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Lubbock, Texas

News Briefs

Price Files for Re-Election; Salinas Will Challenge; Armando Gonzales May Throw Hat in Ring

District 2 Councilman Floyd Price announced last week that he will seek re-election to his Lubbock City Council seat.

Price was elected 4 years ago, eventually defeating long time Councilman T. Patterson in a race of election between the two. And although his first election was somewhat of an uphill climb, many think that this one will be an insurmountable mountain climb this time around.

In 2007, Price almost became the target of the Recall 2007 Organizing Committee whose leadership was upset because of his vote along with the rest of the council to buy the building which housed a popular Lubbock nightclub and convert it into a visitor's center. At that time they pointed to Price's failure to protect minority businesses as the primary reason he could become a recall target.

Price met privately with the recall organizers, and some would say, promised them the same so that he would not become a target. Until now, all promises which were made known to this newspaper by the principal spokesperson for the group Armando Gonzales for a previous story have never been fulfilled, except for one in which Price agreed to stay out of the DeLeon recall.

Also this week, another long time District 2 resident, Gilbert Salinas, sent out a press release announcing his intention to challenge Price.

Last year, Salinas appeared before the council to speak during the citizen comments portion of the meeting on a different issue. He caught Price and the rest of the council by surprise when he announced his intention to challenge Price this year.

In his press release, Salinas says that he is running "To work to bring a Police Sub-station to East Lubbock; To work to improve a Factory Outlet Mall to East Lubbock; To work to improve the playgrounds we already have and to improve the remaining pools of Mac Simmons Park and Parkway and for a new recreation center for youth in East Lubbock; and To work to improve streets, sidewalks, alleys, and street lighting."

Salinas is a life-long Lubbock resident, a graduate of Estacado High School and a licensed electrician.

Credible sources tell El Editor that principal spokesman and DeLeon recall organizer Armando Gonzales may be seriously considering a run against Price. Sources tell El Editor that Gonzales is bothered by Price's inability to get anything meaningful done in District 2, and that he is tired of hearing the "time-out" responses from Price.

Assessment from residents who spoke to who live in District 2 is that Price just doesn't have the wherewithal or qualifications to understand the complexities involved in serving on the council.

They point to the fact that Price has difficulty understanding some of the contracts and legal documents which come before the council and has to rely on others, in particular staff like City Attorney Anita Burgos, for explanations. Hence, the concern is that Price is unable to make his own decisions based on the facts and most of the time just takes the advice of the City Attorney or City Manager.

Whether this is a valid criticism or just a perception which may hurt Price in his re-election effort is something district residents will be asked to decide in May. As for Gonzales, he's a Texas Tech graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, English and Spanish, and a Masters in Secondary Education - Foreign Languages, graduating from Texas Tech in 2001 and again in 2006.

All candidates have until March 10 to file their candidacy papers with the City Secretary, and there still may be other candidates who come forward to challenge for the District 2 seat. Other offices which run for re-election are Mayor, and city districts 4 and 6. Municipal Court Judge will also be contested.

Early voting begins on April 28 and ends on May 6. Election Day is May 10. Email: acruz@ael.com

Richardson Drops Out of Presidential Race

Although his campaign staff was denying it, the Associated Press was reporting late Wednesday night that New Mexico Governor and Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Richardson will drop out of the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The state's capital newspaper, the Santa Fe New Mexican quoted his deputy campaign manager as saying that Richardson "hasn't dropped out and she hasn't talked to him about doing so."

But several news outlets had joined the AP in their assessment of the situation and had also reported that Richardson would drop out and make it official on Thursday. Richardson had placed 4th in both the Iowa Caucuses and the New Hampshire primary but was well behind the top 3 candidates, Obama, Clinton and Edwards.

And although Richardson has dropped out, he will still be a force to reckon with as the Democratic nominee may look to him to deliver the Hispanic vote.

"Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" Screening at Tech

"Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" marks the six year anniversary of the first prisoner arrival at Guantanamo's notorious Camp X-Ray. After nearly six years of disarray and uncertainty about how to prosecute the 320 remaining prisoners held there, our government has failed to complete a single trial. The ACLU is working hard to restore habeas corpus, repudiate torture and close Guantanamo Bay. Please join us for a screening and discussion of "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib."

Acclaimed filmmaker Rory Kennedy (HBO's "Indiana Post-Imagining the Unimaginable") looks beyond the headlines to investigate the psychological and political context in which torture occurred.

"How could ordinary American soldiers come to engage in such monstrous acts?" Kennedy asks. "What policies were put into place that allowed this behavior to flourish while protections granted to prisoners under the Geneva Conventions were ignored?"

For more information about tickets, contact Vince Gonzalez, President of the Lubbock Chapter of the ACLU of Texas at 214-354-2337 or dpmittigation@acul.com.

The general public is invited to attend. What: Ghosts of Abu Ghraib Screening at Tech. When: January 19, 2008, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Where: Texas Tech University ENGL Room 001. Email: elditor@sbxglobal.net

Campana Promete Acelerar Retrasos en el Procesamiento de las Solicitudes y Fomentar la Participación de los Votantes

Washington, DC - Hoy, la campaña ya es Hora, Ciudadanía (Citizenship, It's Time) anunció que ha superado su meta de ayudar a movilizar a más de un millón de inmigrantes elegibles a solicitar la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos en 2007. Han ganado más de solicitudes indiana están siendo procesadas, el servicio de inmigración y ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos (USCIS por sus siglas en inglés) confirmó la recepción de 1,029,915 solicitudes de ciudadanía desde enero a octubre del 2007 - cerca del doble de solicitudes de ciudadanía recibidas en el 2006. "Bayer la meta de un millón de solicitudes en un trimestre largo" dijo la directora ejecutiva de Fondo Educativo Anual Vargas NALLE. "Este es el momento más emocionante de la comunidad latina de involucrar completamente en el proceso político estadounidense. La Lanza Ya es Hora continúa comprendiendo su campaña para seguir su vocación y expresar su interés en la participación de los votantes latinos en noviembre del 2008."

"El aumento evidente en solicitudes de ciudadanía, arraigado por el optimismo y la esperanza que sellan cada solicitud, es una victoria para todos los estadounidenses" dijo Elio Medina, vicepresidente ejecutivo del Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicios (SEIU por sus siglas en

Red Light Cameras Get the Red Light From Council?

By Abel Cruz
S it a political move by the Mayor and his gang of 4 to save face before the upcoming May election? Or is it just a confirmation of what the majority of this city's residents have known from day one?

While the red light cameras may keep the occasional red light runner from running a red light in the end they are designed to generate a source of revenue for city officials and not as a way to make intersections safer. Acknowledgment city officials may hate to admit to; but in the end, one of the overriding issues as the council decides whether to put a stop to the red light madness which has engulfed this city since the idea was first discussed.

In a report which is to be presented to the council at Thursday morning's council meeting, it is expected that the most important detail will be that the cameras have not generated the revenue they were intended to produce. Whether they generated enough tickets and whether collection rates are lagging is another thing. But the bottom line is that the amount of revenue has not been enough to satisfy American Traffic Solutions; the company which handles the cameras for the city and who has to see any profit from entering into the contract with the city.

While there has been very little information coming out of city hall; a source tells El Editor that it is not a question of will they go but when will they. The cameras have been installed for the better part of 6 months but residents have been



left mostly in the dark about issues such as have they made drivers safer; number of tickets issued; amount of fines collected; and whether most of the tickets issued have been to drivers turning right on a red light. The council is expected to hear the report and not take any action on the cameras until a later date.

In other business the council is expected to hear a presentation from City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld in which she will call for a \$100 million dollar plus bond election so that the proceeds may be used for infrastructure projects such as street repair and improvements to areas like the 34th street corridor from Ave A west to Slide Rd. The total amount also includes money for the soccer fields at 1585 and Milwaukee.

And the council will continue its spending ways as it considers a "Bond Issuance Ordinance" first and only reading which states that they will "Consider an ordinance providing for the issuance of City

of Lubbock, Texas, Tax and Wastewater System Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$70 million; leaving a tax and pledging surplus Wastewater System revenues in payment thereof; approving the official statement; approving execution of a purchase contract; and enacting other provisions relating thereto." Unlike, General Obligation Funds, Certificates of Obligation do not require voter approval.

Also on the agenda is consideration of a "resolution suspending for 45 days the implementation of Atmos Energy's application for an interim rate adjustment filed with the City of Lubbock on November 15, 2007".

Email: elditor@sbxglobal.net

Regional Hispanic Women's Conference

Hispanas, El Futuro

On January 12, the Lubbock based Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) will host its annual Regional Hispanic Women's Conference that has this year adopted the mission statement to impart a source of information, inspiration, empowerment, well being, and wealth building both personally and professionally by promoting higher education, community involvement, leadership development for the improvement of the quality of life for Hispanic women.

The schedule on the topics to be covered include

1. Leadership Development and Empowerment - 2 sessions- General Assembly
2. Workshops
- A. Medical information for wellness (Workshop-2)
- B. Health Fair to be held in conjunction with this aspect
- B. Financial Planning (Workshop-2)
- C. Higher Education Opportunities (Workshop-2)

The Schedule of Events is the following 8:00 am - 10:00 am Registration, Health Fair, Exhibits 10:15 am - 10:30 am Welcome and Prayer 10:30 am - 11:00 am General Assembly

Keynote Speaker- Rosa Rosales National LULAC President, San Antonio, TX 11:00 am - 11:15 am Break and Exhibits 11:15 am - 12:30 pm Breakout Sessions

1. Women's Wellness
2. Financial Planning
3. Higher Educational Opportunities 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Lunch- Civic Center Banquet Hall Entertainment

Keynote speaker- Jodi Valenciano Perry LULAC Texas Director for Women, Ft. Worth, TX Special Presentations

1. 4:50 pm - 2:00 pm Break and Exhibits
2. 200 pm - 3:15 pm Breakout Sessions
3. Women's Wellness
4. Financial Planning
5. Higher Educational Opportunities

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm Break and Exhibits 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm General Assembly

Keynote Speaker Maria Luisa Merado, Attorney at Law, Galveston, TX

Conclusion

MALDEF Urges Supreme Court to Strike down Voter Identification Requirement

As the nation focuses on the New Hampshire presidential primary, the fight to protect the right of all eligible citizens to have equal access to the polls without any unnecessary barriers is being waged in the courts. On Wednesday the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument regarding a 2005 Indiana state law that requires voters to present a government-issued identification in order to cast a ballot.

MALDEF has filed an amicus brief urging the justices to strike down the law in light of the damaging consequences to voter turnout and the burdens placed on minority and low-income communities.

"By requiring voters to present specified IDs, the State of Indiana disproportionately burdens poor and minority communities, increasing the cost of voting for those who can least afford it," stated MALDEF Southwest Regional Counsel Nina Perales.

MALDEF's brief highlights the importance of the case to other states, such as Arizona, where a similar voting law was passed, aimed at restricting the franchise for Latinos, Native Americans and naturalized citizens. MALDEF currently represents the lead plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, a 2004 voter initiative known as "Proposition 200." Under Proposition 200, Arizona residents, like the Indiana residents involved in this case, are required to provide specified proof of identification before voting at the polls on Election Day and provide documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration.

"Proposition 200 creates substantial burdens on the right to vote that cannot be justified by any compelling state interest and should be rejected," stated John Treavith, MALDEF President and General Counsel. "The Court should apply strict scrutiny to ensure that voter identification schemes ostensibly based on the need to police voting fraud are not a subterfuge for outright discrimination. Imposing identification requirements to fight voter fraud in the absence of any history or record of such fraud drives down citizen participation in our elections, violates the Constitution and weakens our democracy."

The Court's decision, expected in May or June, may have a significant impact on the conduct of the November 2008 presidential elections.

Source of Press Release: Mexican American Legal Defense Fund Email: elditor@sbxglobal.net



Campana Promete Acelerar Retrasos en el Procesamiento de las Solicitudes y Fomentar la Participación de los Votantes

inglés). "Esto cuando los atropellos hacia los inmigrantes han aumentado; esta comunidad reclama su participación y compromiso para ayudar a fortalecer la democracia de los Estados Unidos. Esta es la clase de participación cívica que nuestros país necesita para crecer con fuerza". Desde enero del 2007, esta campaña sin precedentes la unió a más de 40 instituciones en 24 ciudades para ofrecer talleres sobre la ciudadanía y a proveer otros herramientas de ayuda a los solicitantes. Los medios de comunicación en español - Entrenos, Imprimé y a Unión - han incorporado mensajes y programas educativos sobre la ciudadanía, al igual que anuncios y televisivos de servicio público alcanzando al 9% de los hogares hispanos. Como resultado del tremendo éxito de la campaña, los diversos miembros que componen este esfuerzo de Voz Firme, Ciudadanía (citizenship) con USCIS y representantes del Congreso para reducir el retraso en el procesamiento de las solicitudes. Actualmente, los procesos previos en USCIS pueden impedir que los solicitantes del 2007 puedan naturalmente a tiempo para votar en las elecciones del 2008.

"Nuestra campaña está comprometida en proveer el apoyo necesario para que podamos acelar

car los retrasos", dijo Cely Muñoz (vicepresidenta de Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés). "Estos solicitantes han seguido todas las reglas - pagando puntualmente su turno, pagando sus impuestos y contribuyendo con sus comunidades. Todos estamos de acuerdo de que estos no deben enfrentar retrasos injustificables que les impida escoger su ciudadanía. Ellos merecen la oportunidad de convertirse en ciudadanos activos para que su voz se escuche el día de las elecciones".

La coalición nacional incluye a Entrenamientos Civicos, ImpriméMedia, el Nacional Association of Latino Educators and Appointed Officials (NALLE) Educational Panel, el Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés), el Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicios (SEIU por sus siglas en inglés) y Unions Communications Inc.

Además de su continuo compromiso para ayudar a los inmigrantes elegibles a naturalizarse, la campaña ya es Hora recientemente lanzó Ya es Hora. Voz Firme (It's Time, Go Vote), una campaña actual que busca movilizar y llevar a millones de latinos a las urnas en noviembre del 2008.

Saint Peter Don't You Call Me Cause I Can't Go

By Abel Cruz

By the time you read this, chances are very good that collectively, the taxpayers of this city are seeing the line at the old Tennessee Express-Ford Fall "crazy day out and deeper in debt." And we just might be so inclined to say this one's our most popular line in town. Saint Peter don't you call me cause I can't go and to the company store.

The company store being a metaphor for the Lubbock City Council and a city management staff which never seems to be able to accumulate enough debt to satisfy their bureaucratic, compulsive need to die debt hole deeper and deeper. I refer of course to his week's City Council agenda items 6.3 which states: 6.3 Bond Issuance Issued Last Only Reading - Finance: Consider an ordinance providing for the issuance of City of Lubbock, Texas, Tax and Wastewater System SORCA Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2008, in an amount not to exceed \$70 million for the acquisition, construction, and operation of wastewater revenues in payment thereof; approving the official statement; approving execution of a purchase contract; and executing other provisions relating thereto.

In simpler terms; get ready, our sewer and water rates will be going up to service the insatiable thirst this Mayor and council has for incurring debt; without their approval.

That's right my fellow Lubbockers; another \$70 million worth of debt; and without any significant public discourse or opportunity to voice opposition. And all it will take is a first and final reading of the ordinance language; ensuring that the majority of city residents will sign this long after the ordinance has passed.

This council, knowing that residents are not likely to approve anything they put before us is willing to go behind the false cloak of open government the Mayor wraps himself in and by a simple council majority approve \$70 million more dollars worth of more debt.

Never mind that we would ourselves very clear about our distrust of this management team of council members and staff; the Mayor; when they tried to take us for a cool \$300 million just a few months ago; but unlike General Obligation Funds; Certificates of Obligation do not require voter approval. Pretty slick huh? And even if opposition comes from some council members like John

Leonard and possibly Todd Klein; and by some big stretch of the imagination Jim Gilchrist, my guess is that Mayor Miller and his other crew of 4 cohorts will really follow City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld's lead down the road to the tub of red ink in the sky.

Here we are in the midst of a probable recession; never mind what the local experts say; we will be affected; Gas prices are expected to be back like a gallon; grocery store prices are going up; the stock market is experiencing double digit losses every day; the unemployment rate is starting to creep up; and some people stand to lose their homes in the sub-prime mortgage crisis. Yet by the time you read this; if you live in this city you may be the proud recipient of a shared \$70 million dollars worth of debt.

Who goes into debt during a recession? Look no further than those wizards of economic disaster down at city hall for the answer. Make no mistake about it, the debt will have to be serviced somehow. And that somehow will be on the backs of tax payers like you and me. The following line clearly states how the debt is to be serviced: "levying a tax and pledging surplus Wastewater System revenues in payment thereof." Of course the city will promptly tell us that taxes will not go up, but then they will turn around and raise our water and sewer rates and then put themselves on the back in public for not raising our taxes.

You say two-way, I say to whom, what the heck is the difference? The money will still come out of taxpayer's pockets. Talk about being disingenuous; or have I mistakenly got it mixed up with that other "D" word which means just about the same thing?

I was hoping to end this column by offering an uplifting tune which would capture the whole debt thing for us.

So to my fellow taxpayers; you may recall old Bee Cee's tune with a slight variation: "How Did You Get Your Debt." And those cold dark eyes staring at me from city hall; a variation of The Eagles old standard; "You Can't Hide Them Lying Eyes"

Email: acruz@ael.com

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City Council Deserves All "F's"

I've had my fill of mere politicians in the 2008 Elections. I along with many Lubbockites have been disappointed and frustrated with the lack of leadership from the present council and other city leaders. They have shown over and over again that they do not care what the majority in Lubbock want.

They have been self serving and have embarrassed the city of Lubbock, not only locally and regionally BUT they have also embarrassed the city of Lubbock on a grand scale. As the grid girl of the unwanted people on this council and others that work for the city. They have ill represented Lubbock and need to be ousted.

This recent ART banning was another poor decision by our city leadership. Good eye to end 2007. Give Lubbock another black eye. Lubbock is now depending on the city council and city leaders to get the city a positive image because our city council and city leaders have failed to do so. I give them all F's.

So, what I am asking for is that I would remember that these council members have no idea what the city is into when elections come around. I will be greatly disappointed if any of the present council members are re-elected. This starts with the mayor, Please. People let's get people in our city that are not just Lubbock and not just themselves and their own interests.

Paradorn, Lubbock

Lubbock's "Bum Steer" Cowpatty Awards

Thank God Texas Monthly had to determine the recipients of it's "2008 Bum Steer Awards" before that got word of two additional stipulations that would have been made. But before we get to that, for those of you who do not know, Texas Monthly is a "monthly American magazine" which annually awards (sic) recognition ("top 100" list) to the best products, services, and people. Let's get people in our city that are not just Lubbock and not just themselves and their own interests.

Paradorn, Lubbock

This year, Lubbock received three such "awards." One for the city of Lubbock, one for the city of Lubbock. She does five Cecilia Lynn Coy-Jones, a reporter for KCBJ-TV, in Lubbock, was arrested for attempted kidnapping of a child. She was in the maternity wards of two American hospitals, however, she claimed, she was investigating how secure they were from would-be kidnapers. And then, to top it off, she was arrested for kidnapping a child.

You know, the least the police could have done was allowed her to go to KCBJ's Makeup Department first. Damn! 2) Guns up! It's about the Red Raiders game and the Aggies, members of the Texas Tech University football team. T-shirts depicting a football player stringing up Reveille, the A&M mascot. The "I'm a Rebel" t-shirt is considered a hate symbol because that which incident is that, the last day of the week was leashed at all times.

And 3) The hold evidence shirked up Eight Championship titles. Lubbock's performance in a Lubbock by Lubbock were released the following day, a lieutenant with the Lubbock County Sheriff's office explained, "there wasn't a problem with the Lubbock by Lubbock. I did I were there and I thought, there was more than plenty. Shake it baby! Shake it!"

But wait, Texas Monthly forgot two late breaking acts of ignorance.

First, the prohibition by a very discerning (sic) City of Lubbock Assistant City Manager against the display of the Buddy Holly Center. It was to be in blame or just a typical make me can't see a breast without also making an erection? (As trouble as her absolute, not one but two, City Councilwomen in outrage. It's nice to know that women can be dragged through the mud for covering their own women's issues. But don't worry, nancy in Linda ("Can't Keep My Mouth Shut Unless I'm Really Injured") will be honored for her contributions to all of our city's interests. I'm sure you'll remember Women's Conference. Are you getting a tired of these BS awards as much as I am?)

Second, the secret use of cameras in our alley, by night, by our most trustworthy Lubbock Police Department. I in this same police department that had one of it's finest drive home drunk in a patrol car. I was in the back seat of a patrol car with another patrolman who sexually assaulted a young woman in the back seat of his patrol car in exchange for not being taken to jail? (The same PD who was responsible for the sexual assault of a young girl by being African-American? And still goes on and on... I vote that we allow them to continue to use cameras in our streets. I'm sure you'll remember RMS, Lubbock

Final Word on SORCA Street Lights

Freedom of expression is great, but when it comes to negotiation to represent the truth, intelligent discourse is important. I would like to thank you for your letter to the editor. SORCA did lead the effort to restore Overton's lights. The effort started after we noticed that over 160 lights in a four block area of North Overton in Granddaddy's area were in a state of disrepair. We contacted LP&L and were told that the poles were "too expensive" to replace. So we did our own search of our own and found the manufacturer and took this information to Linda DeLoon. She recommended a survey of the lights. Members of SORCA took on the task of surveying the lights. We documented the status of each light. Roughly 1/3 were in need of repair, several poles were missing, entirely. Linda took this information and worked with the city to purchase the poles. Thank you Linda! She may have coordinated with Mayor Miller - I don't know, but I do know that she was instrumental in getting the poles installed. As for the history of SORCA, it is a matter of public record that SORCA publishes frequent newsletters, established the first community garden, painted houses for elderly residents, and has been instrumental in the creation of LUNA, and worked on developing better relationships with people in the City. In 1998

we presented a formal grant proposal to create the pocket park at 16th & X. We were the only neighborhood association to apply for the grant that year. In addition we were successful in raising money to purchase the equipment for the installation of the project. The efforts of Robert Brodwin and Ed & Debbie Cogswore were instrumental in bringing the project to completion. Many thanks to all people we involved in this project. Our neighborhood has benefited by this improvement. Some residents might think "the city" did it. But these are the facts. Between 2004 and 2006 we had several community meetings were not held, special meetings were called without notice, and participation declined. Proposals made to the city were not considered. The majority of the membership voted down all by-law amendments if mem-

ing of the general membership in August of 2005. But the regular scheduled annual election meeting in 2006, I was elected president. At an unofficial meeting called later by the past president for purposes of another election, all in attendance were notified that the election had already occurred and had been conducted in accordance with the by-laws. In an effort to be inclusive the offer was made to have a second election. However, no one wanted to participate. Roger was elected to the board and failed to attend even one subsequent meeting. Since that time SORCA, has successfully worked out getting its leaders restored, worked on alerting the city to the problems associated with low chlorine levels in our water supply, which has led to a major infrastructure upgrade in our water supply lines. We are working on other projects which promote better leadership and lasting positive impact on our neighborhood. We will continue to offer our current by-laws until they are properly modified. When we work within the framework of clearly established rules organizations can function more effectively. While I will no longer be the president after the 2nd Tuesday in February (or by laws prohibit presidents from serving more than 2 consecutive one year terms) I hope to continue working with like minded individuals and SORCA for improving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Thank you for your letter and for making the city to the problems associated with low chlorine levels in our water supply, which has led to a major infrastructure upgrade in our water supply lines. We are working on other projects which promote better leadership and lasting positive impact on our neighborhood. We will continue to offer our current by-laws until they are properly modified. When we work within the framework of clearly established rules organizations can function more effectively. While I will no longer be the president after the 2nd Tuesday in February (or by laws prohibit presidents from serving more than 2 consecutive one year terms) I hope to continue working with like minded individuals and SORCA for improving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

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THE CRUZ POLITICAL REPORT: ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY ON NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS

By Abel Cruz

Clinton Becomes the "Come Back Chick"

Clinton becomes the difference between the two candidates. It was the Hillary moment, the one in which she shows more emotion than the ever has; and which was played and replayed on television screens and nightly newscasts before the primary that captured the sympathetic eye and votes of some New Hampshire voters.

It was the polls closed on Tuesday night, it was Hillary Clinton edging out Barack Obama to win the New Hampshire Primary after she had all but been written off by those who make their livelihood analyzing and calling political races. Boy were they wrong.

After her loss to Barack Obama in Iowa, political pundits had all but announced Obama as the next Democratic candidate for President. Even leading up to the day of the election in New Hampshire, Clinton was behind Obama by as much as 9 percentage points in pre-election polls.

In the end there were only 3 percentage points separating the two leading contenders. Clinton won with 39% of the total vote, while Obama received 36%. John McCain finished 23% and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson finished a distant 4th with only 5% of the total vote.

Richardson's loss has to be a big disappointment for the New Mexico Governor who has been running a credible campaign in which has received national attention and exposure; and who expected to do better. And if somehow things were to stay in the main market Super Tuesday, Richardson may enjoy a resurgence in states where the Hispanic electorate may come out to vote for him. States like California, his home state of New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado are all scheduled to hold either a Democratic primary or caucus on February 5.

Barack Obama's "Warning of McCain

On the Republican side of the coin, John McCain continued to dispel the rumors of his early political decline and surprised everyone by winning the contest with 37% of the vote. Although his victory had been expected in the final 2 weeks before Tuesday's vote, his campaign organization had experienced many raising questions and other staffing and campaign personnel issues.

But McCain managed to outdo frontrunner Mitt Romney who managed to win 32% of the total vote. Leading the rest of the pack was Iowa winner Mike Huckabee with 11%. With an electorate in New Hampshire made up of smaller numbers of Evangelical Christians than Iowa, Huckabee was not able to top into that voting bloc as he had done the previous week.

The biggest surprise of the night had to be Giuliani, two months ago he had been leading in most national polls. But this night he had to settle for bringing up the rear. Giuliani cannot be counted out though. He outspat his Republican rival in New Hampshire and still has plenty of money to spend as the Republican head in Michigan on January 15 and South Carolina on January 26.

Giuliani's campaign strategy says that he is setting all his markers to winning the majority of the states which hold their primary on Super Tuesday, February 5, 2008. At last count, voters in 23 states will go to the polls on that day in primary states or caucuses. But that number is likely to change, since most states are positioning themselves to hold their primaries earlier, like California which moved its primary from June to February, in order to have a bigger say in selecting a Presidential candidate.

In Giuliani's home state of New York, 151 delegates are at stake in that state's primary.

And Finally... Race and the Race

As voters in this country ready for the first African American President? Or do they say they are when asked by the pollsters, that they will vote for Obama; and then they vote the exact opposite during the veil of privacy in the voting booth?

Both are legitimate questions and both could be answered if Obama is eventually nominated as the Democratic Presidential Candidate and is elected President. By all accounts, voters in Iowa did not cast their vote based on skin color. In a state where whites make up 92% of the population, Obama won overwhelmingly by at least 7 percentage points.

Other factors impacting an Obama candidacy is that he is not seen by the majority as African American because he isn't. Obama's mother is white and his father was from Kenya. Obama himself has referenced his biracial ancestry, but when the campaign trail seems very careful not to label himself as a "black candidate."

Another distinguishing aspect of the Obama campaign is his strategy to steer clear from traditional "black issues", similar to ones used in previous elections by people like Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.

But that Obama can't deny the fact this country will look in the future. A biracial individual who takes his roots but whose social movement with an American electorate who is fed up with politics as usual.

Email: acruz@aol.com

PRIMARY DAY THE DAY AFTER THE PRIMARY...

FOR VOTE FOR HILLARY

AND A CARE ABOUT THE MESSING OIL HELLO?

HELLO?

NEW HAMPSHIRE OLD HAMPSHIRE

El Hijo De 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 very popular song in this city. It was a very popular song in this city. It was a very popular song in this city. It was a very popular song in this city.

"El Que Pasa con la Coca" doesn't fall from the tree."

Pues ahora son dos. Primero no habia candidato para el puesto del precinto dos del Consejo de la Ciudad y ahora parece que va haber dos Chicanos quien buscarán el puesto. Uno de ellos, Gilbert Salinas, hace tiempo habia estado en la cárcel y esta semana se anuncia oficialmente.

El otro nuevo es Armando Rodriguez quien tambien se escuchó por ahí que esta bastante interesado y que quassa se anuncie en los proximos dias.

Haber como nos va. Todo lo que sabe este Alacran es que ya es tiempo que ese puesto se gane por un Chicano. Somos bastantes!

Y se escuchó por ahí que la Cámara de Comercio principal le esta preguntando a sus miembros que si quieren a juntarse con los demócratas para que el congreso de los Estados Unidos, vale más no decir nada cuando uno no tiene nada bueno que decir. Pero este alacran no se puede quedar callado al darse cuenta no los del Lubbock. Charrber quizás vamen al "mexico" con el charrber. Hazano. Parece que el presidente del Lubbock Choben Barles poco los ojos a los pasanos diciendoles que los recibiran con brazos abiertos, y ahora esta batallando para conseguir los brazos abiertos para que se haga el merger. Brazos abiertos; más bien brazos cerrados. Ah que mi raza; siempre tratando de pegar honours pero ni pegandole a la pared con tomate bajo que podria tener.

Hay otro dicho en el barrio que dice "hay que preparar el ojo al macho" y eso es lo que precisamente se hacer cuando no se le dice a publico que esta pasando. Hacer tiempo me nombraron 17 miembros para un comité que se va encarar con la celebración de El Centenario del Lubbock. Como espero ya a lo más distante dinero al dicho Comité. ¿Y cuantos miembros de este comité de 17 ya por representar a nuestra comunidad? Uno, siendo 30 por ciento de la población en la ciudad del Lubbock, fuera justo tener cuando menos miembros del Comité.

Bueno ya voy poco fuerte esta semana este hijo del alacrán. En las proximas semanas espero mucho mas sobre la politica y que esta pasando con los candidatos que se van a fijaron. Tengan cuidado que a la mejor lo pesca este Alacrán haciendo hano a no major los otros. ¡Tapan todas las rendijas en sus casaca cuando se van a votar! Este Alacrán esta tan sergenial! Hazala la proxima.

El Editor

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EDITOR'S 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

Editor's Note: Our year in review was first published on line at www.eleditor.com; we reprint it here for the benefit of our readers who may have missed it.

After all is said and done, just what happened in 2007 to make the front pages and internet site's home pages? Which events impacted the most people?

Those were the questions on our minds as we thought about how to wrap up the year and determine just what topics, issues, news and other events made this an interesting year.

We decided to ask some of our past year's contributors for their help. We put together a panel of people who throughout the year have either written to us about certain issues or topics which have been on their minds. We then put together a set of questions and categories asked them what they thought. While there were many contributors to El Editor in 2007, we did not send a questionnaire out to every one of them; and all were selected at random.

As for our categories and topics; those two were selected at random; since the list could be never-ending had we selected every topic which interests readers and which we covered throughout the year. We also want to thank our panelists who responded to our request for help.

Here for your consideration, and in no particular order, are El Editor's 2007 Year in Review final results.

Top National News of 2007 (Random Order)

- Iraq War and Surge
- Virginia Tech Campus Shooting Rampage
- General Petraeus Report
- Immigration Issues
- Presidential Primary Campaigns
- Attorney General Alberto Gonzales Resignation
- United States Attorney's Firings
- Nancy Pelosi is Elected First Female Speaker of the House

Top Local News of 2007 (Random Order)

- Linda DeLeon Recall
- Water Crisis/Restrictions and Landscape Businesses Revenue Loss
- Chippendale Arrests
- Todd Klem Council Victory
- Gary Boren Resignation from Lubbock City Council
- Installation of Red Light Cameras
- Western Little League Baseball Team Victories and Accomplishments in LL World Series
- Victor Hernandez Letter to District 1 Residents Alleging Intimidation by Councilwoman Linda DeLeon
- Sudden Death of Ricky Martinez; Martinez was a Band Member of Lubbock's Hometown Boys
- Ysidro Gutierrez Letter Calling for Linda DeLeon Resignation
- Increase in Crime/Murders in Lubbock
- Esther Sepeda Retires as Lubbock Hispanic Chamber President
- Terry Ellerbrook Lawsuit Settlement
- Dixon Platt Firing
- Lubbock Priest Father David Cruz Publishes Book; "The Human Face of God"
- Lubbock's Dixie Chicks Win 5 Grammy Awards
- LPD Cameras Discovered in Some Residential Alleys
- Randy Neugebauer Votes Against SCHIP bill
- An allegation of Open Meetings Laws Violation against Councilwoman Linda DeLeon after she sends Councilman Todd Klein email asking him not to introduce resolution involving her district; and copies all other council members
- Four City Council Members Subpoenaed to Testify in the City Lawsuit against AAG
- Amanda Salazar wins Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant
- Tejano Talk Radio Debuts in Lubbock

This past year, Lubbock was in the national news several times; what are the top stories that stand out in your mind that caused bad PR for the city? In other words, which were most embarrassing? Chippendale Arrests, Artwork Censorship, Texas Tech is put on Pro-

bation, "Something Sexy" Police Raid

Best and Worst Piece of National Legislation Passed by Congress in 2007
Best - Minimum Wage Increase
Worst - Te - Iraq War Funding and Federal Earthquakes

Most and least effective local Hispanic organization in 2007
Most Effective - Hispanic Association of Women
Least Effective - Lubbock Hispanic Chamber

Most Outstanding local Hispanic Leaders in 2007
Carlos and Lale Quirino of Guadalupe Neighborhood Association

Least effective local Hispanic leader in 2007
Linda DeLeon

Most outstanding National Hispanic Leader in 2007
New Mexico Governor and Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Richardson

Best and worst local TV News
Best - KCBD NewsChannel 11 (NBC Affiliate)
Honorable Mention - Telemundo Local Spanish Language News-cast (The areas only Spanish language news-cast)
Worst - KM4C Channel 28 (ABC Affiliate)

Most and least effective local elected official in 2007
Most Effective - State Senator Robert Duncan
Least Effective - Three way tie between Mayor David Miller, Council-

man Floyd Price and Councilwoman Phyllis Jones

Least Effective National Elected Official in 2007

Congressman Randy Neugebauer
Top Worst Decisions, Resolutions, or Ordinances Passed by the Lubbock City Council in 2007
Red Light Camera Installation
Property Tax Increase
Water/Sewer Cost Increases
Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance
Portions of Canyon Lake Dr Renamed Cesar Chavez Dr
Vote to build new Lubbock Visitor's Center
Chevo Morales not reappointed to Civic Lubbock Inc. Board after serving for 13 years

Worst action by Lubbock Police Department in 2007
Party Patrol Raids on Tech Students and Raid on Something Sexy Lounge Store

Worst Decision by Lubbock City Management in 2007
To Allow Water Line Construction during the Highest Water Usage Time of the Year

To comment on selections in our year in review, email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net.

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Newsmaker of the Year

Lubbock City Council and City Management
This category was selected by El Editor and not by the panel; and to us this was no brainer. When one considers that the Lubbock City Council and City Management Staff like City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld; other Assistant City Managers; especially Tom Adams and Scott Snider; City Secretary Becky Garza; Police Chief Claude Jones and City Attorney Anita Burgess were involved in making the majority of the decisions, and mistakes in many of the cases, that made the most news.

To name a few: The DeLeon Recall, the red light camera installation and all the other news that surrounded that one issue including what some thought were improprieties when the contract was awarded to American Traffic Solutions; Assistant City Manager Tom Adams role in the water restrictions fiasco; the over \$300 million bond election that wasn't and the citizen's subsequent reaction and loss of confidence in the Mayor and council and ultimately saying no to a city council which did not trust to manage this city's finances; the lawsuit between the city and the Ted Parker Group; the ongoing battle at city hall between District 5 City Councilman John Leonard and Mayor David Miller; the mayor speaking in front of a person not at himself and trying to convince city residents that the residents have not lost confidence in the Mayor and the council; allegations of Open Meetings Laws violations; Party Patrols harassing Texas Tech students; a public hearing over the firing of the former City Council Chief of Staff Dixon Platt; the Terry Ellerbrook lawsuit settlement; and the list just goes on and on.

And these are just a few examples of how at every turn of the page in 2007 some of the people elected to represent city residents or hired to run this city's services and city government more often than not stumbled and bumbled their way through most of the year.

AFI's Movies of the Year

The American Film Institute has announced their list of the top ten films of 2007. Another day, another top 10 list, right? Well, not quite. The AFI after all, is the group that made it necessary to consider Citizen Kane the best movie of all time when they put it at the top of their list of the top 100 films, and brought everyone to consider whether Gone With the Wind was really better than Singin' in the Rain. Unlike critics, who everyone loves to argue with, the AFI has that unlike of authority that makes everyone sit up and listen.

Variety has the full list, and what did they pick? A lot of the same stuff the critics did, actually. No Country for Old Men, There Will Be Blood and The Diving Bell and the Butterfly all racked up the critics' awards before finding themselves on this list, and Juno and Michael Clayton earned a slew of Golden Globes awards just a few days ago (no, they're not critics, but both movies got critical attention as well). Other critical favorites from throughout the year made it on there, including the much-beloved Knocked Up and Ratatouille. Into the Wild, which was adored by the Broadcast Film Critics, also found some love here, and Philip Seymour Hoffman's two big movies of the fall, The Savages and Before the Devil Knows You're Dead rounded out the list.

This list is frighteningly close to what my top 10 of the year will be when I write it in a few weeks, which either means I am a genius destined for AFI membership (unlikely) or that there is slowly a consensus emerging of what the best films of the year actually are. There's been much talk about how this has been a banner year for movies, with so many favorites to choose from and so many landmark efforts. What this list and the similar critics' lists seem to indicate, though, is that there are some universal standouts, movies that have grand, epic things to say about humanity (No Country, There Will Be Blood) or are so well-crafted they make moviemaking look too easy (Juno, Knocked Up), or just have Philip Seymour Hoffman on their side so you can do no wrong.

The best part of this list is that its willing to include a raunchy comedy like Knocked Up or—gasp!—a cartoon like Ratatouille. It shows willingness to not just rubber stamp the prestigious efforts; you don't see Atomtorn or The Kite Runner on here, even though they're the kind of movies intended to scream "Quality!" The AFI is recognizing that great movies can come from all corners, whether they star acting virtuoso's like Daniel Day-Lewis or a talking rat.

AFI MOVIES OF THE YEAR-OFFICIAL SELECTIONS BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY INTO THE WILD JUNO

- KNOCKED UP
- MICHAEL CLAYTON
- NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
- RATATOUILLE
- THE SAVAGES
- THERE WILL BE BLOOD

AFI TV PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR-OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

- DEXTER
- EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS
- FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
- LONGFORD
- MAD MEN
- PUSHING DAISIES
- THE SOPRANOS
- TELL ME YOU LOVE ME
- 30 ROCK

Send all your community events and announcements to eleditor@sbcglobal.net or mail to P.O. Box 11250 Lubbock, TX 79408

make NOTES count

Give Yourself A Choice! Register to Vote

... a message from DAWN Disabled Women's Network

Orgullo de familia

Ser cantante me llena mucho, pero mi mayor orgullo es ver crecer a mis hijos sanos, fuertes y en forma. Por eso elijo darles 3 vasos de leche al día. La leche baja en grasa y la descremada contienen 9 nutrientes esenciales, incluyendo calcio y proteína para ayudar a tonificar músculos y fortalecer huesos. Lo digo cantando: el bigote de leche nos llena de orgullo.

got milk?
más leche, más logro.

Para más información visita www.24x7cheche.com

Surrounded by talent

Tony Jarquin never knows when he'll hear Latin music's next great chart-topper.

From thumping club dance floors, to grocery store aisles, the Weslaco-based songwriter and producer is always scouting the Rio Grande Valley for new talent and inspiration.

"As far as talent goes, this place is loaded with it," he said. "You'll hear people in the weird-est places."

This spring, the 37-year-old hopes to complete his first four album-length projects with music performed by local artists. Each CD features songs he wrote, produced and recorded at Weslaco's MP Recording studio.

And although he didn't write his first song until 2002, he's quickly learned what separates a hit from a debut flop — time and attention to detail.

"Everything about a song is like make-up," he said. "A really classy woman will spend a long time putting it on before she goes

out at night. "But you're going to be able to tell the difference compared to what she would throw together for a wedding to Taco Palenque," he said.

Jarquin entered the music industry after penning an original song for a friend's daughter, who was competing in a talent competition in Mexico.

Although he had worked in the entertainment business before — organizing concerts and cultural festivals for embassies in Houston — he knew he'd found his calling after hearing his tune "Mas Que Ayer" set to music.

Now, inspiration for his next melody comes in flashes. Waking from dreams, he says

whose songs will come to him in the middle of the night.

His music incorporates influences from the diverse culvert of South Texas' border region. There are the more classic styles like mariachi

and norteño and up-and-coming genres like the synthesizer-heavy duranguense. He prides himself on his ability to craft an appropriate song for any act.

Artists like teenage mariachi standout Jesus Barrera Jr., of Hidalgo, and Baldearr Malacara, who Jarquin describes as a future Willie Nelson of banda music, have partnered with the Weslaco producer for his original take on popular Mexican-American music.

Jarquin hopes to wrap up all four projects in April and has already lined up labels interested in his artists in Monterrey and Los Angeles.

"We are defying the typical styles," he said. "We're charting new territory."



Live Earth Latino Is a Myth

The ALAS Foundation denied being affiliated with a concert series to fight global warming, aren't related to the famous event at all. Wednesday Jan 09, 2008 11:00am EST

On Monday, news circulated that the Latin American Solidarity Action Foundation (ALAS) was planning a super-concert called Live Earth Latino to raise awareness about global warming, poverty and social problems in Latin America. According to the information, the concerts would take place on Mar. 29, with simultaneous shows in Mexico City, Madrid, New York and Buenos Aires and featuring artists and groups like Maná, The Police, Madonna, U2 and Ricky Martin.

But despite all the buzz, the organization denied the news. "The ALAS Foundation is carrying out the pre-concert production for 2008, but it is not presenting Live Earth Latino or Live 8 Latino. Our objective is NOT the group signing as it is and was the objective of Live 8, nor are we dedicated 100 percent to the environment, as is and was the concept of Live Earth and former vice president Al Gore, we don't have anything to do with them. Our focus is the health and education of youth in Latin America between the ages of 0 and 8. NO ONE is organizing Live Earth Latino," Ruth Infarinato, spokesperson for the foundation, told Peoplespress.com.



and the concerts won't be affiliated with global warming. Infarinato also informed that ALAS is currently working with the World Health Organization and the Haitian government on the largest-scale vaccination program in that country.

Culture Clash in AmeriCCa headline concert at Texas Tech

The Los Angeles-based Latino Chicano trio Culture Clash will perform at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 in the Allen Theatre in the Texas Tech Student Union Building.

The performance is sponsored by Texas Tech's Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity. Admission is free. However several organizations are selling \$5 tickets to support scholarship funds. This ticket guarantees VIP Seating and admission to the VIP reception following the performance. The Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity can provide a list of groups selling tickets, or tickets can be bought through the office and the proceeds will be divided among the participating groups. The office can be reached at (806) 742-8681.

Culture Clash in AmeriCCa members Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza have been developing the show for several years, incorporating material drawn from in-depth interviews with people from every region of the country. The result is a continually fresh examination of American consciousness in flux, split and stunned by war and terrorism, alternately shocked and bored by sex and sexuality, and equally proud of

and perturbed by the country's reputation as a great melting pot.

The revolving characters and scenes in Culture Clash in AmeriCCa represent the diverse population of the country it skewers and celebrates. Recent performances have included scenes of ghettoized immigrants in San Diego, a Muslim taxi driver in Washington, D.C., a bitter but clear-eyed Vietnam veteran who trades American life for a young Mexican border town, a young Asian man part of the hip-hop generation who embraces the gang-thug life as a fashion statement, a transgender sex educator, and two white lesbians experiencing isolation among their new suburban neighbors and most recently characters drawn from interviews with Katrina refugees living in Houston.

"This is what we do all across the country," said Montoya. "Transcending the early ideas of what 'Chicano theatre' was to be. We venture outside our own barrio and into yours, to peel back the layers of what makes Lubbock tick and talk."

Formed in 1984, Culture Clash fills a unique role in American theatre. Hailed as "the Marx Brothers meet the Rolling Stones," by American Theatre magazine, these acclaimed social anthropologists have dug deep into American culture, creating

memorable new plays and characters. Since the group's genesis in San Francisco's Mission District, these sociopolitical satirists have written more than a dozen plays.

Culture Clash's work has ranged from sketch comedy to an adaptation of Aristophanes, to a reworking of the late Frank Loesser's long-lost musical, "Senior Discretion, Himself," which had its world premiere in Washington, D.C. During the past several years, Culture Clash has focused on site-specific theatre, weaving into an ongoing dramatic tapestry personal narratives culled from interviews with homegrown residents. Theatre companies in Miami, Washington D.C., New York, San Diego, and San Francisco have commissioned performance pieces specifically for those cities.

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ETC

• La nueva película de Isabel Coixet, Elegy, con Penélope Cruz, competirá en la sección oficial de la próxima edición del Festival Internacional de Cine de Berlín, la Berlinale, junto con filmes de Robert Guédiguain o Mike Leigh, entre otros. La dirección del evento dio a conocer ayer algunas de las cintas que concurrirán este año, entre las que figura la de Coixet, basada en la novela The Dying Animal, de Philip Roth; Elite, del brasileño José Padilha, y Lake Tahoe, del mexicano Fernando Eimbcke. Esta será la segunda ocasión en que Coixet competirá en la sección oficial de la Berlinale, donde ya estuvo en 2002 con Mi vida sin mí.

• Una obra de arte de carácter psicoédico creada por los Beatles en 1967 para anunciarse en el Festival de Monterey (California), se subastará el 15 de enero en la sala Bonhams de Londres. Se trata de una especie de cartel en cuya ejecución el grupo de Liverpool empleó tinta y lápices de colores, y que habla al mismo tiempo de muchos temas, pero sobre todo de paz y de amor, palabras favoritas de los hippies de entonces. Entre otras cosas, el cartel dice: "Te queremos, Paz a Monterey de la Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band", frase que aparece junto a coronas, estrellas y varias cabezas, además de las firmas de John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison y Ringo Starr.

• El director británico Mike Newell reconoció ayer en Madrid en la presentación de su película El amor en los tiempos del cólera, que la adaptación de la obra de Gabriel García Márquez habría



sido "radicalmente distinta" si hubieramos financiado europea. Aseguró en media de prensa que nunca pensó en rodar esta cinta, protagonizada por el español Javier Bardem y la italiana Giovanna Mezzogiorno, en castellano "porque el dinero era estadounidense y quien paga, manda". El director, acompañado de Mezzogiorno y de la actriz española Alicia Borrachero, apuntó que "Hollywood tradicionalmente siempre se ha sentido un poco nervioso ante la perspectiva de rodar en otro idioma [que no sea inglés]."

horas de películas en español en televisión de Venesision Internacional — la empresa de entretenimiento de la Organización Cisneros — inicia la programación estelar del 2008 con una película que rompió récords de taquilla en Colombia y ganó varios reconocimientos internacionales. Soñar no cuesta nada, y con Huevos de oro, protagonizada por el español Javier Bardem, quien atraviesa un momento estelar en Hollywood. Venemovies cerró el 2007 con un crecimiento vertiginoso de aproximadamente 300 por ciento en su base de suscriptores. Su programación sin comerciales consiste en películas provenientes de Latinoamérica y España.

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Boxing needs more superstars

There's a certain kind of casual boxing fan who makes serious fans wild. He imagines himself the final arbiter of what's important in our sport though he's usually too busy with the Patriots' undrafted season or the Yankees' re-signing of A-Rod to watch prizefighting. He loves spectacle.

And he likes to reminisce about Muhammad Ali — even if he was born in 1980. Anytime, this guy makes deriving comparisons of boxing to mixed martial arts. He says, "I used to watch boxing all the time, but when I saw MMA, man, it was like a first taste of filet mignon after being raised on hamburger!"

Worse yet, many of his boxing criticisms are valid. After a rambling dissertation — seasoned with the word "y'know" — he often arrives at a remedy for boxing that goes like this: More violence. Ultimately, he's right. But his enthusiasm is a bit unsettling; his sadism unrefined.

Have you got a bead on this guy? Good. Because you're about to see a whole lot of him in the next two weeks.

A couple of Saturdays from now, Roy Jones and Felix Trinidad will fight in Madison Square Garden on pay-per-view. Don King will promote the show. On paper, it will be a scrum between two prizefighters who are 0-5 against world champs in their last five tries. But who

and Mississippi. Trinidad, meanwhile, has remained relevant in an opposite sort of way by retiring prematurely and fighting only twice since 2002.

This is a fight only Don King would, or could, promote. In the last two years Top Rank has proved

with him because King empowers him: You don't care about those younger fighters? Me either. I make the shows that are important. You buy the shows that are important.

Then the casual fan goes to the gym, the water cooler or the message board and begins to lecture boxing's serious fans. Israel Vazquez, Juan Diaz, Paul Williams? Never heard of them. "RJJ" and "Tito"? Those are brand names. You need more guys like that.

But ask this guy who he picked when Jones fought Bernard Hopkins 15 years ago. Ask him if he was surprised when Trinidad blew out Maurice Blocker to become the IBF welterweight champ in 1993. For that matter, ask him if he knows what a welterweight is.

Then smile and pat him on the shoulder and tell him you're just messing around. Why? Because we need this guy. A boxing show needs to exceed 1 million pay-per-view sales. And before your indignation rises with the thought of enriching King, Jones or Trinidad, millionaires all, remember our sport's ecosystem.

More interest in our sport means more money in our sport. Trickle-

down economics may not work as reliably as we wish, but reality says at least some of those pay-per-view dollars eventually find their way to local gyms. Places in Puerto Rico where young men emulate Trinidad's stalking style. Places in Florida where, for better or worse, young folks throw leaping left-hook leads like Jones.

After you're finished telling the casual fan how appreciative you are of his attention every 20 months, remind him that a good bit of boxing actually happens every weekend. Some examples to use? Here you go.

Friday night on Telefeutura, junior-lightweight prospect Juan Garcia made an excellent six-round fight with Gamilier Rodriguez. Garcia had his forehead split open by an elbow and bled everywhere for much of the fight. He was rocked in Round 4, too. But he showed resilience and won a fair decision by outslugging Rodriguez in the last two stanzas.

A few hours later, the Peterson brothers, Anthony and Lamont, went on Showtime and won a pair of entertaining prizefights. With a cumulative record of 50-0 (20 KO), the Petersons are true contenders. Both may someday have their defenses tested by world champions, but those exams will be fun to watch.

Saturday night, IBF light-welterweight champ Paulie Malignaggi

made the first defense of his title in a tough match against Herman Ngoudi. Malignaggi had to fight more than he boxed in the bout's second half. Though he's wanting in power, Malignaggi has a world-class chin, and he remains one of the few stylists fans will pay to watch.

Prospect, contender, titlist. All four fighters were on television. And Showtime's West Coast viewers didn't have to miss a snap of the Jaguars-Steeles game to see Malignaggi on Saturday. Nobody knows what the future holds for Garcia, the Petersons or Malignaggi. But there's no reason to think at least one of them couldn't be a past-his-prime superstar in a pay-per-view extravaganza sometime in 2020.

Let's stay our rage at casual fans and their condescending thoughts in the next few weeks. Let's be grateful, not furious, when Jones-Trinidad outlasts Mosley-Cotto. For all our bluster about what has-beens Jones and Trinidad may be, Jones-Trinidad is going to be a suspenseful fight.

Jones, Trinidad and King aren't going to lose any serious boxing fans. And they may just convert a few casual fans. Sure, we're going to have to suffer some fools' rediscovered boxing wisdom. But if it brings a trickle of needed revenue to local gyms, really, is that such a bad trade-off?

needs paper?

Jones and Trinidad are about the closest things to household names that boxing currently has. Neither has Oscar de la Hoya's drawing power. But together Jones and Trinidad are close.

After being knocked out twice in 2004, Jones has defied the advice of concerned bystanders by phying his craft in boxing holds like Idaho

itself the heavyweight champion among promoters. And Golden Boy Promotions, when teamed with HBO, has set box office records and then broken them. But nobody understands a casual fan's lust for spectacle like King.

Only King can make this fan feel like he hasn't missed a thing since Lemmy Lewis beat Evander Holyfield. King has a connection

Will the Cowboys rope the Giants?

After a week off to relax and heal, the Dallas Cowboys will be lining up against a familiar foe in the divisional round of the NFC playoffs.

The Cowboys will be trying for their first playoff win in more than a decade Sunday when they host the New York Giants in the third meeting between the teams this season.

Dallas (13-3) has not won a playoff game since beating Minnesota 40-15 in the wild-card round of the 1996 season — a year after winning the Super Bowl. The drought is the longest in team history, but first-year coach Wade Phillips — 0-3 as a head coach in the playoffs with Denver and Buffalo — isn't worried about it.

"They say, 'They haven't won a playoff game in 10 years,' but you've only been in four (years this season)," Phillips said. "It's not like you've been 10 years in a row and haven't won one. Part of it is getting in there. If you get in there enough, you're going to win your share."

The Cowboys did make the playoffs last season, but lost 21-20 to Seattle in dramatic fashion. Quarterback Tony Romo botched the hold on a 19-yard field-goal attempt with 1:19 left and was stopped 2 yards from the end zone and 1 from a first down when he tried to run the ball.

"I'm thinking about beating them one time. I'm not worried about it being in the past," safety Ken Hamlin said.

along with teammate Jason Witten and his wife, is hoping his favorite receiver will be back for Sunday's game. Terrell Owens, who leads the NFC with 15 receiving touchdowns and ranks second with 90.3 receiving yards per game, missed Dallas' season-ending 27-6 loss at Washington with a sprained left ankle.

Owens, who injured the ankle a week earlier at Carolina, was still limping Monday and his status for this weekend is uncertain.

"If he were able to practice Wednesday or Thursday, Friday maybe, it'd clarify things a little easier," Phillips said. "If he can't practice, that's why I said it'd be a game-time decision."

Owens' teammates, though, are confident he'll be on the field. "Absolutely, we're all counting on him playing," Witten said. "He's a tough guy. Nobody wants it more than he wants it himself to get out there and play. He's a quick healer, and he looked good out there, I thought."

In order to end their playoff drought, the Cowboys will have to pull off a franchise first by beating the Giants (10-6) for the third time this season. Dallas has never completed a three-game season sweep of a team, but had a chance once, losing 20-7 to Arizona in a 1998 wild-card game in the most recent postseason game at Texas Stadium.

However, the 17 teams who have had the chance to beat a team three times in one season since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger have gone 11-6.

"I'm thinking about beating them one time. I'm not worried about it being in the past," safety Ken Hamlin said.

Dallas defeated the Giants 45-35 at home in its season opener Sept. 9 and 31-20 at Giants Stadium on Nov. 11.

"We've got (confidence), but they don't want to go out a third time," receiver Patrick Crayton said. "They are 1-0 in the playoffs, we are 0-0. This is a whole new season. Whatever went on in the regular season doesn't matter. This is win or go home."

The Giants' season-opening loss in Dallas was their last on the road. Since then, New York has reeled off eight straight road victories, including a 24-14 win at Tampa Bay in the wild-card round Sunday.

"I think as a team we seem to perform better on the road," Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said. "I didn't know we won eight in a row. That's a great thing, because when it's the playoffs, if we're going to go as far as we want, we have to win every game on the road."

Eli Manning won for the first time in three postseason games last week, completing 20 of 27 passes for 185 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Manning, who threw 23 TD passes and 20 interceptions during the regular season, has been criticized for his inconsistent play since being taken with the top pick in the 2004 draft, but quitted his critics Sunday at least for one game.

"You can't be satisfied with what you're doing," he said. "It's about the bigger picture and keeping this thing going."

Manning threw for four touchdowns and one interception in Dallas on Sept. 9, but was picked off twice while throwing just one TD pass in the rematch in

November. "Eli showed that no matter what, he's going to hang in there. He's going to figure out a way to get it done," said Strahan, who had nine tackles and one sack against the Buccaneers.

Center Shaun O'Hara (left knee) and cornerback Sam Madison (stomach) were inactive last week after getting injured in the season finale but came out after taking some hard hits, figures to get more playing time Sunday. Dallas is also hopeful that center Andre Gurode, who's nursing a knee injury, can return.

The Cowboys, however, don't have much momentum heading into the playoffs. Despite matching the best record in

recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff of the second half and limited Joey Gallaway, the Buccaneers' 1,000-yard receiver, to one catch for 9 yards.

The top-seeded Cowboys, meanwhile, took advantage of the bye week to rest their injured players. Receiver Terry Glenn, who made his season debut in the season finale but came out after taking some hard hits, figures to get more playing time Sunday. Dallas is also hopeful that center Andre Gurode, who's nursing a knee injury, can return.

The Cowboys, however, don't have much momentum heading into the playoffs. Despite matching the best record in

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'Liberated' - Women voters seize the day

Smoking Among Hispanic Americans Poses Serious Risks to Vision Health

As debilitating vision disorders are increasingly linked to smoking, health officials are especially concerned that high rates of smoking among Hispanic Americans puts them at serious risk for major eye problems. At the time of year when people are making resolutions to improve their health, the Vision Council of America (VCA) today urged Hispanic Americans to protect themselves from vision problems that are triggered by smoking.

"People assume that the primary diseases linked to smoking are lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory issues, but smoking causes major eye problems as well," says optometrist Marie Carmen Perez-Blanco, O.D. "The links are scientifically proven, and the risks can no longer go unheeded, especially for Hispanic Americans, who suffer the highest rates of uncorrected vision problems nationwide."

While the rate of smoking among Hispanic American adults (16 percent) is lower than the national average (21 percent), this population is at greater risk for developing vision problems. Hispanic Americans are less likely than other Americans to have access to medical care and to receive regular eye exams or smoking cessation treatments. Smoking is the second leading cause of cataracts, and smokers develop cataracts 10-15 years

sooner than nonsmokers, on average, according to VCA. Smoking is also identified as a primary risk factor for age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness. Heavy smokers (a pack of cigarettes a day or more) have two to three times the risk of developing this disease.

"Armed with this knowledge, Hispanic Americans can do two things that will immediately improve their health," says Dr. Perez-Blanco. "Those who smoke can quit immediately, and get regular eye exams," she says, adding that lesions and other problems can lead to permanent vision loss if they are not caught in time. "By getting regular eye exams, people can save themselves and their families immeasurable pain and suffering."

Aside from visiting an eye doctor for an eye exam, there are several warning signs of potential vision disorders. VCA recommends that Hispanic Americans be vigilant of the following symptoms of eye problems:

- Trouble seeing objects at near or far distances
- Colors that seem faded
- Poor night vision (increase in glare and halos)
- Double or multiple vision
- Loss of peripheral (side) vision
- Redness and discomfort from a fleshy growth over the eye surface

Hillary Clinton is preparing to ride a wave of support from women into the next stage of her contest with Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

Her extraordinary and unexpected comeback in the New Hampshire Democratic primary was driven by women voters in record numbers. They largely shunned her in Iowa last week but came flooding back on Tuesday after a campaign in which she revealed a previously unseen passion and personal empathy. Yesterday she claimed to have "liberated" women politicians.

More primary voters turned out in the Granite State than ever before, as a clear gender gap opened up with 57 percent of voters in the Democratic

primary being women. Of these, 46 percent backed Mrs. Clinton compared with just 34 percent for Mr. Obama. Among female voters aged 40 or more, she won 70 percent support.

Mrs. Clinton played down claims that her tearful appearance in a Portsmouth coffee shop on Monday had been the catalyst for the turnaround in a contest that Mr. Obama had expected to win easily. Instead, aides said that a more personal and open approach had allowed voters to see the real "Hillary Clinton."

Obama, a JFK, liberal Reagan or Carter?

The Democrat contender has become a symbol of hope in America — but nobody seems

quite sure what he represents. But there is little doubt that she has used her gender to counter Mr. Obama's own message of change, pointing out in recent days that electing a woman president would represent a symbolic transformation of American politics. In a TV interview yesterday Mrs. Clinton said it was difficult for female politicians to show emotions. "Obviously we know what people will say, but maybe I have liberated us to actually let women be human beings in public life."

As the campaign heads on to the next battlegrounds of Nevada and South Carolina, the issue of race may loom for the first time. Mr. Obama has turned his ethnic and cultural back-

ground into a rallying point for healing divisions that have long scarred American society. He may, however, face resistance from Hispanic voters in Nevada on January 19, many of whom — according to one Clinton confidant — remain implacably hostile to African-Americans.

Some commentators suggested that Mr. Obama's New Hampshire defeat, despite opinion polls giving him a huge lead, may have been a consequence of the "Bradley effect." Tom Bradley, a black Democratic candidate for the California governorship in 1982, was ahead in polls only to suffer a surprise upset. Political scientists suggested that some voters, in the privacy of the polling booth, voted

Unemployment Up, Stoking Recession Fears

Wary employers clamped down on hiring and pushed the unemployment rate to a two-year high of 5 percent in December, an ominous sign that the economy may slide into recession. President Bush explored a rescue package, including a tax cut, with his economic advisers.

Gripped by uncertainty, government and private employers last month added the fewest new jobs there to their payrolls in more than four years. In fact, employment at private companies actually declined. The Labor Department's report, released Friday, provided evidence of an economy greatly strained by a housing slump and a credit crunch. The disappointing employment figures sent Wall Street into a nosedive, thrust the White House into damage control and ratcheted up the blame game as Republicans and Democrats battle for the presidency. The employment numbers also sparked expectations that the Federal Reserve will have to lower interest rates again. As expected, the Fed took action to make cash more available to banks.

Bush said he is on top of the situation. "We can't take economic growth for granted," he said. "There are signs that will cause us to be ever more diligent and make sure that good policies come out of Washington."

The president said he wants to work with Congress "to deal with the economic realities of the moment and to assure the American people that we will do everything we can to make sure we remain a prosperous country."

With odds of a recession increasing, analysts are weighing the need for an economic stimulation package. The president, who has been plagued by low public approval ratings for his handling of the economy, isn't expected to make any decisions until later this month. Tax cuts are under consideration. White House spokesman Tony Fratto said, "We've done tax cuts before and it's led to growth," Fratto said.

The State of the Union address in Jan. 28 and Bush is likely to unveil his package then. The civilian unemployment rate jumped from 4.7 percent in November to 5 percent in December, the highest since November 2005, after the Gulf Coast hurricanes dealt the country a mighty blow. Total payrolls — both private employers and government — grew by just 18,000 last month, the worst showing since August 2003, when the economy suffered job losses as it struggled to recover from the 2001 recession.

"This is a major warning shot that the economy is in trouble," said economist Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. On Wall Street, stocks plunged. The Dow Jones industrial fell 256.54 points to close at 12,800.18.

As part of its recently launched effort to make credit more readily available, the Federal Reserve announced that it will provide banks an additional \$60 billion worth of loans through two auctions on Jan. 14 and Jan. 28. The Fed's first two auctions offered banks a total of \$40 billion in loans. The December employment picture was much weaker than economists were expecting. Employers have grown cautious as they try to cope with fallout from housing and credit problems and rising uncertainty about how the economy will fare in the months ahead. Galling energy prices and bad weather in some parts of the country also probably figured into the weak job figures. Manufacturers, construction companies, financial services all cut jobs in December — casualties of the housing slump. Retailers also sliced jobs. The government added 31,000 jobs in December, while private employers actually cut payrolls by 13,000, underscoring the weakness. "Businesses have turned super conservative. With slower economic growth, has come the pink slips," said economist Ken Mankiw, president of ClearView Economics. The unemployment rate for blacks jumped to 9 percent in December, a 15-month high. The jobless rate for Hispanics climbed to 6.3 percent, the highest in more than two years. For all of 2007, the economy added 1.33

million jobs and the unemployment rate averaged 4.6 percent, the same as in 2006. Employment growth averaged 111,000 a month in 2007, down from 189,000 a month in 2006.

Contersted Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.: "If there were ever a shot at how to this administration to get off its laissez-faire boat and start helping the economy, this is it."

Fratto said the 5 percent jobless rate should be viewed in a purely historical context, saying the figure still is relatively low despite the problems.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said the employment figures "should be a wake-up call that a public policy response is needed to help the economy recover more quickly." Other Democrats, including presidential contender Sen. Hillary Clinton, pointed to the employment figures as evidence of what they called Bush's flawed economic stewardship.

The health of the nation's job market is critical in determining whether the economy will survive the stresses from housing and harder-to-get credit. The positive forces of job and wage growth have helped to cushion individuals from all the negative forces of the economy. The big worry is that people will clamp down on their spending and businesses will put a lid on investment and hiring, throwing the economy into a tailspin.

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