

North Lubbock Residents Claim Foul

North Lubbock residents remain bitter and dismayed at recent City Council actions that moved money designated by Lubbock voters for a proposed Lake to a little league park in West Lubbock.

The approved \$4.2 million bond package passed in 2002 provided for park development which later include a new Vaquero Lake which included spray gardens, water gardens and picnic gardens plus the butification of a North Lubbock. The Vaquero area was to be built in conjunction with an overall plan to build a lake system to

attract visitors and business to North Lubbock but during a City Council meeting held this past Monday, City Fathers voted to give \$275,000 of the money for a little league park for disabled children to be built in West Lubbock.

Residents of the Guadalupe neighborhood opposed the move and voiced their complaints at the City Council meeting. The residents have been leading an effort to build a new facility to replace a center that was demolished because of poor conditions. The 50 residents attending complained to the Council that money originally designated for north Lubbock was unfairly being shifted to another part of town.

"The public voted for a bond that was supposed to benefit our families in the north and east part of town and now you are going to spend the money in the Southwest," said Josie Sulaica. She added that the Council was favoring the Southwest side of town and ignoring the north and east. "Invest in the whole community, not in just the southwest."

Mayor Mark McDougal and Councilman Gary Boren cited examples of investing in North Lubbock as the Fiesta Plaza, the Mackenzie Park amphitheater and the North and East Lubbock Community Development Corp.

"Who is to say that they won't move those projects? We certainly don't have a voice," said one of the Guadalupe residents.



Residents de el Barrio Guadalupe criticaron las acciones de el Consejo de la Ciudad por mudar dineros que originalmente fueron designados por los votantes de Lubbock para ser gastados mejorar la parte norte y este de la ciudad. Los reclamantes al Consejo dijeron que se estaban ignorando la necesidades de la comunidad al norte. "No estamos diciendo que no se debe de fijar el proyecto para los niños deshabilitados pero estamos demandando que se debe de poner atencion a las necesidades de esta parte del pueblo" dijeron los ciudadanos.

Residents were also critical that the Fiesta Plaza had been proposed almost 10 years ago and has yet to be completed. "Besides that, that so-called plaza is just a little patio and nowhere close to what they were saying it was going to be."

On Wednesday El Editor received several calls referring to the article printed in the Avalanche Journal as being biased. "It made us seem like we were against the little disabled

kids," said one of the callers. "All we were trying to say that the Council needs to be fair and start to address the needs of the people in North Lubbock."

The citizens calling for a new community center all agree that The Challenger Project is needed and should be approved. But they also believe the City Council could work harder to find money for the long neglected and overlooked North side

(In Photo Council groundbreaking at Fiesta Plaza 2004)

Community Voices Community Voices!

Martin Luther King once said that our lives begin to end when we become silent. It is our belief that in this city where we live, it may not be that people choose to be silent, but rather that they have no forum or medium available to them where they can voice their opinions and yes sometimes even their dissent. More often than not, if we depend on others to tell both sides of the story; more often than not, only one side will get told.

In an effort to provide a forum for our readers to share their views, we asked people from various walks of life from the community, to share their comments on this past week's decision by the Lubbock City Council to abandon the proposed plans that had designated that voter elected bond money be used for a project that would have had a positive economic and social impact in District 1, a primarily Hispanic district in the city. Instead, the city voted to redirect over one million dollars of that money to be used for park projects in west Lubbock.

Here's what some members of our community said concerning the council's decision:

- ❖ "If we have to sell enchiladas, burritos and tamales to raise money to build a new center (Guadalupe Neighborhood Center), why didn't the City have to sell hot dogs for the Bush library? Instead, \$50 million of our hard-earned taxes were given away without our approval." - Josie Sulaica
- ❖ "It just shows the racial division that still exists in Lubbock and the lack of more Hispanic representation in city government." †- Modesto R. Rodriguez
- ❖ "I am disappointed that the City Council continues to show a bias for spending money in areas of town that are already well-supported and to deprive the North and East part of Lubbock of funding for which there had already been a plan." - Darrell Vines
- ❖ "I want to take pride in, and feel that justice is done for, ALL parts of Lubbock—not just south/southwest, primarily Anglo Lubbock." - SarahLee Morris
- ❖ "While it is disappointing that the Vaquero Lake Project has fallen through, it is an opportune time to use some of the funds intended for that district back into that district. I believe that most voters would not complain." - Frank Garcia
- ❖ "I wish the AJ would report accurate and unbiased news. If they can't, then I say boycott them." - Luis
- ❖ "If the City Council wishes to encourage growth in the north and east parts of Lubbock, they must be the ones to lead the way by continuing to invest our tax dollars in that area, so that developers and business will follow." - Colleen Berg
- ❖ "I'm really concerned that the money that went through a democratic process intended for North Lubbock and approved by the voters, is being diverted to another part of town." - Tavita Dorow
- ❖ "Council members, I ask you to demonstrate your commitment to change. And voters, I ask you to hold those that don't, accountable during the upcoming elections." - Christy Martinez-Garcia

In closing, we salute the "community voices" those people who have the courage to speak out, get involved and be heard. And we remind our readers of the words spoken by a man who understood that speaking out was not only a right, but a responsibility.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." - Cesar Chavez

(Christy Martinez-Garcia contributed to "Community Voices")

Questions? Comments? Email: acruztsc@aol.com or christymartinez@cox.net

Study on 105,000 Gay Latino Couples Reveals Values, Cites Challenges

By José de la Isla

Hispanic gay couples live in nuclear-family units more often than previously assumed and have children in their households twice as often as other gay unions.

This was a key finding in a national analysis of some 105,000 Latino same-sex couples in released Nov. 1 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Latino/a Coalition for Justice.

The first national study of its kind, based on Census 2000 data, found that Hispanics comprise 18 percent of all gay unions in the United States.

Hispanic couples are largely clustered in California, Arizona, Florida and Texas, some of the same states where gay marriage bans are either proposed or pending on state ballots, according to the study's author, Jason Cianciotto. Anti-gay parenting laws disproportionately threaten Hispanics, he says.

The study shows that 54 percent of Latina same-sex couples and 41 percent of Latino counterparts are raising at least one child under 18 years of age. This compares with 70 percent for married and 59 percent of cohabitating heterosexual couples.

The author considers the child rearing findings among the study's most salient ones because they go to the heart of the "family values" issue. The traditional family is often assumed to be incompatible with a gay lifestyle. The data suggest that many Hispanic gay couples are living traditional child-centered lifestyles.

These findings fly in the face of critics who base gay marriage objections on "family values." The study challenges that homosexual stereotype.

"We are building strong families," says Matt Foreman, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Sergio Sarmiento, founder of Immigration Equality, a group that argues gay marriage rights are needed to help facilitate a partner's immigration status, says, "We share the same values" as other families. Sarmiento adds that is what forms "the same values of morality."

Same-sex unions in which both partners are Hispanic have median annual household incomes considerably lower than do

similar families that are white. While white same-sex female couples average \$60,000, their Latina counterparts average \$35,000. Comparative figures for males are \$66,000 and \$39,000.

Fifty-three percent of male and 48 percent of female Hispanic same-sex couples reported they were born outside the United States. A quarter (female) and a third (male) same-sex couples are not U.S. citizens. This poses a particularly thorny problem for gay Hispanic households unable to claim legal permanent status on the basis of marriage or conjugal union, according to Sarmiento.

Hispanic same-sex couples (46 percent for males, 50 percent for females) are slightly below or just above the overall 2004 Hispanic homeownership average of 48.1 percent.

The overall U.S. home-ownership rate is 69 percent.

The study's results were announced a week before Texans go to the polls, on Nov. 8, to vote on a proposed state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Three of the top 10 metropolitan areas with the highest number of Hispanic same-sex households are San Antonio, Dallas-Ft. Worth, and Houston.

The Austin American-Statesman editorialized last month that 635,000 divorce cases were filed in the state during the

last five years. Proposition proponents claim to defend marriage, "not by banning divorce, or making it more difficult to marry in the first place," said the editorial, but by banning marriage between same-sex people. The newspaper urged the proposition's defeat.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute provides research, analysis and strategy to advance understanding and equality for homosexual and transgender people. The National Latino/a Coalition for Justice advocates an end to marriage discrimination.

The 84-page study, "The Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Couple Households in the United States," can be found at www.thetaskforce.org.

(José de la Isla is a public policy analyst and contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service. He may be reached at jdelaisla@houston.rr.com) (c) 2005 Hispanic Link News Service



El Editor Week of November 10-16, 2005

Bush Immigration Proposal Would Increase Border Tragedies

By **Arnoldo Garcia**

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Legalization, More Avenues for Legal Immigration, Needed to Ensure Immigrant Safety and Fairness

When it comes to immigration and border control in the U.S., failure and misery love company – and ignore history at a deadly cost to migrants.

After eleven years of border militarization, with the intended purpose of stopping unauthorized crossings, and with more than 4,000 migrant deaths to its credit, the disastrous “prevention through deterrence” border control and immigration enforcement strategy implemented in 1994 has received another shot in its bloodied budget arm.

On October 18 President George W. Bush signed into law the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Bill of

some \$30.8 billion, continuing to bankroll a failed border strategy that has wreaked misery and suffering on untold numbers of migrants.

In response, Isabel G. Garcia, chairwoman of the Tucson, AZ-based Coalición de Derechos Humanos, declared “The Bush Administration’s almost exclusive reliance on immigration law enforcement and national security measures to address the issues of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. is a debacle. Coupled with national security and free trade, Bush’s new generation of border security and interior enforcement is an unprecedented assault on the rights of all immigrants and border communities.”

The latest boost to immigration enforcement comes in the wake of the highest recorded number of migrant border deaths in a decade. At least 460 migrant dead were

recovered during fiscal year October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005. NNIRR believes that Bush’s new appropriations for the DHS will only intensify the human rights violations perpetrated against migrants and border communities.

Linking Immigration Enforcement and Services to National Security is a Recipe for Disaster To build support for his recently announced guest worker or bracero proposal, President Bush authorized the 2006 DHS budget bill that included \$7.5 billion for further militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, to hire an additional 1,000 Border Patrol agents, create more jails for immigrants, and increase interior immigration police to intensify deportations.

Vowing to deport every “illegal entrant,” Bush’s new budget institutionalizes the DHS’s repatriation

program to deport migrants detained at the border into the interior of Mexico as punishment, which is illegal under international law. Non-Mexican migrants especially at the border, along with all other undocumented immigrants detained in the interior, will be jailed, denied bail without their day in court and subjected to expedited deportation.

This new budget appropriation further cements immigration enforcement and services to the politics of national security and the “war on terrorism,” diminishing the prospects of ending migrant deaths at the border, and stopping unlawful deportations of immigrants.

Ms. Garcia pointed out, “Pouring more money into a failed immigration enforcement strategy means more migrant deaths and destabilizes our communities.”

In 2002, the non-partisan Public Policy Institute of California found that this strategy failed to stop unauthorized migration and succeeded only in increasing migrant deaths – the direct result of a deliberate enforcement strategy that forces migrants to cross through Arizona’s most deadly desert and mountainous region. As Border Patrol Chief Robert Bonner declared last year, migrants are going to be deported or die crossing – and they are in unprecedented record numbers.

Ms. Garcia affirmed, “The crisis at the border could be ended just by issuing sufficient visas for legal immigration, thus providing people safe entry into the country. More Border Patrol, more deportations and wall building will not solve anything. President Bush’s enforcement spending does nothing new; it’s only a recipe for an even bigger human rights disaster.”

Catherine Tactaquin, Executive Director of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), added by stressing, “A generous and comprehensive legalization program that protects the civil and labor rights of all immigrants and provides options for permanent residency and citizenship, can help solve this dilemma. But it will not be enough if we are to address long-term changes.

“U.S. trade and economic development policies – which affect or even shape the root causes forcing people to leave their home countries -- must address human rights and sustainable development if we are to ameliorate the negative impacts,” she continued. “Trade and migration are intimately linked. Trade policy must include measures to improve the socio-economic conditions so that people have options other than involuntary migration. Our policies must invest in development that reduces population displacement, promotes sustainable communities and human security. Otherwise, more migrants will continue fleeing their homes, dying at the border or endure unlawful detentions and deportations,” Ms. Tactaquin concluded.

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Right proposes the following recommendations to help shape a new form of immigration enforcement that protects labor rights, civil rights and ensures the integrity of immigrant communities:

Demilitarize the U.S.-Mexico border and cease all enforcement policies, practices, measures, laws, and strategies that criminalize migrants forcing them into dangerous crossing areas;

Implement policies addressing the displacement impacts of trade and economic development to create options for sustainability and human security;

Develop multi-lateral migration policies and practices that uphold the human rights of migrants, accountable to independent, civilian community-based monitoring and oversight;

Implement routine programs of legalization that expand access to visas and provide access to permanent residency including future flows. Systematic legalization programs – recognizing human, labor, environmental, and civil rights – will ensure that migrants have options to unite with their families and avoid mortal danger.

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Breach of Contract, You Bet!

By **Abel Cruz**

“It is a well-established principle that proceeds of bonds approved by the electorate may only be expended for the purpose for which they were approved. They may not be expended for an additional or different purpose. This is because the ordinance ordering a bond election and establishing the purpose for which bonds will be issued becomes a contract with the voters once the voters approve the bonds. A city is required to include in the bond proposition, in the election order and in the notice of election, the purposes for which bonds payable from ad valorem property taxes will be issued, because the electorate is entitled to know in advance the particular purpose for which its taxes levied pursuant to the election will be used. Accordingly, the purpose of the bonds must be stated in such a way as to “fairly and fully apprise the voters of it”

Morales Letter Opinion No. 98-060, Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

The above words are taken directly from a Letter Opinion dated August 14, 1998, (a full year before this city’s bond election in September 1999) written by the office of the Texas State Attorney General’s office. The opinion letter was in response to a legal opinion request by the city of Rosenberg, Texas on whether proceeds from a bond election approved by voters designated for improvements to a civic center could be used for the construction of a new civic center. In that case, the above text was included in the legal opinion by the Attorney General’s office that they could not.

One only needs to read the above text to know that Councilwoman Linda DeLeon was right when she stated that the bond election approving that proceeds from the sale of bonds approved by voters of this city in 1999 constitutes a “contract with the voters”. Unfortunately, the rest of the council disagreed and proceeded to once again demonstrate their indifference towards a mostly Hispanic segment of this city.

But as is usually the case in this city’s politics, anything can be twisted and shaped to fit the proverbial loopholes in the laws. In this case, the city contends two things:

- 1) The closure of Capital Improvement Project 90007 - Canyon Lakes Dam #4, in the Parks Capital Projects Fund. This project was originally voted on as a bond project in the 1999 bond election. Since that time, the project has required re-engineering several times due to the discovery of historical artifacts. As a result, the new location is undesirable and does not fall in line with the original intent of the project. Staff recommends this project be closed and the funding reallocated to other projects in the Parks Capital Projects Fund. The remaining GO Bond funding in this project is currently \$2,256,914.
- 2) And that the “bond council” which is appointed by the city council, has determined that the bond election language did not specifically state that proceeds from the bond election would be used for the above project. They concluded that the bonds had been designated for “park improvements”.

But take a close look at the language in item number 1 above which comes directly from city council agenda item 5.7, does it not say that “this project was originally voted on as a bond project in the 1999 bond election”? I’m not a lawyer, but it does seem to me that the opinion written by the Attorney General’s office makes it clear that proceeds from bonds approved for a specific purpose cannot be used for other capital improvement projects at the discretion of a city council.

For arguments sake, lets say that in this case, the city council is correct in its interpretation and decision to redirect funds from the original project be used for improvements to McAlister Park in west Lubbock; a park that was also funded with proceeds from the same 1999 bond election. The questions still remain: 1) to what extent were efforts made, if indeed they were, to resolve the issues that have come up concerning “re-engineering” and the “discovery of historical artifacts”? 2) Was there consideration given to the fact that a project such as this could lead to the economic development that planners envisioned when this project was first talked about and therefore worth the time and effort to complete? 3) Was there consideration given to the fact that a project such as this could lead to increased tax revenue from economic development that could have sprung from an area that was once touted as the second coming of the San Antonio Riverwalk? (Incidentally wasn’t that one of the reasons given for the hiring of the “Fox” before he cleaned out the henhouse and left for France? 4) Has the discovery of these “historical artifacts” triggered a designation as such and have anthropologists and geologists been called in to preserve this site? I’ll save you some time and give you the answers: none, no, no, and no!

Contrary to what you might read or hear, the issues raised by several people that addressed the city council on November 7, did not reflect an uncaring attitude about funding for a baseball field for the physically challenged. Their point was that proceeds from a voter approved bond sale should be kept in the district they were intended for. Most importantly, their second point was that the areas of the city which are mostly Hispanic and black are once again being forgotten. They were expressing their frustration with a political process that seems to always exclude their needs when the final decisions are made and one that seems to always relegate them to second class citizen status. But then again, how much can one say when citizens are only given 3 minutes to make their comments?

For many years, people in the predominately minority areas of this city have been waiting to see the north and east side of this city also prosper and progress just like south, southwest, and west Lubbock. Unfortunately, those people lost. But they weren’t the only ones. Sadly people who trust that elected officials are going to honor the wishes of the majority of the voters of this city also fell victim to this city’s city council’s double standard of governing.

But then what can you expect from leadership that has yet to take the time and make the effort to properly learn how to pronounce the Spanish surnames of people who come before the city council. After all, we only enjoy a 30% Hispanic population in Lubbock, “the giant side of O”, well you know.

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Jim Hightower

MINIMUM WAGE

They’ve stiffed us. Again.

For the second time this year, our congress critters have just said no to an increase in America’s minimum wage, leaving it – and millions of workers – stuck at the poverty level of \$5.15 an hour. That’s \$10,500 a year, gross (in both meanings of that term) for full-time work.

Yes, this is the same congress that gave itself a pay raise in July, making it seven years in a row that they’ve padded their own paychecks. Yes, this is the same congress that is determined to stuff another \$70 billion worth of tax giveaways into the pockets of the richest Americans – 54 percent of this boondoggle will go to millionaires.

It’s not as though the proposed wage increase for America’s poorest workers was extravagant. It would only have raised the minimum to \$6.25 an hour, which is still a poverty wage of under \$13,000 a year for full-time work. It’s also not as though the proposal was out of step with public opinion. To the contrary, a whopping 86 percent of Americans favor raising the minimum wage! Yet the proposal fell nine vote short of the 60 needed to pass it in the senate.

The Republican leadership killed the proposal, wailing that it would hurt business. Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming led the attack, declaring: “Mandated hikes in the minimum wage do not cure poverty, and they clearly do not create jobs.” Actually, you Gooberhead, they can cure poverty for those workers stuck in such low-wage work, and, since even a small boost in purchasing power means more spending on everything from meals to car repairs, they do create jobs.

This is Jim Hightower saying... But the minimum wage is not merely about economics – it’s an ethical test, too. This is our nation’s wage floor, a declaration that there’s a moral level of pay below which we will not let our people fall. By shamefully refusing to raise the floor at least above the poverty level, senate leaders failed that test... and failed our country.

Listen to Alito Words, Then Judge Him Escucha las Palabras de Alito, Luego Juzgalo

By **Alberto R. Gonzales**

(This column excerpts from and summarizes the prepared remarks of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales at the Nov. 2 Latino Leaders Luncheon in Washington, D.C. Some 200 people attended the event, hosted by Mickey Ibarra & Associates, a government and public affairs firm, and sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company. And Verizon.)

I am Hispanic. I am Latino. I love my family; I believe in God; and I am grateful for my country, the United States, which has allowed me to live the American dream. I am proud of our beautiful Latino culture: the language, the foods, the traditions.

I served in our U.S. armed forces because I believe the freedoms and opportunities available in this nation are worth defending and, ultimately, worth dying for. We Latinos are alike in these ways and, I suspect, in pursuing prosperity and opportunity for all. We all want to see our kids get an education; we want everyone to be able to own their home or a business. We all want an equal opportunity to pursue a dream.

We will differ, of course, in how best to achieve these broad objectives. Our dialects, our religion, and even our politics may be different, but in the end there is more that binds us. We can all agree, for example, that too many of our children are getting into trouble and dropping out of school. We can all agree that the future leadership of our community is at risk.

The key is to engage in a discussion respectful and tolerant of dissenting views. We may be from different ends of the political spectrum, but we enjoy a cultural tie that cannot be broken.

I am the son of a poor cotton picker and construction worker, my parents never finished grade school, and I am the attorney general of the United States.

I know what it is like to face a life with few opportunities, with nothing more than a heart full of hope, a mind full of dreams, and a willingness to work hard.

I am the attorney general for all Americans. As White House counsel, I worked personally with the president in making nominations for federal judicial appointments. I know the president well. Diversity at all levels of government is as important to him as it is to you. It was a great privilege to help the president select a diverse group of qualified nominees who share his judicial philosophy.

Judge Sam Alito understands that there is no Hispanic Constitution, African-American Constitution, or white Constitution. There is just one Constitution for all Americans.

Judge Alito has been on the bench for 15 years and argued in front of the Supreme Court 12 times. He is well known for his fairness, his character, and his commitment to the rule of law. During his 30 years of public service, much of it spent at the Department of Justice, he has earned a reputation for excellence that few can equal.

Don’t take my word for it. Listen to his words as he responds to questions in his confirmation hearings. The Senate - and the American public will learn more about Judge Alito’s qualifications and his approach to judging. Reserve judgment and give him an opportunity to show why he would be good for the Court and for the country.

Like many of you, Judge Alito is the product of the immigrant dream and will bring his unique experiences and background to the Supreme Court, just as I have brought mine to my time as Attorney General. My family’s personal story has given me a unique appreciation for the challenges faced by many Americans.

Gangs are a growing problem for the Hispanic community. Gangs wipe out the dreams of our children and cost us future leaders. I have directed my U.S. attorneys to partner at the federal, state and local levels to curb the rampant violence from gang activity.

As the chief law enforcement officer of the country, my official role in responding to gangs and troubled youth is leading investigations and promoting prosecutions. But as a father, that is not where I want to be. We need to get to these kids before they join gangs, before they drop out of school, before they get into trouble. Education and prevention are as important as enforcement, and the department works to share necessary resources and training so that the hopes of our kids are not extinguished.

Recently, the president reiterated his vision for a comprehensive immigration reform program. He outlined a number of steps to strengthen security along our borders and to provide legal options for people who want to stay in the United States to work temporarily.

The security of our citizens depends, in part, on our ability to control the border. With a temporary worker program, fewer people will try to sneak in illegally to work and that means our enforcement efforts can focus on catching drug smugglers, terrorists, and gunrunners.

Today, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is announcing a new “Secure Borders Initiative” to increase our ability to gain “operational control” on our borders. This new program, which provides additional resources and technologies at our borders, will make our country safer from the threat of terrorism.

The initiative will work hand-in-hand with a temporary worker program, again with the goal of curbing criminal activity and clearing a path for legal work in the United States.

We need your reasoned voice in the debate about immigration. We need your leadership. As we work to ensure the hope and opportunity of America for every citizen, I appreciate your ongoing efforts to nurture the Hispanic community, especially as role models for young Hispanics.

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(Este artículo se extrae de y resume los comentarios preparados del Fiscal de la Nación Alberto Gonzales el 2 de noviembre en el almuerzo de los Dirigentes Latinos en Washington, D.C. Unas 200 personas asistieron al evento presentado por Mickey Ibarra & Associates, una firma de asuntos públicos y gubernamentales, y auspiciado por la Coca-Cola Company y Verizon).

Yo soy hispano. Soy latino. Amo a mi familia; creo en Dios y estoy agradecido por mi país, los Estados Unidos, el cual me ha permitido vivir el sueño estadounidense. Estoy orgulloso de nuestra preciosa cultura latina: el idioma, la comida y las tradiciones.

Servi en las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos porque creo que las libertades y las oportunidades disponibles en esta nación son dignas de defender y, en última instancia, de dar la vida por ellas.

Nosotros los latinos somos similares en estas maneras y, sospecho, también en la búsqueda de prosperidad y oportunidad para cada uno. Todos queremos que nuestros hijos tengan una educación; queremos que todos tengan la oportunidad de ser dueños de un hogar o negocio. Todos queremos la misma oportunidad de seguir un sueño.

Claro que diferimos en cómo mejor alcanzar estos grandes objetivos. Nuestros dialectos, nuestra religión y hasta nuestras políticas pueden ser diferentes, pero al final hay más que nos une. Por ejemplo, todos podemos estar de acuerdo en que muchos de nuestros hijos se meten en problemas y desertan la escuela. Todos podemos estar de acuerdo de que el futuro liderazgo de nuestra comunidad está en riesgo.

Lo importante es llevar a cabo una discusión que respete y tolere diferentes puntos de vista. Podemos venir de diferentes lados del espectro político, pero compartimos una unión cultural que no puede romperse.

Soy hijo de una pobre recogedora de algodón y un trabajador de construcción, mis padres nunca terminaron la escuela primaria, y yo soy el fiscal de los Estados Unidos. Conozco lo que es enfrentarse a una vida con muy pocas oportunidades, con sólo un corazón lleno de esperanza, una mente llena de sueños y el deseo de trabajar.

Soy el fiscal para todos los estadounidenses. Como consejero de la Casa Blanca, trabajé personalmente con el presidente en las nominaciones para las posiciones de jueces federales. Conozco bien al presidente. Para él, la diversidad en todos los niveles del gobierno es tan importante como para ustedes. Fue un gran privilegio ayudar al presidente a seleccionar a un grupo diverso de nominados calificados quienes comparten su filosofía judicial.

El juez Sam Alito comprende que no existe una constitución hispana, ni afro-americana, ni blanca. Existe sólo una constitución para todos los estadounidenses.

El juez Sam Alito ha servido 15 años en los tribunales y ha expuesto frente al Tribunal Supremo 12 veces. Es reconocido por ser justo, por su carácter y por su compromiso al cumplimiento de la ley. Durante sus 30 años de servicio público, muchos de ellos en el Departamento de Justicia, ha ganado una reputación por excelencia que pocos pueden igualar.

No me tienen que creer si no quieren. Escuchen sus palabras mientras responde a las preguntas en sus vistas de confirmación. El Senado - y el público estadounidense -- aprenderán más sobre la capacidad del juez Alito y su enfoque en juzgar. Resérvese el juicio y denle una oportunidad para demostrar el por qué él sería bueno para el tribunal y para el país.

Como muchos de ustedes, el juez Alito es el producto del sueño del inmigrante, y traerá sus experiencias singulares y su procedencia al Tribunal Supremo, al igual como yo he traído los míos a mi tiempo como Fiscal de la Nación. La historia personal de mi familia me ha hecho apreciar los retos que enfrentan muchos estadounidenses.

Las pandillas son un problema creciente para la comunidad hispana. Estas destruyen los sueños de nuestros hijos y nos cuestan futuros líderes. He dirigido a mis compañeros abogados a unirse en los niveles federal, estatal y local para ponerle freno a la proliferada violencia de las actividades de pandillas.

Como el jefe de los funcionarios de la ley de este país, mi papel principal acerca de las pandillas y de la juventud problemática es llevar a cabo investigaciones y promover acusaciones. Pero como padre, ése no es lugar donde quiero estar. Necesitamos llegar a esos niños antes de que se unan a pandillas, antes de que se salgan de la escuela, antes de que se metan en problemas. La educación y la prevención son iguales de importantes que la aplicación de la ley, y el departamento trabaja para compartir los recursos y el adiestramiento necesarios para que las esperanzas de nuestros hijos no desaparezcan.

Recientemente, el presidente reiteró su visión para un programa de reforma migratoria comprensiva. Definí varios pasos a seguir para aumentar la seguridad en las fronteras y para proveer opciones legales para las personas que quieren quedarse en los Estados Unidos para trabajar por tiempo limitado.

La seguridad de nuestros ciudadanos en parte depende de nuestra habilidad para controlar la frontera. Con un programa de trabajador temporal, pocas personas tratarán de entrar ilegalmente para trabajar y eso significa que nuestros esfuerzos pueden enfocarse en la captura de contrabandistas de drogas, terroristas y traficantes de armas.

Hoy, el secretario del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos, Michael Chertoff, anuncia una nueva “Iniciativa para Fronteras Seguras” para aumentar nuestra habilidad de obtener “control operacional” en nuestras fronteras. Este nuevo programa asegurará mejor a nuestro país de la amenaza terrorista.

La iniciativa se operará de cerca con un programa de trabajador temporal, nuevamente con el objetivo de eliminar la actividad criminal, y abrirá el paso para el trabajo legal en los Estados Unidos.

Necesitamos su voz racional en el debate de la inmigración. Necesitamos su liderazgo. Mientras trabajamos para asegurar la esperanza y la oportunidad de los Estados Unidos para cada ciudadano, aprecio sus constantes esfuerzos para nutrir la comunidad hispana, especialmente como modelos a seguir para nuestros jóvenes hispanos.

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SPORTS/Deportes - ENTERTAINMENT



Reunited Cowboys Bledsoe, Glenn playing like it's 1996

By Tim Sharp, AF

Bledsoe, 33, who signed a four-year, \$13 million contract to join the Cowboys, has been more than a reclamation project through eight games in 2005. He's looking like a franchise-saver again.

With the fourth-best quarterback rating among starters in the NFL, first in the NFC, Bledsoe is a big reason the Cowboys are considered legitimate Super Bowl contenders in a wide-open conference one year after going 6-10. The Cowboys are second in the NFC East behind the Giants and are one behind them for the conference lead in wins.

Wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson, also having a revival after wearing out his welcome in Tampa Bay, says Bledsoe has been playing like an MVP candidate.

"Why not?" Johnson says. "Who has played better? I hear people talking about (Denver quarterback) Jake Plummer. His numbers are no different than Drew's."

The Bills are 3-5 and have already benched J.P. Losman for journeyman Kelly Holcomb.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones knew Bledsoe was going to be a huge upgrade from Quincy

Carter, Vinny Testaverde, Chad Hutchinson, Clint Stoerner, Anthony Wright and Ryan Leaf, all of whom have started at quarterback since Troy Aikman retired following the 2000 season.

But the goal initially was to surround Bledsoe with a strong supporting cast and let him be the bus driver that coach Bill Parcells so frequently talks about.

However, with running back Julius Jones slowed by injuries and running struggles, the Cowboys have ridden Bledsoe's arm to success. With 2,019 yards, 13 touchdowns and six interceptions, Bledsoe has a 97.4 passer rating. He's also on pace to surpass Danny White's club record for passing yards in a season of 3,980, set in 1983. Already the owner of single-season passing records in New England and Buffalo, Bledsoe would become the first player in NFL history to hold the mark for three different teams.

"He has been more than I hoped for," owner Jerry Jones says. "He has talent to make the quarterback position more than not making bad plays. He has made plays to win games. I thought he was going to be good, but he has played above expectations."

Tech Faces Final Road Test of 2005 Season

Red Raiders and Cowboys kick-off at 1:05 p.m. at Boone Pickens Stadium on Saturday.

Texas Tech set to travel to Oklahoma State for final road game of the 2005 season.

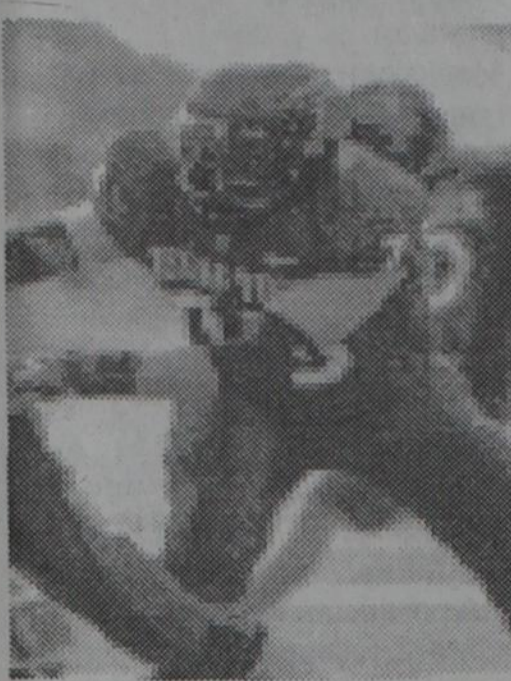
No. 13 Texas Tech (8-1, 5-1) at Oklahoma State (3-5, 0-5)

TECH PREPS FOR FINAL REGULAR SEASON ROAD TRIP

Texas Tech and Oklahoma State meet for the 33rd installment of the series this weekend in Stillwater, Okla. The game is the final regular season road tilt for Tech, which hosts Oklahoma in the season finale next weekend at Jones SBC Stadium in Lubbock.

RED RAIDERS OFF TO HOT START

Texas Tech improved to 8-1 on the season and is off to its best start since the 1976 season when that Red Raider squad started out 8-1. The 1976 team went on to finish 10-2 and is the last Tech team to win 10-plus games in a season. The Red Raiders have won 11 of



their last 12 games.

RED RAIDERS IN THE PULLS

Texas Tech enters this week ranked No. 13 in the Associated Press poll and No. 13 in the USA Today Coaches Poll. Tech began the 2005 season ranked 21st in both polls and have steadily climbed throughout the season. Tech's consistency in the polls this year reflects the first time in head coach Mike Leach's six seasons that the Red Raiders have been

ranked every week of the season. Additionally, Tech cracked the top ten two weeks ago for the first time since 1977.

CRAZY EIGHTS

Tech's win over Texas A&M gave the program its fourth-straight season with at least eight victories. The streak is the longest in school history. The nine games in 2002 reflect the most single-season wins since 1995. Should the Red Raiders reach the 10-win plateau, it will be the first time since the 10-2 season in 1976.

TECH MATCHES BIG 12 WINS MARK

Texas Tech is currently 5-1 in league play and matched the Red Raiders most wins in Big 12 play with five. Tech has won five games in league play five times, but has never won more than five. With two games remaining, another Red Raider win would not only give Tech its most wins in league play, but also mark the most wins regardless of conference since the program produced

seven conference wins during the 1976 season.

LEACH IN SIXTH SEASON

Aside from Spike Dykes' 13 seasons (1987-99), the last Texas Tech coach to spend more than six seasons in Lubbock was JT King, who was at the helm of the program from 1961-69. Leach has seen continual improvement in each of his first five years, highlighted by last season's 45-31 win over California in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl. Leach has posted a 47-26 record and 26-19 record in Big 12 play, including last season's 5-3 league record and Big 12 third-place finish, the highest finish for Tech in the league standings. He is the first coach in school history to lead each of his first five teams to bowl games and also to win three-straight post-season games. His Tech teams have combined for over 151 team and individual records. Additionally, the Red Raider offense has led the nation in passing the past three years and total offense the last two.

Lady Raider to have knee surgery but will redshirt the '05-'06 Season

LUBBOCK, Texas - Texas Tech head coach Marsha Sharp has announced that senior guard Chesley Dabbs will redshirt the 2005-06 season after suffering an injury to her left knee. Dabbs tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and medial meniscus in her left knee during preseason workouts and will undergo surgery tomorrow.

"First thing we have to look at is what is best for Chesley and her career," said head coach Marsha Sharp. "To deal with an ACL injury of this nature with the role she has on our team is unrealistic. We expect a full recovery and a great senior year in 2006-07."

Last season, Dabbs started all 32 games for the Lady Raiders as she averaged 12.2 points a game and was an All-Big 12 second team selection.

Red Raiders Open Season Against Spartans

Lubbock, TX - The 2005-2006 Men's Basketball season begins Thursday night as Texas Tech hosts the Spartans of San Jose State at the United Spirit Arena. Tip-off is set for 7:00 PM.

The game will be televised on the Texas Tech Television Network with game coverage provided outside the Lubbock area. Dave Shore will call the play-by-play. Andy Hipsher will provide the game analysis.

Georgia Southern and Portland will play the first game in the 2K Sports College Hoops Class benefiting Coaches versus Cancer at 4:30 PM.

On Friday, the first game will tip-off at 5:30 PM in the Regional Consolation game followed by the Regional Championship game.

Last season the Red Raiders were 22-11, earned a fourth trip to the postseason, and earned a spot in the "Sweet Sixteen."

The Raiders of 2005-2006 post a 15-man roster, which features six juniors, two sophomores, and seven freshmen. Three starters return from last season (Dora, Jackson, and Zeno) and are joined by veterans Drew Coffman, Tanner Ogden, and LucQuente White. Junior Jon Plefka joins the squad from Sante Fe Community College. Additionally, seven freshmen will dress for their first college basketball game: Jeremy Buttel, Dior Lowhorn, Terry Martin, Michael Prince, Dazzmon Thornton, and Justin Wilkerson.

Coach Bob Knight (Ohio State, 1962) begins his fifth season at the helm of the Raider program and has notched four consecutive 20+ wins in Lubbock. In 39 seasons of coaching, he has taken his teams to post-season play 36 times.

Coach Knight numbers third among all coaches on the all-time career wins list with 854 victo-

ries. He is the youngest of the four coaches (Dean Smith-879, Adolph Rupp-876, Bob Knight-854, and Jim Phelan-830) and the only active coach to reach that remarkable plateau of 800 career victories.

John Harris will call the court-side action along with Mike Roberts as analyst on the Texas Tech Sports Network (KKAM 1340 AM), the flagship station for the Red Raiders.

For tickets to Texas Tech men's basketball at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock, please call (888) GO-BIG-12 or (806) 742-TECH or stop by the Texas Tech Athletic Ticket Office in the north end of Jones SBC Stadium. Tickets also can be purchased through the Texas Tech athletic website at www.texastech.com and at area United Supermarkets and Select-a-Seat locations.

Cuban Andy Garcia debuts as film director with "Lost City"



Cuban-rooted actor Andy Garcia, who made his directorial debut with the film "Lost City" refused he would stay on that side of the camera since "I am an artist and I am going to be involved in whatever that is creative".

One of the most influential and best-known actors in Hollywood attended the world premiere of his first film as a director last weekend, something he considered one of his great achievements.

The musician, actor and now film director told Notimex, with a big smile, he is quite happy about this film "because this is something I wanted to do since the age of 16 and I finally did it".

"I am proud of the film because it is a very intimate story and it is dedicated to the film's writer, Guillermo Cabrera Infante who will not be able to see it on the big screen as he passed away this year", he said.

The novel filmmaker explains that "it is a very special story about our culture and I deal with what happened in the 1950's Cuba up to 1961, about the metaphor of an impossible love".

He said the film tells the story of the turbulent life of a nightclub owner in Havana and his family when the dictatorship of Batista came to an end and the new Fidel Castro regime started, as well as how this family is affected by it all.

"We are still working on the release in the US and Latin America" the actor of films like "The Untouchables", "Stand and Deliver", "Clinton and Nadin", "Black Rain", "Internal Affairs" and "A

show of Force" among others, explained.

Garcia, who has recently premiered the film "Modigliani", about the world renowned Italian painter, revealed he would love to direct a new batch of Latin American actors including Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna: "they are awesome", and they are making it happen.

The film "Lost City", starred by Bill Murray, Dustin Hoffman and Spanish actress Ines Sastre, also casted excellent Cuban actors like Tomas Millan and Nestor Carbonell.

He also mentioned he is currently working in another film production "Smoking Aces" next to Ben Affleck, Ray Liotta and Alicia Keys, as well as Sambo Kiss. Andy Garcia was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe back in 1991 for Best Supporting Actor thanks to his role of Vincent Mancini in the film "The Godfather III".

Besides acting in it, he produced and directed the documentary "Cachao: como su ritmo no hay dos", and was part of the Cachao Master Sessions Volume I and II production, earning him a Grammy in 1994 and a nomination for such award in 1995.

La mujer de mi hermano tops the box office

The film "La mujer de mi hermano", based on Jaime Bayly's novel, grossed almost 9 million pesos at the box office during its premiere weekend. It finished third just right under "Chicken Little" and "The Legendo of Zorro."

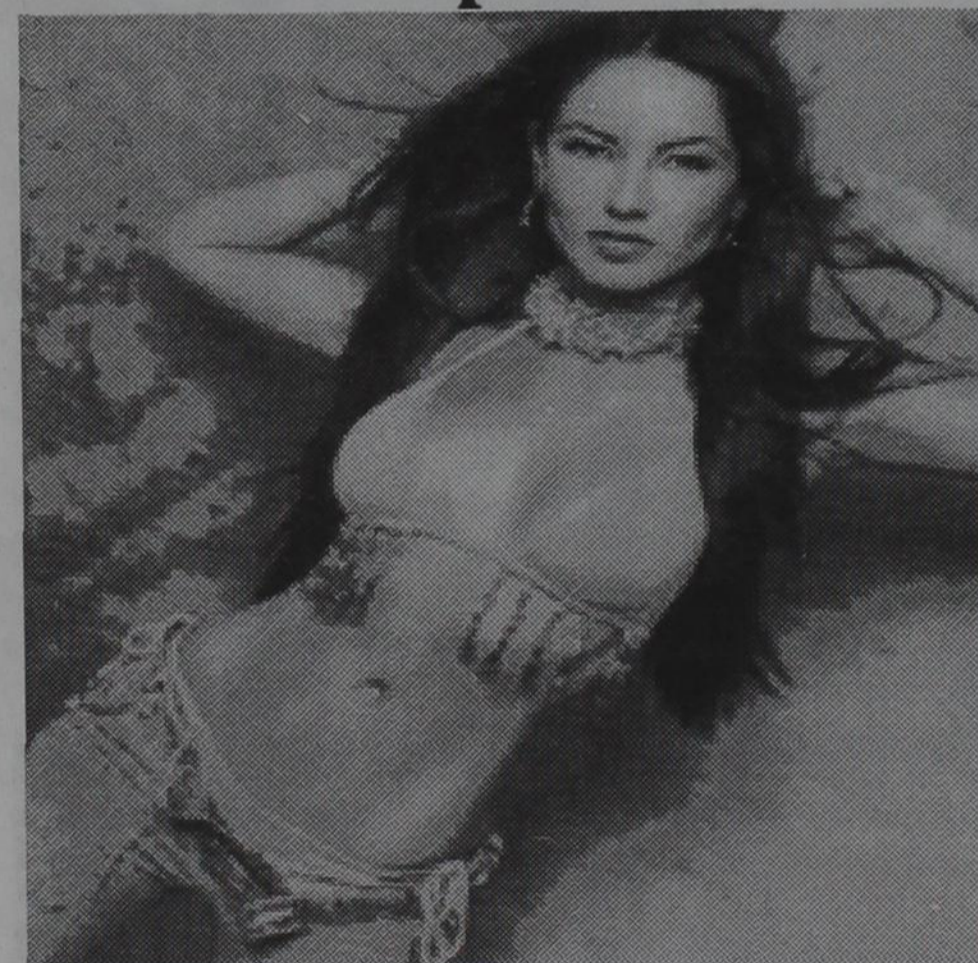
Also, 20th Century Fox informed that since it opened on November 4, the movie has been watched by some 250 thousand movie goers.

The cast for this movie is Barbara Mori, Christian Meier, and Manolo Cardona.

It also stated that "La mujer de mi hermano" is the number one film for adult audiences. It also topped as the second most successful Latino premiers of the year in Mexico, right under Luis Mandoki's "Voces Inocentes."

The film was produced by Venezuelan Stan Jakubowicz and directed by Peruvian Ricardo de Montreuil. The film has now joined an exclusive elite in Mexico, along with "Y tu mama tambien" (Alfonso Cuaron), and "Amores Perros"(Alejandro González Iñárritu).

Also, the cast includes great actors like Angelica Aragon, Bruno Bichir, and Beto Cuevas (leading singer for Chilean band La Ley). It



is also the first regional release from the distributing company, which is working on its following Latin American productions.

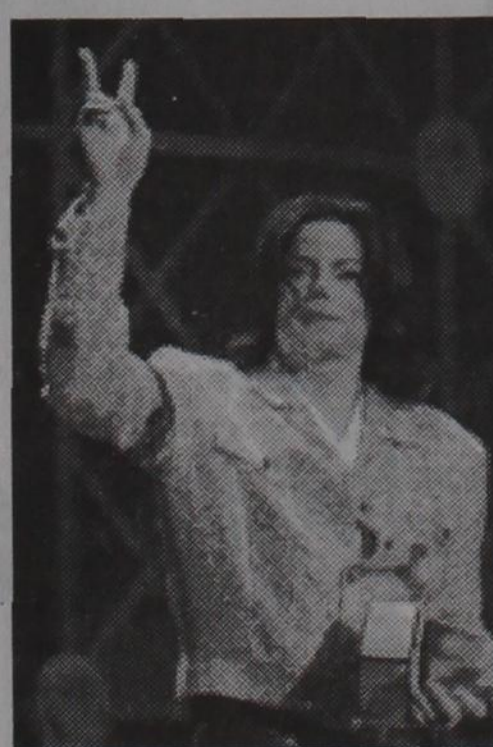
Lions Gate Films will be the one in charge of taking "La mujer de mi hermano" to the US and Canada by late January 2006.

The film tells the story of a beautiful woman called "Zoe",

whom after 10 years of marriage finds out that her life is lacking passion and surprises. That is why she gives in to her seductive brother-in-law's romancing.

From then on, a series of events are unleashed, and these will take the three main characters through a revenge, secrets, and passion game.

Michael Jackson May Not Live in U.S. Again



NEW YORK -- Michael Jackson will come back to the United States, but it's unlikely the King of Pop would ever make it his home again, says his father.

"He'll come back to visit, but not to stay, not to live," Joseph Jackson told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Jackson said his son, who was acquitted in June of child molestation, has received lots of threats in the United States. The superstar now lives in Bahrain and his lawyers have said that he no longer considers his Neverland Ranch in California as his home. "They didn't treat him right

here. I know if I was him, I wouldn't come back," his father said.

However, the elder Jackson said he expects Michael to return to his music career — and hopes it would include a reunion with his brothers.

"I'm trying to motivate them to go ahead and do this record," he said of his other sons. "They want to do it, but they're too slow. They'd rather do it with Michael."

Michael Jackson is working on a charity single for hurricane relief with stars such as R. Kelly and Snoop Dogg.

Frenship Hispanic Reunion

We are looking for people that attended Frenship Jr. High or Frenship High School, from 1960-1970 whether graduates or non-graduates. A special reunion is planned for all Hispanics and their spouses that attended Frenship during these years. There will be a dinner, Rock n' Roll music, and a Tejano dance. All interested in being part of this celebration please contact Frank Rodriguez at 806-799-4842. This reunion will take place in Lubbock, Tx at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 1916 Erskine, on June 10, 2006 from 2:00 pm until 1:00 am. We need your name and address as soon as possible. Thanks.

Palmeiro: Vitamin shot 'might' have been the cause for failed test

Rafael Palmeiro gave his first public explanation of his failed drug test Wednesday, on the eve of a congressional report on whether the former Baltimore Orioles slugger lied under oath when he denied using steroids.

In a statement released by his lawyer, Palmeiro acknowledged several facts of his case that already had been reported, including that the anabolic steroid stanozolol was found in his system in May, and that he raised the possibility that a shot of vitamin B12 he took in April "might have been the cause."

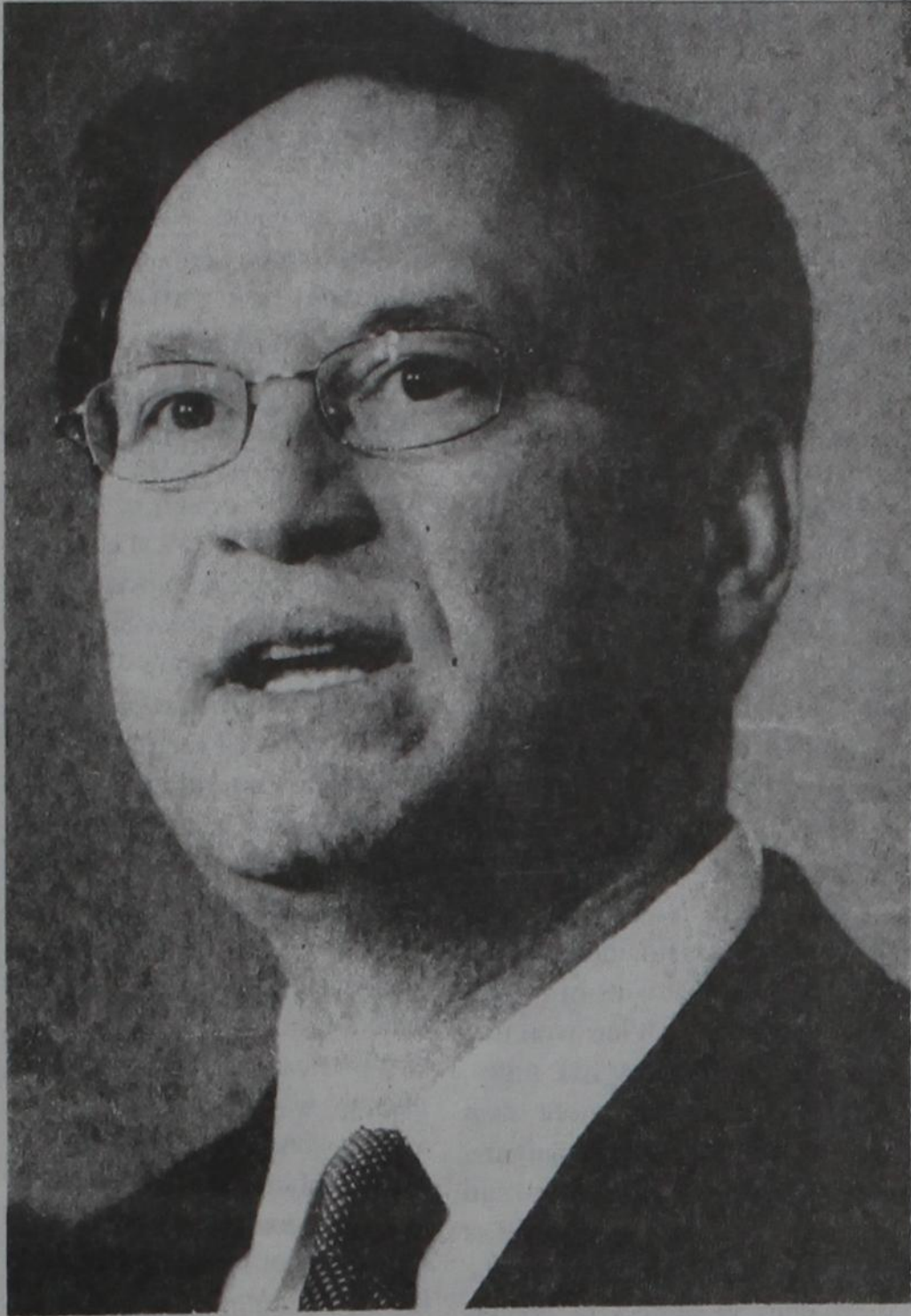
"I have never intentionally taken steroids," Palmeiro said in the statement.

When he testified before the Government Reform Committee on March 17, alongside Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco and others, Palmeiro jabbed a finger in the air and said, "I have never used steroids. Period." On Aug. 1, baseball suspended Palmeiro for 10 days after he tested positive for steroids.

Two days later, Government Reform Committee chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., said the panel would open an investigation into whether Palmeiro committed perjury.

EL EDITOR
Have A Nice Day!

Decepciona a hispanos la nominación de Alito



El presidente George W. Bush nominó ayer al juez Samuel Alito como magistrado asociado de la Suprema Corte de la nación ante la decepción de líderes latinos pues por tercera ocasión declinó nominar a un hispano al máximo tribunal por primera vez en la historia de este país.

"Una vez más el Presidente ha ignorado nuestras recomendaciones y a nuestra comunidad", dijo Nelson Castillo, presidente de la Barra Nacional de Abogados Hispanos (HNBA), grupo que sometió una lista de ocho potenciales candidatos a la consideración de la Casa Blanca.

"Aunque la creciente influencia de los hispanos en Estados Unidos es difícil de ignorar, con la nominación de hoy (ayer) el Presidente ha hecho exactamente eso", agregó Castillo. Dijo también que el máximo tribunal seguirá sin reflejar la diversidad étnica del país y la falta de un magistrado hispano privará a los debates del máximo tribunal "de

la perspectiva única y las invaluable contribuciones que podrá hacer un jurista hispano".

"La HNBA no participa en política partidista, pero no ser partidistas no quiere decir que tomemos a la ligera los asuntos que afectan a nuestra comunidad. Tenemos toda la intención de hacer que nuestros líderes respondan por las posturas que tomen", agregó al tiempo que convocó a la membresía de la HNBA, a grupos hispanos y a la ciudadanía en general a contactar a la Casa Blanca y al Congreso para expresar sus opiniones en torno a la decisión de Bush de pasar por alto a un hispano o una hispana para suceder a la juez Sandra Day O'Connor.

"El Presidente ha tenido tres oportunidades para nominar a un hispano capacitado a la Suprema Corte y no lo ha hecho demostrando que cree que los latinos no están capacitados o preparados para el máximo tribunal. El creciente número de jueces hispanos experimentados,

profesores de leyes y abogados son prueba de que el Presidente está equivocado en ese sentido", declaró, por su parte, John Trasviña, vicepresidente de asuntos legales y de política pública del Fondo Mexicanoamericano para la Defensa Legal y la Educación (MALDEF).

"Una vez más el presidente Bush ha pasado por alto la oportunidad de seleccionar a un nominado que refleje la diversidad de esta nación. Pese a su retórica, una vez más el Presidente ha desairado a la comunidad latina", dijo la congresista demócrata de California, Linda Sánchez, vicepresidenta del grupo especial sobre derechos civiles del grupo latino del Congreso.

"Por tercera vez él (Bush) se ha rehusado a hacer historia nominando al primer hispano a la Corte. Y ha escogido, por el contrario, a otro juez federal de apelaciones para unirse a una corte que ya cuenta con ocho jueces con ese estrecho antecedente. El presidente Bush hará que la Suprema Corte se parezca menos a Estados Unidos y más a un club de varones", dijo, por su parte, el líder de la minoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid. Si Alito es confirmado habrán una mujer y ocho hombres, sólo uno de ellos afroamericano y conservador, Clarence Thomas.

No todos los latinos están decepcionados. La Conferencia Hispana del Congreso aplaudió la selección de Alito.

"El juez Alito está comprometido con el debido proceso de ley y es un juez que interpreta estrictamente la ley", declaró Mario Díaz Balart, congresista republicano de Florida.

La nominación de Alito, de 55 años de edad, juez del Tribunal de Apelaciones del Tercer Circuito, satisfizo al sector republicano más conservador que con su presión logró que la asesora legal de Bush, Harriet Miers, retirara su nominación al Supremo el jueves pasado. Pero los demócratas de inmediato condenaron la selección por considerar que se trata de un juez extremadamente conservador que puede poner en peligro los

avances obtenidos por mujeres y minorías en las pasadas décadas.

Pese a todos los problemas que aquejan a la Casa Blanca, Bush parece dispuesto a enfrentar la batalla política e ideológica con los demócratas que después de todo son la minoría en el Senado aunque éstos no descartarían de momento recurrir a medidas dilatorias para impedir el avance de la nominación. No obstante, corren el riesgo de revivir las intenciones republicanas de cambiar las reglas del Senado para evitar el bloqueo o filibusterismo de nominados judiciales, lo que se conoce como la "opción nuclear".

Si ese fuera el caso, los demócratas han advertido que darán la batalla pero esto estancaría al Senado y a un año de los comicios de medio período a ninguna de las partes les conviene lastimar sus posibilidades en las urnas ante un electorado cada vez más escéptico.

Sin embargo, las opciones están abiertas toda vez que las audiencias de confirmación deben conducirse así como fijarse el calendario sobre cómo el Senado procederá con la nominación de Alito.

El nominado acudió de inmediato al Congreso a reunirse con senadores. Previamente apareció con su familia junto a Bush en la Casa Blanca.

"Los jueces federales tienen la responsabilidad de interpretar la Constitución y las leyes fielmente y de manera justa para proteger los derechos constitucionales de todos los estadounidenses y hacer estas cosas con cuidado y moderación

teniendo siempre en cuenta el papel limitado que los tribunales juegan en nuestro sistema constitucional. Prometo que de ser confirmado haré todo lo que esté en mi poder para llenar esa responsabilidad", declaró Alito quien fue nominado por el primer presidente Bush, George H.W. Bush, al Tercer Circuito de Apelaciones en 1990.

Bush, por su parte, reiteró que Alito es uno de los jueces más respetados en Estados Unidos y ha evidenciado "dominio de la ley, compromiso con la justicia y es un hombre de enorme carácter". De hecho, siempre se indicó que Alito fue el principal candidato antes de que Bush optara por Miers.

Alito, dijo Bush, traerá al máximo tribunal más experiencia judicial previa que ningún otro nominado en más de 70 años. "Le urjo al Senado que actúe prontamente para que haya un voto antes de que finalice este año", pidió Bush.

En 1992 el juez Alito, a quien algunos llaman "Scalito" por su similitud ideológica con el juez supremo Antonin Scalia, fue el único magistrado del Tercer Circuito que favoreció una ley de Pennsylvania que exigía que las esposas tuvieran el consentimiento de sus esposos si decidían practicarse un aborto. El Tercer Circuito dejó la ley sin efecto y Alito fue el único juez que votó en contra.

El juez favorece mayores restricciones al aborto y sin duda en sus audiencias se hablará de la posibilidad de que vote para revocar la ley que legalizó el aborto en 1973, aunque independientemente de sus

creencias personales se anticipa que diga que respetará la ley prevaleciente.

Otros han expresado preocupación por algunas posturas de Alito en el tema migratorio. Hubo un caso en el cual el Tercer Circuito falló que un juez de inmigración debía considerar los reclamos de un inmigrante de que sería perseguido en su país de origen si fuera deportado. Pero Alito votó en contra. El caso es *Dia vs. Ashcroft*.

"El juez Alito tiene un historial que incluye opiniones que habrían minado los derechos de los estadounidenses, especialmente los derechos de las mujeres, las minorías y las familias", dijo la senadora demócrata de California, Bárbara Boxer.

El presidente del panel Judicial del Senado, el republicano Arlen Specter, quien favorece el aborto, dijo que sin duda ese será uno de los temas que domine las audiencias de confirmación de Alito, pero agregó que espera que ambas partes puedan acordar que el proceso siga su curso.

Irónicamente ahora los republicanos más conservadores están pidiendo a los demócratas que permitan que la nominación de Alito complete su curso y llegue al pleno para un voto, algo que le negaron a Miers.

La otra senadora demócrata de California, Dianne Feinstein, lo resumió de este modo: "Espero que la gente en ambos lados (del espectro político) aguarde y permitan que el Comité Judicial haga su trabajo y no tomen posturas hasta que ese trabajo se complete".

UTSA Business Dean Named to 100 Most Influential Hispanics List

Hispanic Business magazine named University of Texas at San Antonio Business Dean Lynda Y. de la Vina one of the nation's 100 Most Influential Hispanics.

The list appears in the magazine's October 2005 edition. De la Vina is the first woman to serve as dean of UTSA's College of Business and is the only female Hispanic business dean in the University of Texas System.

advisory committee for the newly created Emerging Technology Fund -- a \$200 million endowment established to foster innovation, research and job creation in emerging high-tech industries.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' Kellogg Leadership Fellows Program also named De la Vina one of 10 distinguished fellows. De la Vina also has led a distinguished career in academic

and government service. The first Mexican-American woman at the secretarial level of the U.S. Treasury Department, de la Vina served as deputy assistant secretary for economic policy from 1998 to 2001.

UTSA's College of Business is the largest undergraduate business program in the University of Texas System and one of the 40 largest business schools in the nation.

Within the last few months, she received two prestigious appointments that only further cements her standing as one of the most influential Hispanics in America.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the 17-person

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Un Estudio con 105,000 Parejas Homosexuales Latinas Revela Valores y Cita Retos

José de la Isla
HOUSTON, Texas - Las parejas homosexuales hispanas viven en unidades de núcleos familiares más a menudo de lo que antes se pensaba, y tienen niños en sus hogares con dos veces más frecuencia que otras uniones homosexuales.

Esto fue un hallazgo fundamental en un análisis nacional de unas 105,000 parejas latinas del mismo sexo publicado el 1 de noviembre por la National Gay and Lesbian Task Force [Fuerza Nacional de Homosexuales y Lesbianas] y la National Latino/a Coalition for Justice [Coalición Nacional Latina por la Justicia].

El primer estudio en su clase, basado en los datos del Censo del 2000, encontró que los hispanos componen el 18 por ciento de las uniones homosexuales en los Estados Unidos.

Las parejas hispanas se encuentran mayormente en California, Arizona, Florida y Texas, algunos de los mismos estados donde la prohibición del matrimonio homosexual se propone o espera votaciones estatales, de acuerdo con el autor del estudio, Jason Ciancietto, quien alega que las leyes en contra de los homosexuales como padres de familia amenazan desproporcionadamente a los hispanos.

El estudio muestra que el 54 por ciento de las parejas de mujeres latinas del mismo sexo y el 41 por ciento de los hombres latinos homosexuales crían al menos a un niño menor de 18 años, en comparación con el 70 por ciento de las parejas casadas y el 59 por ciento de las parejas heterosexuales que cohabitan.

El autor considera que los hallazgos de la cría de niños son de los más importantes del estudio porque llegan al corazón del asunto de los "valores familiares". La familia tradicional, a menudo, se presume ser incompatible con el estilo de vida de los homosexuales. Los datos sugieren que muchas parejas homosexuales hispanas viven una vida tradicional centrada en sus hijos.

Estos hallazgos contradicen a los críticos quienes basan sus objeciones al matrimonio homosexual en los "valores familiares". El estudio reta ese estereotipo homosexual.

"Estamos creando familias fuertes", dice Matt Foreman, director de la National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Sergio Sarmiento, fundador de Immigration Equality, un grupo que argumenta que los derechos de los matrimonios homosexuales son necesarios para facilitar el estatus migratorio de su pareja, dice, "compartimos los mismos valores" al igual que otras familias. Sarmiento añade que así se forman "los mismos valores de moralidad".

Uniones del mismo sexo en las que ambas parejas son hispanas tienen el promedio de ingresos familiares considerablemente menor que el de las familias blancas similares. Mientras que las parejas femeninas del mismo sexo promedian \$60,000, las latinas heterosexuales promedian \$35,000. Las figuras comparativas para los hombres son \$66,000 por pareja y \$39,000 individuo.

El cincuenta y tres por ciento de los hombres y el cuarenta y ocho por ciento de las mujeres de las parejas hispanas del mismo sexo informan haber nacido fuera de los Estados Unidos. Un cuarto (mujeres) y un tercio (hombres) de las parejas del mismo sexo no son

ciudadanos estadounidenses. Esto constituye un problema espinoso para las familias hispanas homosexuales incapaces de reclamar un estatus legal permanente en base al matrimonio o unión conyugal, según Sarmiento.

Las parejas hispanas del mismo sexo (46 por ciento para los hombres, 50 por ciento para las mujeres) están poco debajo o justo arriba del promedio general de 48.1 por ciento de propietarios de vivienda hispanos de 2004.

El índice promedio de propietarios de vivienda en los Estados Unidos es de 69 por ciento.

Los resultados del estudio se publicaron una semana antes del voto en Texas el 8 de noviembre por una enmienda constitucional estatal propuesta para prohibir los matrimonios del mismo sexo. Tres de las primeras diez áreas metropolitanas con el número más alto de familias hispanas del mismo sexo son San Antonio, Dallas-Ft. Worth y Houston.

El Austin American-Statesman publicó el mes pasado que se presentaron 635,000 casos de divorcio en el estado durante los últimos cinco años. Los defensores de la propuesta alegan defender el matrimonio, "no mediante la prohibición del divorcio, ni haciendo el proceso matrimonial más difícil desde el principio", dijo el editorial, sino mediante la prohibición del matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo. El periódico insta la derrota de la propuesta.

El National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute provee investigaciones, análisis y estrategias para mejorar el entendimiento y la igualdad para las personas homosexuales y andróginas. La National Latino/a Coalition for Justice apoya el fin de la discriminación matrimonial.

Se consigue el estudio, de 84 páginas, titulado "The Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Couple Households in the United States" [Las familias hispanas y latinas del mismo sexo en los Estados Unidos] en la página: www.thetaskforce.org.

(José de la Isla es un analista de políticas públicas y columnista de Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: jdelaisla@houston.tx.com)
(c) 2005

Land of the Dead Movie Review

I've lost count of the number of walking dead movies, but there must be at least 200. So when a director makes another zombie movie he has to find some new angle. One possibility is to make the movie really gory. This means showing lose-your-lunch gore such as a zombie pulling out a persons tongue and eating it. If you like gore, this movie is definitely for you. Land of the Dead takes the prize for gore.

But gore is common to all zombie movies, so Land of the Dead needed something else. The director had to take the next logical step in the evolution of zombie movies. He made them human. In Land of the Dead the zombies think; they mourn their dead, remember, reason, learn, analyze and work together like a well trained militia. In a pitch battle against special-forces soldiers they win by sheer force of numbers and superior tactics.

Barricades are no problem to zombies with brains. Not stone walls, electrified fences, or a river can keep them at bay; they just walk along the bottom and emerge on the other side. They can't drown because they are already dead. Once they breach the barricades, they make short work of the humans.

The cult classic "Night of the Living Dead" was the last time humans actually won against the living dead. In Land of the Dead - the Zombies Win again.

Hispanics Tuning In To Music Awards

BY CHRISTINA HOAG

Audiences may be bored with the Emmys and the Grammys, but Hispanic TV watchers seem to love their award shows:

While award-show viewership increasingly slides on English-language television, Spanish-language specials are delivering through-the-roof ratings, making them a hit with advertisers.

"They perform extremely well, especially with the young demographic," said former Spanish-language TV executive José Cancela. "They're very important."

The success is driven by the significance of music in Hispanic culture and because there are fewer places to enjoy music in español, experts say.

Audiences for Spanish-language awards and music specials have soared by 58 percent over the past five years, Tapestry's Insider Guide to Hispanic Television found. That compares to a decline of as much as 30 percent for some English-language awards shows, said Tapestry, a Hispanic marketing firm in Chicago.

The trend is underscored by the Latin Grammys' shift this year to top Spanish-language TV network Univisión -- the first time a Hispanic broadcaster has aired the show since it debuted in 2000.

Last year's show on CBS yielded disappointing viewership: 3.3 million people tuned in, down from 7.5 million in 2000. In comparison, Univisión's home-grown Premio Lo Nuestro awards in February reeled in 6.3 million viewers.

STALE AND SATURATED

From the Grammys to the Emmys to the MTV Video Music Awards, general-market accolade-driven programming has lured

fewer viewers in recent years, sparking industry speculation the format has grown stale as well as saturated.

The importance of music in Hispanic culture lies at the heart of the distinction, experts said, driving the creation of not only award shows, but also music specials.

"Music is absolutely huge for this audience," said Marla Skiko, director of digital innovation for Tapestry.

One reason these programs tend to do well is because there are fewer media outlets for Latin music fans to see their idols up close.

"We don't have that saturation of media that devotes its time to Hispanic music," said Gabriel Abroa, president of the Latin Recording Academy, which awards the Grammys.

Big audiences mean big bucks for networks, which charge advertisers a premium for commercial spots. These special-event shows also serve as hooks to reel in new viewers that may not traditionally watch Spanish-language TV, Cancela said.

The danger is that because the specials are so successful, programmers may soon saturate the screen with prize-giving programs.

"It's newer on Spanish-language television, and the dynamic in television is the curiosity factor," said Luis Estrada, a former TV executive who is now a programming consultant in Texas.

"But in my experience, a lot of the trends happen in Spanish-language like the general market. People will get tired of them if they keep doing the same thing."

Telemundo, for one, is conscious of not falling into that trap, said Ramón Escobar, executive vice president of programming

and production.

"Our strategy is, let's not oversaturate the market and concentrate on big, signature events: the Billboard Latin Music Awards and the Miss Universe pageant," he said. "Music and beauty are areas that our audience really respond to."

The network also airs Premio de la Gente, in which viewers vote for their favorite stars. "It's a small show," Escobar said. "But we like to have it in our portfolio because the audience gets to vote on it. Our idea is to develop it over the next few years."

Expectations are running especially high for tonight's Latin Grammys. "Univisión is going to blow the doors off anything that's been done with the Latin Grammys before," Skiko predicted.

THREE-HOUR PROGRAM

The Latin Recording Academy has prepared a three-hour extravaganza instead of the traditional two hours and will feature a lot more new talent than usual. About 15 artists will perform live.

All the presenters and artists will speak in Spanish, but Univisión will offer English-language closed captioning.

Abroa anticipates the audience will be far more critical than in previous years.

"There's one big risk: These are the people who consume Hispanic music on a daily basis," he said. "We need to try and satisfy a huge bunch of people who observe and criticize what we do. We never satisfy everyone, but our goal is just to provide good entertainment."

Catholic Voters a Key Constituency

NEW YORK - Voters cast ballots Tuesday in bellwether gubernatorial races in Virginia and New Jersey and on a slate of politically controversial initiatives in California. This is an "off-year" election--federal offices are not being contested--but the outcome may signal whether recent White House setbacks have influenced the electorate. Catholic voters are an important "swing" constituency and have been heavily courted by both parties.

Analysis of the 2004 presidential campaign suggests that energizing President George Bush's base of support and appealing to certain "swing voters," including Catholics, were decisive factors. In

Ohio, Bush's victory was sealed in part by Catholic voters. Significantly, he increased his vote among Catholics there by 170,000 over his 2000 total--more than his margin of victory. Yet while Republicans successfully courted religious Catholics in 2004, repeating this success may have proved difficult in Tuesday's elections.

Catholics make up a vital, albeit highly fragmented, component of the electorate. There are 44 million adult Catholics in the United States. Therefore, the Catholic vote is approximately 25% of the electorate.

There is a significant distinction between "faithful" Catholics and

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Avisos - Avisos - Avisos

AVISO DE RECEPCIÓN DE SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER RENOVACIÓN DE PERMISO ATMOSFÉRICO

PERMISO NÚM. 77142L001 DE CALIDAD ATMOSFÉRICA

SOLICITUD Gilbert Texas Construction, L.P., ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) por sus siglas en inglés) para un Permiso Num. 77142L001 de Calidad Atmosférica, el cual autorizaría un cambio de local de un aplastador de piedra para que estará localizado 2 miles al este de Higginbotham en Ranch Road 1757, 0.8 miles al sur en County Route 237B en la entrada del aplastador, en el Condado de Gaines, Tejas. La planta existente tiene la autorización emitirá los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: compuestos orgánicos, azufre bióxido, Nitrógeno óxidos, Monóxido de carbono, materia particular menos que 10 microns en diámetro.

Esta solicitud se le presentó a TCEQ el 19 de octubre, 2005.

La solicitud está disponible en la oficina central de TCEQ para revisarla y sacarle copia, en la oficina regional de TCEQ en Midland y en la Casa Municipal, 302 South Main, de Seminole, en el Condado de Gaines, Tejas. El expediente de cumplimiento de la planta, si existe alguno, esta disponible para su revisión en la oficina regional de TCEQ en Midland.

El director ejecutivo de TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y llevará a cabo una revisión técnica de la solicitud.

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS/REUNIÓN PÚBLICA Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos, una petición para reunión pública, o solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe al domicilio a continuación. TCEQ tomará en cuenta todos los comentarios públicos en la decisión final de la solicitud. La fecha límite para presentar comentarios públicos es 30 días después de que se publique el aviso en el periódico.

El propósito de la reunión pública es proporcionar la oportunidad de hacer comentarios o preguntas acerca de la solicitud. Si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un importante grado de interés público con respecto a la solicitud o si lo solicita un legislador local, se llevará a cabo una reunión pública. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia de caso impugnado.

Si solamente se reciben comentarios con respecto a la solicitud, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con el aviso de la acción del director ejecutivo con respecto a la solicitud será enviada por correo a cualquier persona que presente comentarios o si se encuentra en la lista de correos para esta solicitud.

Si se presenta oportunamente una petición para audiencia, el director ejecutivo terminará la revisión técnica, expedirá una decisión preliminar con respecto a la solicitud, y se publicará y enviará por correo un Aviso de la Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar a aquellas personas que se encuentren en la lista de correos para esta solicitud. el aviso incluirá el plazo final para presentar comentarios públicos.

Después del plazo final para comentarios públicos y después de cualquier Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar que se requiera, el director ejecutivo tomará en cuenta los comentarios públicos pertinentes y materiales, significativos. Si se recibe algún comentario, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo con respecto a la solicitud se enviará por correo a cualquier persona que haya presentado un comentario público o que se encuentre en la lista de correos de esta solicitud.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO Usted puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado. Una audiencia de caso impugnado es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de

distrito del estado. A menos que se presente una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado dentro de 30 días de esta notificación, el director ejecutivo puede autorizar la solicitud. Si no se reciben una solicitud para audiencia dentro del periodo de 30 días, no se dará otra oportunidad para audiencia. De acuerdo a la Ley del Aire Limpio del Estado de Texas § 382.056(o) solo se puede conceder una audiencia de caso impugnado si el historial de cumplimiento del solicitante se encuentra en la clasificación mas baja de acuerdo a los requisitos de historial de cumplimiento que aplican y si la petición mas baja de acuerdo a los requisitos de historial de cumplimiento que aplican y si la petición para audiencia está basada en

Una audiencia de caso impugnado solo se concederá con base a cuestiones debatibles de hecho que son pertinentes y materiales para las decisión de la Comisión con respecto a la solicitud. Además, la Comisión solo concederá una audiencia sobre cuestiones que se presenten durante el periodo de comentarios públicos y no se retiran.

Una persona que pueda ser afectada por contaminantes de emisiones atmosféricas de una planta tiene derecho a solicitar una audiencia. Si se solicita una audiencia de caso impugnado, debe presentar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección, número de teléfono y número de facsimile si lo tiene; (2) el nombre del solicitante y número de permiso; (3) la declaración "[yo/nosotros] solicito una audiencia de un caso impugnado"; (4) una descripción específica de como se vería adversamente afectado por la solicitud y emisiones atmosféricas de la planta de manera que no es común para el público en general; (5) la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad con relación a la planta; y (6) una Descripción de cómo emplea la propiedad la cual puede ser impactada por la planta. Si la petición la hace un grupo o asociaciones, el miembro o miembros que tienen derecho a solicitar una audiencia y los intereses que el grupo o la asociación busca proteger, también se deben identificar. Las peticiones para una audiencia de caso impugnado se deben presentar por escrito dentro de 30 días después de aviso, a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe a la dirección a continuación.

Si se registra oportunamente una petición para audiencia, se dará aviso adicional. Después del cierre de todos los comentarios que aplican y los periodos de petición, el director ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición programada de la Comisión. si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a casos debatibles de hecho relacionados a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad ATMOSFÉRICA que se hayan presentado durante el periodo de comentarios. Cuestiones tales como valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico y zonificación no están dentro de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para abordarse en este proceso judicial.

LISTA DE CORRESPONDENCIA Aparte de presentar comentarios públicos, puede solicitar que lo/la incluyan en la lista de correos para recibir en el futuro avisos públicos para esta solicitud específica que envía por correo la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe enviando una petición por escrito a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe de TCEQ a la dirección a continuación.

INFORMACIÓN Los comentarios públicos o peticiones para una reunión pública o audiencia de caso impugnado se debe presentar a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Para mayor información acerca de esta solicitud para permiso o el proceso para permisos, favor de llamar a la Oficina de Asistencia al Público, al 1-800-687-4040. Si requiere información general de TCEQ dirigirse al portal electrónico www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Se puede obtener información adicional de Gilbert Texas Construction, L.P., 13119 Old Denton Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76177, o al llamar al Señor Patrick Cline, Supervisor del Proyecto en el (817) 337-7000.

Fecha de Expedición: 21 de octubre, 2005



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México intercepta 897 inmigrantes centroamericanos que iban EEUU

México - Las autoridades de México interceptaron en los últimos dos meses a unos 897 indocumentados centroamericanos que eran trasladados a EEUU por delincuentes, varios de los cuales fueron incriminados ante la justicia, se informó oficialmente.

El Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) señaló en un comunicado que los inmigrantes, procedentes de El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua, fueron localizados en varios sitios del noreste estado de Sonora, fronterizo con Arizona (EEUU).

Las operaciones se llevaron a cabo dentro del programa "Oasis", puesto en marcha por el gobierno de México en la frontera con EEUU para asistir a los indocumentados de cualquier nacionalidad, prevenir la inmigración ilegal y combatir a los delincuentes, según se in-

formó.

Los indocumentados quedaron a disposición de las autoridades migratorias de México, indicaron las fuentes oficiales.

El INM dijo que denunció ante la justicia a unos 328 traficantes de personas ("coyotes") que pretendían llevar a Estados Unidos a los inmigrantes centroamericanos a través de diversos puntos fronterizos de Sonora.

Por otra parte, las autoridades del Estado de México (centro) dijeron hoy que recientemente detuvieron en el municipio de Tultitlán a 26 indocumentados hondureños, siete guatemaltecos, seis salvadoreños y dos nicaragüenses que habían sido abandonados a su suerte por varios "coyotes".

Esos inmigrantes también fueron puestos a disposición del INM, se informó. EFE

Workouts Can Lighten Heavy Hearts

By E.J. Mundell, HealthDay Reporter

SUNDAY, Nov. 6 (HealthDay News) -- The millions of Americans stricken each year by debilitating depression may want to consider running away from their problem -- or walking, swimming or dancing it away.

"What the studies are showing is that exercise, at least when performed in a group setting, seems to be at least as effective as standard antidepressant medications in reducing symptoms in patients with major depression," said researcher James Blumenthal, a professor of medical psychology at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

According to Blumenthal, other studies are beginning to suggest that solitary exercise, such as workouts at the gym or a daily jog, can be just as effective as group activities in beating the blues, and that "duration of exercise didn't seem to matter -- what seemed to matter most was whether people were exercising or not."

Blumenthal was lead author on a much-publicized study released five years ago that found that just 10 months of regular, moderate exercise outperformed a leading antidepressant (Zoloft) in easing symptoms in young adults diagnosed with moderate to severe depression.

And another study released earlier this year, by researchers at the



University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, found that 30-minute aerobic workouts done three to five times a week cut depressive symptoms by 50 percent in young adults.

Theories abound as to how revving up the body helps uncloud the mind.

Robert E. Thayer is a professor of psychology at California State University, Long Beach, and the author of *Calm Energy: How People Regulate Mood with Food and Exercise*. He said that while workouts probably affect key brain chemicals like serotonin and dopamine, physical activity may also trigger positive changes in other areas, too.

"Depression is a condition characterized by low energy and moderate tension, something I call 'tense tiredness,'" he said. But exercise has a clear "mood effect" that seems to ease that

anxious but lethargic state, he said.

According to Thayer, moderate exercise -- a brisk 10-minute walk, for example -- results in a boosting of energy, although it may not be quite enough to relieve stress.

"More intense exercise -- the amount you'd engage in with a 45-minute aerobic workout -- does give a primary mood effect of reducing tension. It might also leave you with a little less energy because you'd be tired, of course," he said. "However, there's also some indication from the research that there's a 'rebound' effect an hour or so later, in terms of [increased] energy."

Blumenthal pointed to the more lasting psychological boost regular workouts can bring. "People who exercise might also have better self-esteem; it may help them feel better about themselves, having that great sense of accomplishment," he said.

Still, the experts acknowledged that truly depressed individuals often find it tough to jump into an exercise routine.

"Why do people not do the thing that's perhaps the most important thing for them to do?" said Thayer. "It's because a drop in energy is such a central component of depression -- you just don't have the energy to do the exercise."

He said the key to breaking that cycle is to start small.

"Thinking about going to the gym and doing all the stuff that's involved with that can be overwhelming for a depressed person," Thayer pointed out. "But if you think 'Hey, maybe I'll just walk down the street 30 yards or so, at a leisurely pace,' that's a start. And it turns out that your body becomes activated then -- you have more of an incentive to walk farther, to do more."

Loved ones can play a key role, too, urging a depressed friend or family member to join in with them as they work out. "Social support, peer pressure, family support -- all of that can be helpful, certainly in getting people to maintain exercise," Blumenthal said.

No one is saying that exercise is always a substitute for drug therapy, especially for the severely depressed. "But we also know that these drugs aren't effective for everyone -- about a third of people aren't going to get better with medication," Blumenthal said.

For those patients, exercise may prove a viable, worry-free alternative -- with one great fringe benefit.

"In addition to its mental health benefits, there are some clear cardiovascular benefits to exercise which we don't see with antidepressant drugs, of course," Blumenthal noted. So, he said, what keeps the mind fit strengthens the body, too. "You're killing two birds with one stone."

Catholic Voters

continued from page 5

mere "culturally identified" Catholics. The former tend to be conservative in their voting patterns, while the latter are often liberal. The most substantial concentrations of Catholics are in the Midwest, Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. The most politically competitive states often have the largest Catholic populations.

Recent presidential elections indicate the degree to which Catholics are now swing voters. These results underline the fact that the Catholic vote is deeply split between the major parties. The diversity of the group is one of the challenges any candidate faces when making special appeals to Catholics. Nonetheless, religious beliefs are not the dominant influence on most Catholics' voting behavior. The Church hierarchy is usually reluctant to stipulate its voting preferences.

The decline of the traditional Catholic association with the Democrats is also due to economic trends and population shifts. Catholics are now more often educated, wealthy, suburban and employed in the higher professions than ever before. Nonetheless, the shift away from the Democratic Party has not led most Catholics to embrace the Republicans. Like the rest of the electorate, Catholics have become increasingly independent of the main parties. Among the minority of Catholics that have retained strong party affiliations, white Catholics have tended to support Republican candidates, while new immigrants have forged links with Democrats.

Bush has courted the support of religious Catholics. Yet polls suggest that Bush's conservative politics and opposition to stem cell re-

search have hurt his standing among many moderate and liberal Catholics. Despite the splintering of the Catholic vote, many Catholics retain some of their old Democratic Party impulses, particularly strong support for Social Security and mildly redistributive economic policies. Furthermore, Bush already had the support of conservative Catholics when he became president.

Recent elections suggest the Republicans are gaining support from Catholic voters, but demographic trends portend an eventual reversal. White, Catholic churchgoers are more reliably Republican than ever. But except for Cuban-Americans, new Catholic immigrants are solidly Democratic. Affluent white Catholics are heavy voters, while Hispanic Catholics are a much faster-growing portion of the population but have notoriously low turnout rates. Therefore, both parties are attempting to appeal to new Hispanic immigrants, who may be the key to capturing a majority of the Catholic vote in future elections.

Catholics were traditionally an important Democratic constituency but have leaned increasingly toward the Republican Party since the 1980s. White Catholics are an important component of suburban Republican support, while new Hispanic immigrants tend to back the Democrats. Catholic voters embody the current political divide. Capturing the majority of the Catholic vote in national elections--and in many local polls--has become a prerequisite for victory.

Bilingual Ballot Requirement Scrutinized

By JEFFREY McMURRAY, As-Congress is considering whether to renew a 30-year-old requirement that large communities of people who speak limited English must have access to ballots in their native language.

In a hearing Tuesday before the House Judiciary Committee's panel on the Constitution, some argued that lawmakers should expand the requirement to include more jurisdictions. Others urged them to scrap it as an unconstitutional and costly burden on states.

The bilingual ballot section, which was added to the Voting Rights Act in 1975, is one of two key portions of the law that expires in 2007 without congressional action. Also expiring is a requirement that states with a history of racial discrimination get federal approval to change their

Tenga un Buen Dia!

election laws.

Rep. Steve King (news, bio, voting record), R-Iowa, said that if most immigrants must prove they can speak English to become citizens, that should also be the test for voting.

However, defenders of the requirement responded that the question isn't whether most of these voters can speak basic English but whether they can adequately comprehend confusing ballot language.

"They are American citizens, they are United States citizens, and they should be allowed to vote just like anybody else," said Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C.

Under the requirement, known as Section 203, local jurisdictions must provide bilingual ballots and election materials if more than 5 percent of the voting age population or at least 10,000 citizens fall into a certain language minority group. The illiteracy rate of the minority group must also be higher than the national average.

The Justice Department has identified 296 jurisdictions meeting this requirement. Only four minority groups are covered: American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan natives and Hispanics.

Bradley Schlozman, who oversees the department's civil rights division, said voting participation among those ethnic groups has skyrocketed in recent years. In Yakima County, Wash., the focus of a recent lawsuit over Section 203, Hispanic registration is up 24 percent, he said.

Margaret Fung, the executive director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, told the subcommittee that the law has been so effective that it should be expanded. She said lowering the threshold from 10,000 voters to 7,500 would cover thousands more citizens who could make a more informed decision with a bilingual ballot.

Linda Chavez, a conservative commentator who is president of

One Nation Indivisible, said the requirement violates the Constitution, which puts high limits on what the federal government can demand of states.

Lack of language education, not racism, is the reason language minorities struggle to understand ballots, Chavez said.

"While there was scattered and sporadic discrimination, it was nothing comparable to the discrimination that blacks faced in the Deep South," she said.

Chavez said that in 2002, Los Angeles County alone spent more than \$3 million on bilingual materials. Other witnesses said the expense is minimal, less than 5 percent of what is typically spent on an election.

Rep. Jarrod Nadler, D-N.Y., asked Chavez, if the burden on local election officials is so high, why no one has seriously challenged it in court after 30 years. Chavez responded that someone likely will if the provision is renewed.

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