Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

Celebrating 30

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

VOL. XXX No. 34

Week of May 31-June 6, 2007

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

lgunos residen-

tes del Districto

uno. incluy-

Durante una conferencia

"Todo lo que etenemos

MLK en el este de la ciu-

dad, Nuestro arroyo esta

sucio con basura desde bar-

cos, llantas, y toda clase de

basura cuando halla estan

bien limpiesitos con fuentes

Por eso estamos haciendo

que nuestra representante

en el Concilio trabaje porr

El Comite del Recall dice

que por eso fue facil levan-

tar mas de 700 firmas para

Actualmente la oficina de

la secretaria de la ciudad

tiene 5 dias para verificar

Concilio puede llamar para

las firmas y despues el

la resignación de la Sra.

DeLeon o pueden llamar

un eleccion que se llevara

No se sabe si hay otros

candidatos preparados

para correr encontra la

Llamadas por El Editor a

la Sra. DeLeon no fueron

Sra. DeLeon.

contestadas.

acabo en Noviembre.

forzar una eleccion.

este recall. Necesitamos

de agua y mas.

nosotros.

endo Carlos y

DeLeon Recall Organizers Tap into Voter Discontent; Algunos Residentes de Turn in Close to 700 Signatures by Deadline Guadalupe Hacen Preguntas

By Bidal Aguero and Abel Cruz

A Wave of Voter Discontent

uring her 21 plus years in public service, Linda DeLeon has faced some formidable political opposition; not only at election time, but at various times during her terms in office. Some of the opposition has come from her detractors; who have not always agreed with her votes or positions on various issues. She's had her share of political enemies and supporters alike during her 18 years in public office as a Lubbock Independent School Board member. She's also had her share of critics, both pro and con, during her 3 year tenure on the Lubbock City Council.

The larger question now becomes: does Councilwoman Linda DeLeon have enough supporters to help her weather the latest political storm she presently finds herself embroiled in?

It would be safe to say, that DeLeon finds herself unexpectedly facing the most potentially damaging political fight of her 21 year political career; a fight that could result in a new District 1 representative sitting on the Lubbock City Council after November of this year.

The opposition comes from local residents Armando and Naida Gonzales; who along with others spearheaded a recall effort, which involves obtaining signatures from District 1 residents to force DeLeon to either resign or to let District 1 voters decide whether DeLeon gets to keep her city council seat.

Organizer met a Tuesday May 29, 2007 deadline and submitted a petition containing close to 700 signatures to City Secretary Becky Garza petitioning for a recall of DeLeon. Garza has 5 working days to review the signatures and required affidavits, which number about 49 and which affirm they voted for DeLeon in the last city election by those who sign them; and to certify that at least 494 of the signatures are from District 1 residents. If she certifies at least 494 of the signatures and validates the affidavits; Garza will then inform DeLeon and the rest of the council about the results.

To many Lubbock voters and District 1 residents, the recall effort comes as somewhat of a surprise. Most people had expected that recall organizers would have a difficult time gathering the required 494 signatures necessary for a recall. El Editor spoke with several Lubbock residents within the past few days, and most expressed surprise that the recall effort has gone as far as it has. In addition, El Editor recently conducted an unscientific reader's poll in which 55% of the respondents felt that DeLeon should not be recalled. But organizers efforts seemed to have paid off and they turned in 672 signatures; 178 more than they need to force a recall election.

The idea of a recall effort originated shortly after the city council voted unanimously to buy the building which houses the South Beach Nightclub, located in the Depot District; which is owned and operated by Chris Gonzales; son of Armando and Naida Gonzales.

Organizers charged that DeLeon had failed to protect a minority owned business when she had voted along with the rest of the council to buy the building and land in order to construct a new Lubbock visitor's center. That vote by the council has also come under fire from other Lubbock residents, including KCBD television General Manager Dan Jackson who in an editorial criticized the city council for voting to buy the building when there were other options available to them. Critics also point out that the city overpaid for the building when they authorized 1.3 million dollars for the purchase of a building which has an appraised value of just over \$600,000.

For their part, organizers maintain that the nightclub produces tax revenue which benefits the city as a whole and the fact that the business is owned by a Hispanic businessman serves as a good example for other minorities to follow. Gonzales also maintains that the city could use those city funds on "projects benefiting the poor in District 1".

Initially Councilman Floyd Price was also a target of the recall effort, but Price and recall organizers met and subsequently the effort to recall Price was dropped

From "Golden Girl" to Recall Target

Since 1986 when Councilwoman Linda DeLeon first won a seat on the LISD school board, many in Lubbock's Hispanic community might have described Linda DeLeon as the Hispanic "Golden Girl" when it came to championing Hispanic related causes and issues.

In those days local political activists often mentioned her name as a possibility for higher political office including State Representative and the State Board of Education. But these calls mostly went unheeded by Mrs. DeLeon and for 18 years she remained a Lubbock Independent School District Board member representing the mostly Hispanic district in which she was elected; a position she won after plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Lubbock Independent School District won a single member district lawsuit which changed the method of electing representatives to the LISD School Board.

It wasn't until 2004 that Mrs. DeLeon decided to seek another public office. After Victor Hernandez's resignation from the Lubbock City Council, DeLeon decided to seek the vacant seat and run for Hernandez's unexpired term. DeLeon was successful in her effort, defeating her opponent Cloetta Shotts by 701 votes.

During her first 2 years in office, DeLeon often tried to take on Mayor Marc McDougal and clashed repeatedly with then Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Martin. At one point during that council's contentious relationship, many people in her district applauded her efforts to oppose Martin's and the rest of the council's efforts on several issues which came before the council. But, there were others who blamed



her for not being able to successfully oppose the council's decision to redirect bond money which had been earmarked for the Guadalupe/Aztlan Park area to develop some land as had been decided by voters in a bond election. DeLeon ultimately voted in favor of moving the funds to the other projects like the Challenger Park project in SW Lubbock.

Nevertheless, in 2006, she was able to win re-election to her first full term; defeating former District 1 Councilman Victor Hernandez with close to 70% of

As her first full term on the council got underway in May of 2006, it was quickly evident that DeLeon would enjoy a more civilized relationship with her council colleagues. But that has led to her critics charging that DeLeon has forgotten who she represents and that she hasn't done enough to protect her District's or constituents interests.

They point to DeLeon's vote in 2005 to move the bond money to SW Lubbock projects. They point to the fact that she has voted in favor of increasing fees for city services which have hurt the poor in her District. They point out the fact that she has repeatedly voted with the "gang of 4" which includes Councilmember's Floyd Price and Phyllis Jones and Mayor David Miller on issues which are not beneficial to her district. They point to her vote to increase the property tax rate; to install red light cameras, to increase salaries for 3 assistant city managers which resulted in substantial salary increases; higher than the 3% which other city employees had received.

And they point to no improvements in District 1 neighborhoods infrastructure, to deteriorating parks in District 1, and to lack of city services. Local community activist and a participant in the recall effort, Rodger Settler, sums it up this way: (DeLeon) "has just sat silently by while police misconduct resulted in Taser deaths, Taser misuse, Chippendale arrests, and police DUI's like the (Jacob) Opperman case".

Critics also point out that DeLeon has not raised any serious objections to code enforcement targeting areas like the Arnett Benson Neighborhood in District 1; which have resulted in a large number of elderly and disabled residents being cited with code violations; leaving them hard pressed to make the necessary repairs to their homes.

By next Tuesday, DeLeon will find out if her next political battle will be the one that will determine whether she gets to keep her seat on the Lubbock City Council. If organizers have succeeded in obtaining at least 494 valid signatures along with the 49 affidavits, then DeLeon will have a choice to make.

She can either decide to resign and then a special election will be called to fill her unexpired term or she can continue to fight the recall effort and run again as a candidate in a recall election which will be held in November of this year.

For her part, DeLeon has been quoted in local media as saying that even if the signatures are certified she will not resign and will see this through the November

This week, she was quoted in the Avalanche Journal as saying that the recall effort is a "distraction to keep me from doing my job". DeLeon also points to the North University Avenue Mercado Project as proof that she is working to bring economic development to District 1.

But the fact remains that recall organizers have tapped into a small wave of discontent; at least among the 672 people who signed the recall petition.

For now, we'll just have to wait and see if the wave turns into a full blown

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

have filed for permanent residency to let them share in the backlog reductions benefit. The bill, which offers to cut backlogs by half in

to May 1, 2005. On May 23 the Senate passed an amendment by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) that will reduce the guest worker annual visa cap from 400,000 to 200,000. The White House initially floated a 600.000

eight years, sets the filing cut date

figure. The most contentious issue regarding the temporary worker program among Hispanic advocates concerns its requirement that all participants return to their home countries after a maximum of six non-continuous years of work in this country. Opponents argue that it will repeat the abuses against workers under the old bracero program and that it will encourage more persons to enter the country without documents.

"It would simply create a new flow of undocumented immigrants," Vargas maintains. "If that were law, we would be here in 20 years with

the same situation that we have

today." The Senate also approved amendments that increase the number of Border Patrol agents from 18,000 to 20,000 and extend virtual fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border by 100 miles.

LULAC Washington director Brent Wilkes says, "We are willing to compromise, but it has to be for the right reasons."

Oscar Chacón, president of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, is more direct. "Immigrants have been historically a very important asset to the success of the United States of America. We don't see that in this bill. Instead we see very strong prejudice and a misunderstanding of immigrants as a threat to this country."

Senators, be careful to look both directions and fasten your seat

(Alex Meneses Miyashita is editor of the national news journal Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.) © 2007

Latino Immigration Advocates Could Pose Problem for Senate Jan. 1, 2007, for immigrants who

By Alex Meneses Miyashita As the U.S. Senate reconvenes and struggles to find an immigration bill acceptable to its disparate membership and influential business friends of President Bush, there will be countless stop signs along the route. That's a given.

For those of good faith in both parties who recognize the political pitfalls of inaction, a word of warning: Be a safe driver. At each stop sign, look carefully to the left as well as to the right.

Hispanic and other immigrant rights leaders have bent about as far as they're willing to go to pass something under the label "comprehensive immigration reform."

They are expressing increasing concern over the bipartisan compromise bill introduced in the Senate May 17. Many already see

if as false advertising. Stop sign #1: The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2007 includes enhanced border security and workplace measures to be implemented

before a temporary worker program and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants is triggered. If and when those protections are in place, if ever, could be a very subjective determination.

Among other stop signs and red lights: Latino and pro-immigrant organizations have listed as their main concern in the bill cutbacks to family immigration under a proposed system based on points and a guest worker program that does not offer participants a path to citizenship.

At the same time, they view the ongoing debate as a critical opportunity to ensure a pathway to legalization for millions of undocumented residents in this

"Failing to act is not an option here," says National Council of La Raza vice president Cecilia Muñoz.

Groups which officially declared

their opposition to the bill included the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, the Hispanic

Federation, the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, the National Day Laborer Association and the William C. Velázquez Institute.

Other organizations, such as La Raza, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials are also expressing serious concerns.

Latino leaders endorsed an amendment introduced by Senators Robert Menéndez (D-N.J.), Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) May 23 that exempts family members of legal permanent residents from visa caps in order to ensure their reunification.

Their amendment, if included in the final bill, will provide some of the fixes necessary in the Senate bill, says NALEO executive director Arturo Vargas. But, he stresses, "There's a lot more in this bill that needs to be fixed in order for it to be sound."

Menéndez announced he will propose another amendment to extend the acceptance date to

Endorsement

The election that will select a new City Council representative for District 3 is set for June 9.

In our last editorial concerning the race we opted to urge our readers to vote for either of two candidates. Todd Klein or Kevin Glasheen. In our last editorial, we also promised a choice between the two remaining candidates would be made to receive our editorial endorsement.

We make our endorsement based on forums, news releases, personal interviews and voter's opinions.

We have chosen to give our endorsement to

Kevin Glasheen.

We do so because we can see where Mr. Glasheen is concerned not only with the residents of District 3 but has the progress of the entire City in mind.

At the present time the City of Lubbock is still going through many problems that we feel Mr. Glasheen can more adequately solve.

Today is election day for early voting until June 5. The election is June 9th.

We encourage all our readers, whether they support our candidate or not to get out and vote!

Los Defensores de la Inmigración Latina Podrán Resultar Problematicos Para el Senado.

Alex Meneses Miyashita
Hispanic Link News Service
En lo que el Senado estadounidense vuelve a convocarse y a
luchar por encontrar un proyecto
de ley sobre la inmigración que
sea aceptable a la disparidad de
legisladores y a los amigos comlegisladores y a los amigos com-erciales influyentes del presidente Bush, habrá un sinfín de señales stop/pare por el trayecto. De eso no hay duda.

Para las personas de buena fe en ambos partidos, quienes reconocen las trabas políticas que resultan de la inacción, una palabra de advertencia: Maneje con cuidado. En cada stop, mirar con cautela a la izquierda y también a

Los dirigentes hispanos y de los derechos de los inmigrantes se han torcido lo más que van a torcerse para aprobar algo bajo el rubro de "reforma comprensiva

Están expresando cada vez mayor preocupación con el proyecto de ley bipartita de concesiones que se presentó al Senado el 17 de mayo. Ya muchos lo perciben

como propaganda falsa. Stop #1: La ley de seguridad de la frontera y de reforma migrato-ria del 2007 incluye medidas de mayor seguridad en la frontera y en el lugar de trabajo que deben implementarse antés que entre en vigencia un programa de trabajadores temporales y un camino a
la ciudadanía para los inmigrantes
sin documentos. El que se implementen estas protecciones, si es
que llegan a implementarse, podría
ser de determinación muy subjetiva

Entre otros stop y semáforos rojos: organizaciones latinas y pro-inmigrantes han puesto como su mayor preocupación el proyecto de los recortes a la inmigración de familias bajo un propuesto sistema con fundamento en puntos y un programa de trabajadores temporales que no ofrece a los participantes una forma de hacerse ciudadanos.

Al mismo tiempo, perciben el continuo debate como oportunidad crítica para asegurar un camino a la legalización para millones de

residentes indocumentados en

"El no tomar acción no es una opción aquí", indica vicepresidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, Cecilia Muñoz.

Los grupos que declararon oficialmente su oposición al proyecto incluyen la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos (LULAC), el Consejo Laboral para el Avance Latinoamericano, la Federación Hispana, la Alianza Nacional de Comunidades de América Latina y el Caribe, la Asociación Nacional de Jornaleros y el Instituto William C. Velázquez.

Otras organizaciones, tales como La Raza, el Fondo Mexicano Americano de Defensa Legal y Educación, la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Nombrados (NALEO), también

expresan serias preocupaciones con el proyecto de ley. Los dirigentes latinos respalda-ron una enmienda que presentaron los senadores Robert Menéndez (demócrata por Nueva Jersey), Hillary Clinton (demócrata por Nueva York) y Chuck Hagel (republicano por Nebraska) el 23 de mayo, la cual dispensa con los topes del número de visas otorgadas a los miembros de la familia de residentes permanentes legales, para asegurar su reunificación.

Su enmienda, si llega a consider-arse en el proyecto final, ofrecerá algo de lo que hay que arreglar del proyecto del Senado, dice director ejecutivo de NALÉO, Arturo Vargas. No obstante, enfatiza que, "Hay mucho más de este proyecto de ley que hay que arreglar antes que se pueda considerar sólido".

Menéndez ha anunciado que propondrá otra enmienda para extender la fecha de aceptación hasta el primero de enero del 2007 para inmigrantes quienes han gestionado su residencia permanente retraso en un cincuenta por ciento en el plazo de ocho años, establece la fecha de entrega tope en el primero de mayo del 2005. El 23 de mayo el Senado aprobó

para gue tengan participación en el beneficio de la reducción de expedientes atrasados. El proyecto, que ofrece recortar los expedientes en

una enmienda que presentó el senador demócrata por Nuevo México, Jeff Bingaman, que re-ducirá el tope anual de visas para los trabajadores temporales de 400.000 a 200.000. Inicialmente la Casa Blanca había sugerido la cifra de 600.000.

Para los defensores hispanos, el tema de mayor controversia en cu-anto al programa de trabajadores temporales tiene que hacer con su requerimiento que todos los participantes del programa regresen a su país de origen después de un máximo de seis años discontinuos de trabajo en este país. Los oponentes sostienen que con esto se volverá a incidir en abusos contra los trabajadores como bajo el antiguo programa bracero, y que animará a más personas a entrar al país sin documentos.

Simplemente crearía un nuevo flujo de inmigrantes indocumen-tados", mantiene Vargas. "Si así fuera la ley, estaríamos aquí en 20 años con la misma situación que

tenemos hoy". El Senado también aprobó enmiendas que aumentan el número de agentes de patrulla fronteriza de 18.000 a 20.000 y que extienden la valla virtual a lo largo de la frontera entre EE.UU. y México por 100

Director de LULAC en Washington, D.C., Brent Wilkes, dice, Estamos dispuestos a llegar a un acuerdo, pero tiene que ser por

razones justas".
Oscar Chacón, presidente de la Alianza Nacional de Comunidades de América Latina y el Caribe, es más directo: "Históricamente los inmigrantes han sido un bien muy importante para el éxito de los Estados Unidos de América. Esto no lo vemos en este proyecto de ley. Por lo contrario, vemos un prejuicio muy fuerte y un malentendido el que los inmigrantes son una amenaza a este país"

Señores senadores: miren con cautela a ambos lados y abróchense los cinturones de

(Alex Meneses Miyashita es editor de Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C. E-Mail: alex@hispaniclink.org)

The Distraction of a Heralded: Hispanic' Candidate

By José de la Isla HOUSTON — Back in 2000, George magazine, then run by John F. Kennedy Jr., interviewed Bill Richardson. "How do you feel about being Hispanic?" he was asked.

His response then, often repeated in one form or another since: "I'm very proud, but try not to wear it on my sleeve. To get ahead, you must deal with mainstream issues, not just Hispanic ones."

Today most Hispanic issues are mainstream ones.

And in his 20 years of public service, Richardson spent eight years in Congress, was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, served in President Bill Clinton's Cabinet as Secretary of Energy, and has been recruited during both Democratic and Republican administrations to use his diplomatic skills as an international troubleshooter. Now, at 59, he's in his second term as governor of New Mexico.

Yet as he campaigns for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, he is increasingly tagged as the Hispanic candidate. News interviews consistently nudge at the ethnic focus. It's as if it contains a secret code.

Richardson's simple answer implies a package as compact as matter in a black hole. If we don't get it, it suggests our national politics have been going backwards. Political clichés, sound bites, and narrow-focus issues, like just a few pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, don't provide a national vision in presidential discussions.

More important, it is a source of worry if we are not sophisticated enough or if our political senses are getting dulled this early in the election season.

Actually, the first Hispanic to run in a presidential primary was Republican Benjamin Fernández in the late

Fernández was a Nixon fundraiser and he later co-founded the GOP's Hispanic National Assembly. His main function was to attract the Latino middle-class to the Republican Party.

In 1980, he was the second Republican to announce and lead a national campaign along side George H.W. Bush and Robert Dole, before Ronald Reagan joined the race. He qualified in 15 primaries and bragged that he had been approached for a vice-presidential position on the ticket.

By the July nominating convention, Fernández was the fourth speaker at the convention podium. Four years later, he entered the race again.

The nation has come a long way since 1984. But it should worry us when those 23-year-old pigeon holes are dug out again.

Fernández, clearly a narrow-focus candidate, did not provide a broad vision for the country and its future direction.

That is why applying the Hispanic tag on Richardson is less a reflection on him than it is on us.

As the election theater unfolds, what counts are the criteria we want to have applied to the country we are trying to become.

If the political analysts are correct, the early front-loading of state primaries and caucuses will give us the designated nominees early in 2008, nine months before the November election. That's enough time to numb us with single-message so-called "issues" and overblown platitudes and catchy ads. Risk-averse campaign strategists will

allow little sunshine to get through that eclipse. That's because marketing a future presidential product has become more about them and less about us.

A fence on the border with Mexico is not an immigration solution to anything. Nor are 737 military bases in 130 countries giving us what we need for national growth, prosperity and

There's something insidious when we are not having broad discussions about such matters in public forums, town-hall meetings, and political clubs. The travesty is that we are getting sound-bite "solutions" from candidates before we understand the problems. That's why tags such as "Hispanic candidate" hang devoid of meaning.

For instance, isn't it important to know what secondary and higher education advancement policy is in store as the nation's population increases fifty percent in the next 50 years and the Hispanic population grows 188 percent? Isn't the blending of U.S. population groups also a matter of visioning instead of talk, as if we lived under apartheid?

Writer Vicki Robins observes "Our policy choices flow from our politics, our politics flow from our values, and our values flow from our personal stories."

All relevant candidates need to fuse the Hispanic story into their presidential campaigns. Bill Richardson should not have to stand alone.

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail joseisla3@yahoo. com.]

© 2007

LETTERS TO THE Editor

Send Mail to: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Texas Democrats' Courageous Stand

WASHINGTON, May 30 Committee Voting Rights Institute Chair Donna Brazile issued the following statement praising Sen. Mario Gallegos and Texas Democrats' successful defeat of partisan voter ID legislation in Texas:

"Last week, Sen. Mario Gallegos and Texas Democrats stood on the shoulders of Americans who came before them who fought and died to protect and preserve our right to vote. At a risk to his own life and health, Sen. Gallegos defied doctors' orders and stood united with his fellow Democrats in the Texas Senate to defeat a highly partisan bill that would impose restrictive voter ID rules on the people of Texas. Sen. Gallegos was righteous in his fight against Republican voter suppression efforts, recognizing that a voter ID law amounts to nothing more than a modern day poll tax that works to disenfranchise minorities, immigrants, the elderly, young people and the disabled.

"Thanks to the efforts of Sen. Gallegos' and Texas Democrats, voters can go to the polls without fear of being challenged for unnecessary identification that would prevent them from voting. I offer my strongest praise for Sen. Gallegos' bravery and his willingness to sacrifice his own well-being for the greater good of all Americans. In the fight against unfair and discriminatory voter legislation, we need more elected officials like Mario Gallegos and his fellow Democratic legislators who remain dedicated to preserving one of the most fundamental rights in our Democracy, the right to

La Distracción de un **Anunciado Candidato** Hispano

José de la Isla

HOUSTON – Allá en el año 2000, la revista George, dirigida entonces por John F. Kennedy, hijo, entrevistó a Bill Richardson. "¿Cómo se siente usted sobre ser hispano?" se le preguntó.

Su respuesta entonces, muchas veces repetida de una forma u otra hasta ahora: "Tengo mucho orgullo de serlo, pero intento no llevarlo a flor de piel. Para progresar, hay que tratar los temas de importancia general, no sólo los de importancia a los hispanos".

Hoy la mayoría de los temas de importancia a los hispanos son también los de importancia general.

Y en sus 20 años de servicio público, Richardson ha servido ocho años como miembro del Congreso, fue embajador de los Estados Unidos ante las Naciones Unidas, sirvió en el gabinete del presidente Bill Clinton como secretario de energía, y ha sido reclutado durante administraciones tanto demócratas como republicanas por sus habilidades diplomáticas con situaciones difíciles a nivel internacional. Hoy, a los 59 años, cumple su segundo término como gobernador

No obstante, al hacer campaña por ser nominado candidato presidencial del partido demócrata, se le impone más y más la etiqueta de candidato hispano. Las entrevistas noticiosas consistentemente tienden hacia el enfoque étnico. Es como

si contuviera un código secreto.

La respuesta sencilla de Richardson implica un paquete tan compacto como la materia contenida en un agujero negro astronómico. Si no la entendemos, la implicación es que han retrocedido nuestras políticas nacionales. Los clisés políticos, fragmentos de discurso, y temas de enfoque limitado, como unas cuantas piezas de un rompecabezas, no ofrecen una visión nacional en las discusiones

De mayor importancia, es fuente de preocupación si no somos lo suficientemente sofisticados o si se van embotando nuestros sentidos políticos tan pronto en la temporada de elecciones.

En realidad, el primer hispano en hacer campaña en una primaria presidencial fue el republicano Benjamin Fernández en la década de los 1970.

Fernández era recaudador de fondos para Nixon, y luego fue cofundador de la Asamblea Nacional Hispana del partido republicano. Su función principal era la de atraer al partido republicano miembros de la clase media latina.

En 1980, fue el segundo republicano en anunciarse y a llevar una campaña nacional al lado de George H.W. Bush y Robert Dole, antes que Ronald Reagan se uniera a la contienda. Lo calificaron en 15 primarias y se jactaba que se le habían acercado a ofrecerle la posición de vicepresidente.

Para el congreso de nominación en julio, Fernández era el cuarto en subirse al podio a dar su discurso. A los cuatro años, volvió a entrar en la contienda. La nación ha progresado mucho desde 1984, pero nos tendría que preocupar

cuando se resucitan las viejas categorías restrictivas de hace 23 años. Fernández, claramente un candidato de enfoque limitado, no ofreció una visión

amplia para el país ni para su dirección futura. Por eso es que más que ser un reflejo de la posición de Richardson, es un reflejo de nuestra incapacidad de ir más allá de la etiqueta.

En lo que se desenvuelva el teatro electivo, lo que cuenta es el criterio que

queremos que se le aplique al país que intentamos llegar a ser. Si aciertan los analistas de política, la acumulación temprana de primarias y caucus de los estados nos dará los nominados designados a comienzos del 2008, nueve meses antes de la elección en noviembre. Eso representa suficiente tiempo para embotarnos con supuestos "temas" de un solo mensaje, y tópicos comunes exagerados y propagandas atractivas. Los estrategas temerosos del riesgo no permitirán que pase mucho sol por ese eclipse. Esto porque el mercadeo de un futuro producto presidencial se ha convertido más en algo sobre ellos y menos en

algo sobre nosotros. No resuelve nada referente a la inmigración una valla en la frontera con México. Tampoco las 737 bases militares en 130 países nos dan lo que necesitamos para el crecimiento, la prosperidad y la seguridad nacionales.

Hay algo insidioso cuando no estamos entrando en amplias discusiones sobre estos temas en foros públicos, reuniones municipales, y clubes de política.

Resulta paródico cuando lo que recibimos de los candidatos son fragmentos de discurso disfrazados de "soluciones", antes de que entendamos los problemas. Es por eso que las etiquetas como "candidato hispano" penden desprovistas de significado.

Por ejemplo, ¿no es importante saber a qué se atiene la nación en cuanto a políticas de progreso en la educación secundaria y universitaria, por lo que la población general aumentará en un 50 por ciento en los próximos cincuenta años, y la hispana en un 188 por ciento? ¿Y no lo es también la combinación de los grupos de poblaciones estadounidenses como tema de visión y no de conversación, como si viviéramos bajo el apartheid?

La escritora Vicki Robins observa, "Las decisiones sobre política que tomamos fluyen de nuestras posiciones políticas, nuestras posiciones políticas fluyen de nuestro sistema de valores, y nuestro sistema de valores fluye de nuestra narrativa personal".

Todos los candidatos relevantes deben incorporar la narrativa hispana a sus campañas presidenciales. Bill Richardson no tendría que asumir esta posición a solas.

[José de la Isla, autor de "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003), redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él a: joseisla3@yahoo.com]. © 2007

El Editor is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at http://www. eleditor.com and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published. Publisher Bidal Aguero

Business Manager - Olga Riojas Aguero Contributing Columnist - Abel Cruz

Troops in Iraq Fight Fear and Boredom

Life for U.S. troops in Iraq can be boring and commanders can sometimes seem petty.

Morale for each Army soldier and Marine in the war depends foremost on how much combat they have seen. But it also is about the trivial and mundane - a lack of privacy or a resented rule that dictates the color of T-shirts they must wear.

It's about the triumphs, too. . "It's up and down," said Spc. Christopher Hagen, assigned to Baqouba in the increasingly violent Diyala province north of Baghdad.

When troops score a success against militants, "morale goes through the roof," said Hagen. "But when you hear one of your friends gets hurt, it drops to an all-time low."

A recently released Pentagon mental health study of troops in Iraq found 45 percent of junior enlisted Army soldiers rated their unit's morale as low or very low. Twenty percent of soldiers and 15 percent of Marines were found to have a mental health problem, defined as anxiety, depression or acute stress.

Researchers found both depend partly on how long each person has been there, how many tours of duty they've served and what their personal experiences have been.

"We have it pretty good here," said Sgt. Jesus Cruz, who organizes helicopter flight logistics in Baghdad's Green Zone. The heavily fortified zone houses Iraqi government offices and is only sporadically hit by mortar. Assignment there means good dining hall food, regular work schedules and access to the U.S. Embassy swimming pool.

"A lot of guys out there have it a lot tougher," Cruz said.

About two-thirds of those surveyed said they knew someone who had been killed or injured. More than three-quarters of soldiers and Marines said they

had been in situations where they could have been killed or seriously injured.

Events that made them feel "intense fear, helplessness or horror," were described by nearly 40 percent.

Reported anonymously in the publicly released version of the study, the events included:

-"My sergeant's leg getting blown off."

-"A huge ... bomb blew my

friend's head off like 50 meters from me."

-"Doing raids on houses with bad intel.'

-"Working to clean out body parts from a blown up tank."

-"Convoy stopped in dangerous areas due to incompetent commanders."

-"A Bradley (tank) blew up. We got two guys out, three were still inside. I was the medic."

The report, released May 4, was based on data collected from some 1,300 soldiers and nearly 450 Marines in Iraq last fall. When it was released, most attention focused on the study's first-ever survey of ethics among troops at the front.

The report also found:

-The ratings on morale and instances of mental health problems were at about the same levels as in the previous study, done in mid-2006.

-Fifty-six percent of soldiers were highly concerned about the long tours.

-Eleven percent of those deployed for the first time had a mental health problem, compared to 27 percent of those on repeat



-Lack of privacy was a major concern among 39 percent of soldiers, whose housing ranges from two-person trailers to 20-person

- Boring and repetitive work was a main concern for 39 percent of soldiers and 33 percent of Marines.

-Among soldiers exposed to a low level of combat, 11 percent had a mental health problem; it was 30 percent among those who saw a high level of combat.

-More than a third of soldiers and Marines reported being in threatening situations where they weren't allowed to use force. After Iraqis began throwing gasoline-filled bottles at them, for instance, troops were banned from responding with force for nearly a month until the rules of engagement were changed.

-Many resent senior leaders for what they say are harassing rules - like the one on the T-shirt rules.

When asked in focus group interviews specifically what affected morale, troops consistently mentioned two things: base rules they disliked and what they saw as an unfair system on moraleboosting programs, the study said.

In some places, soldiers were not allowed to wear tan Army T-shirts with black Army shorts they could only wear gray T-shirts with the black shorts.

In one unit, it was ordered that when two or more soldiers were walking together, they had to be dressed alike.

Such rules can be aimed at maintaining order and discipline, but troops felt "they had no other practical purpose other than to harass" them, said the report.

Soldiers also said those who went off-base to do the most dangerous duty had to wait in long lines to use phones or e-mail, could rarely take the afternoon off to attend concerts or other events, and found it harder to take R&R because they are needed in the fight.

Those who rarely, if ever left base had unfettered access to those morale-boosting programs not to mention got "first dibs" on new items coming into the post commissary.

thing, but rather "the accumulation of all of them that tends to wear down the soldiers' and Marines' morale," the study said.

"It is probably not any single"

Questions? Comments? Email us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

El Supremo limita demandas por discriminación

El Tribunal Supremo limitó ayer la capacidad de las mujeres y los miembros de minorías para demandar judicialmente a sus patrones por discriminación salarial, sentando tal vez las bases para la próxima batalla por los derechos civiles.

Por votación de 5-4, el tribunal falló que de lo contrario los patronos tendrían dificultades para defenderse de los reclamos "resultantes de decisiones laborales adoptadas hace mucho tiempo".

En una victoria para las empresas, la corte fijó estrictos límites de tiempo para someter esas demandas por discriminación. Los empleados no pueden retroceder más de seis meses en el tiempo para quejarse sobre las prácticas discriminatorias, decidió el tribunal.

El caso estuvo centrado en cómo aplicar el plazo de 180 días para denunciar las decisiones sobre paga discriminatoria al amparo de la ley llamada Título VII de la ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964.

Lilly Ledbetter demandó judicialmente a la empresa Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., por considerar que tras 19 años en la planta de la firma en Gadsden, Alabama, trabajaba por \$6,000 al año menos que el hombre peor pagado por hacer el mismo trabajo.

Ledbetter sostuvo que la disparidad existió por años y se debió principalmente a su

Un jurado le dio la razón pero un tribunal de apelaciones anuló el fallo porque había esperado demasiado para incoar la demanda.

El plazo establecido por la ley carecería de sentido si los empleados pudieran remontarse muchos años a la hora de argüir que fueron salarialmente discriminados, sostuvo la empresa en los tribunales.

El juez Samuel Alito, que redactó la opinión de la mayoría, concordó con la posición de la empresa demandada.

El fallo se dividió conforme a las posiciones ideológicas de los jueces.

El juez Clarence Thomas, que otrora encabezó la Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades, respaldó el argumento de

Goodyear. La limitación de 180 días es significativa, particularmente en relación con las quejas ligadas a salarios. Esto hizo que la jueza Ruth Bader Ginsburg pidiera al Congreso que anule la decisión de la mayoría.

"Una vez más", declaró Ginsburg en representación de la minoría del tribunal, "la pelota está en la cancha del Congreso.

Ginsburg se refería a lo ocurrido en 1991 luego de media docena de decisiones sobre derechos civiles de la corte, entonces presidida por el fallecido juez William Rehnquist. El Congreso aprobó lo que los legisladores llamaron la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1991, con lo que derogó las decisiones y extendió protecciones contra la discriminación; por ejemplo, la ley de 1991 puso fin a la alegación de "necesidad de la empresa" como defensa contra los reclamos por discriminación.

Ledbetter sostuvo que cada una de sus pagas fue menor que las recibidas por colegas masculinos en posiciones y tareas similares a las suyas, lo que equivalía a un caso de discriminación salarial. Alegó que no presentó su demanda antes porque los empleados prefieren no hacer olas al comenzar el empleo y carecen de razones para creer que pudiera existir dicha disparidad.

Tras el primer juicio, la demandante recibió más de \$3.8 millones como indemnización. Un juez redujo posteriormente esa cantidad a \$360,000.

Sin embargo, el fallo fue anulado por el Onceno Tribunal del Circuito de Apelaciones por expirar el plazo para plantear su

La Corte Suprema concordó con el tribunal de apelaciones.

U.S. to raise citizenship, green card fees Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), technology. Even as the terrorist

The Bush administration will announce increases in immigration application fees today that will double the cost of citizenship and almost triple the cost of becoming a permanent resident.

The new fees, reflecting an average 66% increase, led immigrant advocates and some members of Congress to criticize them as a "wall" that could bar poorer immigrants from citizenship. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials countered that the increases were essential to help the overloaded agency reduce its backlog and speed service.

"The reason we're raising the fees, short answer, is that we need the money," said Emilio T. Gonzales, director of Citizenship and Immigration Services. "A lot of people are going to be affected by this, there's no sugarcoating it."

Gonzales said 99% of the agency's budget came from user fees, a system Congress devised based on the principle that the costs of citizenship should be borne by immigrants, not taxpayers.

Under the increases, which cover almost all immigration benefits, the cost of bringing a foreign fiance or fiancee will jump to \$455 from \$170. The price tag for a green card, or permanent resident visa, will rise to \$930 from \$325, and the cost of citizenship papers will increase to \$675 from \$330.

The fee increases come as the Senate debates a wide-ranging immigration bill that would give illegal immigrants in the United States, estimated to number 12 million or more, a way to gain legal status. Gonzales said the fee increase, which will take effect at the end of July, was not announced with the Senate bill in mind.

As it is, the workload at Citizenship and Immigration Services is increasing, with historic numbers of immigrants becoming citizens, according to a March report from the Pew Hispanic Center. That study found that more than half of legal immigrants had become citizens, the highest level in a quarter century.

Though applications have increased, immigration fees have not been reevaluated since 1998. An ever-shrinking budget means little money has been invested in

attacks of Sept. 11 required costly new security and background checks, the immigration agency has largely remained paper-based. In 2004, the Government

Accountability Office reported that fees were not covering the agency's costs and urged a reevaluation. The fees being announced today represent "arduous, sometimes laborious and painstaking research," Gonzales said. The agency received about 3,900 comments from the public.

Critics reacted quickly. Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto), head of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the group was concerned that the fee increases would put citizenship out of reach for many. "Many Hispanic families will be hurt by this decision," Baca said, adding that the agency should have worked with Congress "to provide a more workable, just solution."

Crystal Williams, deputy director for programs at the American Immigration Lawyers Assn.,

called the decision disappointing. "The fees are simply too high for the level of service provided and too high for the affordability for a lot of the people it's supposed to be serving," she said.

Atención personal

Atención médica y

de apoyo •Atención suplente

co-author of a bipartisan immigration bill in the House, criticized the agency for its inefficiency. It has a backlog of about 1 million applications. "These fees are a glaring example of the government imposing a higher price on its customers, while continuing to offer inefficient services," he said.

Michael Aytes, director of operations for Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the fee increase was intended to address such concerns.

Due to backlogs, immigrants have had to pay additional fees to keep their applications alive. "Under this rule, the longer the case takes, the more expensive it is for

the additional funds would raise annual revenue to \$2.3 billion, which would be used to hire about 1,500 immigration officers, buy computers, improve training and cut by one-fifth the processing of their top four "products": applications for green cards or to renew them, petitions for businesses to bring foreign workers, and citizenship applications.

The agency also will use the additional funds to build or renovate 39 facilities nationwide.

administración del hogar

Se Habla Español

Equipo y suministros

CHARTWELL QUIERE AYUDAR CON

EL CUIDADO DE SU SALUD

Seguridad y

médicos

3223 South Loop 289, Suite 140A

*Licencidos con estado de Tejas

constante es nuestra prioridad No. 1!

Lubbock, Tx 806-797-1469

Estamos aquí para servirles porque

Chartwell Home Care

Elisa Diaz

Pyramid Plaza

Fundada en 1975, Chartwell ofreca una opción

para usted y su familia. Servicios incluye:

us, not the applicant," he said. " Aytes and other officials said Reciba la ayuda que se merece, en el lugar donde deséa estar...Su Casa NUESTRA PRIORIDAD.

Los cables eléctricos aéreos son una parte esencial del sistema que lleva energía hasta su casa. Pero también son muy, muy peligrosos; hasta mortales. Xcel Energy desea que usted esté atento a los cables aéreos. Manténgase al menos a 10 pies de distancia de ellos. No los toque, ni acerque ningún objeto. Si usted ve algún cable que haya caído por efecto del viento o del clima, llámenos inmediatamente al 1-800-895-1999; ya que mantenerlo seguro es nuestra prioridad.

(1) Xcel Energy®

Su Vida. Nuestra Energía.

xcelenergy.com

George Foreman tells a tale of the past

Muhammad Ali was at his bombastic best, just days before he was supposed to have his head handed to him in the Rumble in the Jungle. Listen to what he said 33 years later, and the words still sparkle to those who remember a magical time, if not such a magical place.

"I rassled with a gator! Tussled with a whale!" Ali said. "I murdered a rock! Injured a brick! I'm so mean, I make medicine sick!"

Apparently medicine made George Foreman sick, too.

At least that's the tale Foreman tells in his new book, which he is busily promoting this week as only he can do. This is, after all, someone who resurrected a career with a smile and fat jokes and sold more than 100 million grills with his name on them.

And what better way to sell a book than bring one of the most famous names and one of the most famous fights into it. Makes the whole religion angle a bit easier to promote.

The problem is, it's not a new story. Foreman said similar things about a strange bottle of water just after the fight, and repeated them a few years later.

And while Foreman says he's bringing it up again as a cautionary tale of hate and forgiveness, it smacks of sour grapes, directed against a man who helped him become heavyweight champion and is no longer around to defend himself.

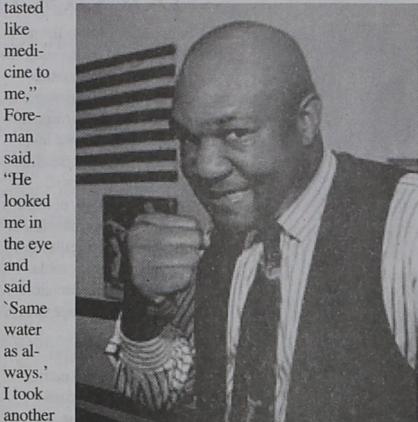
"Forgiveness is there, but the story must be told," Foreman said between book signings. "There's more to it than meets the eye. I was mad later on. I could have been dead over there."

In the book "God in My Corner," Foreman tells of his manager handing him a bottle of water just before the fight that had a medicinal taste to it. He became tired, he said, part of the reason Ali stopped him in the eighth round in a huge upset.

I don't doubt Foreman believes something was wrong with his water, but you have to wonder why he's rehashing the story after so many years. If Foreman truly believes in forgiveness _ and no one questions his evangelical credentials after 30 years in the pulpit _ it seems odd that he wants to dredge it up again.

But he is, and he repeated the story of the water Dick Sadler gave him just before the fateful fight in the early morning hours in Zaire.

"We got the ceremonial water like we had in all our fights but it



and it still tasted bad. He just looked at me and said `Same water as always."

sip

Boxer and manager split after the fight and Sadler died a few years ago, so his side of the story will never be told. Foreman doesn't say why his own manager would want to slip him a mickey.

Others said Foreman blamed Sadler for not getting him out of Zaire when he was cut in training, though President Mobutu was the one who made sure of that. There was too much money invested in the fight, and the people wanted to see Ali win.

"You've got to remember in those days he suspected everything," said Bill Caplan, who was Foreman's publicist at the time and remains a close friend. "He thought the bitter tasting water was something someone had slipped in there. Years later he abandoned that, and I'm a little bit surprised he brought it back."

If anything, Foreman has taken pains to praise Ali and says the loss ended up being the best thing that ever happened to him.

He found God after a near death experience in a 1977 fight with Jimmy Young and left boxing to become a minister, only to return to become the oldest heavyweight champion ever and America's favorite pitchman.

"I lost and I'm happy about it," Foreman said. "Ali didn't need any medicine in the water to whip me. If I would have fought him 20 times with organic water he would have beaten me. He had the style to beat me."

Foreman was in trouble long

he entered the ring in Zaire. Ali had so popular among the locals that there was fear for Foreman's safety, and Foreman

hadn't

before

gone beyond the second round in his last eight fights.

Ali's business manager at the time, Gene Kilroy, said he and Ali watched tapes of Foreman before leaving for Africa and Ali saw him hanging on the top rope after knocking down Joe Frazier for the sixth time in the second round.

The rope-a-dope had yet to be invented, but something clicked in Ali's mind.

"Ali said, 'I got him, he's got no stamina,'" said Kilroy, now an executive with the Luxor hotel-casino in Las Vegas. "He said, 'Wait until he hears round four, round five, round six. George, you're out of gas and there are no gas stations out there."

Ali turned out to be prophetic, but not before Foreman had some moments of his own. If he was drugged, he looked pretty good early as he threw punch after punch at Ali. But he was punching himself out, and Ali turned the fight around late in the fifth round.

By the eighth round, Foreman's punches were meaningless and Ali used a flurry to knock him down and end the fight.

Foreman was banged up and bitter, and increasingly suspicious.

"I left Africa sore, went to Paris, went to Hawaii and then finally a man who looked after me said 'Now you look a little better," Foreman said. "Nobody believed me. Everyone laughed at me."

They weren't laughing when
Foreman came back to become
champion again. He hopes they're
not laughing now.

"If you think I need to sell books you're wrong. I need to tell my story," Foreman said. "The story is trust in God and forgive your enemies."

An even better story might be to forgive and forget.

Trade me: Kobe tells Lakers he wants out

Kobe Bryant asked to be traded from the Lakers on Wednesday, a day after calling the team's front office "a mess." He said there was nothing the Lakers could do to change his mind.

"I would like to be traded, yeah," Bryant said in a radio interview. "Tough as it is to come to that conclusion there's no other alternative. It's rough man, but I don't see how you can rebuild that trust. I just don't know how you can move forward in that type of situation."

Bryant, who helped the Lakers win three consecutive NBA championships, has four years left on the seven-year, \$136.4 million contract he signed July 15, 2004. That was a day after Shaquille O'Neal was traded to the Miami Heat.

Bryant became infuriated
Tuesday when a Los Angeles
Times columnist quoted what he
called a Lakers insider as saying
it was Bryant's insistence on
getting away from O'Neal that
prompted the trade to Miami.

Bryant, the NBA's leading scorer the past two seasons, said he spoke with Phil Jackson on Tuesday, and the coach told him he was being let go because the Lakers were committed to reducing payroll and rebuilding long term.

"They said nothing to me about a long-term plan — absolutely nothing," Bryant told KLAC radio, the Lakers' flagship station. "They told Phil one thing and they told me another. Actions speak louder than words."

"It's a trust thing," he added.
"They're in a long-term plan
that I had no idea about."

Buss issued a statement saying:

"We are aware of the media reports. However, Kobe has not told us directly that he wants to be traded. We have made it very clear that we are building our team around Kobe and that we intend for him to be a Laker his entire career. We will speak directly to Kobe and until we do that, we will not comment publicly about this."

Bryant's agent, Rob Pelinka, did not respond to several messages left by The Associated Press.

The Lakers won championships from 2000-02 and reached the NBA finals again in 2004, losing to the Detroit Pistons in five games. The team was broken up at that time. O'Neal was traded, Jackson left and other stalwarts — Karl Malone, Gary Payton, Derek Fisher, Robert Horry and Rick Fox — went elsewhere or retired.

The Lakers failed to make the playoffs the following season. With Jackson returning before the 2005-06 campaign, they finished seventh in the Western Conference in each of the past two years, but were eliminated by Phoenix in the first round of the playoffs.

The Lakers appeared to be a title contender through the first half of this season, going 26-13 despite several injuries to key players. But they lost 27 of their last 43 games to finish 42-40 before losing to the Suns in five games.

Bryant urged the team at season's end to do what it takes to get back into contention. He essentially repeated those comments last weekend in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

On Sunday, he suggested former Lakers general manager Jerry West should return. West left the team in the summer of 2000 and was succeeded by current GM Mitch Kupchak.

West an employee of the

West, an employee of the

Lakers for about 40 years as a player, coach and executive, is under contract as the Memphis Grizzlies' president until July 1. He turned 69 this week and has remained a close friend of Kupchak's. West has said he has "no plans to seek employment with any other organization."

It was West who brought Bryant to the Lakers, trading center Vlade Divac to Charlotte in the summer of 1996 for the rights to Bryant — the 13th pick in the NBA draft. Bryant was only 17 at the time.

On Tuesday, Bryant did a series of radio interviews bashing the Lakers.

"That place is a mess," Bryant said, referring to the Lakers' front office. "If we're not making strides here to improve this team right now, to be aggressive in that nature, then what's the point of having me here?"

That same day the 74-year-old Buss was arrested in Carlsbad for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol. He was released later in the day.

Bryant earned \$17.72 million

last season and is owed \$88.6 million over the next four years. He can terminate his contract following the 2008-09 season - a move that would leave \$47.8 million on the

table.

million.

That
money
would be paid out similar to a
signing bonus and would not
count toward the salary cap.
The Lakers had to pay a similar
fee to Lamar Odom when they
acquired him from Miami three
years ago, paying him about \$8

Bryant has made the All-Star team in each of the past nine seasons, clearly establishing himself as an NBA great before age 30. Only one active NBA player, Kevin Garnett, has a longer tenure with one team than Bryant. Garnett has played 12 seasons for Minnesota.

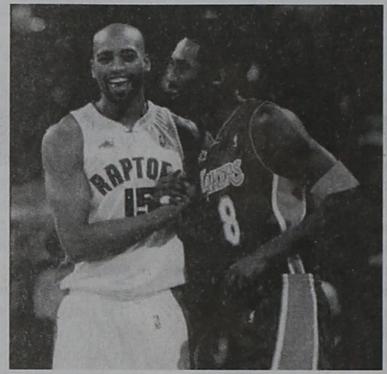
The Lakers won 20 playoff

series from 2000-04 but have won four postseason games and no series in the past three years. Since O'Neal left, they've received little from the draft, trades or free agency.

Bryant has stated repeatedly in the past that he was a Lakers' fan since childhood, and wanted to be a Laker for life. But the O'Neal matter and his feeling of being misled by Buss appear have changed things.

"The fact of the matter is that many people don't know what really went down when I was approaching free agency because I have stayed quiet about it this whole time," Bryant wrote on his Web site. "The real facts are that Dr. Buss requested a meeting with me during the '04 season long before I opted out of my contract, and he told me he had already decided not to extend Shaq, as he was concerned about Shaq's age, fitness and contract demands.

"Dr. Buss made it clear that his decision was final, his mind was made up, and no matter what I decided to do with free agency, he was still going to move Shaq."



O'Neal said on the Philadelphia Inquirer's Web site he believed Bryant "100 percent."

Bryant said he was considering signing with the Clippers and Chicago Bulls three years ago before hearing from Buss.

"Dr. Buss promised me he would rebuild right away, and I believed him," Bryant wrote. "That is why I put my trust in the Lakers. But when stuff like this is coming from the 'inside,' all I can do is hope that someone from the 'inside' comes forward to support me and set straight the facts of what really happened. This is the TRUTH."

Big 12 to play football championship in Dallas, basketball in K.C.

The Big 12 Conference's board of directors approved proposals Thursday to hold its football championship in the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium and the basketball title game in Kansas City's Sprint Center.

The games will be held in the venues over a two-year period, beginning with the 2009-10 season. The deals are pending completion of facilities and negotiations.

At its annual spring meet

At its annual spring meeting, the board also approved a proposal to move the men's basketball championship game from Sunday to Saturday, beginning with the 2008-09 season. The game will be televised on ESPN between the Atlantic Coast Conference semifinals and the Big East final. The women's game will be held Sunday.

The switch will give the

NCAA men's selection committee more time to evaluate Big 12 teams.

Kansas City, Mo., will host the basketball tournament next season, while San Antonio be the site of the football championship. The board awarded Kansas City the basketball tournament over Tulsa, Okla.; Omaha, Neb.;

The board also voted to hold the 2008-09 football championship at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. The '09 basketball tournament will take place in Oklahoma City.

and Dallas.

Dallas's state-of-the-art, 100,000-seat facility is raking in new business. NFL owners recently voted to play the 2011 Super Bowl in the stadium in Arlington, Texas. "There's always an attractiveness to new facilities," Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg said. "We're optimistic it (the stadiums) will be done."

Weiberg said there was a strong desire to be in Dallas' new stadium when it's scheduled to open in 2009.

The committee reaffirmed the conference's strong opposition to any major playoff proposal. However, the league would be open to a plus-one system, under the right circumstances. Such a system would settle which team is No. 1 by playing an extra game.

"A number of criteria would have to be satisfied," said Harvey Perlman, Nebraska's chancellor and chairman of the board of directors. "No more than 14 games, no games during finals, no reduction in the regular season and a compatibility with the bowl structure."



The Public is Invited to Come and Enjoy the Fastpitch Girls Games this May 19 & 20 at Berl Huffman Athelic Complex Upcoming Lubbock Softball Tournaments Lubbock Berl Huffman • May 18-20* - 8th Annual Cotton

Pickin' Fast Pitch NIT (All age groups

•June 1-3* - 18th Annual Hub City Youth NIT (Girls & Boys - all ages)

•June 9-11 - 5th Annual South Plains

Men's D NIT (World Series Qualifier)

nual South Plains Women's B/C/D NIT

*June 16-17

• 14th Annual Hub City

Men's C NIT (World Series Qualifier)

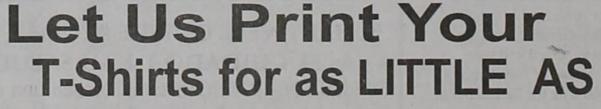
* 14th Annual Hub City Men's E

NIT (World Series Qualifier)

* 14th Annual Hub City Mixed B/
C/D NIT (World Series Qualifier)

•14th Annual Hub City Women's World Series Qualifer

To Enter Call 792-7111
Are you ready for some
SOFTBALL!





\$5 per shirt

Family ReunionsSoftball Teams

•Soccer Teams

806-763-3841

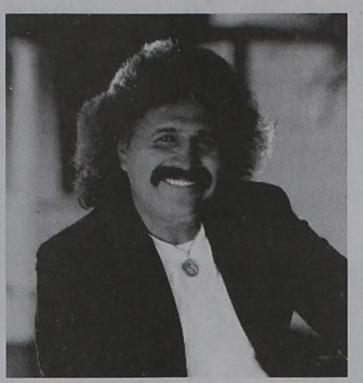
Freddy Fender Tribute concert

"Freddy era uno de mis mejores amigos, pero también era uno de mis ídolos. Perdimos un tesoro nacional el octubre pasado cuando se nos fue", dice el ganador de un Grammy y pionero de la música tejana Little Joe Hernández. En una gira pesada, la cual le daría temor a un artista mucho más joven, Hernández toma tiempo para reflejar sobre su larga amistad con Freddy Fender, un artista visionario quien abrió puertas y logró éxito en ingles y español desde el momento que se subio al escenario como el "Bebop Kid" en los años 50.

"Freddy era único, un gigante musical original", dice el actor de cine y television Jesse Borrego. Criado en San Antonio, Borrego se unirá con Little Joe y un elenco de super-estrellas musicales como el maestro de ceremonies durante un concierto de homenaje dedicado a Fender, el cual se llevará a cabo el 16 de junio en la Orleans Arena en Las Vegas, Nevada.

Entre los artistas invitados estarán Little Joe y La Familia, Ramon Ayala y los Bravos del Norte, Johnny Rodriguez, Roberto Pulido, Johnny Hernandez, East LA's Tierra, Charlie Rich Jr. and Augie Meyers. El concierto

cuenta con la bendición oficial de la familia Huerta, la cual incluye la viuda de



Fender, Vangie Huerta, y sus hijos. Organizado por Iván Hernán-

dez, hijo de Little Joe y un empresario y aficionado de la música popularizada por su padre, el "Tex-Mex Fest: Un Homenaje a Freddy Fender" reunirá a sus compañeros y colaboradores para un expresión sincera de amistad y respeto para un gran hermano musical quien falleció el 6 de octubre del a.

Nacido como Baldemar Huerta el 4 de junio, 1937 en San Benito,

Texas, Fender abarcaba los mundos del tejano, country y rock con sus canciones evocativas y una voz la cual llegaba al fondo del corazón

para miles de aficionados alrededor del mundo. Aún reconocido con su propio estrella en el Paseo de las Estrellas de Hollywood, Fender siempre se hacia notar por una humildad y asombro ante su propio éxito en una carerra que duró mas de 40 años.

"Él siempre te hacía sentir como la persona más importante en el cuarto y siempre nos ponía a reir en la cara de cualquier crisis", says Fender's oldest daughter Tammy Huerta Mallini. Mientras apoya el homenaje, asegurando la presencia de su mama en Las Vegas, Huerta Mallini pasará ese fin de semana en San

Benito para trabajar en una recopilación de recuerdos y anecdotas por gente que conoció a su papa, desde la familia hasta las maestros de primaria tanto como politicos y sus amigos artistas. Tambien visitará el lugar donde ahora descansa su querido padre. "A Papá le gustaba tomar Dr. Pepper de dieta y comer taquitos, asi que abriré una lata, pongo my cobija en el suelo con el almuerzo para hacerlo saber que no lo vamos a olvidar. Es el primer Día de Padres que pasaré sin él", ella dice con

"Despues que se levantó la última vez en el hospital, le convencí a mi mama que le dijiera lo que nos habían dicho los doctores. Le dijo del cancer y despues le dijo que terminara su gelatina. Era tán dulce y de buen corazón

un suspiro largo y triste.

que siempre hacía lo que ell los mandaba. Se puso a comer su gelatina en ese mismo momento". Según la Sra. Huerta Mallini, quien-además del libro-tam-



bien tiene planeada escribir un guion de cine sobre la vida de su padre, la familia Huerta tiene aun preparada otra sorpresa musical

para los aficionados de Freddy Fender.

"Antes de morir, nos dejó un disco inédito de canciones antiguas, baladas mexica-

> nas las cuales nunca se habían oido de esa manera. Hasta me dieron escalofríos", explica Huerta Mallini. Espera atraer interes y apoyo de un sello o una disquera para poder reforzar La Fundación de Becas Fredddy Fender y aduyar a su madre, la quien se queda con muy poco después de tantos gasto médicos.

Para más información sobre el Tex-Mex Fest: Homenaje a Freddy Fender, visita www.texmexfest.com <;http://www.texmexfest.com/> . Para los boletos, llame al 1-888-234-2334. Para comunicarse con Tammy Huerta sobre los proyectos

del libro, la pelílcula y el disco, mande un email al tammyhuerta@elbebopkid. com or visit www.elbebopkid.com.

Las caderas no mienten, Shakira cautivó a 200 mil en México

Desde las 6 de la tarde del domingo el Zócalo se fue llenando poco a poco. Para las nueve de la noche, cuando la cantautora co-

lombiana Shakira salió al escenario la esperaban más de 200 mil emocionados espectadores para ver este concierto gratuito, y a la vez batir la vieja marca de 170 mil que fueron a ver al "Potrillo" Alejandro Fernández en marzo del 2006.

Aunque el sol ya se había apagado, por las casi dos horas que duró su presentación, la luz y la energía de Shakira encendieron e iluminaron el Zócalo.

"Ustedes y yo tenemos una historia", empezó diciendo la estrella colombiana. "Una historia de años, una historia de lazos indestructibles... Una historia de

amor", subrayó. Si bien el concierto se inició con un retraso de casi una hora, Shakira logró cautivar a su audiencia desde el mismo principio cuando dijo "hoy, hoy he venido por aquí para decirte que 'te quiero México'... y esta noche soy toda tuya".

Así comenzó el cierre de su "Fijación oral", como denominó su gira mundial. Con "Estoy aquí' Shakira comenzó a entretejer ese lazo indestructible, un cordón umbilical que la unió a sus fanáticos en lo que sería para todos una noche inolvidable que muchos vieron por periscopios que se levantaban por encima de un público apretujado.

"Fue una noche espectacular", dijo Melisa Dandel. "Las caderas no mienten, así es como es Sha-

kira", anotó. La cantante no defraudó. A "Estoy aquí" le siguieron las favoritas de todos. Interpretó "Te dejo Madrid", "Antología", "Si te vas"," Sî' y "La tortura" que cantó a dúo con Alberto Meléndez, cambiándose de atuendo para



cada una de sus interpretaciones. La primera dama de la capital mexicana, Mariagna Prats Donovan, le entregó un reconocimiento a la cantante y compositora colombiana y le pidió al público que encendiera sus celulares para

hacer aún más brillante la noche. Shakira siguió deleitando a los asistentes tanto con los movimientos de sus caderas como con su repertorio. El público empezó a salir de la Plaza Mayor del Distrito Federal con los acordes de "Pies descalzos" "Ciega y sordomuda".

La artista cerró la presentación con una versión extendida del éxito "Hips don't lie", y no mintió. Moviendo sus caderas con ritmos entremezclados de cumbia y danza árabe, Shakira hizo realidad no solamente su historia de amor con su público, sino que cumplió el sueño de muchos entre la audiencia.

"Me encantó, siempre soñé con verla", dijo Angélica, una boliviana residente en la ciudad de México. "Me encantó, 'Hips don't lie", concluyó.

"Desperate Housewives" star EVA LONGORIA will be putting on her dancing shoes for

"The 2007 Alma Awards," airing Tuesday, June 5, at 9 p.m. on ABC. Eva, who is also the host and executive producer of the awards show, will partner with her co-host MARIO LOPEZ for a number with the "Dancing with the Stars" professional dancers KARINA SMIRNOFF, MAKSIM CHMERKOVSKIY and CHERYL BURKE.

"The most challenging part is time," says Eva. "We actually don't have a lot of time to rehearse. Thank God, Mario is pretty much a natural dancer. And we have an amazing [coach in] Karina. To work with her and sneak in some rehearsals, that

has been the biggest challenge. Mario's [being] a natural dancer has been a tremendous help."

Musical entertainment for the awards show will be provided by BEYONCÉ, PRINCE, CALLE 13, DASHBOARD CONFES-SIONAL, BILLY GIBBONS. LOS LONELY BOYS and WAR.

Celebrity presenters include: JESSICA ALBA, OSCAR DE LA HOYA, HECTOR ELIZON-DO, DAISY FUENTES, ANDY GARCIA, JORGE GARCIA, BALTHAZAR GETTY, TER-RENCE HOWARD, EVA LA RUE, CHEECH MARIN, ANA ORTIZ, JUDY REYES, ROSELYN SANCHEZ and EVA MENDES, among others.

"The 2007 Alma Awards" is organized by The National Council



national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. The annual ALMA (American

Latino Media Arts) Awards recognize and celebrate Latino artistic achievement in American film, television and music.

Mexicans boo Miss USA, showing discord

Eva Longoria Dances for the ALMA Awards

Many here south of the border reveled in her disastrous evening: First Miss USA Rachel Smith slipped and fell on her bottom during the Miss Universe evening gown competition. Then she was booed by hundreds in the Mexican audience.

The treatment of the Tennessee beauty queen was nothing personal. It had more to do with Mexico's sometimes tense relationship with its powerful northern neighbor.

U.S. athletes have sparked a similar response. In 2005, when the U.S. played Mexico during a World Cup soccer qualifier, the crowd booed the U.S. national anthem and a smattering of fans chanted "Osama!" dur-

ing the game. Smith was booed repeatedly during her stay in Mexico, including last week, when she carried a guitar and wore an Elvis-style suit during a parade of national costumes held in

Healthy

ubbock

downtown Mexico City.

She kept her poise during an interview with pageant judges, despite the boos and chants of "Mexico! Mexico!" that drowned out her answer.

"I am very passionate about education and being in South Africa sparked my interest in that," said Smith, a journalism graduate who volunteered for a month at talk show host Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.

Then she paused, smiled and spoke in Spanish. "Buenas noches Mexico. Muchas gracias!" which earned her some applause and some chuckles.

Miss Japan Riyo Mori, who went on to win the crown, opened her interview with "Hola Mexico!" to cheers and claps. Her personal trainer, Ines Ligron, said she had warned Mori about the importance of speaking in Spanish to win over

Even an opening "hola" might not have helped Smith, who faced long odds for simply being a gringa.

U.S.-Mexico relations worsened in the past year after the U.S. National Guard was sent to the U.S.-Mexico border to assist the U.S. Border Patrol and help build hundreds of miles of wall to keep out illegal migrants.

Mexicans are also upset over a U.S. Senate proposal for a sweeping immigration reform bill that would limit the consideration of family ties, capping visas for foreign parents of U.S. citizens at 40,000 a year. The plan would change a system that favored family ties for four decades.

Many Mexicans also feel that the United States exerts its influence to tip the balance in its favor, whether in global politics or sports events.

Mexican media lamented the fact that their contestant, Rosa

Maria Ojeda, did not make it to the top five in the pageant while Smith did, despite falling down on the runway. Smith's fifth place finish only added to the theory that the United States always is favored.

The Mexican newspaper El Universal said Ojeda's fans were not as upset about her top-10 finish as they were that "the judges did not penalize that fact that Miss USA totally fell on her seat after she stepped on her dress."

The newspaper said that when the show went to a commercial break, an NBC representative warned the audience of 9,000 to behave because "this gives the world a bad image of Mexico."

Donald Trump, who co-owns the pageant, brushed off the ruckus as Mexicans' frustration with Washington politics.

Smith did not comment publicly after the contest. On Tuesday, she flew back to the United States.

City of Lubback Parks & Rec. Dept.

Texas Tech Physicians of Lubbock

TTUHSC School of Nursing UMC Health System

B-RAC Dept. of State Health Services

First Care Health Plans

Shirley Garrison
Texas Bicycle Coalition
Texas Tech Recreation Center
UMC Seniors are Special
United Supermarkets /WR Weel Texas Running Club

Healthy Lubbock Day

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, June 9

Maxey Park and Community Center 2040 30th St.

Join the team and the Mayor for: Garrison Institute on Aging

dementia screenings

jumpers free health screenings (fasting after midnight recommended for cholesterol and glucose tests)

exercise demos (Tai Chi, spinning, Pilates, Groove, Texercise and more) climbing wall canoe rides

lectures on Alzheimer's & nutrition car seat safety child immunizations

bike safety

volleyball basketball (3 on 3 tourney; call Brandon Hughes at Premier Sportsplex, 771-GAME)

child fingerprinting see a firetruck and the UMC emergency helicopter

PLUS LOTS OF PRIZES!!! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

HEALTH CARE CENTER (806) 793-3252

Lubbock, Tx 79410

Donde todo es su decisión! Sabemos que la familia es numero uno en el cuidado del salud, pero tienes opciones.....

..si necesitas.



Lubbock Health Care tiene la ayuda para subvivir con lo mas independencia posible. Tenemos la asistencia que necesitas 24 horas al dia para que tu y su familia puede descansar durante la noche.

No te precupes...somos familia.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS! DO YOU **NEED TO ADVERTISE YOUR SUMMER** SPECIAL? CALL US AND WE CAN HELP! 806-763-3841 OR **EMAIL ELEDITOR@** SBCGLOBAL.NET

El Editor Congratulates Lubbock ISD Valedictorians & Salutatorians!



Rachel Wilkerson, CHS Evelyn Nicole Mitchell,

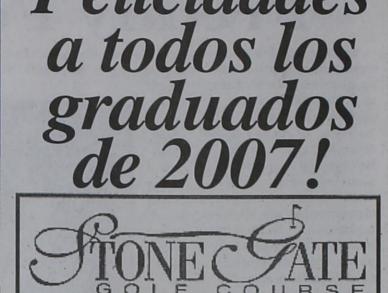


EHS



Keifer Aguilar, LHS





Felicidades

\$89.00/Year Unlimited Golf For 2 Full Years NO GREEN FEES 2007 & 2008 - 2 Year Membership

18th Year Anniversary Sale 🚄 5 DAY MEMBERSHIP (Mon-Fri)

Membership Based on 2 Years

For a 7 Day Membership Just add 5150/year

11010 Indiana Ave, Lubbock, TX 806-748-1448



Alex Hearn, MHS

Andrea Marie Perez, EHS



Darci Barney, LHS





Felicidades Maggie Trejo! She will be enjoying retirement after many years of hard work with the Community Housing Resourse Board. We THANK YOU for all your work within the community!

FREE SAMPLES! I lost 40lbs in 2 months. YOU CAN TOO! 100% Natural. Dr recommended. Money back guarantee. Call 766-7562.

\$500! Carros desde \$500 confiscados por la policia! Se Vende Hondas Chevys Y Mas! Para listas llame hoy al 1-800-650-7442 x8444



Azelia Reyes completed her 1st year at Harwell Elementary. Her sister Eliana Reyes and cousin Nicolas Riojas completed 3rd grade. Keep up the good work! Departe de tus abuelos, Bidal y Olga. We love y'all!



"Shouldn't you love what you do?"

Love every minute as a part of the Alltel Team with a Fortune 500 company that's dedicated to your success.

> Wireless Consultants focus on selling and explaining Alltel products and services to new and existing customers. They work directly with Alitel customers to meet their billing and service equipment needs. Successful Wireless Consultants can earn up to \$35K per yearl High school diploma or equivalent required plus six months to one year of retail sales, customer service or telecommunications experience. Candidates must be able to work flexible schedules including evening, weekend, and holiday hours. Bilingual (Spanish/English) skills a plus. alltel.com/careers Choose: Search jobs; State: TX; Please apply to req # 254206 & 254348

> > Equal Opportunity Employer,





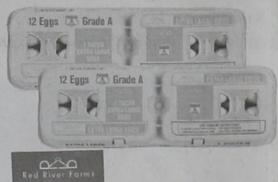




Hearth of Texas White Bread Thin or Large Loaf 24 oz.



Scoops® Ice Cream Selected Varieties 1/2 Gallon



Red River Farms Extra Large Eggs

Fresh 93% Lean **Ground Beef**



United Tortilla or Potato Chips Selected Varieties 11.5 - 14.5 oz.



Breast Tenders Boneless

We reserve the right to limit quantities. © 2007 United Supermarkets, Ltd. Item selection and availability varies by location.

Prices effective June 1 - 7, 2007

UnitedTexas