

El Editor

Celebrating 29
Years of
Publishing

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

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Lubbock, TX USA

Thousands more children uninsured

CHIP enrollment falls as stricter renewal rules and new fees kick in

POLLY ROSS
HUGHES

AUSTIN - Enrollment in the Children's Health Insurance Program has plunged

> this year to 295,000, the lowest since 2001 when the program was in its infancy, health officials said Tuesday.

The current enrollment figure is based on a drop of 15,000 children covered during February as stricter renewal rules and new enrollment fees kicked in, said Texas Health and Human Services Commission spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman.

CHIP is a state and federally funded health insurance program for children who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid but whose families aren't affluent enough for private health insurance.

A family of four would qualify for the program if it earned between \$19,350 and \$38,700 annually.

Advocates for children estimate that of Texas' 1.4 million uninsured children, half qualify for either Medicaid or CHIP but are not enrolled in the programs.

CHIP enrollment has dropped each month since December, the first full month since the state transferred a CHIP call-center contract to Texas Access Alliance, a consortium led by the giant private outsourcing firm Accenture.

Managers of health plans offering the coverage characterize the CHIP declines as troubling, adding that state officials are updating them weekly on the trend. If the downward spiral continues, they worry, it could jeopardize the viability of the plans.

"We think there's some kind of disconnect right now between the implementation (of new rules) and the actual effect," said Jared Wolfe, executive director of the Texas Association of Health Plans. "I can tell you > my members are concerned. I think there is an element of confusion."

Until this week, the Health and Human Services Commission had not released its CHIP enrollment numbers since December when 323,000 children were enrolled.

The latest enrollment figure reflects 28,000 fewer children in the program since Dec. 1, an 8.7 percent decline.

Goodman said she has no explanation for the decline before the new rules went into effect, although part of it could be attributed to staffing shortages as the old contractor was winding down.

The March 1 numbers for new children added and children dropped during six-month renewals reflect the impact of the policy changes, Goodman said. While 24,000 new children were enrolled in CHIP during the past month, she said, another 39,000 left for the following reasons:

--20 percent lived in families with incomes dropping low enough to qualify for Medicaid health insurance.

--10 percent were in families whose incomes rose too high for either Medicaid or CHIP.

--18 percent had families who failed to pay new enrollment fees, ranging from \$25 to \$50 every six months.

--22 percent were in families who failed to turn in a renewal packet.

--27 percent came from families who turned in renewal packets with missing information.

An estimated 70 percent of all families up for renewal lost coverage, Goodman said. "Clearly from these statistics, they are submitting an application, but they are not submitting the proper documentation," said Jan Scott, director of government programs at Texas Children's Health Plan. "They are bringing in new enrollments. However, there's such a large termination."

Texas Children's Health Plan, which handles 56 percent of CHIP coverage for six counties including Harris, saw 3,200 children - about 6 percent - drop off its plan from January to February, said Chris Born, president of the plan.

"Very, very early in this conversion to Texas Access Alliance (headed by Accenture) we noticed a pretty significant drop in our CHIP membership,"

Born said. "My understanding is there's a full corrective action plan to correct what's going on that began in January."

Born said the state commission has been in frequent contact with the plans and is asking in individual cases that plans take back children with significant health problems who have been dropped under the new system.

"That's unbelievable, and that's just Texas Children's. That's huge," said Barbara Best, Texas executive director of Children's Defense Fund. "This is not a good start."

Best said the enrollment declines are especially troubling because community outreach to families needing health insurance for their children has been greater than ever.

Best and other social services organizations across Texas also said they've heard hundreds of complaints

from families who report that they applied to CHIP but never heard back.

"I'm definitely hearing that. We're hearing that from all over the state, not just in the Houston area," said Anne Dunkelberg, health-policy analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities and co-chair of the Texas CHIP Coalition.

Daniella Jammer, a corrections worker in Houston, said her children lost Medicaid last year when her overtime pay disqualified them from the program.

The Health and Human Services Commission said that Jammer's family also had earned too much to qualify for CHIP at that time.

In the next six months, however, Jammer said she applied twice more for CHIP but that no one ever contacted her about the applications.

"I thought it was something I did wrong," said the mother of two sons, Tyrell, 11, and Tarik, 9.

"I was upset," she added, noting she's worried she'll run out of medicine for Tyrell's asthma. "If I need something now, it has to come out of my pocket, and I don't have the money right now. It's just been kind of nerve-wracking."

Late last week, Jammer called Best at Children's Defense Fund of Texas, finding the organization's number on a sheet her children brought home from school.

Best and Jammer said they placed a call to the number for CHIP applicants. The woman on the other end of the line, Best said, told Jammer she had no record of the applications and no record of her children. The woman suggested that Jammer put in another application.

State and County Primary Elections

Voters to decide which Democrats and Republicans will win spot on November election ballot

By Abel Cruz

On Tuesday, March 7, 2006, Texas voters will decide which candidate in either the Democratic or Republican primary will earn a place on the ballot in the November General Election.

Although voters have been going out to cast their votes since early voting began on February 21 in the March 7 Primary election; the majority of voters will probably wait until March 7 to cast their vote.

Texas election laws mandate that Democratic and Republican parties use a primary election to nominate candidates for the general election in November. Other parties, like the Libertarian party use conventions to nominate candidates for the November election. This year, Libertarians will hold their convention on March 14, and registered voters may participate in them if they have not voted in either the Republican or Democratic primaries.

Independents will have to earn a place on the general ballot by collecting the required number of signatures from registered voters who did not participate in the March primary. Independents may not begin to collect signatures until after March 7, and must meet the filing deadline in order to be placed on the ballot.

Races include the contest for the seat presently held by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson who is seeking another 6 year term. Democrats have fielded 3 candidates to see who will face Hutchinson in November with the expected winner to be Barbara Ann Radnofsky.

In the governor's race, Governor Rick Perry is facing token opposition in the Republican primary, while Democrats have a field of 3 candidates. Among them, the most interesting race seems to be the one between Bob Gammage and Chris Bell to be the Democratic candidate in the general election.

On the local scene, the race that has drawn the most attention is the race for the Republican nomination for District 83 State Representative between incumbent Delwin Jones and political novice Van Wilson; with each candidate slinging accusations surrounding big money donors and voting records. In the Democratic primary, John E. Miller is running unopposed for the position.

Jones contends that Wilson has essentially compromised his ability to protect the interests of West Texas residents because his campaign has accepted over \$287,000 in campaign donations from Houston home builder Bob Perry and right wing Christian conservative and San Antonio physician James Leininger. Leininger and Perry, both major donors to the Republican Party, have also given huge sums of money to candidates in their efforts to pass legislation that would allow private school vouchers to partially fund Texas' education system.

Wilson has responded by accus-

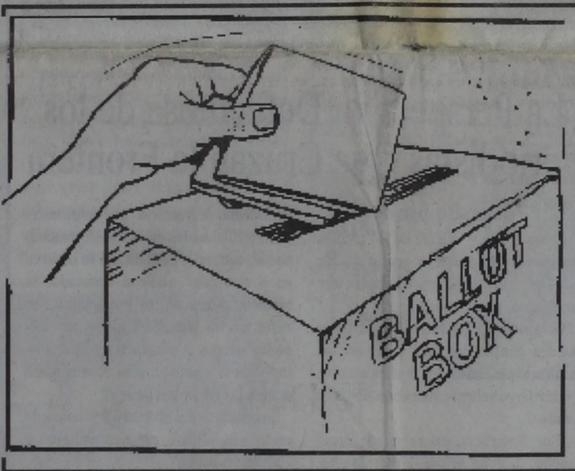
ing Jones of voting to make it easy for "illegal aliens" to obtain a drivers license and for having a "liberal" voting record.

In the race for Lubbock County District Attorney, Tommy Turner is challenging acting DA Matt Powell; with the winner all but assuring himself of a victory in November. Since Democrats have not fielded a can-

writer, Roger Quannah Settler.

Early voting ends Friday March 3 and Election Day voting will be held on Tuesday March 7, 2006. If necessary, runoff elections will be held April 11, 2006.

In the end, it is up to an individual to choose which primary to cast their vote in or whether to support an in-



didate in the Democratic primary, the only possibility of the Republican winner facing a serious challenge in November is the possibility of facing a Libertarian candidate.

Another local county race which has generated some interest, with candidate's political signage evident all over the county, is the race for Lubbock County Clerk. While Democrats filed no candidates, Republican candidates include, Mike Arismendez, David Young, Kelly J. Pinion, and Penny Turner.

The Republican race for Judge, County Court-at-law #2 incumbent Drue Farmer is facing opposition from Scott Morris. Democrats did not file a candidate.

In the race for JP, Precinct 4, Jean Ann Stratton is fielding a challenge from long time Lubbock police officer, Dennis Kelley. Again, Democrats did not file a candidate in this race.

In the Democratic primary, in the race for Lubbock County Party Chair, incumbent Johnnie Jones drew no opposition. On the Republican side, John D. Steinmetz is running against, El Editor contributing

dependent candidate's efforts to get on the November ballot.

March Primary Snapshot

* Both the Democratic and Republican parties will hold statewide primaries

* In order to vote, voters must have registered to vote at least by February 7 of this year

* Early voting ends Friday March 3, and continues on Election Day on Tuesday March 7

* Voters can participate in either the Democratic or Republican primary, but not both.

* Voters who vote in either primary are not eligible to sign petitions for independent candidates

* If you do not have your voter registration certificate; you may still vote but must show some form of identification and sign an affidavit

* Voters will be using a new eState electronic voting system this year. Election officials will be available to answer questions

* Voting Rights Act laws mandate that bilingual personnel be available at all polling locations to assist voters who do not speak English

Celebremos la cultura Mexicana!

Lubbock Centro Aztlan junto con (esta estacion) los invita a dos dias de celebracion de la cultura mexicana. El primer dia viernes dia 10 de Marzo empesamos con un concierto a lo vivo con la musica de mariachi! Presentacion especial Cuatro de los mejores del oeste de Texas!

El mariachi Amistad, El Mariachi Nueva Generacion, El Mariachi Flores y como invitados especiales los esudiantes del mariaci de la escuela Cavazos.: Dia numero dos el 11 de Marzo, con una competencia entre ballet folklorico d Texas y Nuevo Mexico. 10 folkloricos compitiendo desde las 8 de la mañana hasta las 5 4 de la tarde y terminando con una gran presentacion de el Ballet Mexico 2000 desde la ciudad de Dallas.

Todo publico es invitado. Dos dias de eventos celebrando la Cultura Mexicana. Los dias 10 y 11 de Marzo Con Mariachi y Folklorico. En el Centro Civico de Lubbock, Solo \$3 por persona \$2 or niños y ancianos. Para mas informacion llame al 806-763-3841 or visita en el internet a viva aztlan dot com

COMMUNITY VOICES

There are fewer things more important in our democracy than our right to vote for the candidate of our choice in any political election. Sadly it seems though that the very essence of elections have been taken over by special interest groups and big money donors who can afford to spend enormous amounts of money in what seems to be an effort to buy political influence and votes. Their money leads to a candidate's ability to buy a barrage of television sound bites and print ad self-aggrandizement; where they spend more time attacking opponents as opposed to telling the voters what they stand for.

Election have become so polarizing with candidates distorting the facts, that it is almost impossible to sift through all the infomercials that potential voters are subjected to day in and day out. Sadly we never quite get to the part that really matters: the issues and how they affect our daily lives.

Consequently, if a candidate does not have access to as many dollars as his/her opponent, their message may never get out to the voters; as seems to be the case in this city.

It seems that the Republican Party has cornered the market on campaign donations and as readers well know; more money buys more air time; less money results in less exposure.

El Editor feels that it is equally important that people who will be directly impacted by an election's outcome be heard; as opposed to being subjected to ceremonial editorials in the mainstream press which are clearly written with only a handful of the electorate in mind. Much too often the local press represents one sided views and endorsements. And while we recognize that to be an important part of the political process, we disagree with the methodology.

Having a voice at the ballot box begins with honest and open political debate. That is what we strive to do week in and week out in this section. To those that say that we too show a bias towards only one party; we strongly urge you to write us and express your opposing view as well. We recognize that your input is equally important and we will make sure your voice too will be heard.

This week we have invited readers to write in and share their opinions with our readership. We asked readers to pick the one election they feel is the most significant to them and to share their views and personal endorsement.

We appreciate their efforts and will make every attempt to continue to provide a forum for readers to exchange their opinions and ideas; just like it should be.

Governor Gammage?

I'm a Democrat. I pick Bob Gammage as the winner not only in the Democratic Primary but in November. I pick Governor Bob Gammage.

Now that I've answered this week's Community Voices question I will take this opportunity to express my absolute disgust at the idea that money from Houston and San Antonio is trying to buy District 83. I appreciate El Editor providing a forum to say, "Hey Houston and San Antonio, Lubbock is NOT for SALE!!! Thank you very much!!!"

Ysidro Gutierrez, via email

Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct 3

Chris Bell Took on Tom DeLay

My full trust and support go to Chris Bell. In a time when Texas needs leadership Chris was willing to step up to the plate early in the game.

Chris has already proven his leadership and a strong commitment to ethics when he stood alone and took on Tom DeLay. Chris not only has a vision of a better Texas for all but, he also has a real plan for how to get us there.

WE NEED CHRIS BELL IN AUSTIN!

Adam G., Lubbock via email

Stratton for JP Precinct 4

I have never known someone with such a big heart for her community! Jean Anne Stratton, Republican candidate for (Lubbock County) Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, is a person who is fair, just, and who believes that every person has the right to unbiased judicial treatment.

She is a graduate of Texas Tech University, and she received invaluable training and experience during her two terms as District Clerk.

I have known Jean Anne for ten years and throughout that time, I have seen her make countless contributions to the community. She is an active member of the Lubbock Lions Club and the Lubbock Area Republican Women. She volunteers with the Salvation Army, and she also serves on the Board of Education for Rise Academy. Jean Anne's heart lies with all members of the community-young and old-and she never hesitates to contribute her time and talents to the betterment of her community.

I am confident that Jean Anne can perform the duties of Justice of the Peace in a fair and impartial manner. I know that she will consider every situation on an individual basis and strive to make the best possible decisions in the name of fairness and justice.

Donna Stratton, Lubbock via email

Gammage has Vision for Brighter Future

I am proud to endorse Bob Gammage for Texas Governor. Bob is a strong leader who will fight for us — not lobbyists, special interests and powerful, partisan elites. He's grown up with Texas values - independence, integrity, and commitment to family and neighbors - and he will carry these values to Austin. He has a vision to build a brighter future for hard-working Texas families. Bob Gammage has a long history of fighting for all Texans. As a member of the Texas House, Bob stood up to the corrupt political machine in Austin, as one of the "Dirty 30" reformers whose courageous stand brought us Open Records, Open Meetings, and a revolutionary change toward Open Government. I first met Bob when a few of us in Texas and around the country started an effort to draft General Wesley Clark as the democratic candidate for President. He has inspired my wife and (me) to work to take back our democracy. A Texas Supreme Court Judge, a Texas Appellate Judge, a US Congressman, a retired Navy Reserve officer and my friend - Bob Gammage, the next Governor of Texas.

John E. Miller, Lubbock via email

(The writer is Democratic candidate for State Representative, District 83)

Gammage Still Forceful Speaker

Phil and I went to a small reception in an Austin home last week, for Bob Gammage, candidate for governor, and we were very impressed. We remembered his name from 1972 — another time when Democrats rose up and took control. He was part of the Dirty Thirty, including a young Lloyd Doggett, who hung together and passed the open meetings and open records laws. Since then, he has served in Congress, served on the Texas Supreme Court, and done other good things. At age 67, he is still energetic and a forceful speaker. Says he's running to give a solid footing to Democrats all the way down the ballot. We think he can do that.

Mary Nell Mathis, Former Chair

West Texas Democrats; now a member of West Austin Democrats

(Continued on Page 2)

ENDORSEMENTS

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that this year's race for the Democratic nomination for governor has been the most active in many years. The major candidates for the post are Chris Bell and Bob Gammage.

Chris Bell, a former Houston councilman and Congressman is running on a promise "begin a real conversation about what we should be doing in Texas." He says that a one-party rule has taken hold in this Texas. "Honest debate and bipartisan compromise has been replaced by partisan bickering and the politics of division. Our voices have been drowned out by the voices of entrenched partisans and well-connected lobbyists, and we have all lost our seat at the table."

Bell calls on a "new mainstream that includes all who share an optimistic vision of freedom, responsibility and accountability" to come together and work toward a better Texas.

In his issue statement Bell addresses how he will address the problem of having a better education funding system in Texas, how to better protect our kids and how he will work to address the failing health system.

It is what many say is a definite plan for addressing Texas' problems that voters say is his main strength in the race.

Despite being well liked by Houston Hispanics, Latinos for Texas endorsef his opponent Bob Gammage. The group said that during their endorsement convention that although, "there really was no negativity towards Bell, in fact lots of praise, but it came mostly down to this: Gammage has a deeper and broader experience AND activates and energizes people more."

In a sentence this probably describes Bob Gammage. Gammage has a lengthy history of public service, most notably having been a member of the Texas "Dirty Thirty" in the 1971 Texas legislature. The "Dirty Thirty" is credited for helping to bring about a stop to bribery and corruption among elected officials in Texas during the seventies.

One Texas newspaper writes, "Bob Gammage has called on Texas Democrats to return to their progressive roots, with a focus on educational excellence, affordable prescription drugs, an increase in the state minimum wage, and strengthening campaign finance laws to subdue the 'politician for sale' odor that flares our political nostrils."

We can agree with this after listening to Gammage when he visited Lubbock. The statement really says it all for us. Our endorsement goes to Bob Gammage in the Democratic primary.

This year's Republican Primary has some VERY important contested races, in which non-traditional Republicans are running. If these candidates win, they could fundamentally change the direction of the Party.

Here in Lubbock, veteran State Rep. Delwin Jones is being opposed by the hard right candidacy of Van Wilson and Frank Morrison, suspected of being a racist during his City Council tenure. Delwin, hardly a liberal, often votes with the Democrats these days...a good reason to vote for him in the corrupt Tom Craddick era.

Perhaps one of the most important race of all from the Chicano perspective is the Matt Powell-Tommy Turner contest. Powell has been part of the Bill Sower regime in the DA's office...notice that his campaign ads feature a scary-looking group of minority faces, ala the Willie Horton campaign of the elder Bush! Tommy has contributed to Democrats and would bring the DA's office back to the people.

Another important race involves Judge Drue Farmer who is looking to get re-elected to the post. Judge Farmer has proven to be an effective judge in Lubbock. Her opponent is openly saying that he wants to reduce the amount of money spent for defense of indigents. With 60% of the jail population being indigents, how can we afford to reduce the monies being spent. The program that he is proposing has been criticized for denying the constitutional rights of the prisoners. Our choice is Judge Drew Farmer for re-election.

"Hispanic" Mike Arismendez is running for County Clerk...note I said "Hispanic" instead of Chicano...if you want to continue the cynical Bush policy of appointing "Hispanics" to office in an effort to win the emrging Chicano vote [Clarence Thomas comes to mind for the blacks, and Alberto Gonzales, Tony Garza and how many others here in Texas] then Mikke is your man...but he is a REAL Republican, like David Gutierrez...do we need more of these?

Jean Ann Stratton, an open-minded Republican lady, is running for Justice of the Peace against a policeman, Dennis Kelley. The police department is OVER-represented in our government...on the City Council, we have Tom Martin and Floyd Price, former policemen, and the wife of a former policeman, Linda DeLeon...in the Legislature, numerous former cops and prosecutors are the ones passing all of these painful laws we have been experiencing...do we need more?

In the County Chair race, longtime civil rights and community activist Roger Settler, one of our columnists here at El Editor, is running for Republican Chair against a regular Republican, John D. Steinmetz. John has been endorsed by Mad Marc McDougal, who also endorsed Van Wilson after giving a large contribution. If you REALLY wish to see changes in the Party, Roger could do it!

I hope this helps you wander through the GOP ballot...

An Open Letter to Lubbock Mayor and City Council

Dear Mayor McDougal and Lubbock City Council Members: Linda DeLeon, Floyd Price, Gary Boren, Phyllis Jones, Tom Martin and Jim Gilbreath:

I am writing to ask for your help in improving East 16th Street from the tri-corner of Idalou Road, Vanda Street and E. 16th to the corner of Cherry and E. 16th.

This improvement would be a distance of about 0.41 miles. Currently, this section of E. 16th Street is strip paved and very narrow. It is also in constant need of maintenance.

Mr. Mayor (and council) this street is traveled on a weekly basis by about 1000 vehicles. Since the road serves St. Patrick Catholic Church at 1603 Cherry (Corner of E. 16th) the traffic is almost exclusively (used by) families driving to and from worship services and the sundry weekday activities of the parish.

This is the second time I have asked City Hall to improve this street. My first request was to Councilman Floyd Price at a town hall meeting about 1 (one) year ago. In addition, Father Cornelio C. Ramirez, the Pastor at St. Patrick has, for about 10 years, asked for this improvement. I am forwarding this correspondence to the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other Hispanic organizations to endorse.

Fr. Ramirez and I are motivated solely because of our concern for the safety of families driving on E 16th. Please help us resolve this public safety issue. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
John P. Cervantez, Lubbock via email

Celebremos la cultura Mexicana!

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Community Voices

Carlisle; Pro Public Education District 87 Candidate
I would like to endorse Anette Carlisle in the Republican primary for District 87 (Potter, Carson, Moore, Sherman counties) in Texas.

Ms. Carlisle is pro-public education, anti-voucher, and will be an independent voice in Austin as opposed to a lap dog for the Republican establishment. Mr. (David) Swinford, on the other hand, votes the wishes of Governor Perry, Speaker Craddick, and James Leininger, the Daddy Warbuck of school privatization in Texas.

Charles Kiker, Tulia, TX, via Email
(Editor's Note: The writer refers to James Leininger as being a major donor to Swinford; similar to the donations from Leininger funded PAC's who have donated substantial amounts of money to Van Wilson, candidate for state rep. district 83)

Reader's Choice is Kelley for JP Precinct 4
Dennis Kelley is the candidate of choice for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4.

Mr. Kelley will bring to this office 30 years of law enforcement experience. His experience with the Lubbock Police Department gives him the knowledge and expertise necessary to fulfill the obligations of this job. The interpersonal skills he has developed through his years as a public servant will allow him to continue the relationships Judge Blackburn has already established with the Criminal District Attorney's Office, local businesses and public schools. He brings 16 years of supervisory and management skills with him.

He is currently a Patrol Sergeant, supervising the K-9 unit as well as a patrol unit. He teaches several courses at the Lubbock Police Academy. He has over 3000 hours in management supervision, police administration and grant and budget courses.

He comes to you as the candidate endorsed by... the Lubbock Apartment Association, the Lubbock Realtor's Association, the Lubbock Firefighter's Association, and the Lubbock Professional Police Association. You cannot work in public service for as long as he has, and not feel a devotion to the community and deep concern for public welfare. That is why Dennis Kelley deserves your vote.

M.C. Burns, Lubbock via email
"When grassroots Democrats say they think they might vote for Bob Gammage over Chris Bell they are (whether they realize it or not) going with a winner. Bob Gammage does better in a recent political match-up against the other candidates than does the other Democratic candidate, Chris Bell.

So take some additional confidence in knowing that this March Primary voting for the more progressive, grassroots Democrat, Bob Gammage, is a good choice but also a smart one too!"

I initially was impressed by the circumstances which placed Chris Bell in a position to announce for Governor, namely that he had stood up to Tom Delay and had lost his seat as part of Delay's dirty politics, but after looking at Bob Gammage, his grassroots public service, progressive voting record, and personal passion I am a strong Gammage supporter. That and I was able to first-hand witness the two, Bell and Gammage as they shared the stage at a local event. Gammage just seems like a "real-person" with a connection to average voters. So, though I initially gave a small donation to Bell, I will be voting Bob Gammage for Democratic Nominee.

Todd R. Klein via e-mail

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruzsc@aol.com

All comments in the Community Voices section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum to mainstream media; so readers wishing to express their opinions and comments may do so.

La Perspectiva Defectuosa de los Periodistas Que Cruzan la Frontera

Alejandro Erives

Como lector y vidente de los medios masivos estadounidenses, ¿cuánto puede usted creer lo que lee sobre lo que ocurre en México, país vecino?

Por la misma regla de tres, ¿hasta dónde pueden confiar los mexicanos en los informes que emiten los medios escritos y televisivos sobre la vida en los Estados Unidos?

Por desgracia, no se puede creer mucho, dice un grupo de periodistas, escritores y académicos renombrados de ambos países. Dieciocho han llenado un libro de 104 páginas de sus experiencias y opiniones. Se editó en inglés y en español con el título "El Periodismo Más Allá de las Fronteras: México y Estados Unidos".

Entre los críticos se cuenta a Alejandro Junco de la Vega, editor de los periódicos mexicanos Reforma y El Norte. En el prólogo del libro, Junco de la Vega sostiene que los periodistas estadounidenses y mexicanos típicamente escriben sobre el país del otro y la frontera que los divide de la manera más superficial y estereotípica.

"En vez de explorar nuevas ideas, tendencias emergentes, o perspectivas nuevas sobre problemas viejos, los escritores sostienen los viejos estereotipos. Los estadounidenses leen que México es ingobernable y corrupto y que su gente llega en oleadas por la frontera, creando una vasta gama de problemas sociales y económicos que crecen a diario. Mientras tanto, nosotros aquí en México sostenemos una imagen de los Estados Unidos que no va mucho más allá de lo que el mundo sabe de Washington y de Hollywood", escribe.

Con los diez millones de mexicanos que viven en los Estados Unidos, casi un millón de estadounidenses viviendo en México, y \$240 mil millones en comercio anual entre los dos países, el libro propone un nuevo periodismo que ofrece al público de ambos lados del Río Bravo un conocimiento más profundo de la región fronteriza de 2,000 millas y de los paisanos que viven en el extranjero en los dos países.

"Si en general los periodistas son actores importantes en los asuntos internacionales, lo son aún más en la relación entre México y los Estados Unidos, dos países que han pasado por un rápido proceso de integración en los últimos 25 años", escriben Andrew Selee y Heidy Servin-Baez del Centro Woodrow Wilson, con sede en Washington, D.C.

La relación en desarrollo requiere un

periodismo de fronteras "que cubra notas poco tradicionales de la transformación social, cultural y política que se observa en el otro país", indican, "contando la historia entera de los mexicanos que viven en los Estados Unidos, no sólo como héroes o víctimas, sino como individuos sujetos a transformaciones complejas en ambos países".

Los ensayos del libro explora temas de multiculturalismo, política nacional y ética periodística.

Alfredo Corchado, jefe de redacción para la Ciudad de México con el Dallas Morning News, compara la política de Washington, D.C. con la de la Ciudad de México y explora cómo las comunidades mexicanas se intercalan con la economía de Texas. "He aprendido que, para hacer de manera más profesional mi trabajo, debo retar mis propias ideas preconcebidas de cómo funciona esta relación, cómo se relacionan las dos sociedades, y desafíame a mí mismo a ir más allá de los estereotipos".

Sandra Dibble, periodista ganadora del premio Pulitzer del San Diego-Union Tribune, describe cómo intenta encontrar y redactar lo que ella llama "Las Historias que Susurran". Los periodistas en un tris redactan notas sobre la violencia, las drogas, la corrupción, la pobreza y la inmigración de la frontera, dice Dibble. "Estas son las historias que gritan, temas que con facilidad se colocan en primera plana del periódico; que corresponsales en el extranjero corren a cubrir, sólo para volver a salir corriendo...pero en el correo corre para cubrirlos, algo se olvida: Las historias que susurran".

Hace cita de su análisis de cómo el costo altísimo de la vivienda en San Diego ha obligado a muchos residentes hispanos a mudarse a Tijuana. Los ciudadanos bi-nacionales se aprovechan tanto del salario ganado en San Diego como de la hipoteca al precio del mercado en Tijuana, indica.

En lo que los políticos en Washington y en la Ciudad de México siguen debatiendo la frontera, los reporteros tienen la responsabilidad de presentar la realidad no de blanco y negro, sino con matices, profundizando y comprendiendo.

Con la llegada de patrullas de ciudadanos por la frontera sur de los Estados Unidos y el debate nacional estridente sobre límites a la inmigración ilegal mediante vallas más altas, más tecnología y agentes de patrulla fronteriza, no ha salir en mejor momento el toque de clarín de este libro, llamando a mejorar el periodismo sobre la frontera.

Politic\$ at its WOR\$\$\$T!

By Abel Cruz

We begin this week with a few questions:

Question: These days, what does \$265,000 bucks buy you?

Answer: A Texas state representative who will vote your interests in the Texas State Legislature.

Question: Why would anyone who does not live in a particular district donate \$265,000 to an obscure and unknown candidate running for state representative from that district?

Answer: Because he is an obscure and unknown candidate who will be easy to shape and mold into the donor's mouth-piece.

Question: What else do you get for your "huge political donation" (has there ever been a more improperly labeled term for giving money to political candidates; a better word would be payment"; as in payment for something in return)?

Answer: A vote for private school vouchers, votes against publicly funded education, anti-immigration votes, and anything else you want.

Question: What does it say about you that you donated over \$200,000 bucks for a pro Tom DeLay TV ad defending his crookedness and criticizing Democrats; then turn around and donate \$22,000 to an obscure, unknown candidate for state rep?

Answer: That both you and Tom DeLay are of the same ilk and you are trying to "procreate" and clone another Tom.

The race between incumbent Delwin Jones and Van "who in the world is this guy" Wilson; one that should be about the issues, is being overshadowed by the 2 donors who together have contributed over 96% of the total Wilson campaign donations; \$287,000 and counting.

\$22,000 of the money has been donated by Houston home builder Bob Perry; who funded the \$200,000 TV ad campaign defending DeLay, and the rest from a PAC funded by Republican right wing Christian conservative James Leininger's Texas Republican Legislative Campaign Committee.

Perry, a close friend of Karl Rove, President's George Bush's top political "architect" has donated millions to Texas republicans including Governor Rick Perry. Leininger is also a major player in Republican circles and has established and funded a countless number of conservative political action committees and right wing organizations.

One of Leininger's pet projects is his desire for the state legislature to fund education by allowing private vouchers; whereby Texans could enroll their children into private schools and be subsidized by tax payer money. In this election cycle, he seems to have targeted 5 state races; betting perhaps that if his candidates win, they will be the final votes he needs to end publicly funded education as we know it today.

Which begs the question: How can we expect to create equal education with unequal funding?

Now, I leave you with one final question: Do you really believe that people like Leininger and Perry would donate these huge sums of money without expecting anything in return?

And speaking about that crook Tom DeLay, today (March 1) the U S Supreme Court heard arguments in the Texas congressional redistricting case. But according to early news reports, those who feel that political gerrymandering did indeed take place, are going to be hard pressed to win this case. To begin with, news reports had Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg snoozing for about 30 minutes during the argument.

If early indications are correct, the court will turn a blind eye to the fact that mostly Democratic and minority voting districts were redistricted and consequently diluted to ensure Republican victories. In one instance alone, DeLay, Perry, Craddick, and company redistricted 100,000 Hispanic residents out of a Laredo district represented by state representative, Republican Henry Bonilla, who was seen as more vulnerable year after year to a Democratic victory (guess people there finally figured they needed to vote with their brain and not just for a person's last name). Now that's what I call Republicans taking care of the "hired help".

Unfortunately, it seems to me that the one institution, the Supreme Court, that one institution who I once, believed seemed to be immune to political influence and right the wrongs created by self serving politicians is no more. They have become justices influenced by their appointer's political persuasion. Never the less, I will hold out hope that every once in a while, a political institution will do the right thing; but not much hope.

Why? Because we live in a world that does not put much weight in the principles that should guide these decisions; like whether the federal Voting Rights Act was violated, or states rights, or the states rights to self determination without outside influence from crooks like Tom DeLay. Never mind that political gerrymandering was at the forefront of the whole redistricting sham; in these times, those things are just seen as the cost of doing political business.

Well, better cut it short this week. Got a visit from the CUIA last week; you know that federal agency known as the Central Un-Intelligence Agency. Apparently they were not too amused with my Bush speech last week (if you missed it, you can find it at www.eleditor.com ; what a shameless plug huh?) and came by just to check my phone lines.

Oh oh, doorbell's ringing. Never mind, just Van Wilson; came by to see if I wanted to put up one of his \$500 yard signs.

Email: acruzsc@aol.com

EL EDITOR

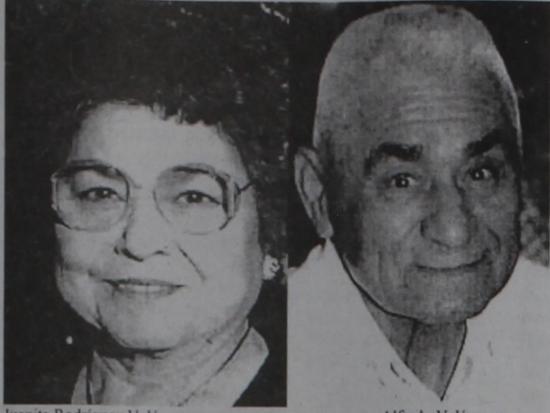
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In Memory

A Sad Twist of Fate Befalls Families of Brother and Sister on Same Day



Juanita Rodriguez Velásquez

Alfredo Velásquez

In what can only be called an unusual and very sad twist of fate: two longtime Lubbock residents; a brother and sister, passed away on the very same day; just hours apart.

Juanita Velásquez Rodríguez and her brother Alfredo Velásquez both died at separate Lubbock locations on Friday February 24, 2006. Born to their parents Leon and Clara Velásquez in Lockhart, Texas, Mrs. Rodríguez was 81 years of age and Mr. Velásquez, 79.

Both were longtime Lubbock residents, having moved here in the 1940's.

Mrs. Rodríguez was a devout Catholic and served her parish as a Sunday school teacher, a Guadalupana, and a Cursillista. She was a loyal parishioner of St. Joseph's Catholic Church for 46 years before joining Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her family will remember her as a loving and caring woman who never let a day go by without prayer.

Mrs. Rodríguez was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Antonio and Alfredo Velásquez, her sister Anita Hernandez, and her beloved son Mauro Rodríguez.

Survivors include her loving husband Octavio, daughters Lupe Gonzalez and husband Andy from San Angelo, Sallie Mata and husband Frank, two sons, Givie Rodríguez and wife Nora Morales, and Gabriel Rodríguez and wife Norma; all of Lubbock; and two sisters; Esther Ybarra of Muleshoe and Josie Jimenez of Lubbock. Her extended family includes 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren who loved their grandmother and who will miss her very much.

Mr. Velásquez was a skilled carpenter by trade and a devoted husband and father who worked hard to support his family but always found time to show them he loved them with his wonderful sense of humor. He was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

Mr. Velásquez was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Clara Velásquez, a brother Antonio, sisters Anita Hernandez and Juanita Rodríguez and a grandson Landon Velásquez. Many Lubbock residents will recall his grandson, Friendship High School student, Landon Velásquez's tragic death in a vehicular accident in west Lubbock in April of 2004.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Belen, three sons, Alfred Jr., Robert and wife Ruth of Lubbock, and Sammy Velásquez of Austin; five daughters, Aurora Velásquez of Garland, Beatrice Cabanas and husband Robert, Belinda Martinez and husband Johnny both of Lubbock; Bertha Mendoza and husband Mario of Conroe, and Sophia Salazar and husband Frank of Austin. He also leaves behind, 20 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren who will miss their Grandfather dearly, and two sisters, Esther Ybarra of Muleshoe and Josie Jimenez of Lubbock.

Both Mrs. Rodríguez and Mr. Velásquez were remembered in a funeral mass on Monday, February 27, officiated by Father Andres Mendoza at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Both were interred at Peaceful Gardens Cemetery in Woodrow. Funeral services were handled by Rix Funeral Director. Our condolences and prayers go out to both the Rodríguez and Velásquez families.

Que en paz descansa.

Que En Paz Descanse

Huelgas Promulgadas por los Chicanos de Los Angeles como Leccion Historica

Hernán Sillas
Se nota que vas haciéndote viejo cuando sale una película cuyo tema es un incidente en el que participaste y a la que denominan "histórica". Pues, por allí voy yo.

Verá, la manifestación en Watts ocurrió en 1965. Yo había ejercido de abogado sólo cinco años en aquel entonces. Después de la manifestación, el Departamento de Policía de Los Angeles se puso nervioso. ¿Irían a tomar las calles los mexicano-americanos, así como hicieron los negros?

El condado de Los Angeles convocó a una reunión de emergencia para determinarlo. Yo asistí a la reunión. Como prioridad entre los

temas que llevamos a la mesa nosotros los mexicano americanos que estábamos allí fue la educación. Los estudiantes en nuestras comunidades abandonaban la escuela en un índice del 50 por ciento. Las escuelas del este de Los Angeles, a las que iba la mayoría, se desmoronaban, necesitaban a gritos reparaciones y carecían de los textos y herramientas pedagógicas más recientes, así como de consejeros e instructores que hablaban español.

En aquel ámbito conocí a Sal Castro, un joven maestro de la escuela secundaria Lincoln. Supe describir las barreras que prevenían que él y otros ayudasen a los estudiantes chicanos. En algunos casos, hasta se les prohibía a los maestros hablar español a los estudiantes. Las confrontaciones con los administradores de escuelas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Angeles resultaban en mayor ahínco de la oposición al cambio.

Nuestros propios estudiantes latinos estaban frustrados. Creían que se necesitaba mucho más para poder remediar la situación. Los estudiantes chicanos bien sabían que las escuelas del oeste de la ciudad contaban con mejores equipos e instalaciones que sus contrapartes del este. Los estudiantes registraron una lista de injusticias, sin que llegara a nada. Entonces, decidieron tomar acción más drástica.

El maestro Sal Castro había llegado a la misma conclusión. ¡Los estudiantes tenían que hacer huelga! Mientras más lo pensaba,

más claro se le hizo el concepto. Castro reconoció que el involucrarse podía significar perder su empleo y su credencial docente. Pero, ¿de qué sirve la credencial si no estás enseñando nada a los estudiantes? Decidió encabezar una huelga.

El 8 de marzo, 1968, Sal Castro y miles de estudiantes dejaron sus recintos escolares en una manifestación pacífica cuyo objetivo era exigir la igualdad en la educación pública. Las huelgas duraron tres días y en su cumbre, participaron 4,000 chicanos. La violencia irrumió en algunas escuelas, y la policía respondió.

Por motivos del desorden, se asignó a policías de aspecto juvenil a ir de incógnita al este de Los Angeles. Testificaron ante el gran jurado, el cual acusó a Sal y otros 12 más. Se les llegó a conocer como los "East L.A. 13".

Se acusó a los estudiantes de haber conspirado a fomentar desorden en las escuelas, un delito mayor, y quedaron detenidos. Bajo el estatuto que utilizó el Fiscal, el conspirar a cometer un delito menor constituía un delito mayor. En otras palabras, aunque el fomentar desorden en una escuela constituyere un delito menor, el conspirar a fomentar el desorden era un delito mayor. El que los encontraran culpables podía significar la cárcel.

Yo terminé representando a Sal Castro. En el papel de su abogado, conocí a abogados especialistas en el derecho constitucional de primera y formé parte de un equipo defensor. Sostuvimos que

la acusación no cumplía con lo estipulado en la constitución por lo que surtía un efecto de temer sobre el Tribunal de Apelaciones.

El Tribunal de Apelaciones concordó con nosotros y liberó a nuestros clientes.

Recuerdo que aunque muchos maestros habían expresado su apoyo por lo que exigían los estudiantes chicanos, a la hora de la verdad, sólo Castro marchó con ellos. Para los otros, el miedo a la represalia era demasiado.

La acción de Castro es una lección sobre el valor. El fue coherente con sus convicciones.

Castro sigue de maestro en el distrito de Los Angeles. Lo apropiado es que uno de los East L.A. 13, Moctezuma Esparza, ahora productor y director de películas, sea el que llevara al cine el incidente. La película, "Walkout" se verá este mes en HBO, y nos traerá recuerdos de una época emocionante.

Hoy, de nuevo, vivimos una época emocionante. Así como los seres humanos nos sometemos a revisiones médicas, así las democracias necesitan exámenes constitucionales cada cierto tiempo. Lo que nos concierne hoy es si el gobierno debe interceptar las líneas telefónicas, y bajo qué condiciones. Nuestra respuesta podrá determinar que si de aquí a cuarenta años a alguien le parezca notable nuestra acción.

(Hernán Sillas es abogado en Los Angeles. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: Herman.Sillas@SillasLaw.com.)

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No One Should Go Hungry

No one should go hungry. So why is the Commodities Supplemental Food Program being eliminated to help balance a budget that will not really be positively affected? Since 1968 the commodities program has been popular among our elders and the disabled who as everyone knows, tend to be less mobile, because the program does much more than just provide food, it is delivered directly to their homes. It is also common knowledge that the elderly avoid the Food Stamp Office not only because transportation is not always available but once there they have to sit for long periods of time just to be allowed to fill out endless forms and paperwork only to get to the grocery store and feel the stigma and humiliation of having to the Lone Star Card.

That's just the beginning. What about the producers and the growers whose production will be affected as well? The USDA purchases the overproduction of meat products, cereals and wheat, dairy, beans, peas and nuts from United States farmers and canneries. And while the problems of our elderly and our farmers may not seem like such a big deal losing this particular program will also affect the consumer's pocketbook. Consider this, if our growers have to worry about what will happen if they grow too much food, does it not lend to reason that they will grow less? Less food at the grocery store will create a higher demand for it and of course, rising prices there as well.

ACLU Chief Scorches Pair of Fellow Latinos at Journalists Banquet

By José de la Isla
Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, singled out a pair of fellow Hispanics as he lit into the Bush Administration's civil rights record in a speech at a National Association of Hispanic Journalists banquet in New York City this month (Feb. 16).

Targets of his sharp attack were Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and former commander of U.S.-led

forces in Iraq Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sánchez.

"I believe they are blinded by the bright light of their success," Romero said. "We know that we have a responsibility as Latinos, as a community that has known and...has continued to witness discrimination. I say this because I also fear that some of our Hispanic leaders have lost their way."

Romero's harsh assessment of the pair's service in the national

spotlight seemed to catch by surprise many of the 230 Latino journalists who paid \$500 apiece to attend the scholarship fundraiser.

"General Sánchez has been derelict in overseeing detention practices in Iraq," said Romero. "Military leaders like Rumsfeld and Sánchez have not been held accountable."

Prisoner abuses at Abu Graib prison occurred while Sánchez was

continued on page 4

"Delwin Jones is a man of integrity -- a strong conservative who we can trust to put the best interests of West Texas first. Please join me in supporting Delwin, thank you"

-- Senator Robert Duncan



Voice of Reason: "Delwin Jones is a man of reason and experience and these are two things really needed in Austin." - John Montford

Effective: "Whenever I need something done in Austin I pick up the phone and call Delwin Jones. He's always gets things done." - Sheriff David Guiterrez

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Responsive: "Delwin Jones takes great care of his district. There is no doubt about that. His district comes first - always." - Lisa Nowlin, Slaton

Fights for What's Right for West Texas: "Delwin is an effective legislator who is not afraid to fight for what is right and in the best interest of West Texas." - Carl Isett, State Representative District 84

Independent: "I am grateful to have Delwin Jones representing and voting for us in Austin - not state leaders, not other districts, but us. He votes for what is right for our district." - Fred Underwood

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<p>Judge Drue Farmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monterey High School 1975 • Texas A&M University • Texas Tech School of Law • Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's Office - 8+ years 1989 - 1998 : Misdemeanor, Felony and Grand Jury Attorney, Misdemeanor Chief, Juvenile Prosecutor • Judge Lubbock County Court at Law #2 1999 - Present 22,000+ Cases Presided Over 129% Case Disposition Record • \$3.7 million collected in the last 5 years by instituting a new Collections System for Lubbock County that requires defendants to pay court costs, fines, and repay court-appointed attorney fees in a timely manner • Established Lubbock Drug Court Drug Court is much more intense than probation • Endorsed by the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lubbock Professional Police Association ✓ Lubbock Professional Fireman's Association ✓ Lubbock Board of Realtors ✓ Lubbock Avalanche-Journal • Always Ready for Trial 	<p>Scott Morris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abilene Christian University • Texas Tech School of Law • Hale County Criminal District Attorney's Office (length of employment not known) • Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's Office 9/10/01 - 1/03/03 (16 months) Quit • Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's Office Misdemeanor Chief 8/02/04 - 1/04/06 (17 months) *** Quit *** As Misdemeanor Chief during 2005 he dismissed 2,161 misdemeanor cases or six (6) misdemeanor cases per day which is 39.5% of all the misdemeanor cases filed for 2005 *** From 8/02/04 - 1/04/06 he tried only one (1) case in County Court #2
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Re-Elect Judge Drue Farmer

Judge Drue Farmer subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. Pol. Adv. paid for by the Campaign to Re-elect Judge Drue Farmer, Lubbock County Court at Law #2, in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. Les Hatch, Treasurer, 1001 Texas Avenue, Lubbock, Texas 79401

L.A.'s Chicano Walkouts as a History Lesson

By Hermán Sillas

You know you're getting old when a movie covers an incident you were involved in and the flick is referred to as "historical." Well, I think I'm getting there.

See, the Watts Riot occurred in 1965. I had been a lawyer for only five years. Following the riot, the Los Angeles Police Department was nervous. Would Mexican Americans hit the streets like the blacks did?

Los Angeles County called an emergency meeting to find out. I attended. High on the list of topics raised by those of us Mexican Americans who were there was education. Students in our communities were dropping out of school at a 50 percent rate. East Los Angeles schools, where the majority attended, were shabby, badly in need of repair, and lacking the latest textbooks and teaching tools, as well as Spanish-speaking counselors and instructors.

It was in that setting that I met Sal Castro, a young teacher at Lincoln High School. He articulated the barriers that prevented him and others from helping Chicano stu-

dents. In some instances, teachers were even prohibited from speaking to students in Spanish. Confrontations with school administrators caused Los Angeles Unified School District's opposition to changes to stiffen.

Our own Latino educators were frustrated. They believed that much more was needed to remedy the situation. Chicano students were well aware that Westside schools had better equipment and facilities than their Eastside counterparts. The students filed a list of grievances, to no avail. So they decided to take more drastic action.

Teacher Sal Castro had come to the same conclusion. The students had to strike! The more he thought about it, the clearer the concept became. Castro recognized that his involvement could mean loss of employment and his teaching credential. But what good is a credential if you aren't teaching children? He decided to lead a walkout.

On March 8, 1968, Sal Castro and thousands of Chicano students abandoned their school premises in a peaceful demonstration de-

READING. WRITING. REVOLUTION.
WALKOUT
BASED ON THE LAST L.A. STUDENT PROTESTS OF 1968.
PREMIERES SATURDAY, MARCH 18 8PM ET/7C
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manding equal education. The walkouts lasted three days and at their height, 4,000 Chicanos participated. Violence erupted at some schools and the police responded.

Because of the unrest, youthful-looking police officers were assigned to go undercover in East L.A. They testified before the Grand Jury. It issued an indictment against Sal and 12 other defendants. They became known as the "East L.A. 13."

The students were charged with a conspiracy to disrupt the schools, a felony, and arrested. Under the statute used by the District Attorney, a conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor was a felony. That is, although disruption of a school was a misdemeanor, a conspiracy to do so constituted a felony. A conviction could mean prison.

I wound up representing Sal Castro. In that role, I met outstanding constitutional lawyers and became part of the defense team. Our contention was that the indictment was unconstitutional because it had a chilling effect on freedom of speech.

The Court of Appeals agreed and freed our clients.

I remember that although many

teachers had expressed support of the Chicano students' demands and concerns, when the moment of truth arrived, only Castro marched with the students. The fear of retaliation was too great for others.

Castro's act was a lesson in courage. He followed up on his convictions.

He continues to teach in the Los Angeles district. It is only fitting that one of the East L.A. 13, Moctezuma Esparza, now a movie producer and director, has made the incident into a motion picture. The movie "Walkout" will be shown on HBO this month, bringing back memories of exciting times.

Now, once again, we are living in exciting times. Just as humans have physical checkups, democracies need periodic constitutional examinations. Today's questions deal with government's ability to wiretap our phones and under what conditions. Our response might determine whether another 40 years from now anyone will consider our action noteworthy.

(Hermán Sillas is a Los Angeles attorney. He may be contacted by e-mail at Herman.Sillas@SillasLaw.com.)
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ACLU Chief Scorches Pair of Fellow Latinos at Journalists Banquet

from page 3

commander there. He was responsible in Iraq for 120,000 troops and 30,000 military staff from 30 countries.

Referring to the case of Alberto Gonzales as "even more disappointing," Romero said Gonzales had been "well placed to speak the truth" but became "an echo" of the administration.

On both the torture and illegal domestic spying scandals, said Romero, "Mr. Gonzales has uttered apologist defenses rather than stand up for the rule of law and a system of checks and balances." According to Romero, the Bush Administration, with Gonzales a key figure as White House counsel and later Attorney General and without congressional approval, court authorization or compliance with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, "unilaterally started the spying program," which involved domestic wire-tapping.

He called the National Security Agency spying program an abuse of executive power.

The Bush administration, he said, "crossed the line between management and outright manipulation" of news and it has engaged in silencing critics by trying to find out who leaked news about the NSA spying program, instead of checking the veracity of information, and over-classifying information to prevent legitimate public knowledge.

When Romero's 15-minute presentation concluded, he received warm but brief applause. Keynoters at such NAHJ functions in the past have generally been top media executives who dwell on journalism issues.

Syndicated columnist Miguel Pérez, based with The Record (Bergen County N.J.), told Hispanic Link News Service that Romero's comments were "on the mark," if a little inappropriate for the occasion. "I think he could have made those comments in a brief way," instead of devoting so much of his speech to fellow Latinos Gonzales and Sánchez. "It was just too much."

Still, said Pérez, "We need more of that. We need to take on our people when they are doing wrong." He added with a smile, "I do it all the time."

María Hinojosa, senior correspondent for NOW on PBS and an-

chor and managing editor of Latino USA, agreed, "We have a right to ask these questions. Does Anthony Romero have a right to ask? Absolutely."

"But the other half of the equation is whether these two (Gonzales and Sánchez) have to answer to a community's expectation...I found myself thinking that this is an interesting point. Romero's comments made me pause."

"I think," she added, "the entire Latino community wants to know what Gonzales and Sánchez have to say for themselves. In the end, they have to answer to themselves."

"The *raison d'etat* was freedom of speech," she said. "I think about it as inspiring dialogue, new questions to ask ourselves," adding, "Don't we want to get challenging questions posed?"

Rafael Olmeda, assistant city editor of the Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel in Florida, offered the perspective, "Anthony was speaking his mind, not the minds of all Latinos."

He didn't think Romero "said anything challenging their (Gonzales and Sánchez's) Latinohood (or that) as Latinos they should have taken other positions."

They have a job to do, he said, and "should be measured on the merits of the positions."

Olmeda concluded, "As a journalist, I did not applaud. It is not appropriate for a journalist to respond positive or negative."

Under Romero, ACLU has been litigating during the past two years for the release of documents and photos about detainees in Afghanistan and Guantanamo. He referred to the U.S. government's war measures as a "drift toward a closed society." Newspapers, he said, have a job in the new-media era "not only to report the news, but also to connect the dots."

Romero, of Puerto Rican descent, was named one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in the United States by Time magazine in 2005.

(José de la Isla, of Houston, is a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service. He may be reached by e-mail at jdelaaisla@houston.rr.com.)

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The 7th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March

Presented by the Cesar E. Chavez Celebration Committee

Saturday

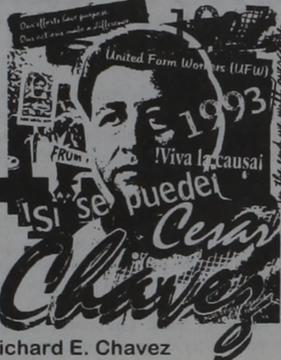
April 1, 2006

Schedule of Events

- 1:00 p.m. Gathering for the People's Honor March
- 1:30 p.m. People's Honor March begins on the West Parking lot at Cavazos' Junior High at 210 N. University.
- 2:30 p.m. Commemoration featuring a program by Richard E. Chavez, brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez will be held at Northwest Little League Ballparks
- 3:30 p.m. Presentation of the 2006 "Spirit of Cesar Chavez" Award Entertainment, followed by refreshments.

With Special Guest Richard E. Chavez

A founding member of the United Farm Workers of America, and brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez.



In case of inclement weather activities will be held in the Cavazos Junior High Auditorium. For additional information please call (800) 797-7233, or email to cesarchavezclubbook@cox.net

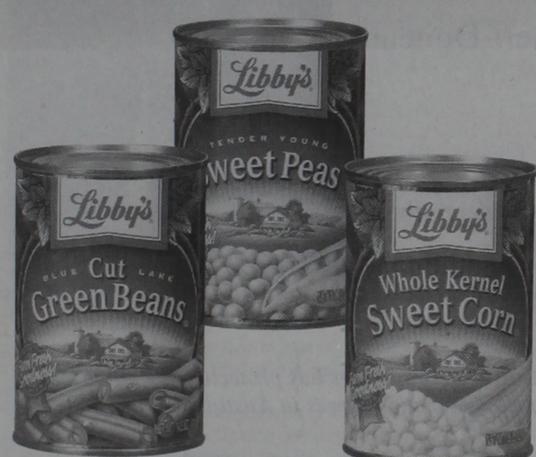
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Oscar vs. Arum stands in way of De La Hoya vs. Mayweather

By Bernard Fernandez
The biggest fight that can possibly take place this year is:
A) Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Oscar De La Hoya
B) Bob Arum vs. Oscar De La Hoya and Richard Schaefer
C) Some combination thereof.
This being boxing, where the

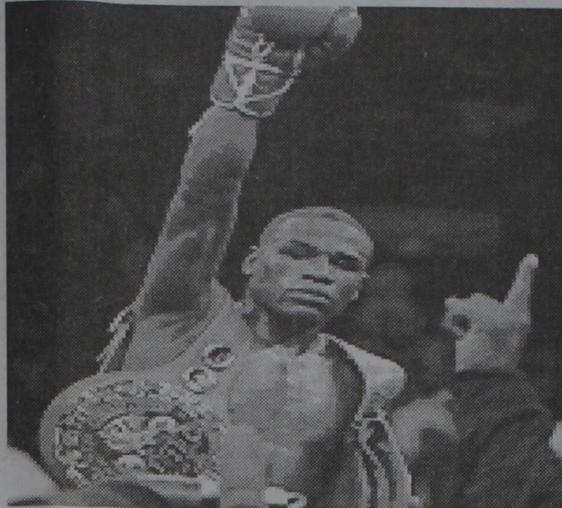
more immediate roadblocks to a Mayweather-De La Hoya megabout advancing past the preening and posturing stage. First, Mayweather (35-0, 29 KOs) challenges Zab Judah (34-3, 25 KOs) for Judah's severely devalued IBF welterweight title April 8 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. Then, on May

Toney.
The sight of Arum and King sharing a podium, smiling for photo ops, suggests that the animus between Bernard Hopkins and his onetime adviser, Lou DiBella, has surpassed Arum-King in the bile-for-bile ratings. Without question, Arum-De La Hoya has.

When Arum signed De La Hoya after he'd taken a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the prospect was for a long and mutually prosperous business relationship. And over the next decade or so, both men happily made millions together. De La Hoya became the biggest draw in boxing, but he didn't do it alone. Arum played a major role in branding the handsome kid from East Los Angeles as the world's most popular and clean-imaged fighter ... the anti-Tyson, if you will.

But the bond Arum and De La Hoya had shared began to fray and come apart when Oscar temporarily went with a different promoter, Jerry Perenchio, tossing verbal daggers on his way out the door. Who can forget De La Hoya chiding Arum as "one of the biggest Jews from Harvard"?

Eventually, the two men, no longer friends, rejoined, but then De La Hoya bolted again to form



heavyweight titlist Antonio Tarver (24-3, 18 KOs) that very same night, in Boardwalk Hall, and is taking HBO's production crew with it. Arum, determined not to back down on the date, has been left with no other choice other than to stage his own PPV show and assume all the financial risks.

"And (Golden Boy) is going to use Hopkins, of all people, with his record for defacing the Puerto

Arum has reserved July 29 for a matchup of Mayweather and WBO welterweight champion Antonio Margarito (33-4, 24 KOs), which would be a big fight but not nearly as huge as Mayweather-De La Hoya.

"The biggest fight for Floyd is De La Hoya," said Mayweather's uncle-trainer, Roger Mayweather. "Forget about Ricky Hatton. Forget about Margarito. Floyd can fight them later. Put them fights on hold. Those guys ain't going nowhere."

"Why fight Margarito when De La Hoya's there?"

De La Hoya isn't going to be there for long, which heightens

the imperative for Top Rank and Golden Boy to reach a truce. De La Hoya says he'll only fight once more after Margarito and, although he prefers that his finale be against Mayweather, he does have options.

"September will be my last fight, guaranteed, against a fighter that I'm hoping I can get in the ring, and that's the pound-for-pound king (Mayweather)," De La Hoya said.

"(But) Don King is talking to me about guaranteeing Trinidad, so we will see. If I could have gotten Trinidad I would have done it (now) because, my God, I know I can beat him. I'm very confident I can beat him. But I'm set for Mayorga, and then either Trinidad or Floyd."

Mayweather, who has been calling out De La Hoya for years, can only sit back and see how the soap opera plays out.

"I would fight Antonio Margarito, no problem," he said. "But I think Oscar is an unbelievable fighter, an unbelievable champion. He is a true icon in the sport of boxing. Him and me, that's the fight boxing fans all around the world really deserve. It would be a shame if it didn't happen."

Arum holds out the possibility that some sort of agreement can be reached and he and De La Hoya can form the sort of uneasy alliance that he and King sporadically have entered into.

"This is not personal," Arum said. "Of course I'm aggrieved that they're trying to injure me and my business, but there always is a chance something can be worked out. We'll see what happens."



shortest path to any worthwhile goal is hardly ever a straight line, figuring out how to make (A) happen could prove more complex than non-mathematicians calculating the area of a hypotenuse triangle.

I'm going to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr., then obviously it would have to be without Top Rank," De La Hoya said of his former promotional company and its president, Arum, who has Mayweather. "It's too big a fight not to happen, but obviously in the past with Top Rank -- us not making fights together, Bob Arum not wanting to make fights with our fighters -- OK, if you don't want to make fights with us, if I'm going to fight Floyd Jr., you're not going to be involved. If he wants to play that way, then I'm going to play that way, too."

Informed of De La Hoya's comments, Arum, his voice dripping with derision, said, "Look, Oscar's an idiot. He's not a smart kid."

Somewhere in the middle, bobbing like a cork in the water amid the roiling waters of the increasingly bitter Arum-De La Hoya confrontation, is Mayweather, the finest prizefighter in the world, who wants to give the fans an event everyone wants to see and, oh, yeah, is certain to bring him his largest payday ever.

"Me and Oscar would be the biggest fight in boxing. It'd be the biggest fight in boxing history," Mayweather said last Friday after finishing an open workout at the Top Rank gym here. "You know what they say. If it makes dollars, it makes sense."

There are, of course, smaller and

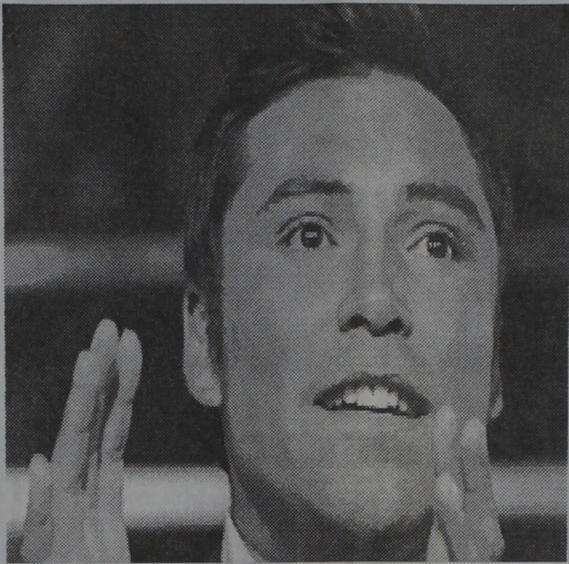
5, De La Hoya (37-4, 29 KOs) ends a 19-month hiatus from the ring when he attempts to lift the WBC super welterweight crown from Ricardo Mayorga (28-5-1, 23 KOs) at the MGM Grand, also in Las Vegas.

Mayweather disposing of Judah generally is considered a given, although Arum, for one, believes age (De La Hoya is 33) and inactivity could make for a more difficult night for the "Golden Boy" against Mayorga than might be expected.

"Let's see Oscar in the ring in May and find out what he has left," Arum said. "The smart money is that the fight isn't even going to happen. I mean, the guy hasn't fought in nearly two years."

In legend and lore, the biggest blood feud in boxing, the sport's equivalent of the Hatfields vs. the McCoys, has been Arum vs. Don King. Let's not kid ourselves; the world's most successful promoters hate each other and for the past three decades have spent more time smearing one another than competitors in a mud-wrestling contest. But, occasionally, Arum and King have been known to put their differences aside long enough to make some money together.

The Mayweather-Judah bout (King holds paper on Judah) is their first co-promotion since the De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad showdown in 1999, although the March 18 heavyweights bout between WBC champion Hasim Rahman (41-5-1, 33 KOs) and James Toney (69-4-2, 43 KOs) in Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall might qualify for that distinction. Rahman, who recently left King, is now promoted by Arum while King has partnered up Dan Goossen in promoting



his own company, Golden Boy Promotions, whose CEO, Schaefer, also has become a nagging thorn in Arum's paw.

Sometimes it seems as if the primary aim of Arum and De La Hoya/Schaefer is for one entity to irritate the other.

Take last Friday's bit of one-upsmanship, when Top Rank scheduled that Mayweather workout for the presumed purpose of drawing members of the media away from a De La Hoya press gathering to hype Saturday night's HBO Pay-Per-View matchup of Shane Mosley (whom De La Hoya promotes) and Fernando Vargas.

"It's not professional," De La Hoya complained. "It's not right. We would never do that. With such a big fight as (Vargas-Mosley), and then you try to sabotage it with having Floyd Mayweather Jr. having an open workout, it's not professional. It doesn't make me happy."

Arum, of course, has issues of his own with Golden Boy Promotions. Perhaps the most biggest bone of contention is the likelihood of dueling PPV dates on June 10. Top Rank had long reserved that date at Madison Square Garden for a bout pitting one of its star attractions, WBO junior welterweight champ Miguel Cotto (25-0, 21 KOs) of Puerto Rico, against Paulie Malignaggi (21-0, 5 KOs). That fight, contingent upon Cotto winning his March 4 bout with Gianluca Branco (36-1-1, 19 KOs), would be in conjunction with the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York.

Golden Boy, however, is putting on a bout between Hopkins (46-4-1, 32 KOs) and IBO light

Rican flag," Arum said, referencing Hopkins' inflammatory actions in the weeks leading up to his 2001 bout with Puerto Rican national hero Trinidad. "To my mind, that's just ill-conceived."

Arum also is irked by HBO, with whom he has done business for more than 30 years, for consistently siding with Golden Boy over Top Rank.

"It's collusion, pure and simple," Arum claimed. "This never would have happened had Seth Abraham (former president of HBO Sports) still been running the show for HBO."

"This all goes back to the deal we made for the doubleheader with Hopkins and De La Hoya (on June 5, 2004, when Hopkins defending his WBC, WBA and IBF middleweight titles against Robert Allen and De La Hoya successfully challenged WBO middleweight champ Felix Sturm). We gave (Golden Boy) \$40 million and they gave me the right of first negotiation, last refusal. And then they out-and-out defrauded me. That's going to be the subject of some serious litigation."

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Oklahoma Sooners 60, Texas Tech Lady Raiders 59



LUBBOCK, Texas -- Marsha Sharp's regular-season finale had the feel of a tournament game with Courtney Paris and No. 9 Oklahoma playing in front of a noisy near-sellout crowd.

"This atmosphere and this environment was the best possible preparation we could have for the NCAA Tournament," Sooners coach Sherri Coale said.

Paris had the seventh triple-double in Big 12 history and set an NCAA freshman rebounding record as Oklahoma denied Sharp a farewell victory at home with a 60-59 victory Wednesday night.

Paris scored 18 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked 10 shots for the Sooners (26-4, 16-0), who became the first team to go undefeated in the Big 12 since the league began in 1996.

"There's nothing easy about being good, and to be good for 16 straight games is a pretty amazing thing," Coale said.

Paris notched her record-breaking 444th rebound of the season late in the game and became the first Big 12 player to have a triple-double that included blocks.

Last week, Sharp announced she was resigning at the end of the season, her 24th at Tech. Her record is 571-188.

After the game, an emotional Sharp spoke to fans, telling them she's been honored to be the "caretaker" of the program.

"It has been the most incredible ride you can imagine," she said to loud cheers in United Spirit Arena, known to many in Lubbock as "The House that Marsha Built." A freeway under construction will bear her name and will be the only one in Texas named after a woman.

LaToya Davis scored 27 points and had 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Raiders (14-13, 9-7).

Down by 17 points early in the second half, Tech used runs of 16-4 and 7-0 to come back. The Lady Raiders came within 56-55 on a 3-pointer by Brooke Baughman as the shot clock expired with 3:21

remaining. She shot from about 27 feet away and it went in and out and bounced into the basket off the glass.

"You don't wanna keep it close because you know where the gods will be flying," she said. "And when Brooke Baughmann hit that 90-foot 3, I was like 'here we go.'"

After that, Paris turned the ball over and Tech went up 57-56 on a layup by Davis with 2:32 remaining. But Oklahoma answered with two free throws by Paris and a bucket by Leah Rush with 1:36 to go that put the game out of reach.

"I felt like we just got a lot more aggressive," Sharp said about the comeback. "We dug ourselves a hole, but there wasn't any quit in (our team)."

Britney Brown scored 12 points and Chelsi Welch added 11 for the Sooners.

During practice before the game, Tech players donned shirts that read, "Thanks, Marsha. From the Lady Raider Nation," with all of her accomplishments listed on the back. The Sooners, as a show of respect, came out just before the tip wearing the same shirts.

"They're a classy team, and they're well coached," Sharp said. "How classy is it when you come out and they've got that T-shirt on?"

Sharp could get another shot to coach at home if Texas Tech doesn't get an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament and hosts a Women's NIT game.

"The absence of Marsha on the Texas Tech sideline is a blow to the university, it's a blow to our conference and it's a blow to women's basketball," Coale said. "It has been an honor and a privilege to coach against Marsha for the past years."

During 24 seasons in Lubbock, Sharp has taken Tech to 16 consecutive NCAA appearances -- 18 overall -- reaching the regional finals four times and the regional semis seven times. The Lady Raiders won the national title in 1993.

Datos Alarmantes Sobre el Cáncer de Seno

Por Roseanne Wagner
El cáncer se presenta en mujeres que no presentan ningún otro factor de riesgo más que ser mujer.
¿Sabía que?
-Una de cada ocho mujeres desarrolla cáncer al seno durante su vida.
-Cada tres minutos se diagnostica a una paciente que padece este mal y por lo menos una mujer

muere de cáncer de seno cada 12 minutos.
-Se estima que en Estados Unidos, 211.300 nuevos casos de cáncer de seno afectarán a mujeres y 1.500 a hombres.
¿Quién corre riesgo?
-Mujeres que previamente padecieron cáncer de seno.
-Personas cuyas madres, hermanas o hijas hayan sufrido la enfermedad.

-Quienes hayan tenido su primer ciclo menstrual a los 12 años o antes.
-Quienes tengan su primer hijo después de los 30 años de edad.
-El riesgo aumenta con la edad.
¿Qué puede hacer?
-Auto examen mensual.
-Examen anual realizado por un profesional de la salud.

-Mamografía anual.
¿Se da el tiempo necesario para cuidar su salud?
Al realizarse su examen mensual, usted podría descubrir en su seno un bulto, engrosamiento, hinchazón, sensibilidad inusual u hoyos. Si usted presenta cualquiera de estos síntomas debe contactar a su médico. El dolor en el seno usualmente no es el primer

síntoma de cáncer al seno. Pídale a su doctor que le haga un examen de seno cada año. Si tiene más de 40 años, necesitará una mamografía de rutina, la cual detectará cualquier anomalía antes que usted o su médico.
¿Se preocupa por otros y se descuida a sí misma?
Si descuida su propia salud, ¿quién cuidará a su familia?

Cuando el cáncer de seno es detectado a tiempo, el índice de supervivencia es del 97 por ciento. ¡Tome unos pocos momentos para sí misma y disfrute de una larga y feliz vida junto a sus familiares y amigos!
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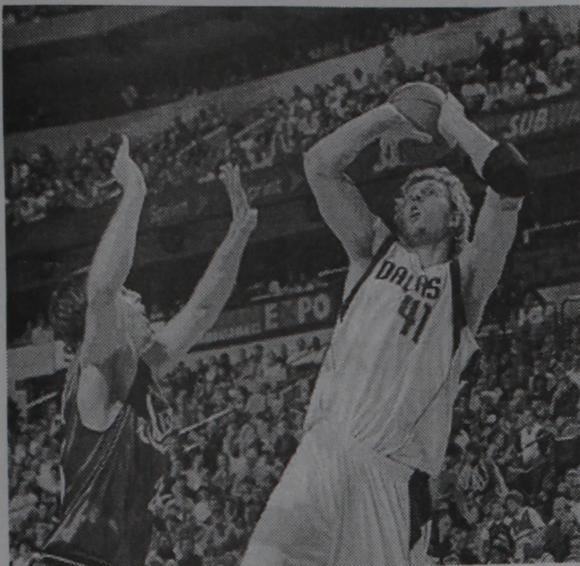
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Nowitzki overcomes ankle injury, scores 32 points in Mavs' victory

DALLAS -- The Dallas Mavericks were concerned when top scorer and rebounder Dirk Nowitzki limped to the locker room after spraining his ankle in the first minute of the third quarter.

Nowitzki eased his teammates' fears when he returned to score 11 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and the Mavericks beat the Philadelphia 76ers 104-92 on Monday night for their 19th victory in their last 20 games.

Jason Terry added 24 points and went 6-for-7 from 3-point range for the Mavericks, who extended their club-record home winning streak to 15 games.

Nowitzki, who also had 13 rebounds, landed on the foot of teammate Adrian Griffin while playing defense early in the second half. But X-rays were negative and Nowitzki was back on the floor to start the fourth quarter. He has scored 30 or more points in three straight games for the Mavericks, who have won six straight.

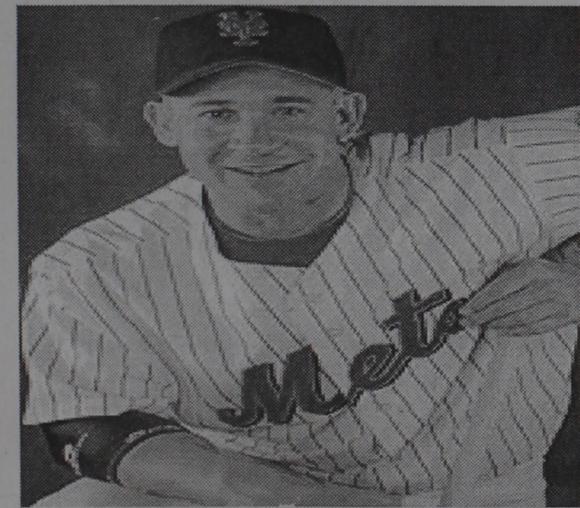
"It was a lob, I was going for the ball and I landed on Griffin's foot," Nowitzki said. "It was a little stiff and I got it re-taped. I felt all right in the fourth quarter."

Dallas led 57-45 when Nowitzki left, and was in front 84-69 when he returned.

Marquis Daniels had 16 points for the Mavericks, who were without three players: Josh Howard (sprained right ankle), Keith Van Horn (upset stomach) and Devin Harris (left thigh injury). Coach Avery Johnson went with an eight-man rotation, giving extensive playing time to Daniels (38 minutes) and Darrell Armstrong (25 minutes).

"I thought it was a gutsy performance by our team," Johnson said. "We were missing three key people ... but Dirk came back to give us a lift when we needed it."

All-Star Second Baseman B. Boone Retires after 14 Seasons



PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. -- Bret Boone retired Wednesday at New York Mets camp, the culmination of a swift decline for a player who was one of baseball's best second basemen only a few years ago.

Boone's production had plummeted dramatically since the 2003 season. The three-time All-Star was cut by the Seattle Mariners last July 3, dealt to Minnesota eight days later, then released by the Twins on Aug. 1. He batted .221 with seven homers and 37 RBI in 326 plate appearances last season.

The 36-year-old Boone agreed to a minor league contract with the Mets in January and came to spring training with an opportunity to win the starting second base job. The four-time Gold Glove winner was at least expected to push incumbent Kaz Matsui, a two-year bust since arriving from Japan.

But Boone cut the competition short and called it quits before the Mets even played their first exhibition game.

"At the end of the day, this really gives me some closure," Boone said, his eyes moist at a morning news conference. "I went out this winter and worked as hard as I could, and it would have been

Mosley's Back in Picture, Wants Shot at Mayweather

LAS VEGAS -- Shane Mosley moved back into the boxing limelight by stopping Fernando Vargas, and now he wants a shot at a bigger match.

"Floyd Mayweather is a talent. Pound-for-pound, we're two guys with great skills," Mosley said. "It should be a great fight."

Mosley, whose once-shining career dimmed when he lost twice to Vernon Forrest in 2002 and twice to Winky Wright in 2004, restored some luster when he stopped Vargas in the 10th round Saturday night.

The 34-year-old Mosley was, however, far from dominant in beating Vargas, who also was trying to get his career back on track.

Their scheduled 12-round junior middleweight match at the Mandalay Bay Events Center turned out to be sort of an extended one-punch fight.

Mosley caught Vargas with a stiff right to his left eye in the first round, and the knot over Vargas' eye continued to swell as Mosley peppered it in the following rounds.

By the seventh, Vargas' eye was swollen shut.

Referee Joe Cortez finally stopped the fight at 1:22 of the 10th round after Mosley landed several shots to the head.

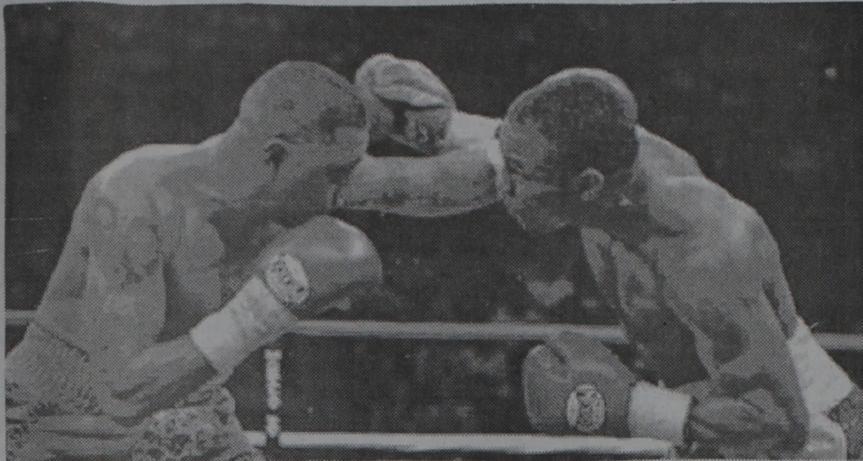
The judges had scored the bout extremely close through the first nine rounds, with Mosley ahead by a point on each of two cards and Vargas up by a point on the other.

"Before I knew it, his eye was swollen like a balloon," Mosley said. "As the rounds went on, it got bigger and bigger, and I went, 'Wow, look what we have here.'"

The 28-year-old Vargas, who kept gamely coming at Mosley until the end, was disappointed that the referee called it.

"I didn't think it was that bad," he said. "I could still see. I would have stepped it up if I thought they wanted to stop it. I was the one pushing the action, backing him into the ropes."

Vargas said he wanted a rematch at 154 pounds, but that's unlikely



since Mosley said he's going back down to welterweight at 147. Mosley weighed 152 and Vargas 153 1/2.

Mosley, from Pomona, Calif., improved to 42-4 with his 36th knockout. Vargas, from Oxnard, Calif., is 26-3, with 22 knockouts.

Vargas' purse was \$4 million, \$1 million more than Mosley got.

Mosley, who was fighting for Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, isn't the only one who wants a match against Mayweather.

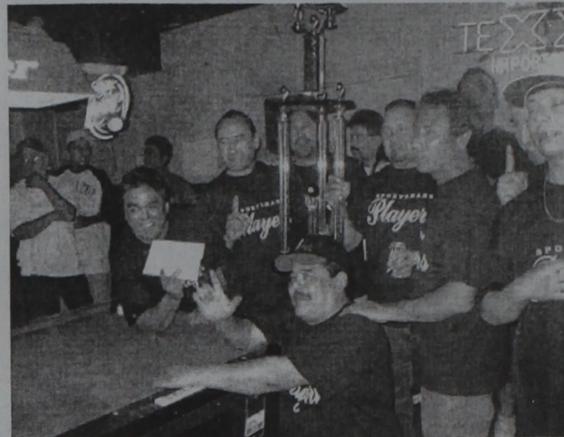
De La Hoya, saying he intends to fight two more times before retiring, is scheduled to face Ricardo Mayorga in Las Vegas on May 6, and said he would like to close out his career with a September bout against Mayweather.

De La Hoya is trained by Floyd Mayweather Sr.

Mayweather Jr. is 35-0 with 24 knockouts. He will try for his fourth title in different weight classes when he fights IBF welterweight champion Zab Judah on April 8 in Las Vegas.

On the Mosley-Vargas undercard, Johnny Gonzalez stopped Mark Johnson in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-round bout, and unbeaten heavyweight Calvin Brock (28-0) knocked out journeyman Zuri Lawrence in the fifth round of their 10-round match.

Sportsman's Club Wins Pool Championship



Members of the Lubbock Pool Association finished up their 4 week tournament this week with Sportsman's Players team coming up on top of the 16 team field. Sportsman's team boast a 40 and 1 record during this past year. The 4 week tournament held in different clubs throughout Lubbock is held to develop good healthy sportsmanship among some of the best of Lubbock pool players. Winners were given a trophy plus a cash prize. Second place in the tournament was Wolfee's Club, third was 4th Street Bar and Grill and fourth was Pit Stop.

Other teams participating in the tournaments are Tejano, Club Dallas, 4th Street A&B, Speeds, Wolfee's, Wolfpack, Sportsman's A&B, Pit Stop & B, Paradise, Polka's Rodeo, Texas Lounge and Vickie's that won Vest Sportsman's award for this season.

Newspapers

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easy to walk away after last year." Boone said he discussed his decision with family, friends and former teammates. He missed New York's first intrasquad game Tuesday because of personal reasons, and said he woke up Wednesday morning with a decision that was "crystal clear."

Do You Love Your Pet??

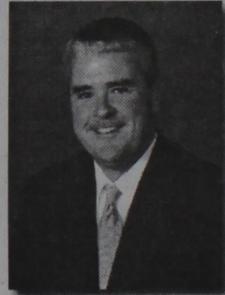
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MATT POWELL
FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY
REPUBLICAN

Un tercio de soldados que llega de Irak va a terapia

Otro sondeo revela que el 72% desea que EU salga del país árabe a más tardar en un año

CHICAGO, Illinois.— Más de un tercio de los soldados estadounidenses que regresaron de Irak requirieron terapia psicológica, según un estudio del Pentágono que podría afectar una batalla en el Congreso sobre el presupuesto para veteranos de guerra.

Los investigadores no se mostraron sorprendidos por los resultados porque las Fuerzas Ar-

el 8.5% de los que regresaron de Bosnia y otros lugares.

El estudio será publicado el miércoles en el Journal of the American Medical Association.

Los defensores de los derechos de los veteranos dijeron que el estudio justifica su pedido de un mayor presupuesto para el tratamiento de salud mental de los veteranos de Irak.

esta divulgada ayer, el 72% de los soldados estadounidenses desplazados en Irak opina que EU debe salir del país árabe en un plazo de un año, y casi una cuarta parte quiere que la misma sea inmediata.

El sondeo, hecho conjuntamente por la empresa Zogby International y el Centro para Estudios sobre la Paz y Asuntos Globales, dependiente del Lemoyne College, señala que sólo uno de cada cinco soldados desea acatar las órdenes del presidente George W. Bush de quedarse en Irak el tiempo que sea necesario.

Aunque el 58% de los encuestados cree que la misión es "clara", el 42% piensa que el papel de Estados Unidos en Irak es confuso.

Asimismo, el 29% de los soldados, en diversas ramas del Ejército, dijo que Estados Unidos debe retirarse de Irak "de inmediato", mientras que el 22% considera que debe salir en un plazo de seis meses, según el sondeo.

El 85% cree que la ocupación militar de Irak es "en represalia" por el presunto papel de ese país en los atentados de 2001 contra las Torres Gemelas y el Pentágono, mientras que el 77% considera que fue para castigar la protección que dio Irak a la red terrorista de Al Qaida.

Sólo el 24% de los encuestados opina que la razón principal de la invasión estadounidense fue para "establecer una democracia que pueda servir de modelo para el mundo árabe".

El presidente de la empresa encuestadora, John Zogby, destacó

que "el 93% dijo que la eliminación de las armas de destrucción masiva no es razón para la presencia de las tropas de EU".

La encuesta coincide con otra divulgada ayer por la cadena de televisión CBS que señala que la popularidad de Bush ha caído a su nivel más bajo de todos los tiempos, y el pesimismo de los estadounidenses acerca de la guerra en Irak ha llegado al más alto.

Sólo el 34% de los participantes en este estudio tiene una opinión positiva de la gestión presidencial de Bush, comparado con el 42% hace un mes. Por su parte, el 59% tiene una opinión negativa acerca del Presidente.

Dos de cada tres encuestados manifestaron que los esfuerzos de EU para estabilizar Irak van por mal camino, lo cual es la peor evaluación registrada por este sondeo acerca del conflicto en el país árabe.

Estados Unidos invadió Irak en marzo de 2003 con el argumento de que el derrocado régimen de Saddam Husein poseía armas de destrucción masiva.

Las armas nunca se encontraron y el gobierno de Washington posteriormente insistió en que la meta era fomentar la democracia en ese país.

Según cifras del Pentágono, más de 2,200 soldados estadounidenses han fallecido y más de 16,600 han resultado heridos en combate en Irak, país que desde la semana pasada sufre una ola de violencia sectaria tras la destrucción de una mezquita chiíta.

Cáncer de seno, opciones de tratamiento

La Sociedad Estadounidense de Lucha contra el Cáncer (The American Cancer Society) tiene ciertas pautas y recomiendan que las mujeres de 20 a 29 años de edad comiencen a auto examinarse los senos mensualmente.

En los Estados Unidos, a una de cada nueve mujeres se le diagnostica cáncer de seno, lo cual hace que sea el cáncer invasor más común en la nación.

Se han determinado varios factores de riesgo que incluyen: tener más de 50 años de edad; tener antecedentes familiares de cáncer de seno y si una mujer ha tenido cáncer de seno anteriormente, existe la posibilidad de reaparición.

La Sociedad Estadounidense de Lucha contra el Cáncer (The American Cancer Society) tiene ciertas pautas y recomiendan que las mujeres de 20 a 29 años de edad comiencen a auto examinarse los senos mensualmente.

Las mujeres de 20 a 39 años de edad se auto examinen mensualmente los senos y se los hagan examinar por su médico primario cada tres años; y las mujeres de 40 años en adelante continúen auto examinándose los senos mensualmente, se hagan examinar los senos anualmente por su médico primario, y se sometan a Mamogramas.

El médico o una enfermera puede enseñar a las pacientes cómo auto examinarse los senos. Los Mamogramas, que son radiografías del seno comúnmente se realizan en un consultorio médico y muchos estudios demuestran

que pueden detectar el cáncer de seno en etapas tempranas.

Si una mujer descubre un bulto sospechoso a través del auto examen, o tiene un resultado inusual de Mamograma, el médico podría solicitar exámenes adicionales.

Si se hace un diagnóstico de cáncer de seno, el médico determinará la extensión del cáncer y hablará sobre las opciones de tratamiento.

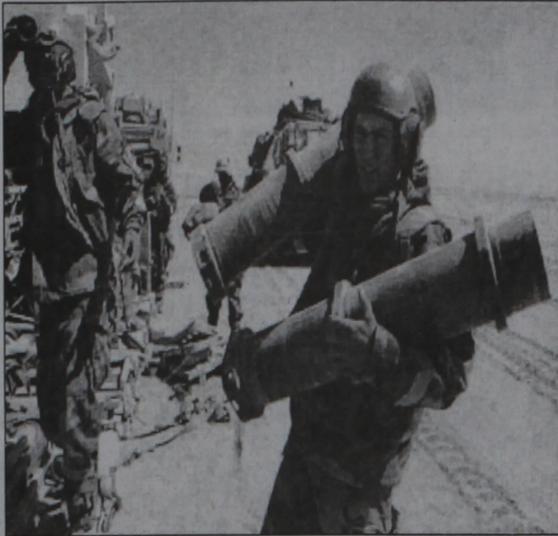
Las opciones de tratamiento incluyen cirugía, terapia de radiación, quimioterapia y terapia hormonal.

Para tumores que no se hayan extendido a otras áreas (ganglios linfáticos, huesos, el hígado, o el cerebro), los tratamientos usualmente incluyen una extirpación de tumor o una Mastectomía (extirpación del seno), seguida por terapia de radiación.

El tratamiento de quimioterapia usualmente se limita a agentes hormonales, como el tamoxifeno. La combinación de extirpación del tumor, radiación y uso de tamoxifeno durante cinco años ha demostrado ser una estrategia eficaz.

Para tumores que sean más grandes o que se hayan extendido a otros órganos o áreas del cuerpo el tratamiento varía mucho, dependiendo de la edad de la paciente, del estado de salud general y de la agresividad y la extensión de la enfermedad.

Muchos tumores de etapa precoz que no se hayan extendido pueden ser extirpados.



madas tienen un nuevo programa de evaluación de la salud mental de los soldados que regresan y los alientan a buscar ayuda lo antes posible para evitar problemas más adelante, dijo el doctor Charles Hoge, uno de los autores, médico en el instituto militar de investigaciones médicas Walter Reed.

Debido al nuevo programa de evaluación, no se pueden comparar las conclusiones de este estudio con las de guerras anteriores, dijo Hoge.

"Existen consecuencias psicológicas de la guerra y queremos abordarlas desde el principio. Esperamos que las tasas de problemas de salud mental no sean tan altas como las que hemos visto en guerras anteriores".

El 35% de los veteranos de Irak recibieron atención de salud mental durante el primer año de su regreso, dice el estudio. Además, al 12% de los más de 220,000 soldados e infantes de Marina del estudio se les diagnosticó algún trastorno mental.

El 19% de los que regresaron de Irak reportaron problemas de salud mental, comparado con el 11% de los que volvieron de Afganistán y

El proyecto de presupuesto del presidente George W. Bush contempla un aumento de los fondos para el Departamento de Asuntos de Veteranos. Pero algunos congresistas dicen que es insuficiente debido al recorte de más de 1,000 millones de dólares de otros gastos que afectan a los veteranos y a la aprobación de nuevas tarifas que éstos deben pagar.

"Este presupuesto perjudicaría a los veteranos que necesitan servicios de salud mental", dijo Ralph Ibsen, vicepresidente de la Asociación Nacional de Salud Mental. "Este estudio puede y debe ser un alerta con respecto a las necesidades de los veteranos en materia de salud mental".

Las autoridades médicas reconocieron el estrés postraumático como problema psiquiátrico por primera vez en 1980, a instancias de los veteranos de Vietnam. Un estudio anterior de Hoge y colaboradores halló que del 15% al 17% de los veteranos de Irak mostraban signos del mal, y que muchos eran renuentes a pedir ayuda debido al estigma que conlleva una enfermedad mental.

Por otro lado, según una encuen-

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