

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,863
as of Nov. 14,
2007

VOL. XXXI No. 6

Week of November 15-21, 2007

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

Democratic Party Action Still in Question

By Abel Cruz

By El Editor's latest count, there are now 3 versions of what precipitated the October 27 emergency Executive Committee meeting of the Lubbock County Democratic Party.

And if anything, recent letters to the editor have only invited speculation and rumors that there is more to this story than what El Editor was officially told by Lubbock County Democratic Chair Susan Barrick.

In our original story, we reported that Barrick told us that she "called the meeting because it came to my attention that two members of the County Executive Committee were apparently formulating and planning to go public with their own statements on the matter and do so as "officials" of the Democratic Party. These individuals were not authorized by party rules or any earlier action taken by the Executive Committee to speak for the Committee".

In the story, Barrick states: "To me the meeting was basically housekeeping - for Executive Committee members to learn the ropes and be reminded of party structure and our proper roles within it". Then last week, El Editor published a letter to the editor from Clyde James, who is listed as the party's Historian on the party's web site, www.Lubbockdemocrats.org.

In his letter, James version says that "Prior to the special meeting of the Democratic committee, a resolution was put together by four individuals who are members of the committee. That resolution was never introduced at the special meeting. The wording of the resolution stated several things very clearly: If passed, the Democratic Party Executive Committee would have gone on record as declaring the following: the Party would have taken no side in any of the disputes concerning the Visitors' Center, the location of the Center, the purchase of property for the Center, the location of a César Chávez street, or on the recall effort launched against Councilwoman DeLeón. The Party would have declared that no officeholder whatsoever who is a Democrat in Lubbock County speaks for the Committee on those issues, but rather for him or herself alone".

James continues, "The Party would have stated that in its opinion no member of the Commissioner's Court should make public pronouncements about the details of City Council business unless that Commissioner states clearly that he or she speaks for him or herself as an individual, and not as a Party member, or as a Commissioner. The Party would have stated the same about Council members speaking about Commissioner's business".

This week El Editor received another letter which only adds to the evolving story. The letter which can be found on page 2 in our letters section seems to contradict Barrick's statements to El Editor. In the letter, submitted by a Lubbock resident by the name of Pat Walker, he writes that Barrick stated during the meeting that "many, many people, without naming a soul, had called her (Barrick) demanding to know what the Lubbock Democratic Party was prepared to do about Mr. Gutierrez because he exercised his right of free speech".

Throw into the mix the statement sent by Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez to Barrick in which he references the 5 members he says he is in "total disagreement" with regarding Linda DeLeon's representation on the Lubbock City Council; and that statement would seem to contradict Barrick's assertion that only 2 individuals were involved.

For now, most people who have followed this story will be left speculating on what really happened to provoke the action recently taken by the party's executive committee.

The story about Barrick and James Letters can be found on our web site at www.eleditor.com under local news.
Email: acruzisc@sol.com or eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Red Light Money

Local media is reporting that even though some of the revenue generated by red light camera enforcement at some Lubbock intersections is supposed to go to the state to fund area trauma centers; that has not happened yet.

According to State Representative Carl Isett, the legislature failed to pass legislation in the last session to appropriate and distribute the funds. This should be taken care of either by executive order or when the legislature meets again in 2009.

It is unclear at this time just how much revenue the citations issued to Lubbock drivers and visitors alike have generated; but reports said it was in the \$24,000 range.

In the meantime, we urge motorists to use caution at all Lubbock intersections and be sure to watch their rear end at intersections with those red eye bandits.
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Texas Mayors Want to Widen River

In the "absurd news" category this week, it turns out at least 7 border cities Mayor's want to widen and deepen the Rio Grande River in order to control the flow of illegal immigration.

Believing that the increased dangers of crossing a wider and deeper river will deter people from crossing into Texas from the Mexico side, they have come up with a plan and cost estimate in order to gain support for their plan.

The mayors all agree that building a fence is an insult to the border cities which they represent, but agree that a wider and deeper river will make it more difficult and dangerous for people to cross.

According to Eagle Pass Mayor, Chad Foster, "The fence... is going to convey a false sense of security, and the border patrol has said it will only slow down an illegal entry by three to four minutes".

So, never mind that more people will die while attempting to cross the river, apparently those in favor of this absurdity want to make sure that if they do cross there is a better chance of them drowning before they reach the American side.

Which leads us to ask the question: Which is worse, a mayor who asks residents to pray for rain or a mayor who wants to widen and deepen a river?
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Mukasey Confirmed Despite Stance on Water Boarding

Despite refusing to say whether he considers water boarding prisoners a form of prisoner torture and therefore illegal, Michael Mukasey won Senate approval of his nomination, and was confirmed as the 81st Attorney General of the United States. Mukasey, who was confirmed by a vote of 53-40, succeeds Alberto Gonzales who resigned under a cloud of national disgrace.

During his nomination hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mukasey had refused to acknowledge whether the practice of placing prisoners on a hard board and covering their face with a piece of cloth; and then pouring water on their face and into their mouth and nostrils so that their lungs fill with water until they feel like they are drowning was illegal.

His confirmation appeared to be in doubt until 2 Democratic Senators, New York's Charles Schumer and California's Diane Feinstein publicly said they would vote to confirm Mukasey. Shortly after that, the committee concluded their hearings and voted to send Mukasey's name to the full Senate for confirmation.

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison voted in favor of the nomination while Senator John Cornyn did not vote; presumably because he was too busy campaigning for his reelection.

Democratic Presidential candidates Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Republican Presidential Candidate John McCain did not vote. Just goes to show American citizens where their priorities are.

Read El Editor on the Internet
www.eleditor.com

Residents work to clean up and beautify area

Guadalupe Neighborhood Association Shows City What People Working Together Can Accomplish

by Abel Cruz

After years of neglect and unanswered or ignored phone calls to city officials for some help; the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association finally took matters into their own hands and decided

to work together and do something about cleaning up the part of their neighborhood known as "el arroyo".

The large chunks of concrete from the many destroyed homes still stick out of the ground where they were buried by the city; stark reminders of Lubbock's 1970 tornado which nearly devastated the neighborhood.

But thanks to the many volunteers who have shown up on Saturday mornings, the large piles of debris and trash accumulated from years of neglect and inattention are almost gone. The hope is that after this coming weekend, they will be a distant memory.

The area known as "el arroyo", a descriptive name first assigned to the area many years ago by residents of Lubbock's oldest Mexi-



can American neighborhood is a stretch of land which borders the north side of the neighborhood and is considered to be a part of Lubbock's Canyon Lake's lake system.

And chances are that if a person is familiar with it, it is because

at some point in their family's history, they either lived in the "barrio" as it is known, or know someone who did.

For many people "el arroyo" still evokes vivid memories from their childhood. It was a place some people called home; including some who lived in some small adobe houses located just north of present day Aztlán Park. One local resident recalls referring to them as

the "Holiday Homes"; although he is not quite sure why they were called that. But he says he clearly remembers the many Sunday mornings when the church bus he was in would arrive to pick up the people living there to take them to church services.

Continued on Page 2

The Real Victims of Immigration Raids

By Raúl Reyes

Earlier this year, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents burst into a factory in New Bedford, Mass., and rounded up more than 300 undocumented immigrants for detention and deportation. In the ensuing chaos, many parents were afraid to give information about their children, fearing that they would be arrested too.

Some children were literally left behind, including a breast-feeding baby who refused a bottle and had to be hospitalized for dehydration. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick termed the aftermath of the raid "a humanitarian crisis."

ICE statistics show such roundups are on the rise. The number of workplace arrests rose from less than 500 in 2002 to over 3600 in 2006. By a huge margin, these were mostly administrative arrests, aimed at people lacking proper documentation, as opposed to those who had committed a crime.

Now a study by the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan research center, has documented the raids' negative impact on children. It found that the number of children separated from their parents was significant. For every two undocumented workers arrested, one child was left behind. In the wake of ICE raids, children were found to suffer from health disorders, psychological trauma and



economic instability. The Urban Institute noted that most were in fact U.S. citizens or legal residents.

According to the Pew Center, there are 5 million children with at least one undocumented parent. In 2005, two-thirds of these (64%) were U.S. citizens, 37% were five and younger, and 65% were ten and younger. So it follows that the immigration raids are directly affecting some of the youngest and most vulnerable.

The ICE raids seem especially harsh considering that the public favors a path to legaliza-

tion for the 12 million undocumented workers already here. In separate polls taken this year by ABC, CBS, Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg, FOX, and Pew, a majority have consistently supported the idea of allowing undocumented workers to obtain citizenship.

To be sure, undocumented parents put their own children at risk by bringing them here illegally, or by remaining here themselves. But children should not be punished for the sins of their parents, nor should the immigration status of parents doom a child's future.

Safeguarding all children — regardless of their immigration status — should be a paramount goal of our society.

The Urban Institute recommended the government adopt clear guidelines for releasing arrested parents to their kids, and that Congress hold hearings on the consequences of the ICE raids. However, I find the notion of armed officers breaking down doors and making mass arrests to be consistent with a police state.

We are never going to deport the millions of undocumented workers currently in the country. What is the point of arresting a few hundred here and there if it is causing long-term harm to our children? ICE should stop the raids. And if they must continue them, they should concentrate on criminal arrests.

While it's a fact that the U.S. immigration system is broken, these roundups only make the problem worse by creating a climate of fear among immigrants and driving them further into the shadows. Our country has to move beyond our "enforcement only" approach if we are ever going to solve this crisis. It's time to demand 21st century solutions to our ongoing problem, not more zealous arrests that put children at risk.

(Raúl Reyes is an attorney in New York City. Reach him at rarplace@aol.com.) ©2007

Las Verdaderas Victorimas de la Redadas de Inmigrantes

Raúl Reyes

Hace unos meses, agentes del Departamento de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE por sus siglas en inglés) irrumpieron en una fábrica en New Bedford, Massachusetts, y reunieron a más de 300 inmigrantes sin documentos para la detención y deportación. Dentro del subsecuente caos, muchos padres tenían dar información sobre sus hijos, por el miedo a que también los detuvieran.

A algunos niños los dejaron atrás, literalmente, incluyendo a un bebé lactante que no aceptó beber de una mamadera, y tuvo que ser hospitalizado por motivos de la deshidratación. El gobernador de Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, calificó lo resultante de la redada "una crisis humanitaria".

Las estadísticas del ICE indican que van en aumento las redadas. El número de detenciones en el lugar de trabajo subió de menos de 500 en el 2002 a más de 3.600 en el 2006. Por un margen enorme, las detenciones eran principalmente administrativas, destinadas a las personas que no tienen la documentación adecuada, y no a aquellas que

habían cometido algún delito.

Ahora un estudio del Urban Institute, un centro de investigación sin afiliación de partido, ha documentado el impacto negativo de las redadas sobre los niños. El estudio halló que el número de niños que han quedado separados de sus padres es importante. Por cada dos trabajadores sin documentos detenidos, un niño se quedó atrás. En la resaca de las redadas del ICE, se halló que los niños sufren de trastornos a la salud, trauma psicológico e inestabilidad económica. El Urban Institute notó que la mayoría de los niños eran en realidad ciudadanos o residentes legales de los Estados Unidos.

Según el Centro Pew, hay 5 millones de niños con por lo menos un padre indocumentado. En el 2005, dos-tercios de estos niños (el 64%) eran ciudadanos de los EE.UU., el 37% tenía cinco años o menos, y el 65% tenía diez años o menos. Por consiguiente, las redadas de inmigrantes afectan directamente a algunos de los más pequeños y más vulnerables.

Las redadas del ICE parecen ser particularmente crueles en

vista de que el público favorece un camino a la legalización para los 12 millones de trabajadores indocumentados que ya están aquí. En encuestas separadas realizadas este año por ABC, CBS, Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg, FOX y Pew, una mayoría ha apoyado consistentemente el concepto de dejar que los trabajadores indocumentados consigan la ciudadanía.

Sin lugar a duda, los padres sin documentos ponen en riesgo a sus propios hijos al traerlos aquí ilegalmente, o al quedarse aquí ellos mismos. Pero a los niños no se les debe castigar por los pecados de sus padres, ni debe el estado migratorio de los padres perjudicar el futuro de los niños. Una meta principal de nuestra sociedad debería ser la protección de todos los niños, sin reparar en su estado migratorio.

El Urban Institute recomendó que el gobierno adopte pautas claras en cuanto a dejar libres a los padres detenidos a sus hijos, y que el Congreso realice audiencias sobre las consecuencias de las redadas del ICE. No obstante, encuentro que la noción

de agentes armados rompiendo puertas y haciendo detenciones en masa es consistente con un estado policial.

Nunca vamos a deportar a los millones de trabajadores documentados que actualmente se encuentran en el país. ¿De qué vale detener a unos cientos aquí y allá si lo que causa es daño a largo plazo a nuestros niños? El ICE debe cesar de efectuar redadas, y si percibe que las debe continuar, que se concentren en las detenciones por motivos de delito.

Si bien es un hecho que el sistema migratorio de los Estados Unidos se encuentra en desarreglo, estas redadas sólo resultan en hacer peor el problema al crear un ambiente de temor entre los inmigrantes, llevándolos más profundamente a la penumbra de la sociedad. Nuestro país tiene que ir más allá del enfoque "cumplimiento de la ley solamente" si alguna vez pretendemos resolver esta crisis. Ya es hora de exigir soluciones del siglo XXI para nuestro problema continuo, y no más detenciones fanáticas que ponen en riesgo a los niños.

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Association Makes Progress in Cleanup

(Continued from Front Page)

The neighborhood mostly survived the devastation caused by the 1970 tornado, although many of the neighborhoods residents were displaced, and it is still a collection of very nice brick residential homes occupied by families whose last names have historical and ancestral connections to some of this city's original settlers.

Most recently the area gained a certain amount of publicity when the Lubbock City Council voted to rename a stretch of road which borders it; Cesar Chavez Dr. The renamed section will border the south side of the area which association members have been busily cleaning up.

These days the area almost seems out of place in a city known for having very few trees. The stream of water, about 3 feet wide, is lined on either side by a combination of evergreens and other native trees to the area; together producing a beautifully serene landscape as one looks down upon it; across the street from Aztlan park.

According to the Guadalupe neighborhood Association President Lile Medina de Quirino, for several years, "residents had called city officials to complain about the trash, rubbish, painted graffiti on the concrete bridge, dead tree limbs and dangerous waste like needles and syringes which had accumulated in the area over the years. It had also become a place for the homeless; some who had made the location their home and people had become afraid for their safety and that of their children".

Until this past year, calls to city hall from area residents had either gone unanswered or been ignored.

But recently, Quirino who was elected as the neighborhood associations' president in April managed to get neighborhood residents motivated to do something about the situation. According to Quirino, "by doing something about it, people are paying more attention to the neighborhood and taking more responsibility for our surroundings; we are showing the city that we care".

It has been a little over a month now, since volunteers have shown up on Saturday mornings to clean up the area. Quirino says that she also has received help from Randy Truesdale who oversees parks and recreation for the city and she has been pleased with the city's efforts to help with the project. Quirino says that about 6 city employees have shown up to help in the clean up and the city has provided equipment such as tree mulchers to mulch the dead tree limbs which once covered the ground.

And this coming weekend, November 17, the volunteers hope to come together one last time to finish the project, which by the time it is com-

pleted, will have taken 3 Saturdays to complete.

The whole project began when Quirino and her husband Carlos Quirino, Jr., who also serves as the association's vice president, decided to take on the challenge and make it a project of the neighborhood association. They knew they could not do it all alone so they decided to try and get neighborhood residents involved.

According to Quirino, they publicized the effort throughout the neighborhood; distributing notices to residents and inviting people to come to the association's monthly meetings. Their efforts produced an increase in members and Quirino says the association now has about 20 active members. They also appealed to the parishioners at San Jose Catholic Church, which is also located in the neighborhood; appealing to them for help with the clean up and financial contributions. She says they managed to collect enough money which has been spent on snacks and drinks for the volunteers.

And based on the results, Quirino believes that they have been successful because neighborhood residents and others who don't live in the neighborhood have taken a personal interest in



beautifying their neighborhood and making it safe for their children.

Originally from Lubbock, Quirino and her husband spent over 25 years living in Houston until returning to Lubbock a couple of years ago. Quirino recalled a situation in Houston a few years back in which a young boy contracted HIV after stepping on a needle on the ground. Apparently the needle had been discarded by a drug user and the young boy contracted the disease after stepping on it and causing a cut in his foot.

Quirino says it was a sad situation she does not want to see repeated here. "The area had become a place where drug addicts or whoever was littering their drug syringes and the like, and both Carlos and I were afraid that we would see a repeat of what happened

at Moody Park in Houston; we did not want to see that happen here; so we decided to do something about it".

In addition to these types of safety issues, Quirino says that the area was a prime spot for a mosquito breeding ground, and with the danger of West Nile virus always present, she felt that it was also a health concern that needed to be addressed. Her husband, Carlos Jr. she says, has been in touch with the Environmental Protection Agency; keeping them informed of their progress. She says the EPA took an interest in the area after her husband contacted them to make them aware of the environmental safety issues.

Medina says the association is proud of what they have accomplished. She says she was recently at a Lubbock United Neighborhood Association meeting and learned that they are only the second neighborhood association to take on a project like this. The other, she says, is the Parkway Neighborhood Association.

When asked why she thinks it took so long for the city to respond and if it's because she thinks that other neighborhoods in South Lubbock have it done for them by the city; she declines to comment.



Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the area has changed. Medina says that more and more people are coming out to see the area and that skepticism has turned to admiration and a sense of pride.

In all Medina says that about 20 people have shown up at each of the first 2 clean up Saturdays. The next one will take place on Saturday November 17 from 8:30 AM until 12 noon and Quirino says that anyone who would like to help is invited to come out. She noted that even people from outside of the city have gotten interested in the project and told El Editor that Muleshoe County Commissioner Juan Chavez is expected to join the many volunteers on Saturday to help out in the effort. City Councilman Todd Klein and Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez are also expected to take part in the effort.

When asked what the next step is, Medina says that the association will continue to work on projects such as these which are important to the neighborhood. She says they hope to have a neighborhood festival in the near future to show people what can be done "when people work together".

But, Quirino also expresses her displeasure with the events of a few years ago when she says the city council took bond money which had been designated for the area and diverted it to fund projects in southwest Lubbock. She says that was not right, but she says they "will continue to work on improving their neighborhood and making it a better place for all of the residents to live".

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of every month at San Jose Catholic Church and a person does not need to live in the neighborhood in order to join. She also says there are no membership dues.

Association officers are: Lile Medina de Quirino, President; Carlos Quirino, Jr., Vice President; Carlos Quirino, Sr., Parliamentarian; and Alma Lujan, Treasurer.

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LETTERS TO THE Editor

Send Mail to:

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Thanks for Sending El Editor

Thank you for sending me El Editor news via electronic mail. I read it and enjoy it very much. As I have mentioned before, your newspaper, your journalism style, and your editorials have had major significance and impact on our Hispanic community for several decades and you have gotten even better throughout the years. From someone who cares about the struggles and advancement of our Hispanic community, Mil Gracias Sam Guzman via email from Austin

Keep RMS Coming

I like your RMS friend. He is mean and vicious. Makes me look saintly. Please keep his letters coming. Crazy via email, address on file

County Democrats "Rhubarb" - Yet Another Account of the Events

Congratulations on your coverage of the Gutierrez/DeLeon rhubarb. Your coverage is all that has kept readers from being in the dark. Thank you for keeping us informed.

I reference the letter from RMS in which the writer alluded to a conversation with a "Little Birdie" for details of the dust up and the efforts of a few on the Democratic Executive Committee of Lubbock, County.

As in all situations, people's versions of events differ. But after my many conversations with several individuals who are familiar with the Democratic Party's comings and goings, I have been able to piece together the following account of what really happened prior to the emergency meeting called by the Democratic Chair. Plus I was present at the meeting itself and that part of my letter is a first hand account of what I saw.

I have been told that the day before the meeting, executive committee officers, including Susan Barrick had been involved in some discussions about what to do about Mr. Gutierrez's comments about Councilwoman Linda DeLeon. People I spoke with tell me that Barrick was also unhappy with Gutierrez's statements and that at that gathering she was calling him all kinds of names and making false accusations towards him (Gutierrez).

Based upon my knowledge of the events, the people there included the party secretary, (Editor's Note: Kenny Ketner is listed as the party secretary on the party's web site), Clyde James (Editor's Note: Clyde James is listed on the party's web site as Historian), someone by the name of Mary Hatfield (Editor's Note: Hatfield is listed on the web site as Finance Director) and Barrick. Apparently they were there to write the resolution which would censure Gutierrez for his public comments, and it seemed that Mr. James was the father of the resolution which they would introduce at the emergency Executive Committee meeting which was to be held on October 27. But it has been made very clear to me that all those who were there were in favor of the resolution

Based on what I have been told, the resolution received the blessings of those there and Barrick vowed to call a special meeting of the executive meeting and in my opinion "ram the resolution through the Democratic Party in much the same manner and using the same tactics she used to ram her own appointment earlier this summer".

The next day Barrick used e-mail selective notification of the Emergency Meeting and her impending fiasco. (This writer was NOT notified.)

The word spread like wildfire through out the Lubbock Democratic Party that an attempt would be made to censure Mr. Gutierrez even though he never pretended to be speaking on behalf of the party or as a Democrat. The only association was that he is an elected Democrat. It so shocked the conscience of the majority of the members of the Lubbock Democratic Executive Committee that they were expected to believe that freedom of speech was passé that they turned out in mass to rebuke Susan Barrick and the gang of five.

The Lubbock Democratic Party meeting started on time with a full house. Ms. Barrick, after the pledge of allegiance, in her silly, bubbly and giggly manner said that the meeting was called because many, many people without naming a soul had called her demanding to know what the Lubbock Democratic Party was prepared to do about Mr. Gutierrez because he exercised his right of free speech.

Ms. Barrick had begun to sense that the majority of members were not prepared to carry out her folly and she rapidly began to distance herself from Clyde James who was holding the prepared resolution. The previously selected person to make the motion to censure Mr. Gutierrez, (Jacklyn Jones) (El Editor could not find Jones' name listed on the party's web site) not having a copy of the resolution simply moved to have the Lubbock Executive Democratic Committee state that Mr. Gutierrez spoke only for himself, a second to the motion was made, the question called and the debate began.

After several members spoke against the advocacy of censoring a military retiree for exercising freedom of speech it became obvious the resolution would fail.

Mr. James took the floor and attempted to read it, but no one would listen. Hatfield, Barrick, James and K all had copies of the resolution they had helped to write. However; Mr. Clyde James was the only author of the resolution who publicly supported the resolution.

This writer left the meeting happy that for once he had voted with the majority. He had previously been the lone dissenter. The attempt by Barrick's cohorts to repeal the Bill of Rights fell upon deaf ears; shades of George W. Bush.

If anyone wants to judge Ysidro Gutierrez, I recommend they examine his voting record as Commissioner. The voting record is public record and tells the true story of who he is. Another way to judge him is to look at his record of service to the community.

Pat N. Walker, Lubbock, Retired Attorney/Judge/ Veteran of four voluntary wars, Lubbock So; They Eat Their Young Too!

"All Hispanics do, is fight amongst themselves." And, "if one of them tries to get ahead, another Hispanic pulls her down!" "Hispanics should all work together because if we don't, the Anglo community will laugh at us!" And the latest and greatest, "if all Hispanics keep fighting amongst themselves, then they'll all lose their elected positions to the Anglos."

What's up with the Anglophobia? And, what's up with believing that all 80,000 Hispanics living in Lubbock County are a monolithic group which has to think, act, and behave a certain way. Are we little children to be managed, handled and spanked if we get out of line? Are we ignorant and unable to fend for ourselves?

Please, please Mr. and Mrs. Anglo, help me find my way in this big world of yours. Come on now, you'd think we were a race of imbeciles instead of a people with the proud heritage of the Aztec and Mayan. You'd think we were all undocumented immigrants from Mexico, with no education, a criminal record as long as your arm, and just waiting in line to receive state and federal benefits (another myth propounded by those who would want to control us) instead of a group made up of hard working, conservative, law abiding, Catholic, men and women. Some of us are laborers, some professionals, some followers, some leaders, some quiet and some quite vocal. But we are who we are, or put another way, "I am what I am".

Yes, I am saying, "I am what I am" in a defiant manner but more importantly, I am saying it with pride! We are proud of that natural golden brown hue that Anglos spend so much money trying to achieve, bilingual (and quite worldly in that manner), romantics and family oriented. After all, we would rather take care of our "abuelitos" (grandparents) at home in their golden years than fight over their estate after they're dead and cold and alone at the nursing home.

But wait, there's hope even for those Hispanics who strive so hard to live their lives pleasing Mr. and Mrs. Anglo. There's hope because Mayor "I Wish I Had a Brain" Miller and Councilman John Leonard are attacking each other like crazed pit bulls caught up in an alley fight over strewn garbage. There's hope because, for those of you who believe that any such conflict will lead to the total destruction of the world as we know it, you're there to pounce on that golden opportunity.

Hispanics can now plan the rule of the world, or at least Lubbock, because it's Anglo versus Anglo. And if you amplify the Anglo conflict, it also includes, Tom Martin and his men in black combat boots (Javoll! Mein Lieber Herr), versus "Da" Miller and his "Land of the Lost" followers.

Oh glorious days, not only are the Anglos in the middle of a lucha libre but it doesn't seem to be coming to an end any time soon. After all, the Mayoral election is scheduled for May 2008 and Tom Martin and David Miller are already throwing quite a few punches at each other. We're in the middle of round one in a seven round (seven months to go) fight. But remember to bring the popcorn and pickles because this fight is going to include eye gouging, hair pulling, kicking in the groin, and body slams.

What? You now say that if Hispanics fight each other it'll lead to our destruction but if Anglos fight each other, they will chug, chug, chug along anyway? How can this be? Are we not men [and women] "created equal" as stated in the Declaration of Independence? How can this be? Either the premise that, Hispanics fighting Hispanics leads to total destruction is false, or the premise that Anglos fighting Anglos leads to total destruction is false, or is it, that the premise that Hispanics and Anglos are equal is false. Which is it? As I see it, they are all false! First of all, the Hispanic community is not monolithic, nor is the Anglo community. We all have individuals with their own individual thoughts. That's why we have conservatives, liberals and middle of the road folks. That's why we have Catholics, Baptists, straight, gay and male and female.

NOT EVERYONE IS ALIKE MUCH LESS THINKS ALIKE.

Secondly, just because we don't think alike doesn't mean our world will fall apart if we disagree with each other, either in private or public. Private and public discourse is not only healthy but necessary in any community which pushes forth its agenda or agendas, whatever that/they may be. Third, the Hispanic community and Anglo community are not equal. And quite frankly, I'm not sure I want them to be.

After all, the Hispanic community is on the upswing and it's our turn to play the fiddle to which others dance to. Selfish I know but, revenge can be sweet.

By the way, Happy Veteran's Day to our men and women who have served and are serving our country. And a big "THANK YOU" from me and mine.

RMS, Lubbock via Email

RMS, We Know Where You Are

Several writers to El Editor have wondered who the anonymous RMS is. RMS has teased readers and challenged them to "Catch If You Can" RMS says, many have tried.

Who RMS is, is no mystery. RMS own writings reveal much about RMS and give stark testimony of character and the innermost self. Since RMS speaks anonymously, one can conclude RMS is a failure in life, because it takes failure in life to be anonymous. RMS is a person without a heart and ice for blood. RMS is bitter and angry and old and wrinkled. It takes years to become so venomous. RMS would see an elderly couple shiver from the cold or die of hypothermia as the elderly couple last year. Yet RMS is a generous giver of vitriol. RMS calls people hurtful names and laughs at people's appearance and manner of dress. Such statements are vile and are born of a person with no conscience. In the movie Predator II, a voodoo King says, "...don't know where he is...I know where he is...the other side-the spirit world...be prepared when the demon comes a calling" Perhaps this is why RMS is so adept at writing Halloween Satire. RMS is alone on the other side. I hope someday RMS will rejoin the human race and become, "Interconnected With Humanity." Readers of El Editor do not know who RMS is, only where RMS is. Future writings from RMS will give me the great satisfaction of proving that I, anonymous am right.

Anonymous

"El Que Pica con la Cola"
El Hijo Del Alacrán
(The Son of the Scorpion)



Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say; "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

¿Que pasa? ¿Todo esta bien callado! Solo se escuchar por alli la pregunta ¿Quien es RMS? Pues ahora puedo asegurarle que no es Roger Settler ni es nadie que todos andan espectacularando. Solo es una persona interesada en lo que pasa en Lubbock quien quiere dar su opinion y lo quiere hacer aqui en El Editor. Mas que nada no nos pueden acusar de negarle a nuestros lectores los derechos humanos que todos debemos de tener y uno de ellos es el dercho de expresar nuestras opinion sin miedo de nada.

Y la política, tampoco nada aqui en Lubbock. ¿Pues que pasa con todas esas personas quien quieren el cheque de Ysidro?? ¿¿Apoco se van esperar hasta el ultimo momento pa' anunciar haci no tienen que decir nada sobre que ideas tienen en mejorar el Condado??

Es todo por esta semana. Hasta la próximo. Cuidease raza



El Editor

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

Publisher Bidal Agüero
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Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz

ENFOQUE SOBRE LAS PRIMARIAS PRESIDENCIALES: ¿QUIÉN SE CONECTA CON LOS LATINOS?

Mario Aguirre
Entre las campañas primarias

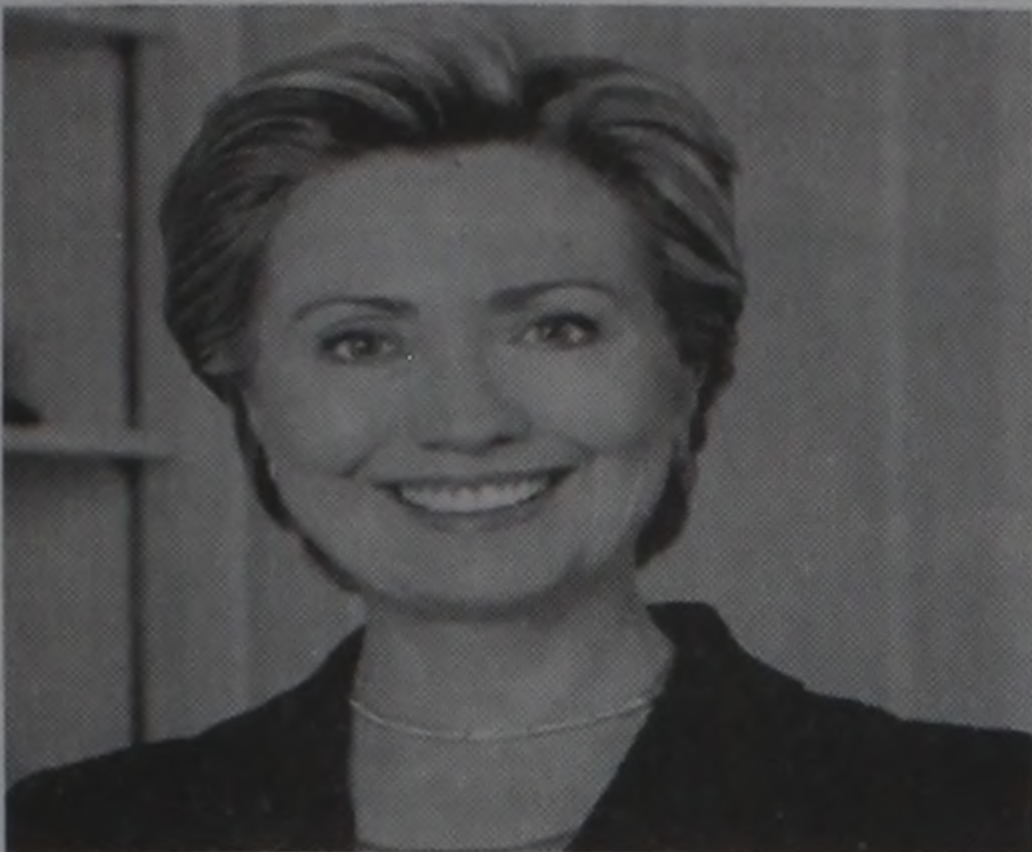
para presidente que han visto a varios candidatos profesar interés en la comunidad hispana, va surgiendo una imagen del compromiso de cada candidato por llegar a los votantes hispanos.

Durante las últimas semanas, Hispanic Link News Service entregó a las 17 campañas una serie de preguntas destinadas a medir sus esfuerzos por llegar a la comunidad.

Cuatro candidatos – la senadora Hillary Clinton (demócrata por Nueva York), el senador Christopher Dodd (demócrata por Connecticut), el gobernador de Nuevo México, Bill Richardson (demócrata) y exgobernador de Massachusetts, Mitt Romney (republicano) ofrecieron respuestas completas.

Voceros para los congresistas Duncan Hunter (republicano por California) y Tom Tancredo (republicano por Colorado) dijeron que sus campañas no tenían un

programa de enfoque a grupos en particular, y que la raza no



era un factor al buscar votos. La campaña del senador Barack Obama (demócrata por Illinois), alegando estar atrasada con solicitudes de los medios, no llegó a responder dentro de un plazo de varios días.

Estrategas de la campaña del exsenador por Carolina del Norte, John Edwards (demócrata) dijeron que él tenía un programa por llegar a los hispanos, pero no respondieron cuando se les pidió más detalles.

Los competidores republicanos de Romney aún no muestran mucho interés por lo hispano.

Aquí presentamos algunas de las preguntas que Hispanic Link posó a los candidatos, con los elementos claves de sus respuestas.

¿Tiene usted un programa formal por llegar a los hispanos?

Tres – Clinton, Romney y Richardson – en definitiva lo tienen. Clinton inició el suyo en febrero, Romney el suyo en junio. La campaña de Dodd indica que él está en contacto con la comunidad hispana, pero que no tiene en función un programa en particular.

¿Tiene usted un sitio web en español? ¿Envía comunicados de prensa en español?

El sitio web de Clinton incluye una sección sobre temas de interés. Sus comunicados de prensa en inglés se traducen al español. Las oficinas de Romney y Richardson ofrecen servicios similares además de traducir documentos sobre políticas importantes y discursos. El sitio de Dodd tiene contenido en español, pero no cubre tanto como los otros.

¿Está creando comités especiales para trabajar con la comunidad hispana?

Clinton ha comenzado su National Hispanic Leadership Council con planes de enfocar grupos de liderazgo particulares a los estados.

Romney anunció un National Hispanic Steering Committee para aconsejar al candidato y ofrecer apoyo a nivel de base.

“Mi Familia con Richardson” es una movilización de base a nivel nacional con enfoque en reclutar a secciones con base en familias que colaboren con Richardson para disseminar mensajes.

¿Con quién de su campaña pueden los votantes comunicarse para recibir información sobre la posibilidad de participar?

Los lectores pueden visitar www.HispanicLink.org para ver un listado completo de los datos de las 17 campañas. Unos cuantos candidatos

prestaron atención temprana a organizaciones hispanas nacionales al participar en algunos de sus eventos este año.

La más visible ha sido Clinton. Habló en el congreso anual del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, el desayuno de Esperanza USA, el foro presidencial de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Nombrados

(NALEO por sus siglas en inglés), entre otros. El único candidato aparte de Clinton en aparecer en el foro de NALEO fue miembro de la Cámara de Representantes, Duncan Hunter (republicano por California).

Clinton en el otoño también se unió al debate sobre políticas del Instituto de la Asamblea Hispana del Congreso

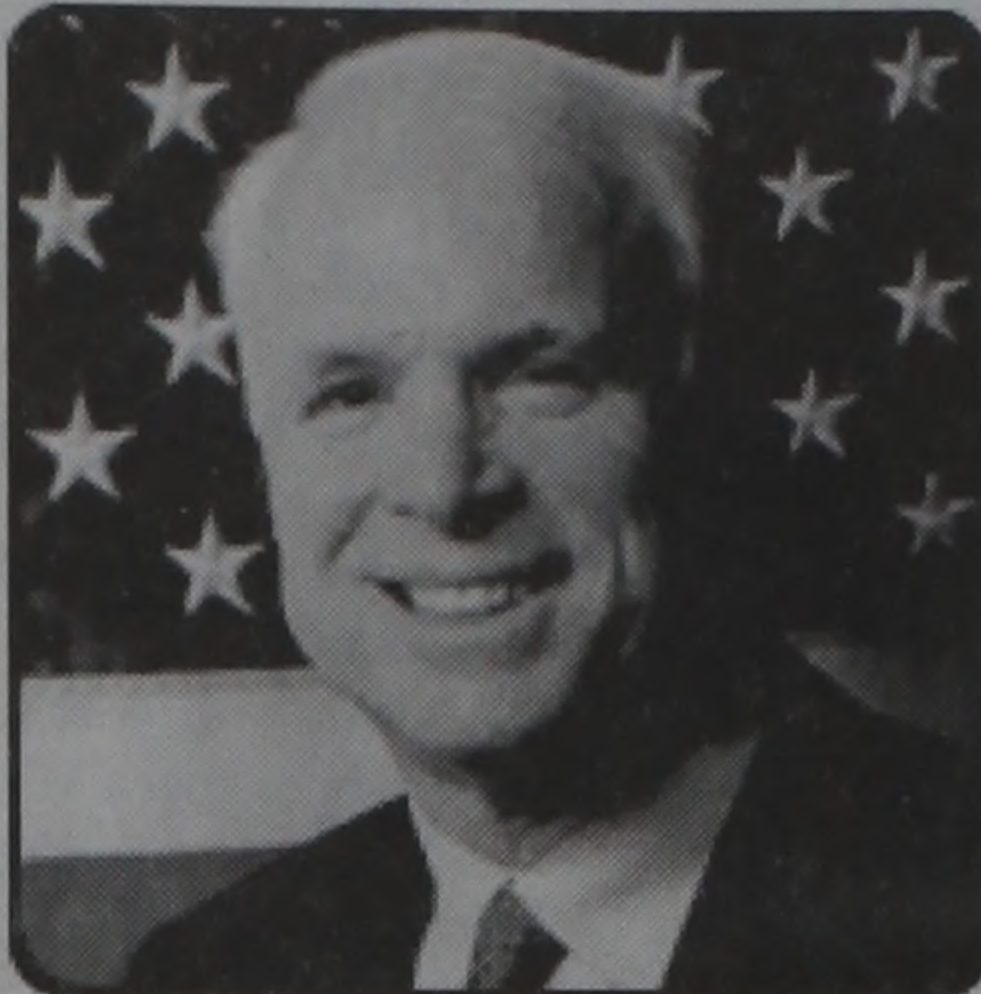
(CHCI por sus siglas en inglés), con tres demócratas más – el representante Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), el senador Joe Biden (Delaware) y exsenador Mike Gravel (Alaska).

Un evento de provecho para Richardson, fue el Almuerzo de Líderes Latinos en febrero, al que asistieron trescientos washingtonianos de influencia.

En julio Romney habló en la Asamblea Nacional Hispana Republicana.

CANDIDATOS DEMÓCRATAS (8) EN LAS PRIMARIAS

Joe Biden
Hillary Clinton
Chris Dodd
John Edwards
Mike Gravel
Dennis Kucinich
Barack Obama
Bill Richardson
REPUBLICANOS (9)
Rudy Giuliani
Mike Huckabee
Duncan Hunter
Alan Keyes
John McCain
Ron Paul
Mitt Romney
Tom Tancredo
Fred Thompson



Analysts Debate Role Immigration May Play in 2008

Rudolph Giuliani, the front-running Republican candidate for president, has at least two good reasons for proposing a ban against driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.

One is Sen. Hillary Clinton, the leading Democratic contender for president. In a recent debate, she stumbled over a question about driver's licenses for “undocumented workers” and eventually endorsed the idea, providing a clear line of attack for Giuliani.

The other is the political landscape of the 2008 presidential contest, where immigration could drive votes in key states the way gay marriage did in 2004.

Among voters who call immigration a “very important” issue in the next election, polling shows that Giuliani holds an advantage over

Clinton in a theoretical match-up. And for most of the Republican field, being against any form of illegal immigration has been a winner.

The senator from New York easily trumps the former mayor of New York on all of the most important issues that voters cite – the economy, health care and the war in Iraq, but not immigration. Among Republicans, Giuliani has been criticized for not being tough on illegal immigrants when he was mayor.

The volatility of how to deal with the more than 12 million undocumented immigrants already living in the U.S. has led Democrats like Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois to call immigration “the new third rail of politics.” On

state and local levels, there is ample evidence of a backlash against illegal immigration, and Republicans are hoping to leverage that discontent into votes next November.

Issues like the war in Iraq are certain to be pivotal as well, and might trump immigration. But immigration can be driven hard in strategic states like Ohio, where gay marriage on the ballot helped President Bush carry the state in 2004.

In Arizona, activists are attempting to place measures on the November 2008 ballot making it a crime to knowingly hire illegal immigrants and criminalizing their presence. And the failure of Congress to act on immigration reform is likely to inspire similar ballot initiatives in other states.

Still, skeptical analysts point to local and state election results last week in

states from Virginia to Arizona. Republican attempts to tar Democrats as soft on immigration often were countered by debates over local initiatives for slower residential growth.

Indeed, some say, the focus that many Republicans place on tougher immigration laws could hurt the GOP among the fastest-growing segment of the electorate – Latino voters already tending to favor Democrats – in Republican-leaning states in the Southwest.

The emotional appeal of the immigration issue already has torn Congress and the public alike. It is tied, some say, to the deep unease that many Americans feel about the economy – with voters overwhelmingly telling pollsters the nation is on the wrong track.

“Every issue leads back to illegal immigration,” said Bob Dane of the Federation for American Immigration Reform. “There’s this middle-stream, middle-class anxiety about what’s happening. Why are our wages not going up? Why are we having problems finding work? Jobs are being outsourced. There are plant layoffs. If you’re at the bottom of the scale, you have to compete against people who snuck into the country.”

In Washington, the immigration reform debate pits an alliance of mostly Democratic and moderate Republican lawmakers and President Bush against a deeply conservative opposition, mostly Republican. The Democratic camp and Bush call “comprehensive immigration reform” a question of

not only controlling the borders, but also finding some accommodation for millions of undocumented immigrants already working in the U.S. Opponents, denouncing such talk as “amnesty” for lawbreakers, insist that sealing the border is what matters most – along with denying rights and privileges to “illegal aliens.”

“You know the Democrats are going to be perceived as more pro-immigration, almost regardless of what they say,” said Rogers Smith, a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania. “Republicans might want to mobilize voters locally for candidates who represent getting tough with immigrants.”

This is the opening that Giuliani sees at a time when he and Clinton hold the greatest advantages in early election polling.



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RED RAIDER Season Finale Nov. 17

LOOKING GOOD

Teams have heard of Mike

Crabtree, yet the redshirt freshman continues to pile up numbers.

Against a banged-up Texas secondary, Crabtree caught nine passes for 195 yards and two touchdowns. This was the ninth time this season that Crabtree has recorded a 100-yard receiving game. He has 113 receptions for 1,707 yards and 20 touchdowns.

PK Alex Trlica set a school record with his first field goal against the Longhorns. He now has 45, which is two more than the previous career record of 43, set by Bill Adams from 1977-1979.

NT Colby Whitlock recorded 10 tackles and four tackles for a loss.

STILL NEED WORK

RB Aaron Crawford carried the ball four times for five yards. The Red Raiders ran only seven rushing plays, though.

Crawford caught three passes, but for only six yards.

CB Jamar Wall nabbed his fifth interception of the season, but again didn't have any return yards to show for it. Part of that is situation -- his pick came in the endzone -- but the Red Raiders as a team don't have a lot of turnovers and don't get a lot of return yards when they do. The interception was the lone forced turnover of the game by the Tech defense.

DE Jake Ratliff was credited

with one tackle.

ROSTER REPORT

WR L.A. Reed played early in the game but didn't play after getting into a confrontation with teammate Eric Morris on the sideline at the end of the first quarter. Wide receivers coach Lincoln Riley said

Reed wasn't benched because of the confrontation, but because Edward Britton was playing a better game. Britton tied a season high in receptions (seven) and set a season high in receiving yards (116). Riley chalked up the confrontation as "guys feeling pressure," adding that, "it was all good intentions."

GAME BALL GOES TO

WR Edward Britton -- Though redshirt freshman Mike Crabtree might have put up bigger numbers, Britton tied a season-high with seven receptions for a season-high 116 yards.

KEEP AN EYE ON

PK Alex Trlica -- After last week's win at Baylor, in which Trlica missed two field goals from inside 40 yards, head coach Mike Leach said if his kicker didn't start making kicks he'd be forced to go for it on fourth down all the time. Trlica was 2 for 2 against Texas, with

field goals of 35 and 37 yards.

QUOTE TO NOTE

"I thought they did a really good job of controlling the clock and trying to keep us off the field. I thought offensively we were moving the ball well and trying to gain momentum, but the way Texas controlled the clock it was tough to do that." -- Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell.

Jamaal Charles has waited until the fourth quarter in Texas' last two games to start running over opponents.

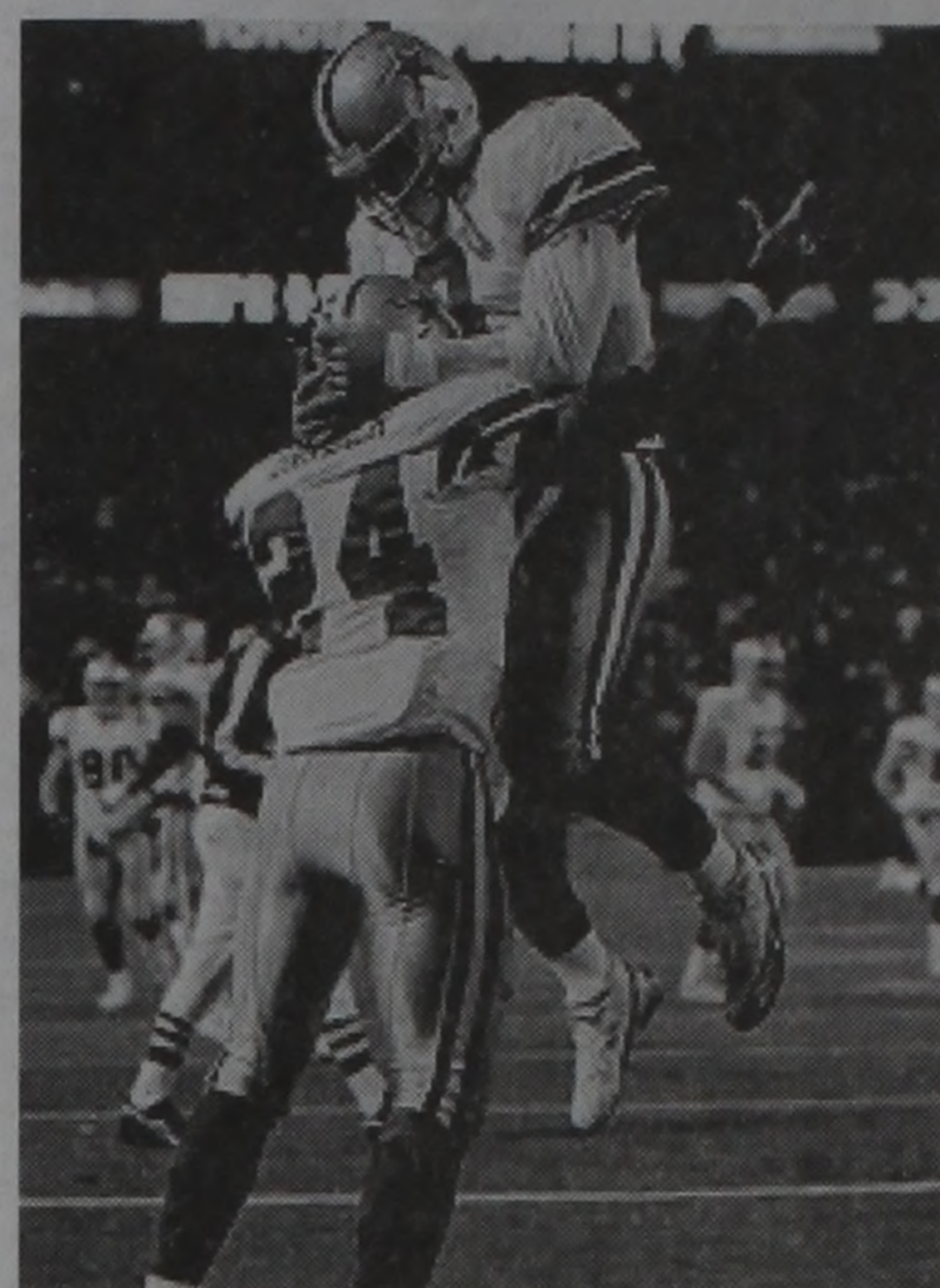
Charles -- and the Longhorns -- didn't wait until the fourth quarter against Texas Tech.

Charles carried the ball 23 times for 174 yards, and Colt McCoy threw four touchdowns and ran for two more as the Longhorns defeated the Red Raiders, 59-43.

"Texas deserves a lot of credit," Tech head coach Mike Leach said. "Early on, we played a little frantic and gave up some stuff that we should not have. As we began to do a good job of stopping the running game, Texas would mix the pass in there and keep us off-balance. We were not able to break rhythm."

The Longhorns ran 92 offensive plays -- including 62 rushes -- while Texas Tech managed only 55 total plays.

Texas Tech has now lost three of its last four games and will host Oklahoma Nov. 17 in the regular-season finale.



Romo's focus is on what he and Cowboys doing now, not past or future history

Tony Romo wears a Dallas Cowboys cap stitched with 1960, the number reflecting the first year of the franchise. Taped to his locker is a business card from Roger Staubach, one of the team's two Hall of Fame quarterbacks.

While Romo knows about the history of the five-time Super Bowl champions, he's not ready to consider his place in it -- or even what the NFC-leading Cowboys (8-1) might be able to accomplish this season.

The Cowboys can still win 14 or 15 games, something they've never done.

"Obviously, we're playing pretty well right now, but we're not going to talk about what we're going to finish with," Romo said Wednesday.

"Obviously, it would be a nice, fun thing for people to talk about. But at the end of the day, it's about wins in January and February."

What about being on pace to have the first 4,000-yard passing season by a Dallas quarterback, and be the first with more than 40 TDs in a season?

"I don't play the game for any records or any stuff like that," said Romo, who has already thrown for 2,555 yards and 23 TDs this season.

Winning a game past December is something the Cowboys have done only once since 1995, the last time they were 8-1 and the season of their last Super Bowl.

Dallas plays three home games in 12 days starting Sunday against Washington, after road victories against Philadelphia and the New York Giants, the other NFC East rivals. The Cowboys then play consecutive Thursday games, against the New York Jets (1-8) on Thanksgiving Day, and against Green Bay (8-1).

Get through that stretch without

a loss, and the Cowboys will go into December already with more victories than they've had in a full season since 1995. Along with a good chance of having home-field advantage through the playoffs.

month, and having the No. 1-selling jersey on NFL.com, Romo still has that aw-shucks response when asked about the greatness of his season and the Cowboys' chance to do something

they've never done in the regular season.

"It's exactly the way he feels about it. He's not just saying coach-speak or playerspeak," coach Wade Phillips said. "That's the way he feels about it, one game at a time, and yeah, we've done some good things, but we can do better. I think that's just him."

Because of that, Phillips hasn't needed any deep discussions with his quarterback about handling success and keeping a level head.

Romo, who signed with Dallas as an undrafted rookie in 2003, is 14-5 since becoming the Cowboys starter in

the seventh game last season. His eight 300-yard games are already third most in team history, behind only Danny White (10) and Troy Aikman (13), the Hall of Fame quarterback who won three Super Bowl titles in his 12 seasons.

Only seven Dallas quarterbacks have more career yards passing than Romo's 5,458, and it's very likely by the end of this season only Aikman, Staubach, White, Don Meredith and Craig Morton will be ahead of Romo on that list.

"Being part of this organization, from the time I stepped on the field, you don't want to do anything but win," Romo said. "This game isn't really fun if you're an average team or a below-average team. ... When we go out there, we really hope and kind of expect to go out and win games."

So far with Romo, that's been a legitimate expectation. But, as Romo knows, only history will determine if he's really great.

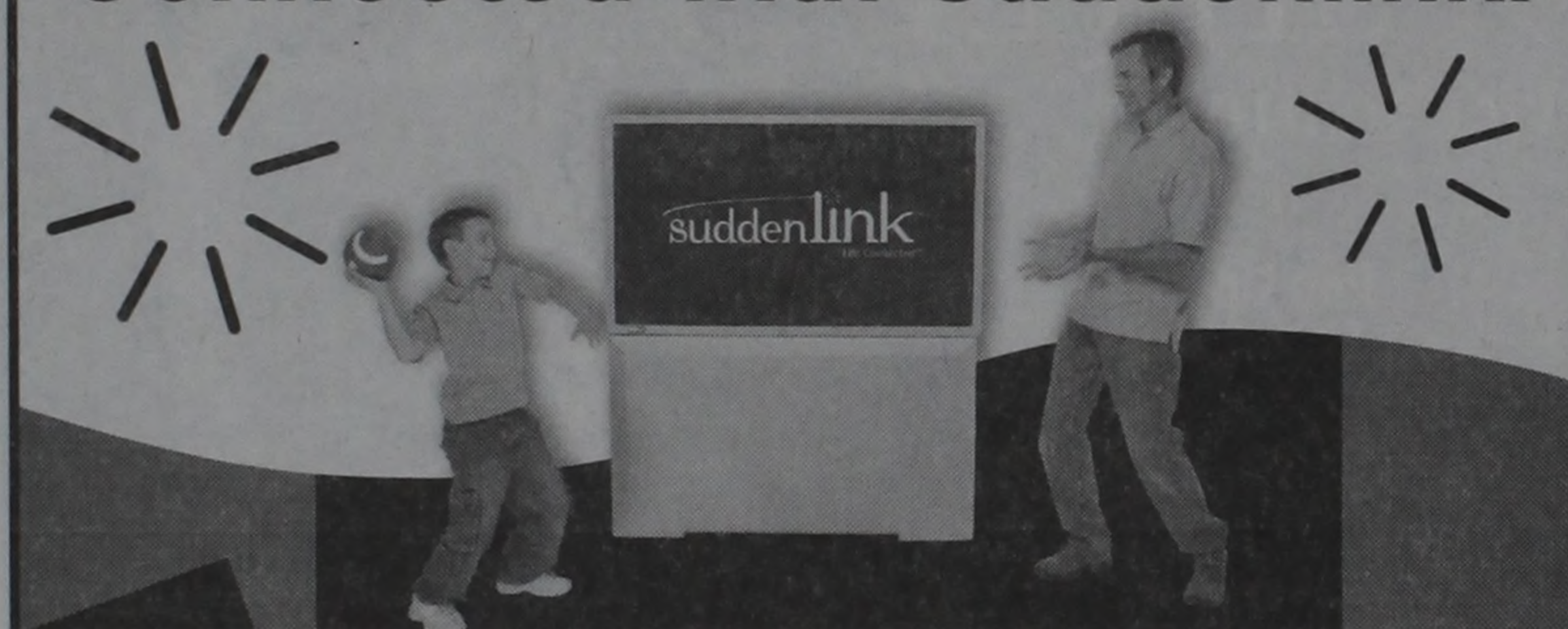
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Telemundo Launches Bilingual Rival to Leno, Letterman

Cuban-American comic Alex Cambert premieres this month on Telemundo his late night program “Mas vale tarde” (Better Late), in which he will interview U.S. and Latin American celebrities in a mixture of English and Spanish.

On the show that begins screening Nov. 29, Cambert aims to add a little Latino “salsa” to a typical “Anglo” format.

“Late night shows in English tend to be drier, but we’re going to throw a nighttime fiesta,” Cambert told Efe during a telephone interview.

The comedian, born in New York of Cuban parents, will interview stars from the Hispanic and Anglo markets to express the mixture of those two worlds that millions of Latinos like him experience in the United States every day.

Broadcasting on the country’s No. 2 Spanish-language network, the principal lan-

guage will be Spanish, but when he invites an English-speaking celebrity on the show the two languages will be combined.

“I’ll translate as I go along, although many Hispanics in the U.S. speak English, so I don’t see any problem,” he said.

Cambert, who currently lives in Los Angeles, thinks the program is a chance for Hollywood personalities to reach out to the U.S. Hispanic audience.

They’re interested in our culture, they want to penetrate our market and nearly all of them are familiar with some phrases in Spanish,” he said, referring to stars who have shown a taste for Latino culture like Gwyneth Paltrow, Will Smith, and Ben Affleck.

Besides the interviews, Cambert will try to promote Hispanic talent.

“I want to dedicate a space to undiscovered young Hispanic talent. We’ll look for people with special abilities on the Internet,” he said.

“Mas Vale Tarde” will begin with a humorous monologue in which the Cuban will review the current showbiz scene in both markets.

Along the lines of Jay Leno’s “Tonight Show” and the “Late Show with David Letterman,” his program will also include musical numbers and comedy acts featuring well-known personalities.

The comedian believes that with Latinos mixing so much in U.S. culture, there is less and less difference between Anglo and Hispanic senses of humor.

“There aren’t different conceptions of humor - what’s funny is funny and what makes you laugh makes you laugh - as long as there isn’t a sense of humor that excludes people,” he said.

Cambert, who won an Emmy for his part in Telemundo’s “Edicion Especial” (Special Edition) program, almost went to law school at his parents’ urging, but finally decided to take up his true calling as a comedian instead.

From the time he was little he watched “The Tonight Show” - then hosted by the late Johnny Carson - and interviewed his family as if he were hosting his own show.

“My dad said I wasn’t funny,” the artist recalls, who in spite of everything insisted on making his dream come true since, he said, “I love to make people laugh.”

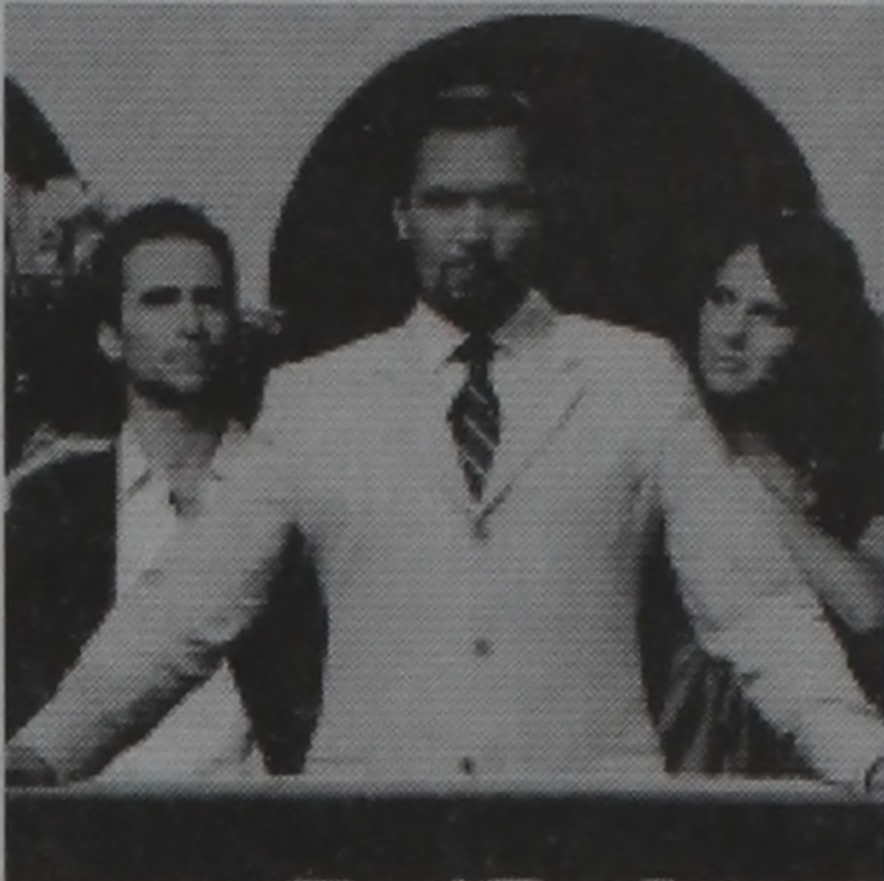
He went on to create a comedy group at the University of Minnesota, where he studied political science, and later moved to Miami to start doing stand-up comedy in clubs.

After “Emission Especial” (Special Program), where he began doing bilingual celebrity interviews, he joined the cast of ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

Cambert, who admits to being a quiet person in his everyday life, said that his goal with the new program is to provide some laughs to help people escape their daily concerns “so they go to bed wearing a smile.”

Fate of ‘Cane’ Has Implications for Other Ethnic Shows

It isn’t really fair to put a lot of pressure on the new CBS drama “Cane.” It is a first-year series. And few first-year series are breakouts such as “Heroes” or “Desperate Housewives.”



actually am going to have gorgeous clothes.”

Moreno adds that Hispanics like to see Hispanics on television, as evidenced by “The George Lopez Show.”

There have been actors with Hispanic heritages on network shows. America Ferrera has become a sensation on “Ugly Betty.” But that show features only a few Hispanic actors despite being based on a Spanish-language telenovela.

Eva Longoria has found fame on “Desperate Housewives.” And “Cane” star Jimmy Smits has starred on several network series. But this show about a Cuban-

American family’s internal struggles is the first to feature so many Hispanic actors.



But it is hard to ignore the fact that there is a lot riding on “Cane” -- one of the first dramas on a network schedule with a mostly Hispanic cast.

The ratings have been low. This week’s episode finished in third place in the time slot, with a 5.7 rating. The failure of past dramas with ethnic casts has made it difficult for others. There hasn’t been a black drama to last a year since CBS’s “City of Angels” in 2000.

The importance of the show did not escape veteran performer Rita Moreno.

“Because as a Latina, it’s so important for me to remind you of why this is important to many of us and particularly to the two older members of the cast,” Moreno says during an interview in July. “It’s the first time, as far as I know, that you will ever see a successful, educated, beautifully dressed, articulate Latino family who don’t necessarily talk like this all the time [speaking in a thick Latino accent].”

“I can’t tell you what that means to me. I’m 75. I’ve been around a long time now. And if nothing else, I am pleased beyond belief that I

Not all of the “Cane” actors share Moreno’s feelings.

“I come from Cuban-American parents, but I’m an actor first,” says Nestor Carbonell, who plays Frank Duque. “When I got into this business, it was to act and to play different kinds of roles.”

“This happens to be a role where I’m of Cuban heritage. But I don’t feel a burden necessarily to portray a certain image. If anything, I’m playing a Machiavellian role, and I want to play that as well as I can. But in terms of like trying to portray a family in a certain way, I don’t feel that burden.”

Unless the ratings go up, the future will not look good for another such attempt.

Pianista venezolana improvisa melodías con toque clásico

“Hey Jude”, grita alguien en el público. Gabriela Montero, se sienta al piano, toca unas notas de la famosa canción de los Beatles, hace una pausa mientras mira al techo, a través de un mechón de largos cabellos rubios que se le han quedado sobre la cara, y luego interpreta la melodía completa, con acordes.

Pero al comienzo es muy triste, en la tonalidad de modo menor. Luego, cambia al modo mayor, y se desata un vaivén entre ambos -feliz, triste y de vuelta- en un estilo que recordaría la mejor tradición de Schubert, con un toque de “Claire de Lune”, de Debussy.

Luego, la venezolana llega a un puente musical y de pronto le imprime a la melodía un ritmo de tango. Lennon y McCartney se encuentran con Gardel y Le Pera, antes de cederle el ambiente a un final con reminiscencias de la música del sur de Estados Unidos.

Su versión de 5 minutos y medio fue improvisada durante una actuación reciente en el Joe’s Pub.

“Verán, cada tema tiene un poco de su propio mundo”, explica Montero durante el espectáculo. “La canción quiere ir en alguna dirección o no. Yo no puedo controlarlo”.

A sus 37 años, Montero es la reina de la improvisación. Estudió piano clásico, pero nació con un don que los puristas del género han desestimado desde la época de Franz Liszt: La creación de música frente a una audiencia.

La improvisación entró en decadencia porque las partituras de piano del siglo XIX se volvieron demasiado difíciles de dominar, de acuerdo con David Dubal, miembro de la facultad de piano en la Juilliard School.

“Uno no puede perder tiempo recorriendo las teclas del piano y divirtiéndose”, opinó.

“Las dos cosas que se necesitan son disciplina y concentración. Puede llevar 15 años el ejecutar bien una pieza, y con algo así todo se derrumba”.

Pero Montero, quien debutó el año pasado en la Filarmónica de Nueva York, ha podido dominar los dos ámbitos.

“Para mí, lo maravilloso del don que ella tiene no es la improvisación, sino la artista interpretativa”, dijo Dubal. “Tiene un sonido hermoso y una técnica depurada”.

Montero improvisa incluso en el estudio de grabaciones. Su nuevo CD, “Baroque”, lanzado el mes pasado, incluye sus improvisadas versiones de una docena de títulos muy conocidos de los siglos XVII y XVIII, incluidas las “Cuatro Estaciones” de Vivaldi y el “Messiah” de Handel. Por ejemplo, su “Hallelujah Chorus” comienza con un ritmo grave de “Habanera”, que se volvió famoso en la “Carmen” de Bizet.

Luego, viene una alegre variación de la melodía de Handel, pero con un estilo latinoamericano.

¿Cómo lo logra?

“Simplemente pasa frente a mis ojos, con mis manos”, dijo en una entrevista. “Es lo que me encanta de hacer esto, es impredecible. Es la sorpresa absoluta, incluso para mí, y luego la magia de ver cómo esto surge por sí solo”.

Montero se interesó por el piano cuando todavía estaba en la cuna, en su país natal. Cuando tenía siete meses, en su primera Navidad, recibió un piano de juguete de dos octavas, como regalo de su abuela.

“Mis padres... se sorprendieron al ver que comencé a reproducir las melodías que mi mamá me cantaba en la noche”, dijo. “Y cuando tenía 18 meses, tocaba todas esas melodías y comenzaba a improvisar”.

Montero comenzó a tomar lecciones cuando tenía 4 años,

con una profesora que la alentó a improvisar. Cuatro años después, la familia se mudó a Miami, donde la niña estudió con alguien que insistía en imponerle una enseñanza tradicional.

“Me dijeron que lo que hacía no tenía valor”, recordó Montero. “Ella realmente me hizo sentir que yo no debería exponerme al ridículo haciendo esto”.

Después de nueve años de reprimir sus impulsos por la improvisación, Montero dejó de tocar a los 17 años. “Había perdido el amor por la música y me quedé sin la magia”, recordó.

Sin embargo, volvió a intentarlo dos años después. Viajó a Londres con una beca y ganó varios premios mientras seguía por el camino convencional, en busca de tocar cada nota con maestría.

Pero aún tenía algunas dudas. “Me tardé más de una década en encontrar realmente mi camino en la música, por qué quería hacer música”, dijo.

La inspiración le llegó durante un encuentro con la revolucionaria pianista argentina Martha Argerich, a quien había conocido unos años antes.

Luego de asistir a un concierto de Argerich en Montreal, Montero le pidió un consejo. “Le dije: ‘Soy madre soltera y no sé cómo combinar lo que hago con la maternidad’”.

Según Montero, Argerich le respondió: “Soy la persona equivocada para hacerle pregunta alguna. ¿Por qué mejor no tocas algo para mí?”

Montero fue a su casa y practicó. Volvió a una cita la noche siguiente e interpretó una caricatura musical de Argerich.

“Ahí estaban todas las cosas

que yo había oído de ella”, recordó Montero. “Estaba este romanticismo, este carácter lúdico y este temperamento tan volátil que tiene ella. Todo eso estaba. Ella soltó una carcajada... Fue uno de esos momentos en la vida en que, no sé, algo ocurrió... Esto cambió realmente toda la trayectoria de mi vida”.



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David Rodriguez is the omelet chef at the Golden Corral and comes to Lubbock from California. David's father is from Mexico and his mother is from Japan. He is one of 3 brothers and is the proud father of 2 beautiful daughters and one handsome son who he says looks just like Dad. David says he tells people that he "makes the best omelets in the west and that all his omelets are blessed."

Photo by John P. Cervantez

School board member wants curriculum to include Hispanics

BROWNSVILLE, Texas -- A Texas State Board of Education member says upcoming revisions to the state's core public school curriculum must include lessons on historical contributions made by Hispanics.

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills curriculum was last revised in 1997.

Board member Mary Helen Berlanga said she was told that significant contributions made by Hispanics would be included in textbooks used by the schools. But she says that 10 years later, the history segment that Texas fourth graders and 11th graders study doesn't mention Hispanics.

Julio Noboa, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, said the numerous important Hispanics are omitted from textbooks used by Texas students.

His examples included United Farmworkers of America founder Cesar Chavez, Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project leader William C. Velasquez and former San Antonio Mayor and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, now president of the television network Univision.

Unprecedented campaign to increase the Latino vote in 2008 Presidential election

Washington, DC-- In a briefing at the National Press Club today, a coalition of the nation's largest and most established Latino organizations and the country's largest Spanish-language media companies launched Ya es Hora, ¡Ve y Vota! (It's Time, Go Vote!), a non-partisan national voter mobilization effort targeting U.S. Hispanics. The campaign seeks to significantly increase Latino voter registration and turnout in the 2008 presidential elections through an unprecedented multimedia campaign that encompasses grassroots, print and broadcast outreach. In particular, the campaign will use aggressive non-partisan field efforts to ensure that Latinos are an important vote in the new Southwestern battleground states.

The coalition partners include Entravision Communications, ImpreMedia, Mi Familia Vota Educational Fund, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), and Univision Communications Inc.

The coalition's Ya es Hora campaign has been organized into two strategic phases: Ya es Hora ¡Ciudadanía!, which worked to naturalize an estimated one million eligible legal permanent residents in 2007, and now, the Ya es Hora ¡Ve y Vota!, which will seek to register and mobilize millions of Latinos in 2008.

Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of the NALEO Educational Fund, pointed to the rapid growth of the Latino electorate in key states and the increased participation seen over the last decade as a foundation from which to build upon for 2008. "As we saw in 2006 and 2007, Latinos are ready to help shape the future of this country by fully participating in the American political process, from citizenship to the ballot box. We intend to provide them the tools to make it happen," said Mr. Vargas.

"The Ya es Hora campaign has had tremendous success in helping eligible Latinos become U.S. citizens. Today, we launch a voter mobilization campaign in partnership with hundreds of community organizations across the country so that Latinos will project a stronger voice for our nation's future. We expect Latino voter turnout on Election Day 2008 to shatter the previous record of 7.5 million in 2004," said Cecilia Munoz, Senior Vice President of NCLR.

On the Internet -www.eleditor.com

Field efforts will look to mobilize Latino registered voters through direct contact in 11 states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, New York, and Texas. Voter information and education tools—including a toll-free bilingual hotline 1-888-Ve-Y-Vota, and a campaign website www.veyvota.org—will provide U.S. Latinos with information vital to the electoral process, from registering to vote to finding their polling place on Election Day. In addition, the hotline and field efforts will work with the national Election Protection 365 network to protect Latino voters and ensure voters' rights in 2008.

"Latinos are more driven than ever to participate in the American political process and make their voices heard on Election Day. Sheer growth coupled with the community's ever-increasing political will are converging to deliver a powerful punch in 2008. The emergence of key battleground states in the southwest and Florida will give 2.2 million Latino registered voters a particularly decisive role in shaping our political future," said Eliseo Medina, Treasurer of Mi Familia Vota and Executive Vice President of the Service Employees International Union.

In collaboration, the largest Spanish-language media companies in the United States will dramatically expand the reach and impact of the campaign. Combined, Entravision, ImpreMedia, and Univision are in 99% of U.S. Latino homes. Additionally, according to a 2006 survey conducted by NCLR, 52% of Hispanics say ads and programs on Spanish-language media encourage them to get involved, register, and go out to vote.

"Univision has a strong commitment to inform, educate and empower U.S. Hispanics. Through the Ya es Hora partnership, we will continue to leverage our TV, radio and online properties to reach and mobilize our weekly audience of 25 million and engage them in the crucial upcoming 2008 presidential election," said Cesar Conde, Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer, Univision Communications Inc.

Rossana Rosado, Publisher of El Diario La Prensa in New York added, "ImpreMedia's commitment to inform and engage the U.S. Latino community through our daily and weekly publications is unrivaled. Our commitment to the campaign will include nearly 11 million readers in the top 17 Latino markets."

The campaign launched today with a fully active hotline, website, and on-air ad campaign on media sponsor networks.

Racial profiling violates rights

By JULIAN AGUILAR, LAREDO MORNING TIMES

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In 2005, Laredo and Del Rio police didn't have a legal basis to search more than 70 percent of the people during a routine traffic stop, according to the ACLU of Texas. That fact is just one the public doesn't know, according to a presentation Tuesday by the ACLU's Laredo chapter. The meeting was geared toward teaching people about their civil rights and about racial profiling.

José Romero, guest speaker, said it is difficult to convince people that racial profiling exists in a city that is predominately Hispanic.

"It's a little bit harder but what the point was ... once you start violating other people's (rights), it will start to trickle down," he said.

David Almaraz, the Laredo chapter's president, said he agreed the idea of racial profiling in a non-multicultural city was also a little far-fetched at first thought, but people from Laredo and other border cities may travel and become victims themselves.

Romero told the story of "David," a Latino U.S. citizen who during a spring break trip to Matamoros, lost his identification and was denied re-entry into the U.S. The man was drunk and instead of ensuring his safety, like Romero said the U.S. government has an obligation to do, they sent him back. "David" was found dead two days later in the Rio Grande with a blood-alcohol level twice the legal limit.

The story drew a reaction from those that said "David" should not have jumped in the Rio Grande drunk, but Romero said that wouldn't have happened if the government had fulfilled its duties. The government, he said, violated "David's" right to life, right to exile and right to family.

"The notion that there isn't any racial profiling going on in Laredo is off the mark," said Israel Reyna of the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. "We do it ourselves. Hispanic Border Patrol agents are involved in this assault."

Reyna said some Hispanic agents might try and overcompensate to prove they are not "soft" on their fellow Hispanics.

"It exists a lot more than we think it does," said Raul Casso, the City of Laredo attorney. "To some degree, everybody does it."

To reach Julian Aguilar, call 728-2557, or e-mail jaguilar@lmtonline.com

Read it First in El Editor

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