata Flores no hizo nada para ellos durante sus 12 años en el cargo.

Gutiérrez dice que muchos residentes que son Demócratas están dispuestos a cruzar partido en esta carrera para elegir a alguien que represente sus intereses y que no se olvide de ellos después de la elección.

Gutiérrez dice que muchos votantes están bajo la impresión que por ser Demócratas ellos deben votar por el candidato Demócrata. Pero él dice que la gente está dispuesta a cruzar partido para votar por él después de que él los visita y pasa tiempo discutiendo con ellos.

En un precinto 3 en donde Demócratas exceden en número a Republicanos: Gutiérrez dice que él espera que lo que los votantes le están diciendo se realizará en los resultados.

Se ha reportado que más de 7000 personas emitieron su voto en el primer día de votación temprano.

El voto hispano es crucial: Obama

A una semana de las elecciones, Barack Obama, nominado presidencial demócrata, declaró que necesita que los electores hispanos voten en cifras récord que garanticen el triunfo de la fórmula Obama-Joe Biden para implementar cambios económicos que generen trabajos, reduzcan los impuestos a la clase trabajadora, y eviten que más familias pierdan sus casas por los embargos hipotecarios.

En entrevista con impreMedia, Obama admitió que la recuperación económica no será fácil, "y no podremos lograrlo todo al mismo tiempo".

Pero agregó que "espero que todos entiendan lo que está en juego: si vamos a tratar de lograr cambios fundamentales, una reforma migratoria integral, y un sistema de salud que funcione para todos, entonces tendremos que ver al voto hispano salir en cifras récord. En los estados competitivos, [los votantes latinos] pueden hacer toda la diferencia del mundo", declaró Obama.

"Si la gente está satisfecha con la economía, entonces deben votar por John McCain porque está ofreciendo lo mismo que ofreció George [W.] Bush. Pero si están frustrados, si quieren tener más apoyo en temas como frenar los embargos de sus casas, entonces la fórmula Obama-Biden es la solución", indicó el senador de Illinois telefónicamente.

Aunque de ser electo no podrá lograrlo todo al mismo tiempo, mantiene su compromiso de impulsar una reforma migratoria amplia.

"No cabe duda de que no podremos hacerlo todo al mismo tiempo, y que será importante enfocarnos en la creación de empleos, en la energía y en el sistema de salud", indicó.

Pero "debemos garantizar que [el tema migratorio] no se emplee como un balón político y por eso sigo comprometido con asegurarnos de armar una receta para una reforma migratoria seria comenzando en mi primer año [de presidencia]".

Sobre si la actual crisis económica podría generar mayor oposición a dicha reforma, Obama indicó que en cierto modo la crisis ha desacelerado la inmigración indocumentada a Estados Unidos "y quizás eso genere un ambiente que facilite un poco hablarle a la gente de manera razonable sobre lidiar con nuestros problemas fronterizos y tomar medidas severas contra los empleadores que contratan indocumentados, pero al mismo tiempo proveyendo una vía de ciudadanía para la gente que al presente vive en las sombras".

La campaña del senador intenta lograr 65% o más del voto hispano.

"Me parece que nos va a ir muy bien con el voto latino... Los sondeos públicos nos dan más de 65%, pero no me gusta creer en los sondeos y prefiero esperar al día de la elección", afirmó Obama.

La tasa de desempleo de los hispanos es casi 8%, superior al índice nacional de 6%. Los latinos aguardan por políticas que generen trabajos.

Obama dijo que "queremos iniciar un vasto proyecto de infraestructura a través del país construyendo puentes, carreteras, escuelas. Y la razón por la cual eso es tan importante, particularmente para la comunidad hispana, es no sólo porque necesitan más escuelas considerando que sufren de superpoblación escolar, sino porque muchos de los desempleados entre la comunidad hispana trabajaban en la industria de la construcción" y un proyecto así, dijo, generaría empleos automáticamente.

Además, quiere destinar 15,000 millones de dólares anuales a programas de búsqueda de energía alternativa que también generen empleos.

"Pero es sólo parte de la respuesta. Tenemos que estabilizar los mercados financieros, ayudar a los gobiernos locales para que no se vean obligados a reducir su fuerza laboral, y tenemos que estabilizar el mercado inmobiliario", afirmó, y reiteró su llamado a una moratoria de tres meses en los embargos.

"Y a largo plazo tenemos que arreglar nuestro sistema de salud... y garantizar que el sistema educativo funcione... Tenemos mucho trabajo por delante", dijo Obama.

Sobre la noción de que la crisis obligará a quien resulte electo a aumentar los impuestos, Obama señaló que, por el contrario, una reducción tributaria "es parte importante de impulsar la confianza del consumidor" garantizando que la economía comience a recuperarse.

"Lo mejor que podemos hacer es proveer una reducción de impuestos a 95% de las familias para que puedan lidiar con el alto costo del cuidado médico, de los alimentos", declaró Obama.

La campaña de Obama está empleando anuncios en español para atraer el voto hispano. Incluso Obama grabó uno en español.

"Estamos sacando el mismo anuncio en inglés, pero no quiero que las personas que

hablan español sientan que no estamos buscando activamente su voto... Quiero que la gente sepa que me preocupo por ellos y que estoy haciendo el esfuerzo de hablarles directamente", afirmó Obama.

El senador dedica esta semana a "cerrar el caso" ante el electorado estadounidense de por qué deben elegirlo.

A los votantes latinos "les diría que la comunidad hispana ha sido golpeada más duro que nadie por este bajón de nuestra economía" y es el resultado, agregó, de la filosofía económica-

de Bush compartida por John McCain "de que si le otorgan más y más reducciones tributarias y beneficios a los más ricos entre nosotros, de algún modo la prosperidad le llegará al resto".

"...Me parece que la comunidad latina ha entendido que la economía no ha funcionado para las familias promedio, trabajadores, de clase media", indicó Obama.

Su campaña compró espacio televisivo en la hora de mayor audiencia mañana miércoles y Obama dijo que "no sólo

hablaré yo, sino que tendremos familias, incluyendo una familia latina, hablando sobre lo que están atravesando en sus vidas para que la gente entienda de qué se trata esta elección y por lo que estamos peleando".

Ayer Obama y McCain estuvieron en Ohio, uno de los estados más competitivos, y McCain aseguró que el plan económico de Obama sólo supondrá gastos adicionales que resultarán en un alza de impuestos.

Mi forma de abordar el asunto [económico] es controlar los

gastos. La diferencia entre nosotros [Obama y él], es que él piensa que los impuestos están muy bajos y yo pienso que los gastos han sido muy altos", afirmó McCain.



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