

Election 2008 Issues: Polls Reveal Similarities in Mainstream and Hispanic Voter Issues

by Abel Cruz

Just what issues will be on voter's minds next November when they make their final decision on who they will vote for to be the next President of the United States is anybody's guess?

But in two separate polls conducted within the past 10 days, results show that when it comes to ranking issues in order of importance, Hispanic voter's issues are

not that much different from those mentioned by mainstream voters.

But does that mean that there won't be wider differences of opinions the closer we get to Election Day in November of 2008?

According to the latest Gallup poll conducted from November 30 through December 2, 2007; 36% of the respondents say that the war in Iraq is still the top issue on voter's minds; not unlike a similar poll in which Hispanic

voters ranked Iraq as their top issue also.

The Gallup poll also revealed the following areas as major concerns among the general electorate (percentage of respondents are in parenthesis): Economy (16%); Health Care and health insurance; either a lack of or the high cost of (15%); Illegal immigration (10%); and Homeland Security or Military Defense (6%).

But how does that list compare to the top issues mentioned by Hispanic voters when asked to list their top issues?

According to a recent Avanza-ImpreMedia poll, Hispanic voters do not differ greatly when it comes to their top 5 issues.

When asked "on an open-ended basis the top five issues that registered Hispanic, Democrat, Republican and Independent voters expect to take into account" at the voting booth; the top 5 responses were: Iraq, Immigration; Economy; Healthcare; and Education.

The only difference in the two separate polls is that Hispanics list education as one of their top 5 priorities while the Gallup poll respondents mentioned homeland security as one of their top 5; all

other issues were identical; albeit in a different order of priority.

It comes as no surprise that the Iraq war was mentioned as the number one issue by both groups. And although there were

that the Iraqi Parliament has failed to pass.

And while the daily violence has subsided considerably and has taken Iraq out of the national media spotlight, many Americans



are worried that the additional time troops are spending in Iraq, especially Army and Marine Units which are serving 15 month tours is stressing the military even more than it was before the surge.

Even so, one has to wonder whether immigration will become one of those wedge issues Republicans might use to incite their conservative base.

While the national rhetoric surrounding illegal immigration has cooled down and while that may be one of the reasons it did not

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Hispanic Chamber Members Set to Vote on Merger

Members of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber will finally get to vote whether to merge or not merge with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's annual membership meeting will take place at American State Bank on Thursday, December 13, beginning at 5:30 PM. But only those members whose dues are paid up will be allowed to vote.

Over the past few months, El Editor has followed the story and after months of meetings and discussions; conventional wisdom seems to indicate that the outcome may be a foregone conclusion.

Based on this newspapers observations and local resident's non response to requests for opinions on the issue; the vote will probably come down to what is more financially feasible for the existing Hispanic Chamber.

One of the primary issues surrounding the proposed merger has been the Hispanic Chamber's inability to raise enough operating capital to be self sustaining as it has been in the past.

A former member who spoke to El Editor on condition of anonymity expressed his disappointment that "one single issue; not enough money" could be the main reason most members would vote yes on the merger plan.

El Editor will continue to follow this story and will post voting results on www.eleditor.com when they become available. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

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News Briefs

CIA Terrorist Interrogation Tapes Erased

In 2002, the Central Intelligence Agency taped interrogations of terror suspects.

In 2005, and over the objections of then White House Counsel Harriet Miers, the CIA destroyed the tapes.

In 2007, a full two years later, newly confirmed CIA Director Michael V. Hayden announced that the agency had destroyed the tapes so as to not expose any of their agents to possible "security risks". Hayden's announcement has brought calls from leading Democrats like Illinois Senator Dick Durbin who have charged that the CIA engaged in illegal obstruction of justice and have called for the US Attorney General Michael Mukasey to investigate whether the agency violated the law when it destroyed evidence which could have been used in the prosecution trial of at least one suspected terrorist; Zacarias Moussaoui. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Grand Jury Declines to Press Charges against Martin

According to local media reports, when he arrived to work his shift at Carl's Corner Liquor store, he was confronted by another employee who told him that he had just been robbed and to chase the suspected robber.

So Martin jumped in his vehicle and chased the fleeing robbery suspect to the corner of U.S. Highway 84 and MLK; Martin then pulled out his shotgun and shot the suspect, Jermaine Pearson.

Almost 2 months later, a Lubbock County Grand Jury has decided not to indict the shooter identified as Jace Martin.

According to eyewitness accounts, Martin caught up with Pearson and Pearson then tried to jump into Martin's vehicle. What happened next is unclear, but reports say that Martin shot Pearson as the suspect tried to get away in Martin's vehicle.

Also what is not clear is whether the grand jury was informed about Martin's past history; which includes at least 2 run-ins with local law enforcement involving guns and other family members. The second incident involved his passenger who was charged, along with Martin, of pointing a gun on motorists in a car next to theirs. Both Martin and the passenger were charged with aggravated assault and unlawful possession of weapons. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Lubbock Pastor Found Guilty

Lubbock Pastor James Clark was heard on tape; telling the young woman that she would have to provide sexual favors in return for what he had done for her after bringing her to Lubbock from Kenya. Apparently, Clark had paid for the young woman's living expenses and college tuition at South Plains College and was now expecting something in return.

The tape recording was probably the smoking gun the jury had been waiting for; after that it didn't take them very long to find the former pastor of Mt. Vernon Methodist Church guilty of importation of an alien for immoral purposes.

Clark could be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and or a \$250,000 fine. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Council to Consider CO Bonds to Pay for Soccer Fields in SW Lubbock

By Abel Cruz

How to raise the funds to pay for new soccer fields in southwest Lubbock will be the Lubbock City Council's key focus at Friday's council meeting.

While there are 3 funding mechanism that the city council can trigger to raise the money needed to pay for the soccer fields, the council will probably decide to fund them with Certificate of Obligation bonds, also known as CO Bonds, in order to bypass voter approval.

While this may not sit well with Lubbock tax payers since in all likelihood it will result in a substantial property tax increase, it will eliminate the need for a bond election since only General Obligation or GO Bonds must be submitted to voters for approval.

And voter approval is something the council is not likely to get from an electorate that just this past summer collectively said a loud no to a gargantuan bond election proposal in the public arena even before being asked to cast a vote.

Considering the mood of an electorate that has become increasingly impatient with a tax and spend city council; it is very unlikely that any bond projects would pass at this point without first becoming a referendum on the council's ability to manage the increasing debt this council has managed to accumulate.

Throw in the lack of credibility most voters have in the council, and chances are that a bond proposal would have as much chance of passing as a certain Mayor has of getting re-elected next year.

And with next year's city elections right around the corner, some on the council may cast their vote in an effort to keep from alienating soccer moms and dads; a constituency which usually votes in fairly high numbers; and a voting constituency which will make their voice heard loud and clear next May if funding for the fields is not approved.

Bond money approved by voters in 2004 has been used to build a sports complex at FM 1585 and Milwaukee; but the complex does not include soccer fields. This has soccer moms and dads up in arms and that may be enough for the council to vote to approve the funding in the form of CO Bonds. The group advocating for the new soccer fields charges that the council broke its promise to build the soccer fields with money from the 2004 bond election.

There is very little doubt that the council will find a way to fund the soccer fields. The issue affects residents which are seen as a "significant" segment of the city's electorate, the new fields will be located in a growing part of the city; and lastly, and the council is not likely to want to raise the ire of so many potential voters. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net or acruzts@aol.com

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By Alex Meneses Miyashita
Republican presidential candidates failed to provide convincing or clear answers on issues of key importance to Latinos during an Univision-sponsored debate at the University of Miami Dec. 9.

Immigration was its central issue, with instant interpretation provided for the network's Spanish-speaking audience.

Participating were Mike Huckabee, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani, Ron Paul, John McCain and Duncan Hunter.

In spite of pointed questioning by anchors Jorge Ramos and Maria Elena Salinas, the seven presidential contenders used the 90-minute forum to stress the need for border security but offered little else in specifics on how to resolve the nation's immigration dilemma.

The general reaction was given voice by Democratic National Committee spokesperson Luis Miranda. "They seem unable to deal

with the possibility of doing anything other than forcing the 12 million (undocumented) people who are here to self-deport," Miranda told Hispanic Link News Service. "They refuse to acknowledge that the undocumented immigrants who are already here have three million children."

Univision sponsored a debate by Democrats Sept. 9, with somewhat similar concerns expressed about responsive replies. Miranda also claimed the GOP candidates promised to "continue more of the failed policies of the Bush Administration. Whether it was on Iraq, healthcare or education, they essentially promised to stay the course."

Republican National Hispanic Assembly chair Danny Vargas offered another perspective, saying the candidates "were able to talk about values we share in common," such as family, education and opportunity. "We've got some great

Debate Republicano en Univision:

Largo en Preguntas, Corto en Respuestas

By Alex Meneses Miyashita
Los candidatos presidenciales Republicanos que participaron en un debate organizado por Univision en la Universidad de Miami el 9 de Diciembre quedaron cortos de proveer respuestas claras o convincentes en temas de importancia para la comunidad Latina.

La inmigración fue uno de los temas centrales del debate, el cual fue transmitido con interpretación simultánea para la audiencia de habla hispana de la cadena.

Los candidatos Mike Huckabee, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani, Ron Paul, John McCain y Duncan Hunter participaron en el foro.

A pesar de las preguntas específicas hechas por los periodistas Jorge Ramos y Maria Elena Salinas, los siete candidatos presidenciales usaron el debate de 90 minutos para enfatizar la necesidad de una seguridad fronteriza pero ofrecieron pocos detalles de como resolver el

tema de la inmigración que confronta el país.

Dicha reacción fue abundada por Luis Miranda, un portavoz del Comité Nacional Demócrata (Democratic National Committee).

"Parece como si no pudieran lidiar con la posibilidad de ofrecer algo más que forzar a los 12 millones (de indocumentados) que están aquí que se auto-deporten," Miranda expresó a Hispanic Link News Service. "Se niegan a aceptar que los inmigrantes indocumentados que están aquí tienen tres millones de niños" nacidos en el país.

Univision patrocinó un debate con candidatos Demócratas el 9 de Septiembre, en el que también se llegó a cuestionar la claridad de respuestas.

Miranda añadió que los candidatos Republicanos prometieron "continuar más de las políticas fallidas de la Administración Bush. Ya fuera en el tema de Iraq, la salud o la educación, esencialmente prometieron

candidatos who have a wealth of experience and are able to talk about issues that are important to the Hispanic community," he said.

The GOP candidates were lockstep on securing the nation's borders before addressing other immigration-related issues. Giuliani said he supports physical and technological barriers along the border. Romney called for an employment verification system.

Only Huckabee stated he would favor a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants so long as they go to the back of the line and border security has been dealt with. McCain, who has introduced legislation to legalize the undocumented in the past, did not state a position other than to say the issue should be dealt with compassionately. Hunter said legalization would only create a new wave of unauthorized migration.

The candidates avoided answering whether they

mantener el mismo rumbo." Danny Vargas, presidente de la Asamblea Nacional Hispana Republicana (Republican National Hispanic Assembly) ofreció otra perspectiva, subrayando que los candidatos "fueron capaces de hablar sobre valores que compartimos en común," tales como la familia, la educación y las oportunidades.

"Tenemos grandes candidatos que cuentan con una experiencia amplia y son capaces de abordar temas que son importantes para la comunidad Hispana."

Los candidatos Republicanos fueron firmes en sus posiciones de la necesidad de asegurar las fronteras antes de abordar otros temas migratorios. Giuliani dijo que apoya barreras físicas y tecnológicas en la frontera. Romney exhortó la necesidad de contar con un sistema de verificación de empleo.

Solo Huckabee expresó que favorecería un plan de legalización de los indocu-

supported keeping some three million U.S.-born children and their undocumented parents together.

Asked about anti-Latino sentiment as a result of the immigration debate, they referred back to securing the border. Hunter claimed Latinos do not want permeable borders.

All praised the community's participation in the military throughout the debate, and only Paul favored an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. He received boos when he called for opening dialogue with Venezuela and Cuba.

Absent were Alan Keyes and Tom Tancredo. Tancredo explained, "Bilingualism is a great asset for any individual but it has perilous consequences for a nation. As such, a Spanish debate has no place in a presidential campaign."

Huckabee called it a much bigger risk not to have participated at all.

(Alex Meneses Miyashita is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. Reach him at alex@hispaniclink.org) © 2007

mentados siempre y cuando se formaran al final de la línea y la seguridad fronteriza haya sido resuelta. McCain, quien ha patrocinado medidas para legalizar a los indocumentados

Los candidatos eludieron responder si apoyan el no separar a tres millones de niños nacidos en el país de sus padres indocumentados.

En cuanto como lidiar con el sentimiento anti-Latino surgió a raíz del debate migratorio, los candidatos enfatizaron sus posturas sobre la necesidad de asegurar las fronteras. Hunter dijo que los Latinos no quieren fronteras permeables.

Los candidatos elogiaron la participación de los Latinos en las fuerzas armadas a lo largo del debate, y sólo Paul favoreció una retirada inmediata de las tropas en Iraq.

Paul recibió abucheos del público al hacer un llamado para establecer diálogo con Venezuela y con Cuba.

(sigue a la pagina 2)

Editorial

As The City Council Turns

It is interesting to see how the Lubbock City Council is reacting to the ever growing chorus of soccer moms and dads; a significant voting constituency, as they grow louder and louder in their quest to make sure their kids have adequate, top notch soccer fields on which to play.

As we sit and watch this latest episode of "As the City Council Turns"; we are reminded of just what the mostly Hispanic community which lives in District 1, and those of us who believed in the integrity of the city felt when we found out that bond money which had been sold to Lubbock residents as money which would be used for economic development on the North side of the city was suddenly yanked away from the community. Much like Lucy pulls the football out from Charlie Brown's foot just as he is about to kick the football.

It doesn't feel very good does it? The question is not whether the city council will come up with the money to pay for the new soccer fields but how much debt will they ring up to quell the "soccer revolt of 2007".

We have always understood the way politics works in this city. And this latest soccer field fiasco will be a perfect testament to it.

The soccer group charges that the city pulled a bait and switch when it decided that baseball fields took precedence over soccer fields; even though bond money had been approved for the soccer fields.

But wait says the city; the language in the bond election did not specify soccer fields but rather park improvements.

Just like they did in the Marc McDougal and Tom Martin led city council a few years back when they decided that the money designated in 1998 bond election for the creation of the new Vaquero Lake in North Lubbock could be used for projects in southwest Lubbock. It turns out the devil was in the details.

In short they found a loophole, exploited it and took most of the money and ran.

And no matter how much residents cried foul and no matter how many people appeared before the council to voice their discontent; the money grab was never reversed.

To this day, District 1 residents are still waiting to see some kind of funding for economic development; or at least an effort to right some wrongs. What disturbs us more than anything is that the funds involved back then amounted to a whole lot less than this time around. Yet the city has no qualms about figuring out a way to fund the \$10.2 million dollar price tag for the new soccer fields.

Back then the mostly Hispanic community which was advocating for the funds received no consideration. It seems that once again, in this city, it's a matter of who you are and how many potential votes you represent.

Yes, we might be getting ahead of ourselves and the city might just decide not to put the rest of us further into debt to pay for the fields.

But we won't hold our breaths waiting for that to happen.

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Hispanic Voter Issues

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rank number one as an issue among Hispanic voters; it still remains a polarizing issue and chances are that it will once again become a more divisive one as the 2008 election nears.

Just this week, in a taxpayer paid mailing sent to residents in his 19th Congressional District, Lubbock Congressman Randy Neugebauer, who recently announced his intention to seek re-election, clearly points out to constituents that immigration is one of his top priorities. And in an indication of how the issue will be presented to voters, Neugebauer combines the issue of immigration with that of border security.

Posted on his re-election web site, the Lubbock Congressman states that: "While I support legal immigration, illegal immigration is a national security risk. To keep Americans safe, we need to take swift, decisive action and implement strong measures that will effectively secure our borders" and that "Our porous border is a risk to national security. The fact is, we don't know who is coming across our border, why they are coming, and what they are doing when they get here".

Two issues that most Hispanic media outlets have maintained are separate issues when reporting on immigration; but often used by politicians to enflame anti-immigrant attitudes and win them votes. In short, the language is often used as an incendiary tactic; to scare voters into thinking that all illegal immigrants pose a national security risk.

But if most Americans think of both as one in the same, then why did respondents to the Gallup poll clearly show that voters separate the 2; as evidenced by the fact that they mentioned immigration as the second highest issue and homeland security and military defense as the 5th most important?

And while most Americans are against someone entering the country illegally and remaining here undocumented,

missing from Neugebauer's web site is just what he proposes to do with the estimated 14 million undocumented immigrants now in the country. And another topic which receives no mention is what will the thousands of businesses and business owners around the country, and closer to home the agriculture industry; including farmers and cotton gins do for a labor source if undocumented workers are deported en masse; like some politicians have called for?

The Avanza-ImpreMedia poll also revealed that Hispanics are most likely to vote Democratic; "with Hillary Clinton carrying the support of 42% of all registered Hispanics surveyed". On the Republican side, Rudy Giuliani received the support of 23% of registered Hispanic Republicans.

Most revealing was the fact that there is a potential for both parties to make inroads with Hispanic voters. Thirty five percent of respondents told poll takers that they were still undecided on a presidential candidate.

But to show just how big of an issue immigration is in the Hispanic community; at Monday night's Republican Presidential Candidate's debate from Miami and televised on the Univision television network; "85% of the questions viewers submitted had to do with immigration".

So will the issues change between now and November of 2008?

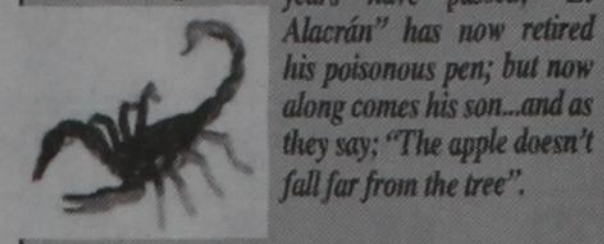
Chances are that if Republican candidates see themselves behind in the race; then issues like immigration and border security will suddenly come to the forefront in an effort to galvanize Republican voters and try to scare them into making sure they go to the polls in greater numbers.

Whether that creates a competing backlash among Hispanic voters and drives them to the polls in greater numbers than in 2004 is anybody's guess.

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



Lo s candidatos pa' Presidente de los van con todo vuelo hacia la posición. Esta semana vimos a el Obama invitar a la Oprah Winfrey que haciera campaña a favor de su candidatura. Todavía no se sabe si toda la gente quien asistio a las funciones con ambas personas en asistencia fueron solo pa' ver a la Oprah quien tiene una multitud de aficionados por toda la nación o fueron a escuchar al candidato y no se sabe si la gente quien asistio a las funciones saldrán a votar.

Con todo esto la Hillary anda asustada que se esta quedando atras. Y el Bill Richardson sigue a sus pasitos pero tratando de hacer una diferencia.

Ha y hablando de Bill Richardson se escuchar por all que hay posibilidades de que venga Bill Richardson ha Lubbock durante el mes de Febrero pa' un banquete de una organización local. Ya veremos!

Y aquí localmente en la ciudad, ya solo les queda hasta el 1 de Enero pa' que se postulen todos los que piensan correr pa' una posición. Eso incluye todas esas personas quien buscan quitarle el cheque a Ysidro.

Se andan buscando candidatos tambien pa' las posiciones de Precinct Chairs. Urgemos a toda la Raza que lo considere ya que se necesitan mas Chicanos.

No se me puede pasar invitar a todos los chiquitines que vaya a ver a Pancho Clos esta proxima semana!

NCLR applauds bill to reauthorize Head Start

Washington, DC – The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., today praised President Bush for signing a Head Start reauthorization bill that greatly improves the program for Latino children. Latino children represent nearly one-third of all children in Head Start, the nation's premier early childhood program.

"Head Start ensures that all children are prepared for the first day of school and the reauthorization shows that members of both parties understand how critical this is for the future of America's children, including millions of Latino kids," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.

Specifically, the legislation includes recommendations from NCLR and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) such as:

Improving the quality of instruction for English language learners (ELLs)

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a comprehensive study to examine services provided to limited English proficient (LEP) children.

Improves education performance standards to ensure that services provided are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Improving teachers' skills in working with ELLs

Ensures that Head Start teachers and staff receive training focused on providing high-quality services to ELLs, particularly in communities that have experienced rapid growth in the LEP population.

Expanding access

Prioritizes expanded funding for Early Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.

Increasing parent and community participation

Improves communications to LEP children to ensure they fully benefit from Head Start family services, and that LEP children make a smooth transition from Head Start to kindergarten.

"We are especially appreciative of the work of the CHC, particularly Hispanic Members of the Education and Labor Committee and Congressmen Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) who worked with leaders on both sides of the aisle to make Hispanic children a priority in this bill," added Murguía. "It is our hope that Congress and the Administration build on the momentum that the CHC helped to create on this issue, and pass other priorities that will make a critical difference in the lives of Hispanic children, such as the 'DREAM Act,' 'ICHIA,' and adequate funding for the Even Start Family Literacy Program," concluded Murguía.

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¡Vendidos!

You know, it is a crying shame that a few 'Elite MEXICAN-AMERICANS' can make major decisions for the rest of the Hispanic Community. So what if the new-elect leader of the Hispanic Chamber needs a fat-pay-check, if he did not like the pay he should get another job. Besides, where is the leadership? If they would lead, it would not be difficult to find the financial resources to (remain) independent. However, if the Majority of the Hispanics are still "blind, deaf and dumb", coupled by Pure Apathy, then so be it; LET THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN, AND HISPAN-ICS OF ALL OTHER CULTURES, LOSE THEIR VOICE AND INFLUENCE IN THE LUBBOCK, TEXAS COMMUNITY. I BELIEVE THEY WILL LOSE RESPECT IN (OTHER) AREAS, INCLUDING LOSING RESPECT AND THEIR VOICE IN OTHER PARTS AROUND THE STATE OF TEXAS AND AROUND THE NATION FOR THAT MATTER.

Lubbock will be known for the "VENDIDOS", JUST FOR A FEW DOLLARS AND SOMEONE'S PAY CHECK. WOW! SAD!

Carlos Leal, Lubbock via Email

Where's Waldo...Ramirez?

According to Wikipedia, in the early 1990's the caricature "Waldo" became a huge pop-culture sensation and the U.S. was swept with "Waldo-mania." Waldo, the North American version, was created by artist Martin Handford and dresses in a red and white striped shirt and bobble hat, carries a wooden walking stick, and wears glasses. He is always losing things and readers are invited to spot these items in the illustrations as well as find Waldo himself in a busy picture full of people.

This past week, the Lubbock Centennial Committee unveiled Paul Milosevich's new painting, "Pioneer Visions" which was commissioned for the City of Lubbock's 100th birthday celebration. Can we find Waldo in Paul's little sketch? Paul's doodle consists of three white folks, presumably pioneers, who seem to be in search of something. Oh, and there's a dog in the picture as well.

But where's Waldo? I think I see him in the background, so small and insignificant, that he's almost invisible. But there he is, dressed as a conquistador, riding a horse, and mapping (and staking) the terrain. There's another Waldo, but this one's dressed as a priest establishing churches and bringing Catholicism to the Llano Estacado. Wait, there's another Waldo, dressed in blue jeans, white shirt and cowboy hat holding the very first rodeo in the area. There's another Waldo, hoeing fields and at the end of the season, picking cotton. Look over there, a bunch of Waldos. One dressed as a business owner, another as a doctor, and another as a lawyer. My God, there are a lot of Waldos in Paul's doodling which spans 100 years.

Somehow, it's now the three Anglos in the picture that seem insignificant and impotent. In fact, I'm told the woman in the picture is now in an old folk's home being cared for by a Hispanic staff, including nurses and doctors. The once young girl in the picture goes and visits her momma twice a year, once around her birthday and once for Christmas. Isn't that nice? The man in the picture has been dead for years. Of course, there are the great, great grandchildren. One of them married a Hispanic banker and has two kids of their own. Another works for a Hispanic doctor over at Covenant. Another grandchild goes twice a week to a tanning salon and is learning Spanish. And the list goes on and on.

So, why is it we're having to search so hard to find Waldo in this picture? Why is it we [sic] like to depict the pioneers of old instead of the community as a whole? After all, wasn't it the pioneer who slaughtered the Native American, stole this land from Mexico, enslaved (literally) blacks and Hispanics (figuratively speaking) in order for them (Anglos) to become wealthy and powerful? How docile the picture depicts these three - almost human.

So, if you look hard enough, you'll find Waldo. You'll find him in every square inch of that picture. And if you stare at the picture long enough, you'll see Waldo multiplying by the thousands, hundreds of thousands and eventually, millions. Then, it'll really be hard to find the pioneers. But by then, who cares?

Last thing, so who is Waldo? Waldo represents all the Hispanics who have inhabited this land far longer than the pioneers. But why call him Waldo?

Because the dumb pioneers couldn't pronounce the name "Guillermo!" Que pen-dejos!

RMS, Lubbock via Email

The Return of El Indio!

"If God had wanted us to vote, He would have given us candidates." -Jim Hightower quoting Jay Leno.

El Indio has returned to join the lively and spirited debates you may only find in EL EDITOR.....the rest of Lubbock and Lubbock publishing is a dry wasteland in more ways than one!

The mysterious "RMS" has everyone guessing about his/her true identity. Although this writer is flattered, no, I am not "RMS" [El Editor, 15 November]. After I read the excellent writing of "RMS", I may wish I were.....the article on the waning Black political leadership of Lubbock was most incisive and hard-hitting. However, the reference to LINDA DeLEON and GILBERT FLORES supporting MAYOR DAVID MILLER and YSIDRO GUTIERREZ and ARMANDO GONZALEZ "liking" TOM MARTIN [El Editor, 6 December] was off the mark. I cannot imagine any Chicano leader of the stature of YSIDRO and ARMANDO supporting the racist candidacy of the phony TOM MARTIN. We hear much about voting for the "lesser of two evils", but MILLER and MARTIN strain this venerable concept.....it makes no sense to send the GANG OF FOUR packing, as they should be, and replace them with the corruption, cronyism, bullying and micromanagement of the TOM MARTIN-MARC McDougal era.

KEVIN GLASHEEN, please run!!!! Lubbock needs you! KEVIN is the most viable alternative to the MILLER-MARTIN conundrum.....in his City Council race, he had an impressive list of supporters and contributors, and presented himself well. Even though he started out as an Establishment-type candidate, he grew during the campaign.....coming out against red light cameras, discussing alternatives to the absurd Visitors Center proposal, and forcefully stating that Downtown Lubbock should be developed with private funds, and not on the backs of the taxpayers. Don't we have enough boondoggles, like the 15 story hotel in Overton or the 300 million dollar pipedream which never dies? His narrow loss does not diminish his electability.....Lubbock is in DESPERATE need of an alternative in the Mayoral race.....KEVIN, please run!!!!

El Indio was most delighted to see that JOHN E. MILLER declared for the County Commissioners' seat held by BILL McCAY. So far, no one has run against YSIDRO GUTIERREZ. Ysidro is our only common-sense representative at the Courthouse, and he needs help. MILLER is just the ticket.....he is against the spend-thrift practices of the Courthouse Republicans, from over funding lazy judges and the bloated DA's office to granting themselves pay raises. Yes, we have a GANG OF FOUR at the Courthouse as well.....and they need to be sent packing too!

Lubbock Attorney and frequent El Editor contributor CHARLIE DUNN really hit the nail on the head with his recent article about the Democratic Party [El Editor, 22 November]. For more than three decades, El Indio has helped recruit Precinct Chairs for both parties.....and recently, the Libertarians as well. Why? Because the decline in participation in political and volunteer activities by the general public could cause a kind of death for the political system. When PATTI JONES says that "We have become a society of convenience", there is much truth in that.....but it is wrongheaded to cater to that desire for convenience by undercutting neighborhood precinct locations and voter oversight and election security. For many years, the Democrats encouraged Precinct Chairs NOT to assume their expected duties as Election Judges.....and then the GOP joined in.

CHARLIE is exactly right when he advocates new Precinct Chair candidates and a new County Chair. On the GOP side, the Ron Paul Revolution is having an effect on the GOP Committee. Precinct Chairs have played an important role in Lubbock politics lately.....CARL ISETT went to the Legislature initially as a candidate selected by them, not by election. In 2004, the GOP Committee elevated ROBERT PRATT to the Chairmanship, and recently the Democratic Committee promoted SUSAN BARRICK to the office of Chair.

Unfortunately, neither PRATT nor BARRICK are temperamentally suited for public office, and PRATT was defeated for re-election by JOHN STEINMETZ, an enthusiastic and very likeable young man. As CHARLIE has eloquently written, SUSAN BARRICK is not the Chair the Democrats need to move forward at this time.

"If God had wanted us to vote, He would have given us candidates." -Jim Hightower quoting Jay Leno. How true! God helps those who help themselves.....it is up to us to provide the candidates.....let's get going!

Roger Quannah Settler, Lubbock via Email

Whole Ball Game at Stake

Abel Cruz's latest article focuses on the most important issue in politics today. And he gave us the straight talk, without any sugar coating, and does it professionally and in a way that makes clear what is really happening.

As he points out, despite all the stupid Republican talk of "voter fraud," the thing that is behind their efforts to change election laws is this: they want to keep Hispanics from voting. Period. Build a fence on the border, demonize "Mexicans," purge Hispanics from the voter rolls in Texas. Keep power in the hands of the Anglo extreme right wing minority, forever.

We should not kid ourselves - the Republicans are attempting nothing less than the strangulation of American democracy at its source, the voters.

And El Editor and Abel Cruz are the only ones telling us in Lubbock about this horrible un-American power grab. You think you'll see this in the avalanche of garbage spewing out from Avenue J? Not on your life!

(continued on page 3)



El Editor

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

Publisher Bidal Aguero
Business Manager
Olga Riojas Aguero
Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz
Circulation: Daniel Peres and Maribel Perez

"Freedom of Expression"

All our disagreements over Linda versus Armando, Ysidro versus whoever, what kind of Democrats we favor - all this just kind of disappears in the mist if we remember that the real challenge facing all of us, regardless of our stand on local hot-button issues, is "are we going to have real democracy, or are we not?"

Is the majority going to rule, or is it not? Are we going to be dragged into an American electoral apartheid, or are we not?" I think everybody on all sides of recent local disputes can agree that our future depends on keeping the anti-Hispanic Republicans from preventing majority rule.

Thanks to El Editor and Abel Cruz we have been put on notice exactly what is going on. Keep it up Abel; after all, it's nothing less than the whole ball game that is at stake here.

C. James, Lubbock via Email

It's About Mañana!

Editor's Note: Last week we published an editorial concerning the possible merger between the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber and the Lubbock Chamber. The following comments are in reference to the editorial. Space limitations do not allow us to reprint the complete text of the writer's comments or our editorial in its entirety; but we feel that the writer makes some interesting and important points and we have printed just some of the comments. The editorial "The Death Knell Tolls One Final Time" can be found on www.eleditor.com

Dear Mr. Aguero: You may choose to treat this as feedback; not sure it will be cohesive enough for a letter to the editor; or (hopefully) simply an email dialogue between us (I would be honored since you are one of the pioneers for younger Hispanic professionals like me and somewhat of a "legend".)

But, I would like to comment on the editorial. Just for your background, I am a young (late 30s) married professional Hispanic woman. My maternal and paternal grandfathers were born in Coahuila.

*EDITORIAL: THE DEATH KNELL TOLLS ONE FINAL TIME

Starting with your title; why is it a death knell and not the start of a new stage in life for Hispanic Lubbock? Does El Editor not see itself, for example, taking over a Lubbock chamber committee or even getting on the board ever? Never say never, Mr. Aguero; who'd have thought 50 years ago that the Lubbock chamber would be initiating a Hispanic department?)

*I have identified with membership in the Hispanic Chamber through my employer, but also my membership in XYZ Church, the Little League Association, the PTA, and the professional organization that covers my professional field specifically; you are competing for my attention, in other words.

*If membership is made up of 30% or less of Hispanic business owners, then where are the Hispanic business owners? Some of the small Hispanic owned businesses in town are owned by Hispanics and their African American or Anglo spouses, or Hispanic spouses, and they belong to the "main" Lubbock Chamber because they offer more benefits and a wider potential customer base since Hispanic businesses sell to more than just Hispanics. Does the fact that membership is dwindling in the Hispanic chamber signal that maybe the organization itself is no longer necessary or that the younger Hispanic generation with more culturally diverse relationships can no longer identify with it? If I had a business and was seeking an organization to belong to in order to benefit my business, it would be the main Lubbock chamber. And then, if I had the money and was seeking to honor my heritage, I would give money to Raiders Rojos or Fiestas del Llano.

Mr. Aguero: I hope you get to read all this; the fact that Hispanic businesses in Lubbock don't all agree on this issue and others, is a sign of political maturity rather than group-think, and that also signals we've come a long way. I couldn't help but notice how many of the verbs in your--rather well-written--editorial were in the past tense. I am young; I'm looking toward tomorrow. I want one of aforementioned nieces and nephews to chair the main Lubbock chamber--and I will still throw a grito in my old age if it happens, and it won't just be for them, but for you and all the others who'll have made it possible.

When my niece or nephew asks, "Tia, why are you so happy? I'll say, "Because it took so much work by a man named Bidal and his friends to get you to this point," and then, I'll tell them all about it, and it will be MORE meaningful to them.

Membership in the main Lubbock chamber and mainstream Lubbock life gets them closer to that goal than membership in the Hispanic chamber!

It's about mañana!

M. Gutierrez, Lubbock via Email

All views and opinions expressed in this section are the views of the writers and do not reflect the views and opinions of El Editor or its advertisers.

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THE REPUBLICANS' PRESIDENTIAL NIGHT OUT

By José de la Isla

HOUSTON — An opportunity arose at Univision's Republican Presidential Forum on Dec. 9 for one of the Republican candidates to break out from the pack.

The Spanish-language television network's anchor María Elena Salinas asked the final question of the night. On reflection, it should have been the lead-off question.

Recognizing that by 2050 one in four people in the United States will be of Hispanic background, she asked what role did each one foresee Hispanics playing in the United States' future?

Present at the forum were Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Fred Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Ron Paul, and Duncan Hunter. Tom Tancredo, the trenchant anti-immigration advocate, absented himself from this national Latino television audience.

Univision news is arguably one of the best television news organizations in the U.S., led by award-winning anchors Salinas and Jorge Ramos.

Although the candidates were flattering of Latinos at times, mostly they postured and pimped. The responses ran the gamut. Romney talked about needing all the U.S. people. Paul about unity with a restored Constitution; McCain, a nation richer for Latino culture and love of country. Thompson talked about national security, family values and work ethic.

Giuliani said he valued diverse traditions and Latinos reaching new high levels. Huckabee talked about national unity and the value of having big dreams. Only Duncan Hunter, the California congressman, said flatly he wanted to see Latinos in a Republican role, but then digressed to an anecdote about a lady with a bullet wound voting in El Salvador.

You would have thought the bunch were candidates for president of Parador.

Not that there was anything the matter with their answers. It's just they had little to do with the nation we are becoming, the people who will occupy it, and what we can do now to become the nation we want to become. It's as if we are too busy yammering about the past to deal with the future.

The fact is they have little concept about Hispanics in the United States. Platitudes, yes; concept, no.

At the companion presidential forum in September, the Democratic candidates touched on a number of touchy matters. Much of the attention went to the now-famous waffle by Hillary Clinton concerning yes-and-no she supported a controversial New York drive's license measure. But what was obvious in September was not so much the issue but the engagement with the party and its candidates.

The disconnect is the same one that the Pew Hispanic Center, in a recent report, documented, showing only 21 percent of Hispanics in 2006 were supporting the Republican Party. Republicans need to tattoo on their arms that Hispanics are a nationwide small share of the total vote but they form a

large share of the vote in four of the six swing states President Bush carried in 2004.

They cannot afford to disengage from Latino interests, nor can the party disconnect unless it wants to throw the election. So what accounts for the inability by the candidates to directly and forthrightly address María Elena Salinas' question?

They seemed so out-of-lunch in recognizing where the nation's trade and professional workforce will come from. That a quick solution, maybe even special migration status (not immigration) to member nations of trade agreements, can work as a sword to that Gordian knot.

Most of all, each and every one of them ought to recognize that we are in this together. Lip service was given to the lowly Latino foot soldiers (some with green cards) in Iraq and Afghanistan. But it's time to recognize also the Latino foot-soldiers and commanders in the military, because we are all in this together. Missing too are the policy analysts who should be working on how to get us out.

The same goes for Latino bankers, mortgage brokers and real estate agents who with their colleagues are the brawny ones to get us out of the mortgage mess when the right policies are in place. They have skin in the game. I don't detect that those who want to make the policies do. They certainly don't talk like they do.

So, when time ran out during the question period I wasn't able to get mine in. This is what I was going to ask: "Thanks María Elena and Jorge. My question to the candidates is this — Tell me again, you are a candidate for what country?"

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail joseisla@yahoo.com] © 2007

Candidatos Republicanos a la Presidencia: Noche para brillar

José de la Isla

HOUSTON —Durante el Foro Republicano en español de Univisión el 9 de diciembre, surgió una oportunidad para que uno de los candidatos brillara más que los otros.

Locutora María Elena Salinas de la cadena de televisión en español hizo la última pregunta de la noche. Después de reflexionar, debió haber sido la primera en hacerse.

Al reconocer que para el 2050 una de cada cuatro personas en los Estados Unidos será de ascendencia hispana, preguntó a cada uno qué papel veía para los hispanos en el futuro de los Estados Unidos.

Los precandidatos presentes en el foro fueron Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Fred Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Ron Paul, y Duncan Hunter. Tom Tancredo, vigoroso opositor a los inmigrantes, se ausentó de esta audiencia latina nacional por televisión.

Univisión es una de las mejores organizaciones noticiosas en los Estados Unidos, conducida por los premiados periodistas Salinas y Jorge Ramos.

Aunque los candidatos a veces halagaban a los latinos, por lo general asumían poses y se acicalaban. Las respuestas cubrían toda la gama. Romney habló de la necesidad de toda persona en los EE.UU. Paul sobre la unidad con una Constitución restaurada; McCain, una nación más rica por la cultura latina y el amor a la patria. Thompson habló de la seguridad nacional, de los valores familiares y la ética laboral. Giuliani dijo que valoraba tradiciones diversas y latinos que alcanzan nuevos niveles más altos.

Huckabee habló de la unidad nacional y el valor de tener grandes sueños. Sólo Duncan Hunter, congresista de California, dijo sin ambages que quería ver a los latinos en un rol republicano, pero después divagó para contar una anécdota sobre una señora herida de bala votando en El Salvador.

Se pensaría que todos eran candi-

datos a ser presidente de Parador.

No es que hubiera nada de malo con sus respuestas, sólo que tienen poco que ver con la nación en la que nos estamos convirtiendo, en las personas que la ocuparán, y lo que podemos hacer ahora por convertirnos en la nación que queremos ser. Es como si estuviéramos demasiado envueltos en la chichara sobre el pasado para enfrentarnos al futuro.

El hecho es que tienen poco concepto de lo que son los hispanos en los Estados Unidos. Perogrulladas, sí; concepto, no.

Durante el foro presidencial demócrata en septiembre, los candidatos mencionaron un número de temas candentes. Mucha de la atención se dirigió a la perorata ya famosa de Hillary Clinton en cuanto que sí y que no apoyaba una medida controversial en Nueva York con las licencias de conducir. Pero lo que era obvio en septiembre no fue tanto el tema sino el compromiso con el partido y los candidatos.

Esta falta de conexión es la misma que documentó el Centro Hispano Pew en un informe reciente, que mostró que sólo el 21 por ciento de los hispanos en el 2006 apoyaba el partido republicano. Los republicanos tienen que tatuar el brazo con que los hispanos son una parte pequeña del voto a nivel nacional pero que son una gran parte del voto en cuatro de los seis estados determinantes de las elecciones que se llevó el presidente Bush en el 2004.

No se pueden dar el lujo de desatender los intereses latinos, ni tampoco puede el partido desligarse al menos que quiera perder adrede la elección. Entonces, ¿qué es lo que fundamenta la discapacidad de los candidatos a dirigirse de manera directa y franca la pregunta que hizo María Elena Salinas?

Parecían estar tan fuera de onda con reconocer que la fuerza laboral de oficios y profesional de esta nación saldrá de la población hispana. Que una solución rápida, tal vez hasta estado migratorio especial (no inmigración) a las naciones asociadas con tratados comerciales, podría ser la espada dorada que desate ese nudo gordiano.

Más que todo, cada uno de ellos debe reconocer que estamos en esto todos juntos. Fingieron tener consideración por los humildes soldados latinos de infantería (algunos con tarjeta verde) en Irak y en Afganistán. Pero es hora de reconocer también que los soldados latinos de infantería y los comandantes de la fuerza militar, porque estamos en esto todos juntos. Los analistas de las políticas de gobierno tendrían que estar dedicándose a sacarnos a todos de allí.

Lo mismo se aplica a los banqueros latinos, agentes de hipoteca y de bienes raíces, quienes con sus colegas son los fortachones que nos sacarán de este embrollo hipotecario cuando se efectúen las políticas correctas. Tienen la mano al fuego. No percibo que la tengan los que quieren hacer las políticas. De hecho no hablan como si la tuvieran.

Por ende, cuando ya no hubo más tiempo para hacer preguntas, no pude hacer la mía. Aquí lo que yo iba a preguntar: "Gracias María Elena y Jorge. Mi pregunta para los candidatos es la siguiente — Vuelvan a decirme, por favor, ¿por cuál país son ustedes candidatos?"

[José de la Isla, autor de "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003), redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él a joseisla4@yahoo.com] © 2007

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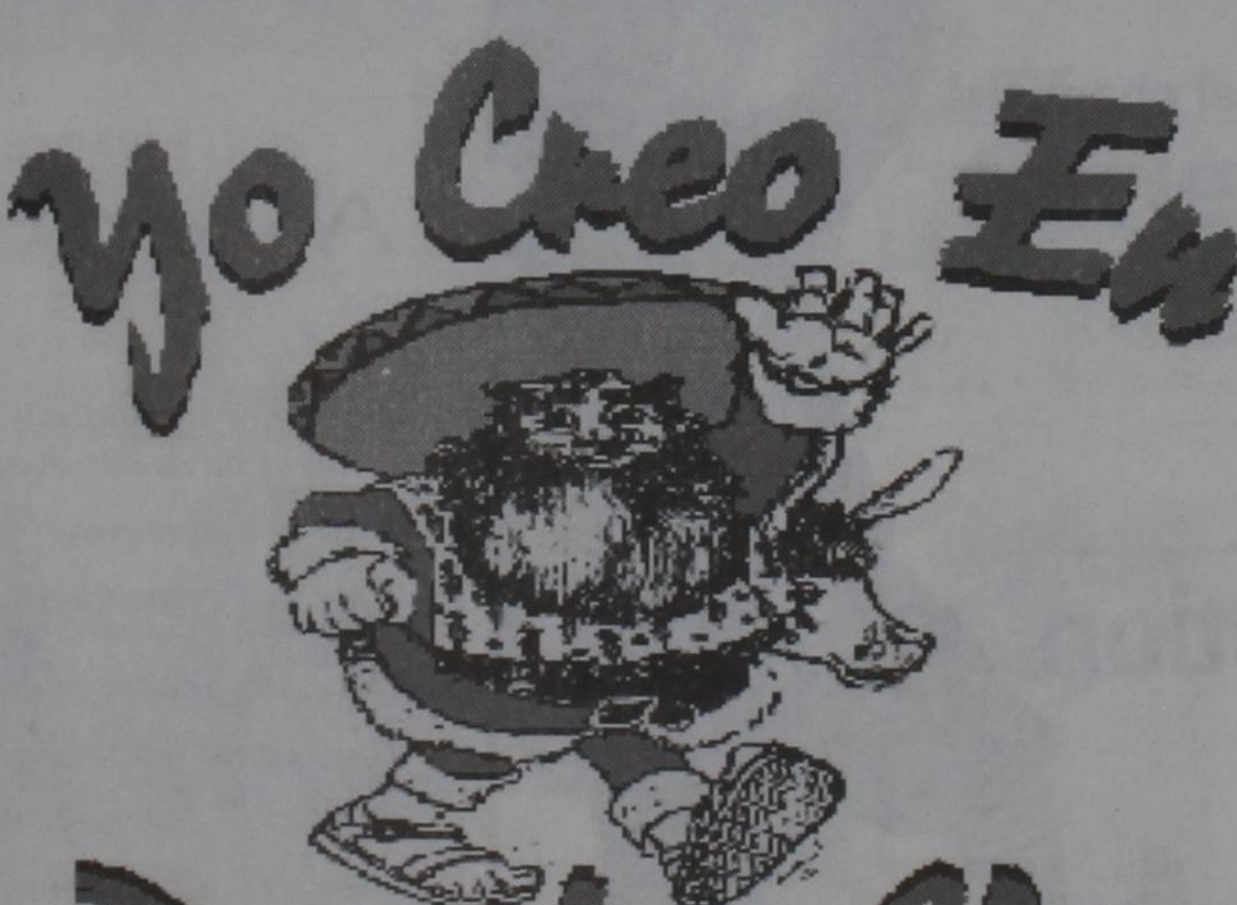
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Latin Legends: Malo a Unique Mix of Rock, R&B, Funk

Talking on the phone from downtown San Francisco, Latin Rock guitarist Jorge Santana is taken aback when he runs into another music contemporary from his era of the 1970s -- none other than Barry Manilow.

"Hold on. I'm going to introduce myself," said Santana, younger brother of famed guitarist Carlos Santana and one of the original members of Malo, whose hits include "Suavecito" "Nena" and "Cafe." Santana and Malo will perform together Saturday night at Fox California Theater in Salinas, along with Tierra and The Salas Brothers and La Ventana. The concert is billed as "Latin Legends Live."

As Jorge Santana puts his phone down, the greeting is audible in the distance.

"Barry, Barry, I just want to say, congratulations," said San-

tana. "Love your music."

With that, the guitarist acquainted himself to the man who wrote "Copacabana," a spot that Jorge Santana rocked during his tenure with another band, The Fania All-Stars.

In 1972, Malo, under the leadership of singer Arcelio Garcia and Santana on guitar, released its self-titled debut album. While the first two singles, "Nena" and "Cafe," achieved modest success, the third single, "Suavecito," reached No. 18 on the Billboard singles charts.

With its laid back Chicano funk groove, quiet storm horns and Garcia's butter-smooth vocals, the song became a lowrider classic.

"A lot of people think 'Suavecito' was, but ('Nena') was the first hit," said Garcia, speaking from his home in Fresno. "'Suavecito' was on the flip side of 'Cafe,' so (fans) turned it over and the rest was

history."

Garcia laughs at the last statement before taking time to think about the band's origins in the San Francisco Bay Area during the late 1960s and early '70s.

"It's been 36 years now that we've actually been on the road," added Garcia. "This is our 36th anniversary."

The band originated as The Malibus, an R&B outfit that Garcia joined in the mid-1960s. The group eventually added Latin elements to its music, along with a rock 'n' roll edge in the form of a young Chicano from San Francisco's Mission District.

"When Jorge auditioned for the group, he was 17. I actually had to pay security to let him in the club," said Garcia with a laugh.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't even know (Jorge) was Carlos's brother until six months later. I just

knew him as Jorge. He was a good R&B player and he played a good solo. And like I said, everything was history after that."

While Santana wasn't old enough to drink, he was talented enough to play lead guitar and alter the band's musical direction. Adding rock, R&B, funk and horns, the band was on the ground floor for what would eventually become the Latin rock scene, which was led by Jorge's brother Carlos.

"When you talk about Latin rock, you look at Santana and then you look at Malo," said Jorge Santana. "To me, the music is pure, raw emotion from Latinos."

Santana would record four albums with the band before embarking on a solo career. A touring stint with the Fania All-Stars in 1973 took him all around the globe, performing with legendary Fania Records artists Johnny Pacheco,

Hector Lavoe, Ray Barretto, Tito Puente and Willie Col n, among others.

He continued to record and play, but not as much as during his Malo days.

Garcia, in the meantime, moved out to the East Coast and released an album, "Malo V," in 1981. He returned to the west coast and recorded a couple of albums.

In 1994, Jorge Santana joined his brother and Carlos's nephew, Carlos Hernandez, in a band called "Santana Brothers." A tour followed.

While the Santana brothers occasionally performed together, their collaborations have been limited. Jorge Santana said his older brother passed on invaluable music lessons.

"Because he loved listening to so many musicians, from blues to Brazilian to jazz, everything he purchased and listened to he passed

it down to me," Jorge Santana said. "The one thing Carlos gave me was the opportunity to expand my mind to different kinds of music."

Malo re-formed in 1997 to record an album, "Latin Legends Live" on Thump Records. The band has toured extensively with Tierra. On occasion, Jorge Santana will join in.

Looking back on his roots, Santana said he was proud of the foundation his band and his brother helped lay down.

"(Looking back at) what took place, not only did our Latin community know they had somebody to look up to, but it leaked over to the Anglo side and gained mainstream acceptance," he said. "The bands like Tierra and Malo are bands that are constantly doing tours together. It's really encouraging still to know that as a musician, this sound of Latin rock still has a following worldwide."

Gift Ideas for Latin (Music) Lovers

Need some gift ideas? Here you go.

First, a lovely gift arrived recently in the form of Rocio Durcal's CD, "Canta a Mexico." (Durcal died in 2006 after a long illness.)

This 16-song CD is beautiful, stunning and intense.

The music is not new -- these are Juan Gabriel's hits -- but this particular collection is. The song list sparkles with timeless cuts: "El Farsante,"

together so beautifully.

Durcal's take on the Javier Solis-identified "Sombras" alone would be worth the price. As Durcal describes a relationship reduced to shadows, her subtle, unforgettable message is that ultimately, a good life is about intensity, especially when it comes to love.

There are no filler tracks on this solid collection.

Equally gripping are the mournful tunes "Te Sigo Amando," on endless love; "La Diferencia," on the power of forgiveness; and "Amor Eterno," on irreplaceable loss. There also are hopeful songs: Jose Alfredo Jimenez's vivid and giddy "Amaneci en tus Brazos," and the uplifting "Me Gustas Mucho," on the joy of being in love.

A deluxe edition of the CD includes a six-track DVD including the tunes "No Lastimes Mßs," "La Diferencia," "Amor Eterno," and "Te Sigo Amando."

Here are some more fail-safe choices...

In ranchera music, winners

include Alejandro Fernandez's "Viento a Favor," where he works again with noted producer Aureo Baquero on a lovely set of romantic ballads and dance tunes with pop and rock flourishes.

Highlights include his duet with Beyonce on "Amor Gitano," and "Cuando Estamos Juntos," a classic Mexican '70s pop ballad reminiscent of Julio Iglesias or Camilo Sesto.

His father, Vicente, also delivers the goods on his 12-track "Para Siempre," produced by singer-songwriter Joan

Sebastian.

Impeccable musicianship and Fernandez's rich tenor again produce sweet magic on "A Quien Vas a Amar Mas Que a Mi," a slow chugging ranchera with you'll-never-find-a-better-love lyrics, and "Amor si Cuenta," a torcher in which Fernandez declares endless

mi," "Me Enamora," and the title track.

Cafe Tacuba shifts gears on their CD, replacing their signature musical eccentricity with simpler, shorter rockers. Repeat-key tunes include the trippy "Tengo Todo" and the brooding ballad "Seguir Siendo."

Mana's "Amar es Combatir," is actually from 2006, but the band launched a world tour for that CD that lasted all this year. Mana leans toward more romantic tunes, but its signature strength is intact -- me-

Ataca!" -- he masterfully blends reggaeton with Caribbean cumbias, big-horn and R&B-flavored salsa. Daddy Yankee's "El Cartel: The Big Boss" finds him expanding his hard-core reggaeton palette to include hip-hop, funk, rap and even pop. His guests include Fergie, Black-Eyed Peas' will.i.am, Akon and Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger.

Tex-Mex and Tejano fans can never go wrong with Ruben Ramos.

Ramos is still one of the most underappreciated Tejano treasures. I try to catch him live at least three to four times a year. On his latest, "35th Anniversary," Ramos prowls like a big cat over 10 tracks with confidence, poise and power, surrounded by gorgeous horns and Rick Fuentes' lively accordion.

Then there's Max Baca and TexManiacs' "Tex-Mex Groove," where the group blends country, conjunto, folk and Tejano on "Cielito Lindo," "Cerca del Mar," "Hey Good Lookin'" and "She's About a Mover."

New faces with interesting CDs include Megan Leyva's "Encontre mi Camino," Liberty Band's "Life is Good," Rebecca Valadez's "Sinceramente," Liza Ybarra's "Anoche Sone" and Roger Velasquez's "Quiero Besarte."



"Costumbres," "La Diferencia," "Sombras" and "Amor Eterno."

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Cotto looking to fight Mayweather or De La Hoya

Witten and the Cowboys realize just making the playoffs won't be good enough for one of the best teams in franchise history. Only the 1992 Dallas team with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin won 13 games in a regular season. That team went on to win the Super Bowl, the first

With McNabb under center, the Eagles are 5-6, but the offense has struggled, averaging just 19.9 points per game. Coach Andy Reid remained steadfast that McNabb will remain the team's quarterback over backup A.J. Feeley or second-round draft pick Kevin

The Eagles have won five of their last seven visits to Dallas, including a 23-7 win on Dec. 25, 2006.

The thing is Cotto (31-0, 25 KO's) is going to have a difficult time getting either Mayweather or De La Hoya in the ring. From the sound of the news conference following Mayweather's 10th-round stoppage of Ricky Hatton on Saturday at MGM Grand, it appears that De La Hoya is nevertheless considering a fight with Hatton.

Fellow welterweight champion Mayweather is the one who needs to fight Cotto, unless Mayweather is really going to retire this time. He said as much immediately after Saturday's fight, but he was already waffling an hour later in the post-fight news conference.

"If you want to fight," Cotto said, "you put your problems with a person aside and you make the fight."

Guadalupe Economics Service Corp. is now accepting names from families who are migrant and seasonal farmer with children of ages 15 and under for the Christmas Assistance Program. Contact our toll free number 1-877-944-4416 from the hours of 9am to 4pm Monday-Friday.

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Hispanics Pinpoint Iraq, Immigration, Economy, Healthcare and Education as Key Issues Important to Them in the 2008 Election

A survey just released by Avanze, Inc. of San Diego, California in partnership with ImpreMedia, the number one Hispanic print and on-line news and information company in the United States, provides an updated look at the state of mind of the Hispanic electorate, less than

Mitt Romney, all with slightly less than 5% support. Among Democrats, 55% of registered voters have an early interest in Hillary Clinton followed by Barack Obama with 6%, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden and John Edwards were also mentioned each getting approximately 5% sup-

cycle presents a unique and historic opportunity for the Latino electorate to play a significant role in shaping the outcome. This groundbreaking partnership between two leading specialized Hispanic organizations is designed to fill the void in political insight and understanding about the Latino segment of the population leading up to the 2008 presidential election. This survey in key states provides



one month before the kickoff of the 2008 election cycle at the Iowa caucus. The survey polled Hispanic registered voters in the top five U.S. Hispanic states on issues that they consider key in their decision making on Election Day 2008. Additionally, it identifies the current presidential candidate preferences of Hispanics, and distinguishes important potential opportunities for both parties, with an eye towards how political parties and candidates can best speak to this population segment.

Asked on an open-ended basis the top five issues that registered Hispanic Democrat, Republican and Independent voters expect to take into account when they decide for whom to vote, these are, in order of priority, the war in Iraq, immigration, the economy, healthcare and education.

The recent survey presents data that shows that Democrats are currently leading the battle for presidential candidacy support with Hillary Clinton carrying the support of 42% of all registered Hispanics surveyed. Looking at the individual parties, Rudy Giuliani tops the list among registered Hispanic Republicans, with a 23% preference followed by Fred Thompson, John McCain, Mike Huckabee and

port. The survey further reports that a full 35% of Hispanic voters are yet undecided, a margin that allows opportunities for the Republicans to tip the scales, or Democrats to maintain their lead, based on how these parties navigate the social, economic, and particularly, the immigration issues important to Hispanics before the election.

As the nation's largest and fastest growing minority group, at 46 million strong, Hispanics make up about 15% of the U.S. population. Despite these modest numbers and with their strategic location on the 2008 Electoral College map, Hispanics loom as a potential "swing vote" in next year's presidential race. "As the U.S. Hispanic population continues to grow, so do citizenship rates and voter registration. As a result, the struggle to persuade Hispanics to vote continues. The opportunity for either party is the one third of the Hispanic vote that is still undecided. Despite the widely varied origins, experiences and opinions, this group remains a rich source of votes for the candidates and parties that address the issues important to them and communicate in ways that are culturally relevant," said Everett Hernández, President of Avanze, Inc. "The 2008 presidential election

candidates, their campaigns and the political party's important information about the issues and values that the Latinos voters care about. The timeliness of this information, just prior to the Iowa caucus, should be carefully considered if the candidates expect to win over this swing voter," expressed Monica Lozano, publisher of La Opinión and Senior Vice President of ImpreMedia.

The data presented in the survey show that Democrats currently benefit by being seen largely on the right side of the immigration debate, the economy, healthcare and Iraq by a majority of Hispanic voters regardless of party affiliation. Important potential opportunities for Republicans were revealed, however, mostly with the Independent voters, who make up 15% of the Hispanic electorate. Painting the Democrats in a less than favorable light on issues where Independent Hispanics find Democrats weak (the "amnesty" issue with regards to immigration, the economy and the withdrawal of troops from Iraq) may allow Republicans to siphon more support from the Independents and steal potential votes from the Democratic candidate.

According to those polled, universal healthcare stands out as an example where the Republican

Party will have trouble competing. Democrats will have to keep the Hispanic voters focused on the issues that they say matter most to them – Iraq, immigration reform, the economy and healthcare – and less on the other issues that are culturally troublesome to Hispanics – the death penalty, legalized abortion and same-sex marriage – in order to maintain their early lead and generate enough support to get Hispanic voters out to the polls, in their party's favor.

The poll also found that the format for communicating political messages to Hispanics is another area where both parties hold unrealized potential. The opportunity lies in that Hispanic registered voters are engaged in Spanish language media including print, television, radio and the Internet, and therefore, candidates can capitalize from using the Spanish language media to further communicate to this group "in" language and "in" culture.

Drawing on information gained from Hispanic registered voters in the top five Hispanic states (California, Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois), the survey reveals that Hispanics are a wide and varied political constituency with divergent opinions on issue prioritization and policy prescriptions. Terms such as conservative, moderate and liberal do not often coincide with positions taken by non-Hispanics who apply these same terms, and Hispanics candidate and party preferences for President do not break down neatly according to the their party registration.

For example, one in five registered Republicans favor a Democratic candidate, while almost half (44%) did not yet have a preference. Registered Independents prefer a Democrat currently by a 5-to-1 margin, but more than one third are still undecided. Overall, when candidate and generic party preferences are totaled, Hispanics prefer a Democratic president by a margin of more than 3-to-1 (72% vs. 20%). This 52% margin far surpasses the 38% Hispanic voter registration advantage Democrats have over Republicans.

National Homeless Person's Memorial Day

Community Health Center of Lubbock and the South Plains Homeless Consortium, in partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless invite you to join us on the first day of winter for a candlelight vigil to commemorate the members of our community who died homeless in 2007. Please join us at Mahon Library-1306 9th St. December 21, 2007 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Carol Hernandez at 765-2611 ext. 1008.

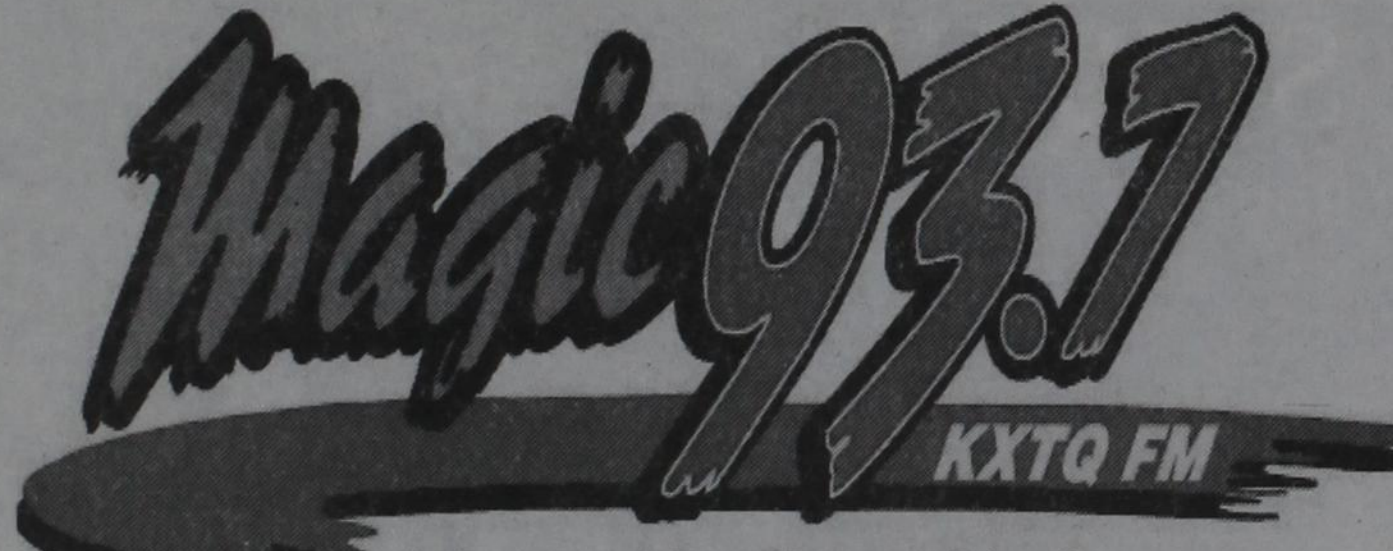
Local Lubbockites honored



Eleven influential Lubbockites were honored at the first ever Muscular Dystrophy Association's Toast of West Texas Gala on Dec 7, 2007. The honorees were recognized for their commitment to the MDA's continuing effort to raise awareness of their work to find a cure for muscular dystrophy and gain the financial support of the whole community. MDA helps about 400 families in the Lubbock area. The honorees pictured back row from left: Dr. Bachar Al-Alami, Matt Powell, Tom Barnett, Beth Bridges, Steve Swain and Dr. Roger Wolcott. Front row from left: Bryan Mudd, Danny Barnhill, Ysidro Gutierrez and Velma Medina.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TCEQ is accepting applications for Environmental Investigator II, Posting Number 08091, Monthly Salary \$3003. Please visit the TCEQ web site listed below for a complete description of the job, minimum qualifications and preferred requirements. All applications must be submitted to and received in the Human Resources Division of TCEQ by 5:00 p.m. on December 21, 2007. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application. Faxed applications will be accepted, however, the original application must be mailed to the Human Resources Division. The employment history of the application must be completed. Mailed applications must be sent to Human Resources Division, MC 116, P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. State of Texas application forms and additional information are available on the TCEQ web site: www.tceq.state.tx.us/admin/employ/jobs.html or at the TCEQ Human Resources Division located at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, (512) 239-0102. Fax (512) 239-0111. EEO/AA/ADA/Employer.



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