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

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

ACORN in Middle of Voter Registration Storm



One would think that the process of registering people to vote would be fairly simple. And in most cases; it is.

Here in Lubbock for example, civic organizations like the local LULAC Council 263 might hold a registration drive where it sets up a registration table at a local event and asks people who are not registered to vote to fill out a voter registration card. The cards are then turned in to Lubbock County election officials who take over the process of incorporating them into the elections system. Sounds like a fairly simple process right?

But this year when the stakes are higher than they have ever been; a national group called ACORN finds itself in the middle of the election storm and faces allegations of registration fraud and other charges.

ACORN which stands for **Association of Community** Organizations for Reform Now is a national organization which advocates for minority groups in various ways. Some of their activities include "building community organizations that are committed to social and economic justice". The organization has a presence in Austin, San Antonio, Ft Worth, Dallas, El Paso, Waco and the Rio Grande Valley and 39 other states with 1,200 local ACORN neighborhood chapters according to the national organization's statistics. There is not a local chapter in

Lubbock.

For the past year; the organization has been involved in a nationwide effort to register voters in hopes of getting them

to the polls on Election Day.
According to their figures; they have managed to register over 1.3 million new voters in various

states around the country.

But Republican based



ganizations; Republican elected officials and even
candidate John McCain have
pointed to ACORN's activities as
fraudulent and charged them with

registering non existent voters.

Part of the problem comes from the assumption that ACORN tries to register people who happen to be from majority Hispanic and African American communities.

The assumption by those leveling the charges; and what presumably upsets them the most; is that the majority of people in the minority communities have traditionally voted for Democratic candidates.

This fact is confirmed by
Bertha Lewis, Interim Chief
Organizer of ACORN, who said
that "the majority of the voters
registered in this drive are young,

African-American, Latino, and low-income Americans – groups which are all historically under-represented in elections". In Texas alone, the group claims to have registered close to 43,000 new voters.

What seems to have happened in some cases is a case of some individuals engaging in dishonest tactics in order to make more money. The way ACORN works is this; they recruit individuals to register people and sometimes pay them according to how many new people they have registered. What has happened in some cases is some individuals have lied and filled out cards with false information or non existent voters and turned them in so they can get paid more money.

But the process itself should be sufficient to weed out any voter fraud. Voter fraud does not become voter fraud until a person fills out a false name on

voter card and then
shows up to vote
under that false
registration.
But Republians have jumped
the chance to

to Barack
Obama and seem to be engaging in efforts to discredit the entire number of new voters registered by

ACORN as a way to

minimize the number of voters who traditionally vote for Democrats. Republicans want people

to believe
that fraud
has occurred
when what has
occurred is an
overzealous
worker has
manufactured
names to get
paid more
money than they deserve.

The issue came up at last week's presidential debate when Republican presidential candidate John McCain accused the Obama campaign of condoning ACORN's efforts; character-

he disavowed any actions which Republican groups are alleging ACORN has participated in.

What McCain did not mention when he was going after Obama for his involvement with ACORN was that he had been the keynote speaker at an annual ACORN event in 2006. According to the organization's press release; "As recently as February 20, 2006 Senator McCain was the keynote speaker at an

izing them as "voter registration

fraud". Obama confirmed that

there had been questions raised

tion had turned in but also said

his campaign was not directly

confirmed that he had repre-

sented ACORN in litigation in

his home state of Illinois when he

was fresh out of law school. But

involved in any of the organiza-

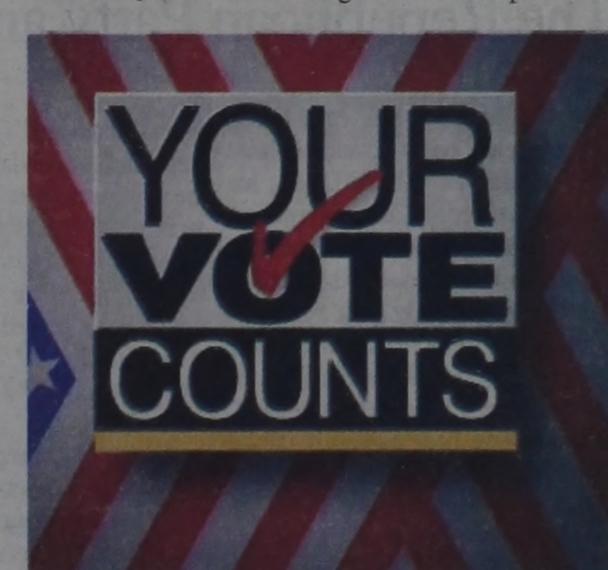
tions activities. And Obama also

about some names the organiza-

ACORN sponsored Immigration Rally in Miami, Florida held at Miami Dade College". And in fact, one of the states where ACORN is most active is in McCain's home state of Arizona

In one of the most recent situations involving allegations of voter fraud; the New Mexico Republican Party claimed that a number of fraudulent voters voted in the New Mexico June 2008 Primary. They asserted that some of these voters had been registered by ACORN representatives. ACORN contacted some of the names provided by the Republican Party and found out that 4 of the voters cited by the party were legitimate voters.

According to an ACORN press



release; the names included three 18 year olds and a new citizen". ACORN officials said they confirmed the veracity and legitimacy of the voters with the Bernalillo County Clerk.

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News Briefs

Gutierrez Feels Confident About Crossover Votes

On the first day of early voting; Republican Frank Gutierrez was already out at various polling locations throughout Precinct 3 and feeling good about his chances that voters just may crossover to vote for him in his race against Democrat Gilbert Flores.

He told El Editor that people were lined up at the United on North University on Monday; the first day county residents could vote and said he saw that as a good omen for his campaign.

Gutierrez says he has continued to meet with county residents as he block walks, and has been encouraged by the reception he has gotten.

Gutierrez says the main things he hears over and over again is that residents in eastern Lubbock County felt neglected during his opponent's 12 years in office and they mention that the Democratic candidate Flores did not do anything for them during his 12 years in office. Gutierrez

says that many residents who are Democrats are willing to cross over in this race to elect someone who will represent their interests and not just forget them after the election.

Gutierrez says that many voters are under the impression that just because they are Democrats they must vote for the Democratic candidate.

But he says people are willing to consider crossing over to vote for him after he spends time visiting with them.

In a precinct where Democrats outnumber Republicans; Gutierrez

says he hopes that what voters are telling him holds up at the polls.

Reports showed that over 7,000 people had cast their vote on the first day of early voting.

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"Día de los Muertos Celebración" at Buddy Holly Center

The Buddy Holly Center is pleased to announce the opening of Celebración, an annual invitational exhibition of artwork that explores the history and meaning behind the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. The exhibit includes artwork from local, national and international artists. Artists were asked to create works honoring departed ancestors, friends and family and interpreting Dia de los Muertos. Celebracion will be on display October 14 – November 30, 2008 to be enjoyed throughout the ancient Mexican holiday.

A vibrant cultural celebration, Day of the Dead blends the Catholic traditions of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1st & 2nd) with pre-Columbian concepts of death that have been a part of Mexican society since Aztec times. The celebration can be traced to the Aztecs who celebrated a ritual day dedicated to children and the dead. The ritual was presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl ("Lady of the Dead"). Modern traditional Dia de los muertos festivities take place on November 1st and 2nd, and are a time of remembrance, reunion and feasting.

Source: Buddy Holly Center

City Announces Halloween Activities Pun'kin Carving Contest

Bring your pumpkins and tools and join Hodges Community Center for a pumpkin carving contest on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 10:00 am. Ages 5 through adult will enjoy competing for prizes! Compete as a family or against each other! Cost is \$5 per pumpkin and includes the basic carving utensils. Youth age 10 or younger should be accompanied by a parent for assistance using the carving tools. Pre-registration is required so we have enough for everyone! Hodges Community Center is located at 4011 University in Clapp Park. For information, call 767-3706.

Monster Mash Dance

Bring your sweetheart and friends to the annual Monster Mash Dance at the Lubbock Senior Center on Thursday, October 30, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy "treats", a costume contest and then dance the night away to live music by the West Texas Express. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with dancing beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Lubbock Senior Center is located at 2001 19th Street. Call 767-2710 for more information.

Haunted House

Prepared to be scared as Rawlings Community Center presents their 4th annual Haunted House on Friday, October 31, 2008 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Three cans of food or \$3 per person will get you in, but how you get out is to be seen! All canned items will benefit the South Plains Food Bank. Kids of all ages from ages 8 to adult will love this scary event! Rawlings Community Center is located at 40th Street and Avenue B next to Harwell Elementary. For more information on this house of horrors, call 767-2704.

Source: City of Lubbock

University of Texas - Arlington to Offer Free Tuition
If your son or daughter wants to go to college but cannot afford to;
you may be in luck.

The University of Texas at Arlington just announced that students with a family income of \$65,000 or less per year may be eligible for free tuition.

Several publicly funded institutions, including Texas Tech, have similar programs. The difference in this program is that UTA's income threshold is higher which up to this point had been \$40,000 per year.

According to the program guidelines; the program takes effect for the Spring semester of 2009. Students must first qualify for a Pell Grant; after that the university will waive regular tuition, which at UTA amounts to about \$8,000 for an undergraduate student taking 12 credit hours. For more information; students may call the university's financial aid office at 817-272-3561 or access their web site at www.uta.edu/fao.

Democrats See "Voter Caging" as Potential Problem

Campaign sign stealing; problems with voting machines; illegal electioneering; registered voters purged from voter rolls for no reason; and something called Republican robo-calls; these are just a few of the stories the national media is reporting on as we enter the last two weeks before Election Day.

names so they come an effort to intime voting at all. And judge ruled in far week the Suprem state election office an appeal; and recourt's decision.

In a New York

Already on Tuesday of this past week; voters in Florida were encountering problems with voting machines. And in a recent CBS news report; the network revealed that there has been attempts by the Republican Party to eliminate registered voters from the rolls in 19 states; Texas is not one of them.

In Ohio; the state Republican Party filed a lawsuit asking that they be provided with the names of over 200,000 new registrants containing sensitive voter information because their names or other pertinent information did not match exactly with state databases. Their intent was to purge the names from the voter rolls so they could not vote; or obtain the

names so they could be contacted in an effort to intimidate them into not voting at all. And although a state judge ruled in favor of the party; last week the Supreme Court sided with state election officials who had filed an appeal; and reversed the lower court's decision.

In a New York Times report; the newspaper cited voter roll purges in Colorado, Louisiana, and Michigan which were conducted within 90 days of November 4 which is a violation of federal law which allows states to "expunge only those who have been convicted of a felony, moved out of state or died".

So it's no wonder that this year, particularly in states where the presidential race is tight and which have historically voted Republican; Democrats are more concerned that newly registered Democratic voters may run into situations where their names have been purged from voter rolls and thereby not allowed to vote.

One of the tactics that Democrats

have accused Republicans of using

is something called "voter caging".

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, voter caging "is the practice of sending mail to addresses on the voter rolls, compiling a list of the mail that is returned undelivered, and using that list to purge or challenge voter's registrations on the grounds that the voters on the list do not legally reside at their registered addresses". But it is important to note that in most cases of voter caging it is a political party or campaign which has employed these tactics.

And proponents of voter caging in other parts of the country say that it is a good way to weed out ineligible voters since various jurisdictions have certain requirements with one of those being that a voter must live at the residence they listed on the voter registration card. But requirements do vary from state to state.

But opponents point to the fact that many things can and do happen to prevent the process from working like it should. They also point to the fact that in most cases minority vot-

ers and the poor are more mobile and they claim those groups are more adversely affected by the practice.

They also point to the following scenarios as distinct possibilities why a piece of mail may be returned. Voter rolls suffer from typos and other clerical errors; A voter may not be listed on the mailbox of their residential voting address; A voter may live at a non-traditional residence; A voter may be temporarily away from their permanent residence; A voter's permanent mailing address may differ from their residential voting address; mail may not be properly delivered; or simply a voter may have moved permanently, but never-

In 2000 it was "hanging chads".
In 2004 it was voting irregularities in Ohio and Florida. In 2008, it very well may be a large number of voters showing up at the polls only to find out that because of voter caging; their name has been purged from voter rolls.

theless remains eligible to vote.

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By Ysidro Gutierrez

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

The Campaign Legal Center has compiled a primer on voter rights which is being circulated nationwide by various grassroots organizations. If predictions hold true, and if the trend set in the party primaries are an indication; voter turnout will be greater than in past elections. Therefore it is important for citizens to be aware of their rights and know what they should do should something out of the ordinary occur while they are exercising their right to vote.

Voter Registration

*Voters whose names have changed (e.g., marriage) or have recently moved cannot assume that voting records accurately reflect their information.

VOTA (Spanish) (well in advance of the election) to verify your voter registration. If you haven't voted since 2004, make sure you re-verify your registration.

*To make sure, contact -866-OUR-VOTE (English)/ 1-888-VE-Y-

*November 2008 elections will be first time that all the states will use statewide voter registration lists. Unfortunately, these lists are not always 100% accurate.

Voting at the Polls

*Voters should always stay at their polling place until all issues regarding their registration have been resolved. Do not leave the polling place without voting, ever.

*Know what voter ID, if any, is required when you go to the polls. And make sure you take it to the polls with you when you go to vote. *The scope of voting machine breakdowns and other voting machine

errors in recent years has been widespread. *If you have a problem voting on a machine at the polls, stop and ask poll officials to help you or ask to use a different machine. It is better to

get help and vote correctly than to vote without assistance and find out your ballot was not marked correctly or completely. *If your right to vote is challenged by someone when you go the polls, keep your cool and encourage the polls officials to remedy the problem

promptly. If you have registered properly and are at the correct polling location, you have nothing to worry about.

*If your city or county uses voting machines that produce a paper trail or receipt, you can check to make sure your vote was properly recorded.

*If you have a problem voting on Election Day, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (English)/ 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish) to get help.

Student Voting *Students are entitled to register in the county where they attend col-

*Parents do not lose the right to declare the student as a dependent on

their income taxes if the student registers to vote at college. *The large anticipated voter turnout of students in November may re-

sult in long lines. Be prepared to wait so your vote is counted. Absentee Voting or Voting by Mail *All states allow some voters to vote by mail, but there is wide variation

among them in who is allowed vote by mail. Call your local county elections office to find what applies in your state. *There are 3 steps to voting by mail: registering to vote, requesting an

absentee ballot, and sending the absentee ballot into the elections office.

*It is often better to vote during an early voting period because if there is a problem with your voter registration status or in casting a ballot, it can be fixed before Election Day.

You Can Make a Difference

*Voters can control the following: registering properly, verifying voter registration status with local officials, and finding out in advance where your polling place is located.

*Voters cannot control the following: how well election officials do you and spread your money around their job, how well the voting machines work, and whether there will be a problem with the vote count.

*Serving as a poll worker is one of the best ways to safeguard elections. With the increased voter turnout this fall, more poll officials will be needed and states are finding that they still need more people to serve as poll officials.

Volunteer if you can

*Political parties, campaigns, and candidates need volunteers to be at the polls on Election Day to watch the polls, or to help give rides to the elderly. Even if you can only help for part of the day, volunteer. If you do not know where your polling place is, or witness any ques-

tionable incidents on

Election Day call -866-OUR-VOTE (English)/ 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish) to get help.

(Guide adapted from publication by The Campaign Legal Center)

"Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor and replaces our "Letters to the Editor" section. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Ideas and opinions are strictly those of

the writer. Submissions may be sent vie email to eleditor@sbcglobal.net El Hijo Del Alacrán (The Son of the Scorpion)





Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper.

Hay en este mudo un tribo de gentequien les llaman "Tontos". Essta gemte mp sabe jacer decosopmes u [pr si caisa ,icja gemte sifre sis ,a;jecjps/ Por ejemplo, la majoria de estaa gente no va votar y si van a votar van a dar su voto a el compañero de George in the battleground states which link Bush llamado McCain. Pobresitos tontos. Ah y fijese que nos dice que aqui en Lubbock tambien hay tontos. Aqui no les voy a decir porquien van a votar pero sus iniciales son G.F.

No se entiende por toda la gente prque estos tontos van a votar por una persona quien ni acabo la escuela High School par un puesto tan importante como Comisionado..

elected an Arab terrorist as President of Mis condolncia a toda la familia de Chevo Morales

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Editorials

Eusebio Chevo Morales Rest in Peace

A late note from our friends in LULAC arrived today telling us of the death of our friend and brother in LULAC Chevo Morales. Chevo was a trailblazer in LULAC and in Lubbock also a civil rights leader for Lubbock and the South Plains. He held several posts in LULAC including President and District Director. During his high school and college years he was a leader also holding various elected posts. He was highly regarded by City leaders and friends of LU-LAC not only in West Texas but throughout the State of Texas and the Southwestern United States. Eusebio Morales, affectionately known to many as Chevo. May he rest in peace and our condolences to all his family and brothers and sisters in LULAC. El Editor will be featuring a more extensive obituary and tribute to him next week.

Eusebio Chevo Morales Descanse in Paz.

We Agree With Colin Powell
Saying that Barack Obama represented a "transformational" figure; for-

crat Barack Obama for President on a Sunday news program. Appearing on Meet the Press; Powell began by stating the fondness he I predict it does not. The reason is alarming to pro-life Christians is has for Republican John McCain, but also claimed the Republican Party "The Secret Ballot." When all is said Obama's extreme ultra-leftwing

has moved farther to the right than he would like to see it. He also prefaced his endorsement of Obama by pointing out that Mc- will decide. If history is to be heed- the horrendous partial birth abor-Cain had seemed to him to be unsure in his response to the recent eco- ed, millions will decide at the instant tion issue. Obama voted against a nomic crisis. He mentioned that each day there seemed to be a different that they press the red "Cast Ballot" bill to protect children born alive.

response coming from the McCain camp on how to deal with the crisis. He also was critical of McCain's choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. He said McCain's choice of Palin raised questions about McCain's they are unbiased and scientific. gation to defend the life of innocent lege. judgment and in his opinion doesn't think Sarah Palin is ready to assume In the last two months many poll-babies. the office of President; should the need arise.

Powell also stated his disappointment with McCain and his campaign agendas ahead of their reputations Catholic said to me, "Why do peowith some of the campaign tactics on issues "that are not really central to and gambled away their credibil- ple say the Democrats are the Party the problems Americans are worried about".

Powell said he was referring to issues like Obama's supposed connec- with daily polls - here is the conclu- in the eye and said - "Because the tion to Bill Ayers and the "robo-calls" which the McCain camp had been sion of this commentator: Obama Democrat Party "IS" the Party of using to attack Obama. Powell also said that he was troubled by a poten- is in trouble. With all the bias from abortion - that's why. You can't tial of 2 more conservative appointments to the Supreme Court.

Asking rhetorically; "which is the president that we need now"? Powell still only a few points ahead of John the same time. Don't call yourself said. "I've come to the conclusion that because of his (Obama's) ability to McCain. In this year's climate Catholic if you are Pro-abortion." inspire and the inclusive nature of his campaign...because he is reaching Obama should be 30 points ahead There is one other reason this out all across America, because of who he is and his rhetorical abilities... - he isn't. Even the ultra left wing commentary predicts John McCain as well as his substance; he has both style and substance; he has met the liberal media - with all its favorit- will win. It is Obama's comments standard...I think he is a transformational figure; he is a new generation ism and manipulation of data can't on national TV to "Joe the Plumbcoming onto the world stage; onto the American stage and for that reason give him an unbeatable lead. With er" when Obama said, "Yes, my I will be voting for Senator Barack Obama"

While we have not always agreed with former Secretary of State Pow- John McCain will win. ell on some issues; including his public stance leading up to the Iraq War; in this case and in his reasoning for endorsing Mr. Obama; we couldn't Four years ago John Kerry won all

agree more. Editorials are strictly the opinion and views of El Editor's editorial board and do not represent the views of El Editor's advertisers or anyone else associated with El Editor.

More in Texas speaking Spanish at home, U.S. Census Bureau report says

Immigration is not only changing the face of North Texas, but also its speech. According to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Statistical Area who speak Spanish at home increased by 400,000 in seven years - from 18.6 percent of the total population in 2000 to 22.9 percent in 2007.

The trend mirrors what's happening in the rest of the state, where 30 percent of the people said in 2007 that they speak Spanish at home, compared with 27 percent who did so in 2000.

"This growth is due to the amount of immigrants who have come to the country during the last 20 years," said Mark López, assistant director of the Pew Hispanic Center. "We're seeing many more Latinos in this country who speak Spanish." The percentage of people in the United States who were born outside the country reached 38

million, or more than 12 percent of the population, according to the latest 2007 census numbers. Almost a third of the foreign-born, or 12 million people, come from Mexico.

The numbers are part of a report published by the Census Bureau and show that at least one in five people speak Spanish in the Southwestern states - Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. And all over the country, about 35 million speak Spanish, representing 12 percent of the population. Eight years ago, nearly 28 million spoke Spanish, or almost 11 percent of the popula-

In the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA, 1.3 million people spoke Spanish in 2007, compared with 890,000 who did so in 2000, according to the report.

There is also evidence that the language has been passed down from generation to generation. In the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA, the Spanish-speaking population between 5 and 17 years of age increased from 21 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2007.

"We're seeing many young Latinos learning Spanish from their families and growing up bilingual because of school," Mr. López said. "The language is being passed from one generation to the next, but that's a trend that historically has its limits."

There is also evidence that many Hispanics who speak Spanish as a native language are learning English or are bilingual.

According to Texas state demographer Karl Eschbach, Hispanics who come to the United States after adolescence are less eager to learn English than the children of immigrants who go

through the school system. "Children tend to be bilingual," Mr. Eschbach said. "Many studies today suggest that the chil-

dren of immigrants are learning English." He said some studies suggest that even Hispanics older than 17 are learning English.

"The pace of learning English has picked up in the state," Mr. Eschbach said. "It's an advantage to be bilingual. It gives you the skills and the competitive advantage in these times of global trade relationships."

Census data is not only reflecting increasing use of Spanish but also of other languages besides English. In the entire country, almost 20 percent of people older than 5 speak a language other than English at home. In 2000, it was 18 percent of the population and in 1990, almost 14 percent. English

is spoken in 80 percent of the homes in the country.

El Editor

Informing-Educating Creating Action. The Job of a Real Newspaper of

RECORD on the internet at www.eleditor.com

Monday October 20, 2008, the three nationally televised debates first day of early voting, as I do ev- against George "Dubya" Bush. ery election, I was one of the first Kerry was ahead in all the polls on in line to cast my ballot. In other the economy, education, healthcare years I might have been the sole - but he lost. Why? The answer is person at the poll at opening time, that ole piece of Americana - "The but with the tenor of this year's Secret Ballot." campaign being as it is - there were Pundits were flabbergasted. How about a dozen voters in line waiting could "Dubya" get 4 million more for the poll to open. It is good that popular votes than Kerry who was so many people are voting = the po- ahead in every category and in the litical landscape may never be the polls? Answer: "The Secret Balsame again.

Predictions about who will win When it's all said and done, on November 4, 2008 abound. Americas know that their vote is se-This is predictable. Another pre- cret and they do not have to explain dictable is the analysis of the last it to anyone. of three debates by armatures and As it turned out - the American pundits alike. Even the casual ob- people indicated that they voted server expressed an opinion. There for "Values" not the economy or is one thing the opinions all have any of the other traditional election in common - they are all different, turners. This November 4, 2008, there is as little agreement among Americans may very well be keepthe commentators as there is be- ing "Secret" what they "Value" the tween the candidates. Agreement most. Four years ago it was not the on who won or lost is split 50-50, pocketbook - What will it be this but the experts say Obama had election? If it is anything other than the edge on all three debates. The the pocketbook - McCain wins. problem is that they all agree that Obama is right about one thing Obama has "Not sealed the Deal." - Americans do in fact cling to their In other words Obama should be values. Barack Obama is vulnerthe clear winner - but isn't. Obama able on the issue of "Family Valis outspending McCain 4 to 1 in the ues" as millions of evangelicals and swing states and has 4 to 1 advan- Catholics understand and define the tage in campaign workers - but still issue. Obama's record on abortion hasn't "Made the Sale". How can is clear. He supports and promotes mer Secretary of State and retired General Colin Powell endorsed Demo-

Does all this hoopla really matter. partial birth abortion. But more and done - the individual voter alone liberal position that goes beyond button on the voting machine.

Polls are usually reliable when this and feel they have a moral obliing organizations have placed their ity. As a result of being bombarded of Abortion?" I looked him straight friendly news networks, Obama is be Catholic and Pro-Abortion at this in mind, my prediction is that plan will take money away from

My prediction is not flippant. to others.'

Americans really hate socialism. **Guest Commentary** The Republican Party and Race

By Charles Dunn

As I write this article, early voting has begun and every national opinion poll indicates that Barack Obama has a lead over John McCain of between 4 and 9 points. Outspoken Republican columnists who represent the intellectual wing of the party such as George Will, David Brooks, Kathleen Parker and Peggy Noonan have chastised the McCain campaign as inept and indecisive, and have been especially critical of the choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin for Vice-President. While polls can change, and there are still two weeks left in the campaign, Republican Party intellectuals are already trying to pick up the pieces of the second consecutive national election in which Republicans will lose seats in Congress. The beltway pundits are struggling to decide who leads the Republican Party and in what direction it will be led. As the blame game begins, I offer a simple solution to the struggling Republicans on how to become relevant outside of the South

the Great Plains. They must solve their race problem. In examining the future of their party, Republicans would be wise to examine the current racial makeup of its base. At the Republican Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, only 5% of the 2,380 delegates were Hispanic. Only 2% of the delegates were African-American. The remaining 93% were white, most were over age 50 and 68% were male. Not one Republican Governor, Senator or Congressman is African American. Only one Republican Mexican-American serves in Congress along with four Cuban-Americans for a total of only 5 Hispanic Republican Congressmen. There is 1 Cuban-American Republican Senator from Florida. All other national elected Republican office holders are white and are overwhelmingly male. The Republican Party minority delegation in Congress could fit in a phone booth.

Minority voters routinely choose Democratic Party candidates in elections. African-American voters vote for Democrats 9-1. Hispanics vote for Democrats 7-3, although George W. Bush was able to narrow that gap to 6-4. The latest Pew reports, as reported by Abel Cruz in this newspaper, show that Hispanics will return to backing Democrats in greater numbers this year than in 2004. While the Republican Party is able to garner 70-80% of the White vote in the South and Great Plains states, Republican candidates generally split the white male vote, and lose the white women's vote outside of their regional base. The Republican Party has become regionalized, ethnocentric and in danger of being limited nationally to only a handful of swing states outside of the Republican states of the South and the Great Plains.

abortion including the horrendous

Pro-life Christians are horrified by

About a week ago, a friend who is

There is a perception among African-American voters that McCain has run a racist campaign in which he has questioned Obama's religion (calling him a Muslim) his roots (Who is Barack Obama?) and his patriotism. Few African-American voters will forget the disoriented, rather disheveled middle-aged woman who grabbed the microphone at a McCain town hall meeting to declare that she couldn't vote for Obama because she couldn't trust him because he was Arab. McCain quickly tried to distance himself from the woman and her statement, but the damage was done. and the sparsely populated farm states of This week, as the campaign enters its final stage, McCain is running robo calls Obama, McCarthy style, to terrorists. Never before in the history of American politics has a major party nominee for President been called a terrorist in a political campaign. If Obama wins, a large portion of the public, thanks to John McCain, will believe that we have the United States.

In addition to alienating African-American voters, Republicans continue to oppose common sense solutions to solving the immigration problem and instead resort to covert racism in demanding that all illegal immigrants be labeled felons and in opposing a path to legalization for those that have spent their entire life in the United States. Few election cycles pass without a Republican candidate for office declaring that illegal immigrants don't come here for jobs but come only for our generous "social programs". The message is not lost on Hispanics that the targets of their demagogy are almost always Mexican immigrants.

The Republican Party will be the minority party in American politics for a long time unless it addresses and solves its race problem.

Charles Dunn is a Lubbock Attorney specializing in Personal Injury Law. His website is www.charlesdunn-law.com

Henry Cisneros Reflects on U.S Housing Policy

A grandson of Mexican immigrants and this city's first Hispanic mayor of the 20th century, Henry Cisneros has spent years trying to trip from downtown to ask residents

"People bought here because of Cisneros," said Celia Morales, a



make the dream of home ownership come true for low-income U.S. families.

As the top housing official in the mid-1990s in President Bill Clinton's administration, Cisneros loosened mortgage restrictions so first-time buyers could qualify for loans they could never get before.

Then, capitalizing on a housing expansion he helped unleash, he joined the boards of a major builder, KB Home, and the largest mortgage lender in the nation, Countrywide Financial - two companies that rode the housing boom, drawing criticism along the way for abusive business practices.

And Cisneros became a developer himself. The Lago Vista development here in his hometown once stood as a testament to his life's work.

Joining with KB, he built 428 homes for low-income buyers in what was a neglected, industrial neighborhood. He often made the if they were happy.

Lago Vista resident. "There was a

But Cisneros rarely comes around

feeling of, 'He's got our back."

anymore. Lago Vista, like many

communities born in the housing

boom, is now under stress. Scores of

homes have been foreclosed, includ-

ing one in five over the past six years

Sunbend Falls, according to property

While Cisneros says he remains

proud of his work, he has misgivings

over what his passion has wrought.

He insists that the worst problems

developed only after "bad actors"

hijacked his good intentions, but

acknowledges that "people came

participants - bankers, brokers,

secondary market people," he said.

"The country is paying for that, and

families are hurt because we as a

society did not draw a line."

have been homeowners."

to home ownership who should not

They were lured by "unscrupulous

on the community's longest street,

records.

debt, raw greed. The players are also varied: bankers, borrowers, developers, politicians and bureaucrats. Cisneros, 61, had a foot in a number of those worlds. Despite his qualms, he encouraged the unpre-

sion are many: lax regulation, finan-

cial innovation gone awry, excessive

pared to buy homes, part of a broad national trend with dire economic consequences.

He reflects often on his role in the debacle, he says, which has changed home ownership from something that secured a place in the middle class to something that is ejecting people from it.

"I've been waiting for someone to put all the blame at my doorstep," he said lightly, but with a bit of worry, too.

After a sex scandal destroyed his promising political career and he left Washington, he eventually reinvented himself as a well-regarded advocate and builder of urban, working-class homes. He has financed the construction of more than 7,000 houses.

For the three years he was a director at KB Home, Cisneros received at least \$70,000 in pay and more than \$100,000 worth of stock. He also received \$1.14 million in directors' fees and stock grants during the six years he was a director at Countrywide. He made more than \$5 million from Countrywide stock options, money he says he plowed into his company.

He says his development work provides an annual income of "several hundred thousand" dollars. All told, his paydays are modest relative to the windfalls some executives netted in the boom. Indeed, Cisneros says his mistake was not the greed that afflicted many of his counterparts in banking and housing; it was unwavering belief.

Bernanke: Slow Growth in U.S. Future; Stimulus Needed

U.S. growth will remain weak for "several" quarters as the world's largest economy works through a financial and housing crisis that has sharply reduced spending, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned Monday.

Amid fears that the U.S. has already dipped into a recession, Bernanke told a congressional hearing that a second fiscal stimulus package could help kick-start the economy.

Congress passed its first stimulus package in the spring, offering 150 billion dollars in tax rebate cheques that raised consumer spending and helped boost growth in the second quarter.

"With the economy likely to be weak for several quarters, and with some risk of a protracted slowdown, consideration of a fiscal package by the Congress at this juncture seems appropriate," Bernanke told the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives.

The White House was also keeping an "open mind" about the prospects of a second stimulus but was waiting for more. details from Congress, spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

Bernanke painted a depressing picture of the state of the economy in his opening statement before the committee. The US central bank head said shortterm lending between banks had become "essentially unavailable"

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as shaky financial institutions have continued hoarding cash.

Though inflation has eased amid falling oil prices, "the pace of economic activity is likely to

Nine banks have already expressed a willingness to take part in the bail-out plan, which has set aside 250 billion dollars to make direct stock purchases in partici-



be below that of its longer-run potential for several quarters," Bernanke said.

Stocks in the US and around the world have plummeted in the past few weeks. Bernanke said the Treasury's broad new powers to invest in banks under the 700-billion-dollar rescue plan - which has been mirrored by a number of other countries would help restore confidence.

But he warned that "the stabilization of the financial system, though an essential first step, will not quickly eliminate the challenges still faced by the broader economy."

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pating financial institutions. Stocks have declined in part

due to fears of more banks failing in the future. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who unveiled the application process for institutions on Monday, assured there was enough money to go around for any banks that needed government help.

The priority is to provide banks with enough capital to restart lending to consumers and each other. But regulatory officials cautioned that even a taxpayer stake did not guarantee a bank would survive the financial crisis.

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La Reserva da luz verde a otro plan de estímulo económico

The causes of the housing implo-

Ben Bernanke, presidente de la Reserva Federal, otorgó el lunes su bendición a los planes del Congreso de estimular por segunda ocasión la economía, sugirió la necesidad de más ayuda federal para los estados y alertó contra la elevación de los impuestos en medio de las turbulencias económicas.

La Casa Blanca dijo el lunes que el presidente George W. Bush estaba abierto a cierto tipo de acción después que Bernanke advirtiera que la crisis podría alargarse si no se aplica un remedio adicional.

En Wall Street, las acciones subieron, y el indicador Dow Jones ganó 413 puntos. También aparecieron nuevos signos de que las condiciones crediticias se están descongelando algo.

La economía nacional, que ya se tambalea, recibió tres golpes fuertes por las crisis de la vivienda, el crédito y las finanzas. Ahora que la recesión es considerada inevitable por muchos, por no decir que ya nos afecta, Washington se concentra en lo dañina y larga que puede ser y en cómo limitar sus consecuencias.

Bernanke compareció ante el Comité de Presupuesto de la Cámara para discutir los esfuerzos recientes destinados a revertir la crisis financiera global. Por comparecer sólo dos semanas antes de las elecciones nacionales, muchas de las preguntas de los legisladores tenían un tono político.

En sus primeras consideraciones, Bernanke afirmó que la economía enfrenta algunos trimestres más de mal funcionamiento, por lo que las nuevas medidas de estímulo deberían ser "apropiadas", aunque subrayó que la ayuda debe estructurarse para que ejerza una influencia inmediata y no para financiar proyectos que demoran en avanzar. Una gran parte del plan de estímulo que los demócratas están elaborando tienen por objetivo financiar proyectos de infraestructura.

Al ser presionado por la representante Rosa DeLauro, demócrata por Connecticut, para dar instrucciones a los legisladores acerca de cuán grande debe ser un plan de estímulos, Bernanke respondió: "Pienso que debería ser significativo", sin señalar una cifra precisa.

El presidente Bush aprobó en febrero un plan de rescate financiero por \$152,000 millones que devolvió dinero a los consumidores, cuyos gastos mueven dos tercios de la actividad económica de Estados Unidos. El nuevo esfuerzo estaría dirigido más bien hacia la creación de empleos.

La Casa Blanca no ha dado su apoyo a un segundo plan de estímulo.

"Cuando el Congreso vuelva a reunirse, habrá muchas oportunidades para considerar si se necesita un estímulo fiscal adicional, y, en ese caso, qué forma debería asumir", declaró a McClatchy el vocero de la Casa Blanca Tony Fratto. "Hasta el momento, lo que hemos escuchado de parte de los líderes demócratas no parece que ayudará al crecimiento de la economía en el futuro cercano".

Bernanke sugirió que cualquier estímulo debería centrarse en los mercados de crédito ahora congelados, que están reduciendo sus préstamos a los consumidores, las empresas y los gobiernos estatales, y apoyó asimismo los llamados a esfuerzos más agresivos por detener el número creciente de ejecuciones hipotecarias en todo el país.

El presidente de la Reserva Federal aseguró que el plan de estímulos podría estructurarse de modo que garantice los préstamos a los gobiernos locales y estatales en el mercado municipal de valores, que ahora es improductivo, como otros mercados de crédito.

California y Massachusetts están entre los estados que se quejan de que pedir prestado en los mercados de valores se está conviertiendo en algo prohibitivo.

"Esta podría ser un área en que el gobierno federal podría ayudar a los gobiernos locales y estatales a atraer crédito con tasas más bajas", indicó Bernanke.

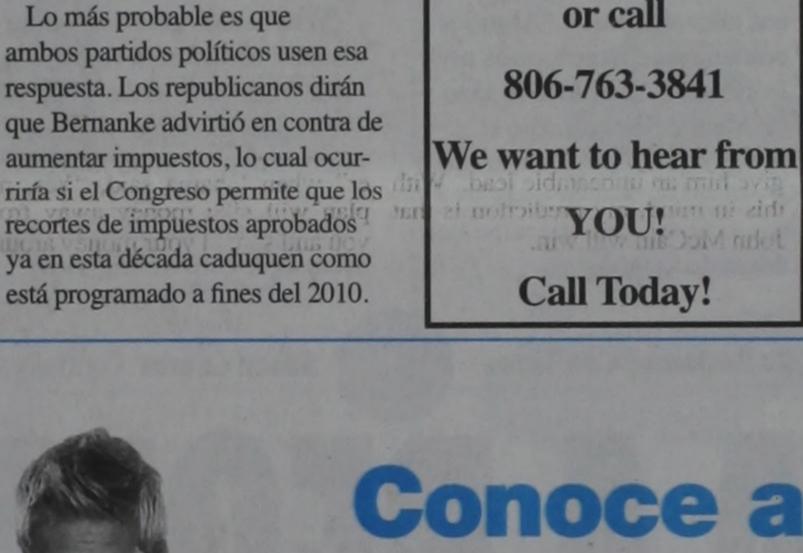
DeLauro trató repetidas veces de conseguir que Bernanke dijera que la economía del país está en recesión, pero el jefe de la Reserva Federal respondió que eso era una cuestión académica.

"Existe un serio estancamiento en la economía . . . Llamémosle recesión o no, eso no importa", explicó. La mayoría de los economistas suponen que la economía está en recesión, que se define como una contracción en una amplia gama de índices incluyendo el trabajo, el consumo y la producción industrial.

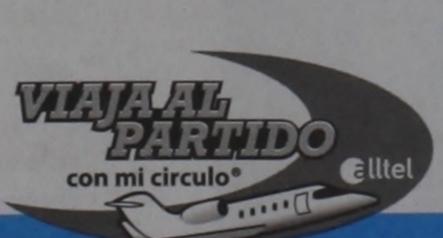
Cuando el representante Paul Ryan, republicano por Wisconsin, presionó a Bernanke sobre los peligros de aumentar impuestos durante la turbulencia económica, éste respondió que "en términos generales, un aumento neto de

los impuestos no es deseable en medio de un letargo económico".

ambos partidos políticos usen esa respuesta. Los republicanos dirán que Bernanke advirtió en contra de aumentar impuestos, lo cual ocurriría si el Congreso permite que los recortes de impuestos aprobados ya en esta década caduquen como







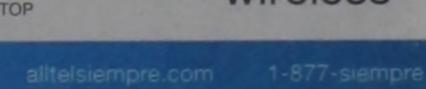
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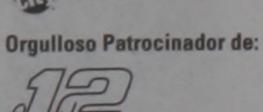
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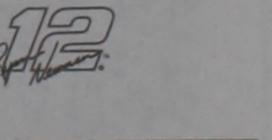
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Canseco se arrepiente por su libro sobre esteroides

Después de provocar una tormenta de incalculables proporciones en las Grandes Ligas,



José Canseco admitió que la publicación de su libre "Juiced" es el mayor error de su vida y se sintió avergonzado por todos aquellos que nombra en las más de 400 páginas del volumen.

Esta revelación formó parte de un documental de una hora titulado "José Canseco: La última oportunidad", que fue transmitido el lunes por la cadena A&E y recoge las tribulaciones del ex pelotero cubano en estos años.

"Nunca debí escribir [el libro], es el mayor error que he cometido", reconoció Canseco. "Mientras más pienso en eso, más me arrepiento de haber mencionado a esos jugadores en el libro".

A modo de justificación, el habanero insiste que un complot de las autoridades de las Grandes Ligas lo forzaron a abandonar el béisbol y pusieron fin a su carrera, a pesar de que aún, según él, podía mantenerse activo algún tiempo más.

Cantero reitera que esa situación le llevó a un punto de no retorno y de "búsqueda de venganza", que se unieron a episodios de depresión que le llevaron a escribir el libro en el 2005.

"Nombré a esos jugadores como evidencia para demostrar que decía la verdad", afirmó el ex jardinero de 44 años que

brillara con varios equipos de las Mayores, especialmente los Atléticos de Oakland. "Nunca

> imaginé que esto fuera a perjudicar y herir a tanta gente".

> > En "Juiced"

Canseco narró como inyectó con esteroides a verdaderas megaestrellas del juego como su compatriota Rafael Palmeiro, a los puertorriqueños Juan González e Iván Rodríguez, pero sobre todo, a su

compañero de equipo, Mark McGwire.

Más allá de las individualidades, pone de manifiesto el uso y abuso de sustancias para mejorar el rendimiento físico y que ahora, afirma, le hacen temer por su propia salud.

"Hablar de este tema es complejo y muchos prefieren no hacerlo", manifestó un ex pelotero que jugó en la Costa Oeste y conoció al cubano. "José era un ejemplo para nosotros en aquellos tiempos, un héroe. Ahora, se le desprecia. ¿Qué se consumía esteroides? Es cierto, pero uno nunca espera que sea alguien de dentro quien lo exponga todo. Por otra parte, la personalidad de José abre la puerta a muchas dudas sobre lo que dice y los nombres que ofrece. Yo no creería cien por ciento en él".

Canseco participó en su último partido en la temporada del 2001, trató de regresar un año después con los Expos de Montreal, pero no pudo integrar el róster al inicio de la temporada 2002 y se retiró.

Antes de que se autoincriminara con el uso de esteroides, sus números eran más que suficientes para valorar su entrada al Templo de la Fama al sumar 462 jonrones, 1,407 impulsadas y 200 bases robadas.

A comienzos de este mes,

Canseco fue detenido en un punto fronterizo con México luego de que agentes encontraran en su vehículo gonadotropina, una sustancia que es ilegal si se obtiene sin prescripción médica y que se utiliza para aumentar la producción de testosterona.

Fue acusado en una corte federal de San Diego por tratar de introducir una droga de fertilidad a través de la frontera. Pudiera ser condenado a un año en prisión y multado en \$1,000. Su audiencia está fijada para el 4 de noviembre.

"Mi cuerpo olvidó como fabricar testoste-rona", expresó Canseco al diario Daily News. "Los esteroides y su uso destruyeron mi vida por completo. Tal vez eso cambie químicamente algunas cosas dentro de mí. No sé qué va a pasar".

Tras reconocer en el documental que vive de "cheque en cheque", Canseco trata de encauzar su carrera como luchador profesional y ha llegado a un acuerdo para pelear en enero con Danny Bonaduce como parte de un cartel de celebridades.

Esta será el segundo combate del cubano -cuyo segundo libro "Vindicated" no tuvo la repercusión del primero-, que en julio fue noqueado en Atlantic City por el ex jugador de los Eagles de Filadelfia, Vai Sikahema.

En medio de todos estos problemas, Canseco indicó que su arrepentimiento le llevaría hasta pedirle perdón a todos aquellos que una vez fueron sus amigos y ahora sufren los embates de la opinión pública por su culpa.

"No sé si esas personas que hoy viven casi como en un exilio interior podrán perdonarle", agregó el ex jugador que conoció a Canseco en sus años de gloria. "Algunos cometieron errores, otros no lo creo. No sé si José le hizo un bien al béisbol, sólo el tiempo dirá. Pero sí destruyó a muchos. Para ellos nada será como antes. Esta disculpa llega demasiado tarde".

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

Dallas Cowboys considering changes, but not at head coach Jerry Jones and George questions because a team with

Steinbrenner became business partners Monday, but there's one trait Jones is not willing to copy from Steinbrenner.

While Steinbrenner is no longer running the day-to-day operations of the Yankees, he is famous for firing and re-firing managers, but Jones said Monday that Wade Phillips will be his coach, so you can put away your wishes for Jason Garrett or Bill Cowher or even Jimmy Johnson.

"Absolutely, he's going to finish the season," Jones said via conference call from New York for the announcement of Legends Hospitality Management LLC, a new stadium concessions and merchandising venture. "That isn't even a remote consideration."

Phillips' job security has been called into question after an embarrassing 34-14 defeat at St. Louis on Sunday that dropped the team to 4-3. In his 31st year in the NFL and his third head-coaching stop, he knew the questions would come

"That kind of talk comes up with coaches all the time when things aren't going well," Phillips said. "Things aren't going well here, I understand that. I've been in the league a long time. But it's not going to affect how we prepare this week."

Inside the locker room Monday, players defended the coach and his staff.

"Why is this question being asked?" safety Ken Hamlin said. "It doesn't make sense. We've lost a couple of games, but he's done a good job. It doesn't make sense.

Phillips and the players find themselves answering those

Super Bowl aspirations has lost three out of four games

and did not play well in its one

victory came against the NFL's

only seven-loss team (Cincin-

win during the stretch. That

nati). Phillips made vague references Monday to making changes but admitted there are few personnel moves that can be made. One potential change is to have Phillips handle the defensive playcalling, which coordinator Brian Stewart has handled.

Nose tackle Tank Johnson said he believes the Cowboys are doing too much defensively to be effective. Phillips did not disagree.

"I think overall our execution is more of a problem than anything," Phillips said. "I'm talking about in all areas. We're not executing well enough on offense, defense and on special teams. We can identify those things. Coaches are working all day today and tomorrow. "And we try to do this every week, but it's come to a point

where we need to identify the things that we are doing well

and try to do those things bet-

The Cowboys, at 12-1, had the NFC's best record in mid-December last season. Since then, they are 5-6, including the playoff loss to the New York Giants. During that stretch, the Cowboys have thrown 14 interceptions, lost five fumbles and committed 84 penalties. Their opponents have thrown three interceptions, lost eight fumbles and committed 66 penalties.

If the Cowboys do not turn it around in a hurry, they will find themselves needing help in the playoff chase. All three losses have come against

NFC foes, hurting their tiebreaker chances.

"We definitely had at some point been riding high," linebacker Bradie James said. "We're not riding high anymore. Here we are just like every other team in the league. We have to earn every victory. Nobody's going to give us anything. We just need to win. That's it. If we win, we'll be all right.

"However that comes, I'm fine with it. But I know losing is just tough. It's a tough pill to swallow."

In 1998, Phillips' first year in Buffalo, the Bills started 0-3 but rallied to finish 10-6 and make the playoffs, largely behind the insertion of Doug Flutie at quarterback.

"I've been around teams that have done it before," Phillips said. "And I believe in this team. I believe in these players. They're going to fight as hard as they can fight and they're going to work hard. They're hard workers and they're determined. And I think that will help us."

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Luis Miguel: "I'm growing in a positive way"

The Mexican singer says

I'm more calm, and I value af-



he's maturing and now he's more conscious of what his fans mean to him

At age 38, with a small son, an alleged older daughter, another little girl on the way, a stable relationship, and a solid career, Luis Miguel assures that he's living the most mature years of his life, and that he's grown as a human being and as an artist. "I feel like I've grown.

fection from others more. I think I'm maturing in a positive way, and it's beautiful. I enjoy being with fans that have grown with me along the way," said the Mexican singer during an interview with TN TV in Argentina, where the singer will give a concert in

November.

The "No sé tú" singer claims he's embarking on a new stage in his life, and that he feels different. "I feel like things are better now," said the crooner.

Regarding his wife Aracely Arámbula he stated that "I realize how significant that relationship is to me," because "I've never felt this kind of intensity."

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'Latinos '08': A Split Ticket PBS Documentary Questions Assumptions About Voters

Jackie Kennedy looks into our eyes and speaks perfect Frenchaccented Spanish, politely soliciting votes for her husband in a 1960 campaign commercial.

It was the first time a presidential campaign paid such attention to Latino voters, and it was good for the Democrats. To this day, some Mexican restaurants have pictures of JFK posted next to images of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The competition for those votes has gotten only more sophisticated and bipartisan. Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain have deployed rival Hispanic outreach teams in a parallel universe of dueling Spanish-language campaigns in battleground states.

One of the best things about the new PBS documentary "Latinos '08" is that it challenges a premise of such efforts -- the assumption that the Latino vote is a monolithic bloc that can be appealed to and delivered as one. The film commits an even more refreshing heresy: It questions whether the Latino vote really is as critical as everyone says it is.

"There is an industry promoting how important the Latino vote is," says Rodolfo de la Garza, a professor at Columbia University, one of many analysts interviewed. "It is one of the most overstated, self-congratulatory exercises in American politics today."

Yet credit the higher truth-telling of this brisk, brief (one-hour) political, demographic and cultural tour that it also resists taking refuge in easy contrarianism, which is as overly simple as the conventional wisdom. Rather than present us with a neat package of the Latino influence as either-or, this-or-that, it unwraps the package and reveals something with more to it than many presume.

Director Phillip Rodriguez knows his way around this territory of ironies and pieties layered upon an undeniably real demographic bedrock. Last year he made "Brown Is the New Green: George Lopez and the American Dream," about how efforts to profit from the ballooning Latino market are shaping perceptions of the Latino identity.

In Rodriguez's account, Kennedy's outreach put the Latino vote in the pocket of the Democrats, who proceeded to take it for granted. Along came Ronald Reagan and President Bush, former Western governors who showed that the Latino political identity is not so predictable. Bush won more than 40 percent of the Latino vote in 2004, a GOP record.

Rodriguez lets his parade of analysts consider the rival appeals of McCain and Obama. Has McCain backslid on his commitment to immigration reform? Is Obama's race a problem for some Latinos? (A weakness of the film is its reliance on these talking heads, as eloquent and unpredictable as they are.) Some polls show Latinos supporting Obama over McCain nearly 3 to 1.

But what about cultural identity, and how does that inform decisions made inside the voting booth?

De la Garza describes a bar in Houston. Mexicans go Friday nights, Chicanos on Saturday nights. The crowds rarely mix: Immigrants and descendants of immigrants have a lot not in common.

Latinos also lack a common national story, hailing from more than a dozen countries. Some are born citizens (Puerto Ricans); some are welcomed as soon as they touch American soil (Cubans). Latinos in the West display more of a selfassured swagger than Latinos in some parts of the East, where they are newly arrived and under siege.

"The Latino community, depending on where you are, is the only one where if you say 'salsa,' half of them start dancing and half of them start eating," de la Garza says.

And yet, seeming disunity and diversity aren't the whole story. The common threat of immigrantbashing created a pan-Latino identity that appeared strongest in 2006, when hundreds of thousands marched for immigration reform.

"God bless the racists, they managed to unite us," says columnist Ruben Navarrette Jr.

The tough-on-illeg al-immigration crowd doesn't understand why many legal residents and citizens take its rhetoric personally. It's another nuance of Latino identity: Vast numbers of illegal immigrants have children, spouses or other family members who are legal residents.

"You start going after them and you are disrupting American families," de la Garza says. "That won't play."

Since rhetoric against illegal immigrants is a staple of more Republican campaigns than Democratic ones, the GOP might want to think about this: Roughly half a million Latinos become eligible voters each year just by turning 18.

"If you are attacking us, we will remember," says the Rev. Luis Cortés Jr., president of a powerful federation of evangelical churches. "That means you will never have a Republican president in the future."

But translating demographic power into political power is no sure thing. Rates of Latino voter eligibility and turnout among eligible voters both lag behind those of whites and blacks.

Obama's newest Spanish-language TV and radio spots subtly acknowledge the target audience's diversity: The narrator in Florida has a Caribbean-Spanish accent, whereas the narrator in the other states sounds more Mexican.

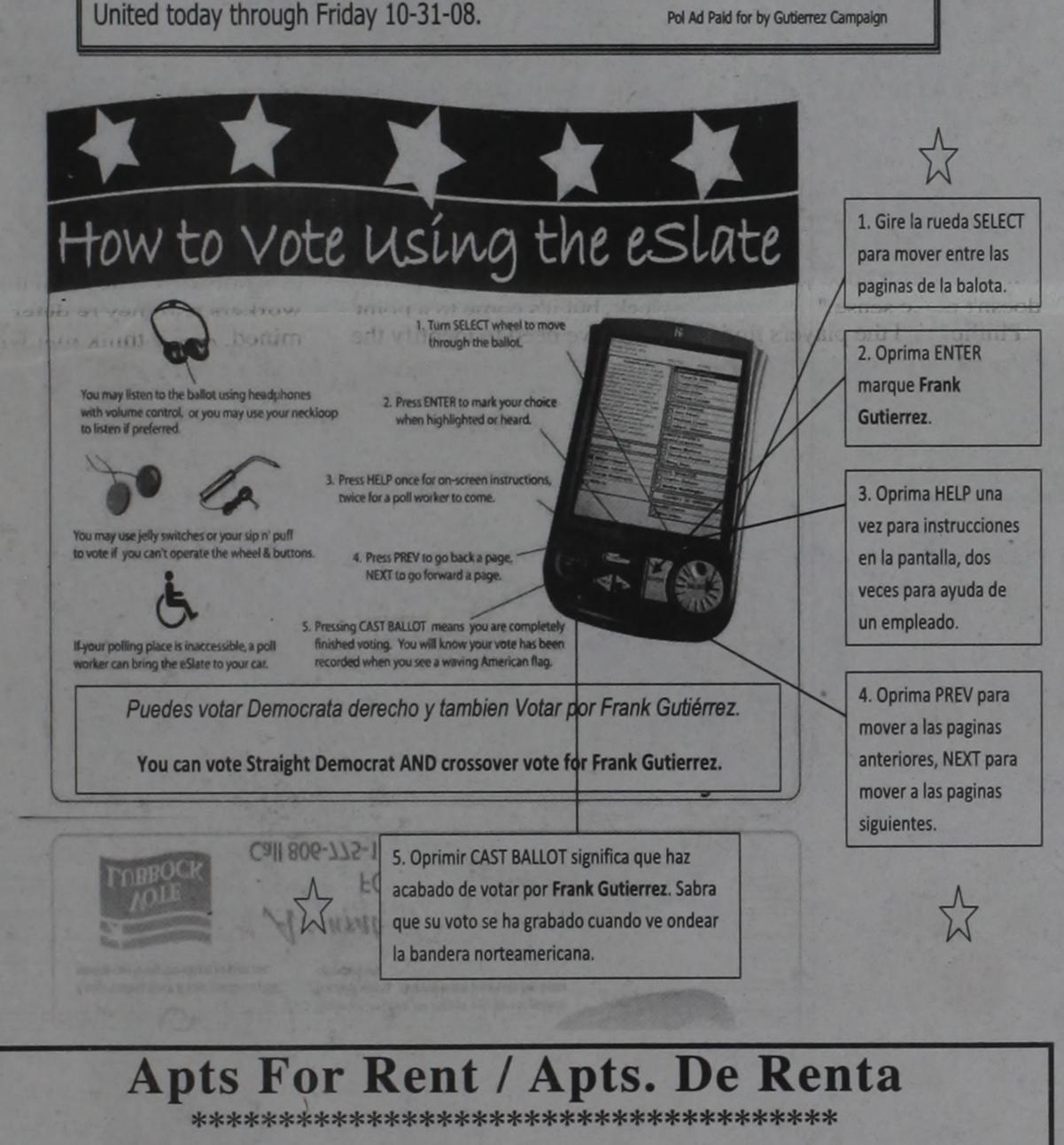
Maybe we've learned something since Jackie Kennedy's day.

But looking into the future, his camera sentimentally panning the classic American monuments of Washington -- a bit of heavy-handed symbolism -- Rodriguez leaves open the ultimate political meaning of this expanding minority with its hard-to-figure identity.

"Over time, there's going to be so many Latinos that they can be a national elections player," de la Garza says. "But will they be Latinos when you get that many?"

Cortés says, "My concern is that we will still maintain a grain of identity that says, 'I am Latino.' "

De la Garza has the film's last word, one that seems honest and real: "What will it mean to be a Latino? I don't know."



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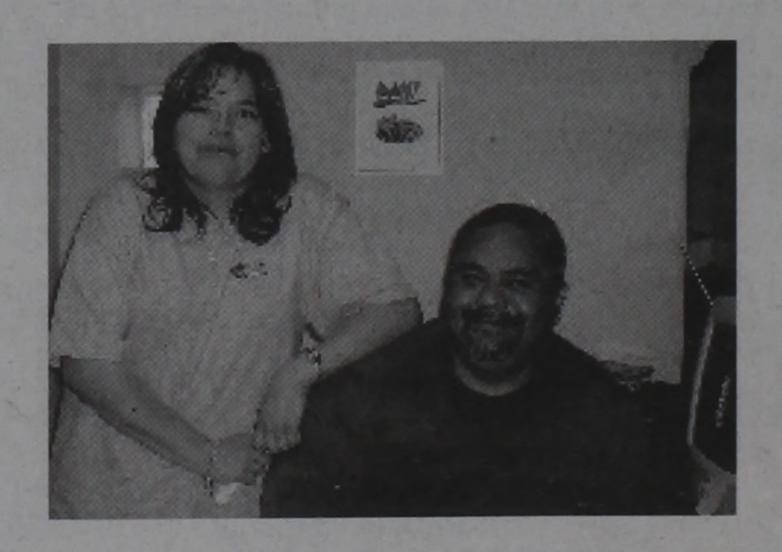
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Día de los Muertos

Celebracion at the Buddy Holly Center

The Buddy Holly Center is pleased to announce the opening of Celebracion, an annual invitational exhibition of artwork that explores the history and meaning behind the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. The exhibit includes artwork from local, national and international artists. Artists were asked to create works honoring departed ancestors, friends and family and interpreting Dia de los Muertos. Celebracion will be on display October 14 – November 30, 2008 to be enjoyed throughout the ancient Mexican holiday.

A vibrant cultural celebration, Day of the Dead blends the Catholic traditions of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1st & 2nd) with pre-Columbian concepts of death that have been a part of Mexican society since Aztec times. The celebration can be traced to the Aztecs who celebrated a ritual day dedicated to children and the dead. The ritual was presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl ("Lady of the Dead"). Modern traditional Dia de los muertos festivities take place on November 1st and 2nd, and are a time of remembrance, reunion and feasting.

The Buddy Holly Center annually participates in Lubbock's citywide observance of this holiday by hosting Procesion with the TTU International Cultural Center, TTU School of Art and the Underwood Center for the Arts. Procesion will be October 31, 2008, from 5:30 –10:00 p.m. between the four locations, and is free to the public. Procesion will serve as the opening reception for the Celebracion exhibition. The Center has invited Christy Martinez-Garcia to present traditional Day of the Dead stories in the Meadows Courtyard from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Ixcalli In Nanantzin, Aztec Dancers from Taos, New Mexico will also perform in the courtyard from 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. in celebration of the ancient holiday. Festivities will continue at other citywide locations throughout the night.

Programming at the Buddy Holly Center is made possible in part by the generous support of Supporters of the Fine Arts (SOFA), CH Foundation, Helen Jones Foundation and the City of Lubbock. For more information about this exhibit or other events, please contact the staff at the Buddy Holly Center at 806.775.3560 or visit us online at http://buddyhollycenter.org.





HAVE A
SAFE &
HAPPY
HALLOWEEN
FROM
ELEDITOR
NEWSPAPERS

Nephtali De Leon to be Guest Speaker at TTU Event

"El Día de los Muertos" or "the day of the dead" has long been a Mexican tradition dating back to the more than 500 years ago when Spanish Conquistadors first invaded and conquered Mexico.

In Mexico, elaborate observances are held to commemorate All Saints Day on November 1; and All Souls day on November 2.

Throughout the country, customs vary according to the customs of

each region. But for the most part, traditions include "colorful adornments and family reunions at family burial sites, the preparation of special foods and offerings at commemorative altars which include religious ceremonies".

Here in Lubbock, the day will be observed with the 4th annual "Dia de los Muertos" Dinner featuring former Lubbock resident Nephtali De Leon as the guest speaker.

De Leon, who now resides in San Antonio, is a noted Chicano poet, artist, muralist and lecturer. His presentation will cover the

history of the Day of the Dead and he will also share "Calaveras"; Day of the Dead poems about some Tech students, according to information from Texas Tech.

The dinner will be held at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion beginning at 7:00PM. Unfortunately tickets are no longer available for the dinner; but Texas Tech organizers which include "Unidos por un Mismo Idioma or the Spanish Speaking Society, the Office of Institutional Diversity, and the Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center will also hold a Dia de los Muertos Fiesta" on the same night of the event.

The fiesta is open to the public and organizers said that during this fiesta people will have the opportunity to listen to the mariachis, enjoy pan dulce and hot chocolate and have an opportunity to view the altars made by the students.

The fiesta event begins at 9:00 PM; at the conclusion of the dinner. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

"Día de los Muertos Celebración" at Buddy Holly Center

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