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News Briefs

Barack Obama's Grandmother Dies

Her name came up often in his campaign for president. The President Elect mentioned her in glowing terms and talked about how she had made sacrifices in her life so that he and his sister could take advantage of educational opportunities.

On Sunday of this past week, just two days before an election which saw her grandson become the first African American President this country has ever elected, Madelyn Dunham passed away at the age of 86. Ms. Dunham died late Sunday evening in Hawaii after suffering from cancer. Mr. Obama often referred to his grandmother as the anchor of the family and often credited her with his success. In announcing Ms. Dunham's passing, Mr. Obama said, "She has gone home. She died peacefully in her sleep with my sister at her side, so there's great joy instead of tears." Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Gas Falls to Less than \$2 per Gallon

Whether it was the drop in demand or the world economic crisis, no one really cares. What motorists do care about is that for the first time since 2006, the price of a gallon of gas has fallen below \$2 dollars per gallon. But experts say get it now while the getting is good. They say gas is expected to go up again as the economic situation gets better. Also, OPEC is expected to raise prices and lower production; in hopes that demand exceeds supply and prices go up. The national average remained at about \$2.50 per gallon according to auto club AAA.

House and Senate Races Produce Net Gains for Democrats

Although votes were still being counted in states like Alaska and Minnesota, election results showed that Democrats would gain at least 17 seats to add to their majority. There were 11 races still being counted on Wednesday morning and news organizations were projecting that Democrats would wind up with a net gain of 21 seats. In the Senate races; Democrats had gained at least 5 seats to put them at a 56 seat majority. But there were 4 races still undecided which could go either way. In Alaska, the race involving convicted Senator Ted Stevens was still to close to call by Wednesday morning. Also in Minnesota; state officials had ordered a recount after Democrat Al Franken and Republican Norm Coleman each won 42% of the vote. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Teen Pregnancy

Connected to TV Watching Habits

The Washington Post is reporting that new research suggests "that teens who spend the most time watching sexually charged television shows are twice as likely to become pregnant" or get someone else pregnant. The newspaper cites the publication Pediatrics in the report but makes sure to differentiate between suggesting that this might be the reason for teen pregnancies as opposed to proving that it does. The author of the study, Anita Chandra, a researcher with Rand Corporation says that "Not a lot of content on TV talks about the potential negative consequences of sex. Characters engage in sexual talk or activity, give positive attributes to sex, and there's little discussion". Chandra suggests that parents pay close attention to what their children watch. According to the US Centers for Disease Control, "about one in every three girls gets pregnant before age 20" in this country. The report says that in 2006 alone, "more than 435,000 infants were born to mothers aged 15 to 19, and more than 80 percent of the births were estimated to have been unintended". The TV shows were not mentioned by the researchers saying that doing so would "divert attention from our core message that this kind of programming can have an impact on teen health, including pregnancy risk". The teens surveyed were those who were sexually active. After adjusting the results for factors such as race and parent's education levels, researchers found that those who watched the most sexual programming "were still twice as likely to have gotten pregnant or gotten someone else pregnant since the start of the program" when compared to those surveyed who watched the least of the kind of programming. The conclusion: overall 14 percent of those in the survey reported getting pregnant or impregnating someone else after they were first interviewed. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



American Voters Make History — Elect Barack Obama President

When the polls finally closed on Election Day; this country had achieved a point in its history like no other.

For the first time in our 232 year history; Barack Obama, whose political aspirations were equally matched by his campaigning abilities, emerged as the candidate voters want to lead this country for the next 4 years.

Early Tuesday evening, news networks began to call the election in several states. And when the networks called the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania for Obama, it seemed the end was all but inevitable for the Republican candidate John McCain.

Obama also carried Florida, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico; states which had gone for George W. Bush in 2004.

Political pundits and historians will probably be debating this election for years to come; they will study the results and determine just how a young politician from Chicago with very little national political experience or exposure was able to outdo the

Viet Nam war hero and 26 year member of the Senate.

But for now, it is fair to assume that certain factors and decisions by the candidates made an Obama win possible.

For starters, Obama was able to motivate first time voters; young people and more African American voters to go to the polls. Once his popularity grew and he won the Democratic Presidential Primary; supporters began to believe that he could win. Democratic based organizations began to mobilize with voter registration drives and get out the vote campaigns.

He was also able to win over most of the Hillary Clinton supporters; a lot of them Hispanic voters in western states like New Mexico and Colorado. He also tapped into a huge internet support base and was able to raise vast sums of money through smaller donations.

And when it was all said and done, it is these newly engaged voters which will get the credit for Obama's victory. Early reports

showed that over 14 million more people voted in this election than in 2004.

For the Republican candidate, one decision by McCain will stand out as the primary reason for his loss. The selection of Sarah Palin will probably be viewed as the primary decision which cost McCain some undecided, independent, and perhaps crossover Democratic votes. Although Palin was popular with the party's right wing; she could never get over her image as someone who was not prepared to be Vice President let alone President should the need arise. Almost immediately, after her selection, some conservative commentators and writers began to question McCain's judgment in selecting Palin. Many exit polls were showing that undecided's had voted for Obama because of McCain's choice of Sarah Palin.

And then there was the economic crisis. In poll after poll, respondents indicated that they believed Barack Obama was better prepared to handle the economic problems and voted ac-

cordingly on Election Day.

Another reason, and perhaps one of the most important, was Obama's ability to raise an unprecedented amount of money to challenge McCain in states like Ohio, North Carolina, Florida and New Mexico. Obama won Ohio; which no other Democratic candidate had won since John Kennedy in 1960; and he also won New Mexico with an appeal to the state's over 30% Hispanic population.

McCain appeared in front of his supporters shortly after 10PM and conceded the race to Obama. In his remarks McCain called on "all Americans to believe in the promise and greatness of America" He also stated that he recognized what Obama's win meant to the country's African American community.

Obama addressed his supporters in Chicago's Grant Park. By some estimates, over two hundred thousand people waited to hear the President elect speak to them.

At 10:58 PM he entered the

stage to chants of "yes we can" and declared that "Change has come to America"

He congratulated his opponent John McCain and Sarah Palin and said he looked forward to working with them to try and renew the promise of America

He thanked his wife Michelle and his children and also spoke about his grandmother who passed away on Sunday before the election.

He told the crowd that he would "never forget who this victory belongs to" telling the crowd that "this victory belongs to you".

And in that crowd were people young and old, white, black and Hispanic; well known celebrities like Oprah Winfrey and old time politicians like Jessie Jackson.

And as one looked out upon the sea of faces filling up the television screen, one could see that perhaps this was the America that Obama had envisioned when he decided that maybe he too could achieve the American dream and win the presidency of the United States. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Texas Tech Football; More than Just a Game



Although "the game" and the stories behind the game had been well documented in the week leading up to the kick off; no one could have imagined the final act in a game which was viewed by over 10 million people on ABC's nationally televised game of the week.

First the tents sprang up in a makeshift tent city called Raiderville. Then came ESPN's College Gameday Show; broadcast directly from the Tech campus to a national audience.

Then the big moment came when the sixth ranked Texas Tech Red Raiders upset the number one team in the country, the Texas Longhorns, with a touchdown play that began with 8 seconds left in the game.

Then pandemonium broke out as fans poured out of the stands and the Raider faithful swarmed the field to hug and embrace their gridiron heroes.

This past week, it has been act 2 of Texas Tech's "fifteen minutes of fame". The difference is that once again it will up to the Texas Tech Red Raiders to prolong the story with a victory against their opponent Oklahoma State.

Act 2 actually began Sunday right after the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) rankings were announced and Tech was ranked number 2 in the nation. The BCS rankings are the most important to the college football world

since they determine which teams play in the national football championship series. In addition to that, there are millions of dollars at stake for the universities and of course the prestige and exposure which comes with playing in a national championship game and on a national stage.

And immediately after the Texas game; Tech Head Coach Mike Leach reminded fans that this was just the beginning and that Oklahoma State comes into town this Saturday looking to do to Tech what Tech did to Texas. The game is set to start at 7:00PM and will once again be televised nationally on ABC.

It began as a story about a football rivalry and the possibility of Texas Tech defeating the number one team in the nation. But it quickly unfolded into one filled with all the fanfare and drama and the kinds of benefits most schools can only dream about.

Benefits like the national exposure which if bought and paid for would have cost millions of dollars; publicity for a university which depends on this type of exposure to recruit future students. And economic windfalls for local businesses which translate into higher city tax revenues.

And these are just a few of the unexpected benefits which come with a national ranking and a won loss record of 9-0 for only the second time in the

schools history.

And the national exposure did not stop with the city and the team. Another recipient was Tech's coach Mike Leach who was featured in two stories in the New York Times.

But first, there was a personal recorded message from Donald Trump predicting a Texas Tech victory which was played early during the telecast of the game. Leach and Trump have formed a friendship since Leach decided to drop in on Trump a couple of years ago while in New York.

And the national exposure continued with a story in the Sunday edition of the New York Times which has a Sunday circulation of over one million copies.

Then on Monday, another story about Mike Leach followed in both the print and online NYT editions; again with circulation and viewership in the millions. And every time Tech or Leach is mentioned, it also gets the hub city another mention and more national exposure.

By Tuesday of this past week, the number of students and the population of Raiderville had started to multiply once again. Apparently students were getting ready to repeat their show of team support of week one.

Perhaps by the time you read this story, this will be old news and the team which once struggled to win half of its games will have achieved another milestone and be ranked even higher than it was going into the weekend; which means it will probably be ranked number 1 in the country. Or perhaps...no we won't speculate on that in order not to jinx the outcome...

But one thing is for sure, the national exposure received from the game and the university's introduction to the rest of the sports world and beyond is something this city and its residents will not soon forget.

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No Surprises in Lubbock County Races

Before this past Tuesday's election, Lubbock County election officials had anticipated that about 110,000 Lubbock County voters would cast their vote in the general election. But the number fell short of predictions with only a little over 93,000 people casting their ballot.

And perhaps because the turnout was less than expected; Lubbock county voters produced no surprise winners.

One of the most watched races in Lubbock County was the race for Precinct 3 County Commissioner between Republican Frank Gutierrez and Democrat Gilbert Flores. And although Gutierrez gave it everything he had and ran a good race; Flores held on to Barack Obama's coattails and won a second go round on the commissioner's court.

On Wednesday morning; Gutierrez issued the following statement to El Editor: "I am grateful for the opportunity to have run for this position and I will remain visible in the community especially with my commitment

to RISE Academy. Many new friends came forward and old acquaintances responded with their vote. Lubbock County has some great challenges and I think Gilbert will do his best like he promised and thoroughly believes. It is up to those that

did or did not support him to hold him accountable. We live to fight another day."

In this race, voters clearly voted along party lines; which the Democratic candidate counted on throughout the campaign.

In Precinct 1, incumbent Bill McCay held on to his seat defeating his Democratic opponent John E. Miller. McCay won easily with 71% of the vote to Miller's 27%.

In the race for Congressional District 19, Democrat Dwight Fullingim came up way short in his race to unseat incumbent Randy Neugebauer. With all precincts reporting, results showed Neugebauer winning 72% of the vote to Fullingim's 23%. Libertarian candidate Richard "Chip" Peterson won 3% of the vote.

In the race for the Senate; Republican John Cornyn managed to hold on to his seat in his race against Rick Noriega. Cornyn though did get a scare from Noriega

as the Democrat got close with state totals showing that he won 43% of the vote to Cornyn's 55%.

In Lubbock County, Cornyn won easily with 71% of the vote compared to 27% for Noriega. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Democrats Expand Majority in US Congress

Democrats increased their control of Congress in US elections Tuesday, picking up significant gains in the Senate

Lunsford.
The Democrats had been optimistic they could expand their control of the Senate from a slim 51-49 margin that includes two independents who vote Democratic. They gained five seats to climb to a 56-40 majority with four races still undecided. But it appeared they would fall short of the 60 needed to prevent Republicans from blocking votes.

Heading into the election, the Democrats controlled the 100-seat Senate 51-49 and the House of Representatives with a 236 to 199 majority.

All 435 seats in the House were up for grabs, while about one-third of the Senate stood for election.

In Virginia, former Democratic governor Mark Warner defeated a former Republican governor, James Gilmore, to take the seat occupied by Republican Senator John Warner, who is retiring at the end of his term and is not related to his successor.

Democratic challenger Kay Hagan defeated Republican Senator Elizabeth Dole in North Carolina, while John Sununu, a Republican senator, was ousted by Democratic challenger Jeanne Shaheen in New Hampshire.

And in New Mexico, Democrat Tom Udall took the seat occupied by longest-serving Republican Pete Domenici, who is also retiring, while his cousin in Colorado, Mark Udall, won another seat occupied by a departing Republican.

In Minnesota, comedian and Democratic challenger Al Franken was running neck-and-neck with Republican incumbent Norm Coleman in a race that could be headed for a recount. Coleman was holding a razor-

thin 676-vote lead over Franken with 99 per cent of voting precincts tallied.

Senator Joe Biden, Barack Obama's vice presidential candidate, handily won re-election in Delaware. With Obama's victory Biden will have to vacate his seat, but would likely be replaced by a Democrat appointed by the state's governor.

Democrats were also hopeful of defeating Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, the longest serving Republican, following his conviction last week on corruption charges. The race remained too close to call Wednesday morning as Stevens held a 48-47 per cent lead over Democrat Mark Begich with 99 per cent of precincts reporting.

There were at least a couple of notable Democrats who survived tight races. Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu prevailed in a tough challenge, while long time Representative John Murtha succeeded in a race where he was believed to be vulnerable.

Murtha, a former Marine and Vietnam War veteran, had weeks ago commented that Obama might not win his congressional district because it was racist. He committed a second blunder while trying to backtrack on his remarks, instead referred to many of his constituents as "red necks."

Obama buoyed by Hispanic voters

Democrat Barack Obama gained lopsided support from Hispanics in Tuesday's election, winning solidly among voters with whom President Bush had made inroads in 2004.

About two-thirds of Hispanics voted for Obama, decisively surpassing the 53 percent who voted for Democrat John Kerry in 2004, exit polls showed. That year Bush enjoyed a high-water mark of GOP support from Hispanics with 44 percent of the vote from the nation's fastest growing ethnic group.

Bush had gotten the support of 35 percent of Hispanics in 2000. Republicans Bob Dole and the first President Bush both received 25 percent or less of the Hispanic vote in their losing presidential bids in 1996 and 1992, respectively.

This year, Republican John McCain had hoped to build on support from Hispanics who share his pro-military, anti-abortion stance. Obama also faced the challenge of converting the nearly two-thirds of Hispanics who had backed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Democratic primaries.

But like voters across the nation, the economy dominated the concerns of many

Hispanics. McCain also found it difficult to shake his biggest liability with these voters: the R



after his name.

John Marquez, an Albuquerque, N.M., Democrat, is among those distressed about the economy who supported Obama.

"We don't need another Bush in there," Marquez, 44, said Tuesday.

In New Mexico, for example, Hispanics traditionally back Democrats and this election was no different. A strong majority supported Obama. McCain, for his part, was the favorite of a majority of non-Hispanic white voters.



and House of Representatives by capitalizing on a backlash against Republicans and President George W. Bush.

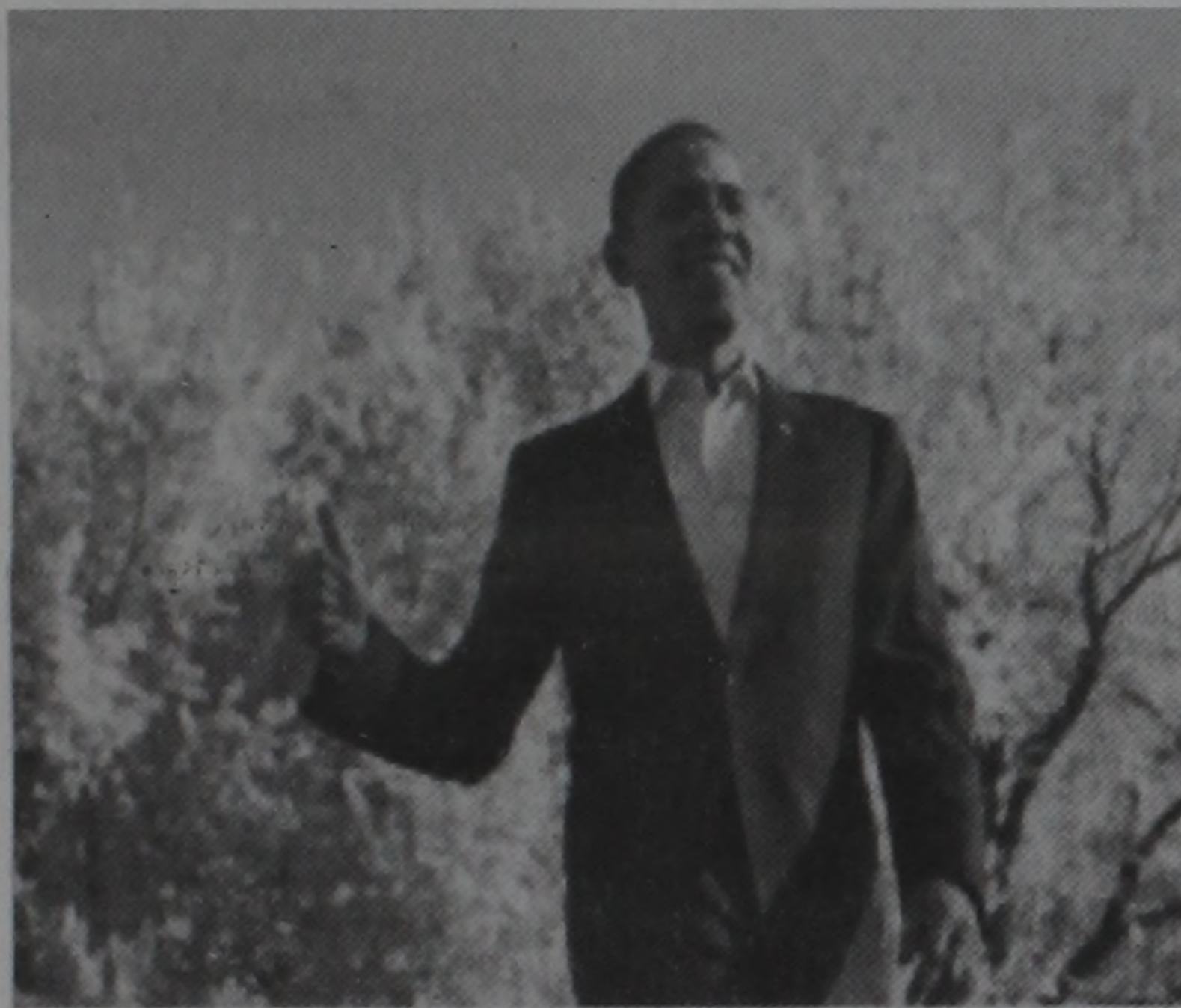
The Democrats won three Senate seats vacated by retiring Republicans in Virginia, New Mexico and Colorado, while Democratic challengers ousted two of their Republican opponents in New Hampshire and North Carolina.

Democrats were also hopeful about knocking off the Republican minority leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, an outcome that would be a major blow to Republicans. But McConnell sewed up a narrow victory over Democrat Bruce

"I'm particularly delighted that, although the results are not all in tonight, that it looks like we're going to be increasing our majorities in the House and in the United States Senate," said Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker and top Democrat on Capitol Hill.

In the House, Democrats had picked up at least 15 seats by early Wednesday to increase their majority from 236 to 251, while Republicans had won 173 seats with 11 races still undecided. NBC News projected the Democrats would end up with 258 seats.

Obama: una cita con la historia



Hace justo un año, Barack Obama se subió al estrado de un oscuro auditorio en Iowa e inició el camino para convertirse en uno de los nombres más importantes del Partido Demócrata.

En noviembre del año pasado, su presentación al pueblo estadounidense durante la convención del partido en el 2004 era ya un antiguo recuerdo, las encuestas electorales le dejaban atrás y su campaña electoral de nueve meses no había lucido con mucho brillo en varios momentos.

Iowa significaba el inicio o el final de su carrera política.

Los demócratas se habían reunido esa noche para la cena anual Jefferson-Jackson en Des Moines. El acto era clave para candidatos presidenciales: la ocasión perfecta para desbanca a los oponentes e impresionar a los miembros del partido, y Obama, un excelente orador, estaba preparado para su debut.

Esa noche fue el último en hablar con un discurso que condenó "las mismas campañas electorales de Washington" y hasta criticó de forma indirecta a la senadora y ahora ex candidata presidencial Hillary Clinton.

"No participo en esta carrera electoral para cumplir con ambiciones de hace mucho tiempo o porque creo que de alguna manera se me debe esto", declaró. "Nunca pensé que estaría aquí. Siempre pensé que este camino sería improbable. Nunca he estado en un camino que no lo fuera".

Un público de miles de personas se levantó y aplaudió. Obama había iniciado el viaje hacia la Casa Blanca.

Desde entonces, el senador de Illinois ha roto con todos

los récords de recaudación durante una campaña electoral, amasando más de 640 millones de dólares, ha acallado a todos aquellos que decían que no tenía experiencia suficiente y ha hecho historia al convertirse en el primer candidato presidencial afroestadounidense del país.

Su campaña electoral de 22 meses le ha colocado en la presidencia del país más poderoso del mundo.

Y la historia de su vida también ha sido poco convencional.

Su biografía es muy distinta a la de cualquier otro candidato presidencial: una madre blanca, un padre africano, una infancia en Hawái e Indonesia, un trabajo en una de las comunidades más pobres de Estados Unidos, y una carrera de estudios y enseñanza en algunas de las universidades más prestigiosas del país.

"Tiene esa inusual combinación de experiencias vividas que no encajan con ningún estereotipo", dijo Valerie Jarrett, una asesora y amiga de Obama. "Tiene algo en común con todo el mundo".

Si su pasado ecléctico le ha ayudado, su extraño nombre y el color de su piel han hecho que su candidatura sea difícil de aceptar en algunos rincones de Estados Unidos. Obama ha tenido que corregir rumores de que es musulmán (es cristiano) y este verano dijo a la multitud en Misouri que es difícil votar por alguien negro con su nombre.

Su mujer, Michelle, dijo recientemente durante un programa de televisión que un hombre joven llamado Barack Obama y poco conocido es siempre el que está en desventaja.

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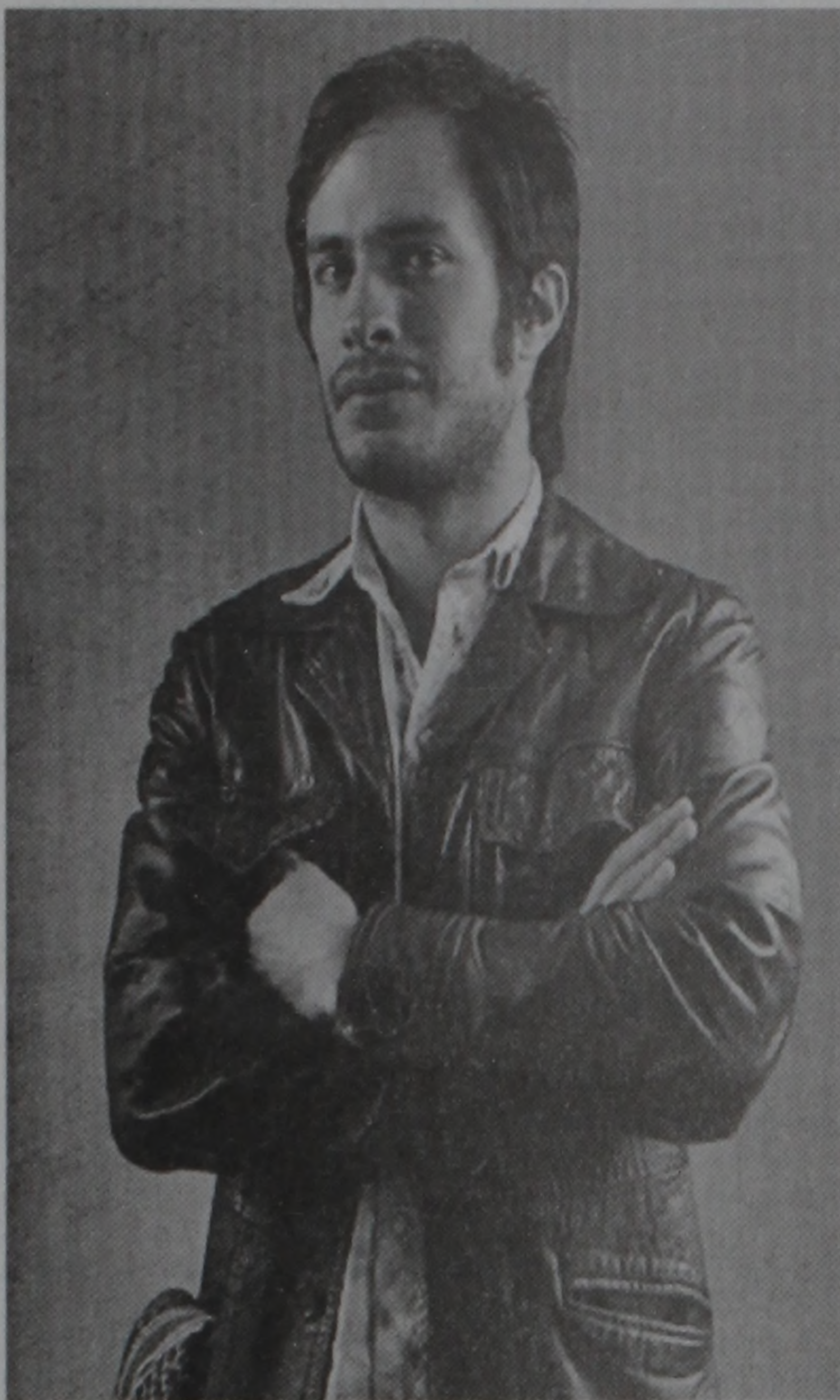
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WORLD PREMIERE - Gael García Bernal's singing debut



The actor sings "Quiero que me quieras" for the film Rudo y Cursi. Don't worry. It's not like the Mexican actor, 29, has left acting altogether to join a boy band or something.

We have the exclusive video of "Quiero que me quieras", the song which his character sings in his upcoming film Rudo y Cursi, that premieres in Mexico next month.

The film will also star Diego Luna, and is produced by Alfonso Cuarón, Alejandro González Iñárritu and Guillermo del Toro.

"Quiero que me quieras" is a version of "I want you to want me", that was sung in 1979 by Cheap Trick on their album In Color that'll be part of the Mexican film.

The album will be released in November, and included music of Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Banda El Recodo, La Sonora Dinamita, Banda Machos, Amanaditita, Banda Agua Escondida, Mexi Cumbia Bros., Toñita, Conjunto Encuentro and "El Cursi" Verduzco.

Soderbergh takes a revolutionary approach to 'Che'



as a hard-nosed idealist, a dreamer with military discipline.

Both in its contentious content -- Guevara is a hero to some and a scoundrel to others -- and its demanding form, the film is a direct challenge to audiences. Depending on who you ask, "Che" is either Soderbergh's greatest masterwork or his grandest folly.

"I hoped that there would be discussion," said Soderbergh of the divisive response the film has received. "If you've

made something that doesn't get people going in one direction or another, then you've probably made a mistake.

"It's not a typical biographical film. It's not what I was interested in making. I knew the approach was going to be one that some people would really take to and some people would be angered by. And that's fine."

Saturday, the film will make its sold-out Los Angeles premiere at the historic Grauman's Chinese Theatre as part of this year's AFI Fest, screening in what is being referred to as the "roadshow" version, one film with a four-hours-plus running time and an intermission break. It is this version that will be submitted for awards consideration and will play L.A. and New York for a one-week run in December. In January, "Che" will be released to theaters as two separate films, "Che Part 1: The Argentine" and "Che Part 2: Guerrilla," and be made available for video-on-demand service.

"The Argentine" includes Guevara meeting Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution of 1956-59, which saw Guevara's rise from medic to fighter to leader as he helped to overthrow the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. It also includes Guevara's 1964 visit to New York City to make a speech at the United Nations as a representative of the new regime. "Guerrilla" follows Guevara's 11-month attempt to export the Cuban revolutionary model to Bolivia, a campaign that ended with his capture and execution in 1967.

More than a T-shirt Due in part to the enduring popularity of Alberto Korda's 1960 photo of Guevara, his image is well known, but his story less so. His transformation into a free-floating signifier of romanticized revolutionary chic made the task of capturing the essence of Guevara's life that much more challenging.

"I think a lot of people know the T-shirt but don't really know that many facts about Che," said Peter Buchman, screenwriter on both films (sharing credit with Benjamin A. van der Veen on "Guerrilla").

Che's image-issue is addressed toward the end of the film, when he is asked by a reporter how it feels to be a symbol. "A symbol of what?" comes his response. "I knew a little about who he was and I had no idea how his life ended," Soderbergh said of the original intention to tell only the story of Guevara's fatal expedition in Bolivia. "For most people, that's question No. 1. It felt very much like a John Huston movie, that story had a very quixotic aspect to it. The problem was this thing just kept expanding, like The Sorcerer's Apprentice, it kept getting bigger and bigger. We tried to make it one giant script and it was unreadable. And I thought, 'Let's just break the thing in half.'"

Del Toro -- who won the actor prize following the film's premiere at the Cannes Film Festival -- describes Guevara as "a weird combination of intellect and

action, like Gregory Peck meets Steve McQueen," and his portrayal is of a man enigmatically committed to a rigorous set of ideals. The film has nevertheless received criticism for leaving out "movie moments" and the sort of definitive psychological keys -- a past trauma, an unfulfilled wish -- used in many biographical films.

"I was making a mental list of all the things I didn't want to do," Soderbergh said. "I didn't want to have the scene where the guy goes, 'Why do they call you Che?' Or his hat flies off in a battle and somebody offers him a beret. I just didn't want to do that stuff."

In the months since "Che" screened at Cannes, it has been criticized for leaving out other less flattering parts of Guevara's history, including the post-revolutionary period in Cuba, in which his administrative power included overseeing war tribunals that led to the executions of hundreds of people. It is, without question, the period of Guevara's life that most complicates the simplistic depiction of him as a poetic freedom fighter, and Soderbergh acknowledges the controversial omission has become an easy way to dismiss the film.

"The most virulent anti-Che people usually focus on the events in the immediate aftermath of the revolution," Soderbergh said, "and that was something I addressed through his U.N. speech, but I was never interested in doing that part of his life as a bureaucrat. I'm sure some people will say, 'That's convenient because that's when he was at his worst.' Yeah, maybe -- it just wasn't interesting to me. I was interested in making a procedural about guerrilla warfare."

A hard sell in U.S. The offscreen saga of "Che" has been nearly as much a battleground as what's shown on screen. The film, made for just under \$60 million, was financed by the French production and sales company the Wild Bunch, with some additional funds from the Spanish company Telecinco.

"A lot of people think the reason the movie didn't have any U.S. financing was because it was about Che Guevara," said producer Laura Bickford, "and that's not the case. Nobody cared about the politics."

"When the movie was in English and one movie, everybody wanted to do it. When we went to Spanish and two movies, the studios' pay-TV deals are for English-language product only. So the pay-TV money disappeared and, at that point, nobody wanted to step up."

Despite the fact that many specialized film companies have recently fallen by the wayside, this four-hour, two-part, Spanish-language biopic about a controversial revolutionary leader was ultimately able to find a U.S. distributor. Jonathan Sehring, president of IFC Entertainment, says he is "over the moon" to be releasing the film, likening "Che" to such epics as "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Spartacus." "There are a lot of shortsighted film executives out there who are afraid of the scope of the project."

While the most obvious solution to the film's distribution and exhibition situation might have been to simply edit it down into a single film, doing so would lose some of the film's key structural conceits. "I don't feel like you can have the kind of dialogue between the two films," Soderbergh said of editing it down to one movie, "that's sort of the whole point. They literally are mirrors of each other."

The "Che" project has lingered with Soderbergh, even though he has already moved on to other projects, in ways he finds difficult to articulate. Even while conceiving "Che," something about the idealistic, revolutionary subject matter sparked within him. "I felt like we had to do something as crazy as they did," Soderbergh said.

Obama's Grandmother's Final Gift: Her Vote

While many have remarked on the tragic irony of the death of Barack Obama's grandmother two days before she could have seen him elected to the most powerful job in the world, the late Madelyn Dunham has imparted a final gift to her beloved grandson: her vote.

Election officials in Hawaii, where Dunham, 86, had lived, confirmed that her absentee ballot will be counted, the Associated Press reports.

Explaining his state's law, Kevin Cronin, chief elections officer for Hawaii, said Tuesday that absentee ballots cast by someone who dies before an election are discarded only if a state death notice arrives

before Election Day. Dunham's ballot was re-

absentee ballots, it will be counted," he said.

McCain's Condolence

In his concession speech Tuesday night, Obama's GOP rival John McCain said, "Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and for his country. I applaud him for it, and offer him my sincere sympathy that his beloved grandmother did not live to see this day. Though our faith assures us she is at rest in the presence of her Creator and so very proud of the good man she helped raise."

Picking up on the theme of his grandmother's looking down from heaven on his historic accomplishment, President-elect Obama said during his acceptance speech in Chicago: "And while she's no longer with us, I know my grandmother's watching, along with the family that made me who I am. I miss them tonight. I know that my debt to them is beyond measure."



ceived Oct. 27, said Cronin, adding that her death notice had yet to appear.

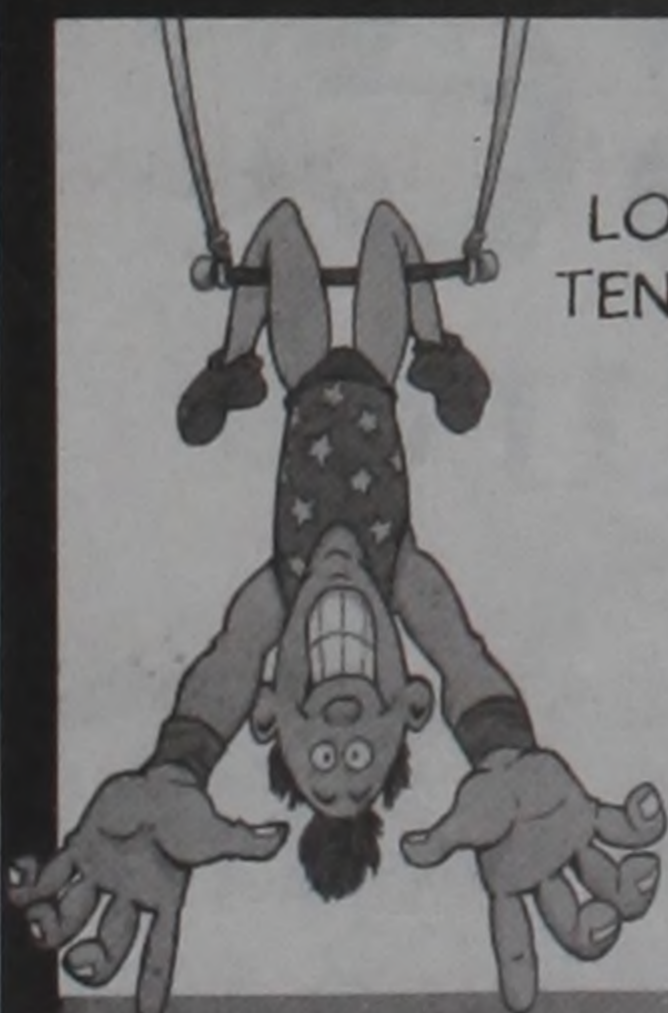
"Because she was alive on the 27th and [her ballot] had the same processing as other

Talking about his grandmother on Election eve, Obama said, "She has gone home. ... I'm not going to talk about it too often because it's hard to talk about."

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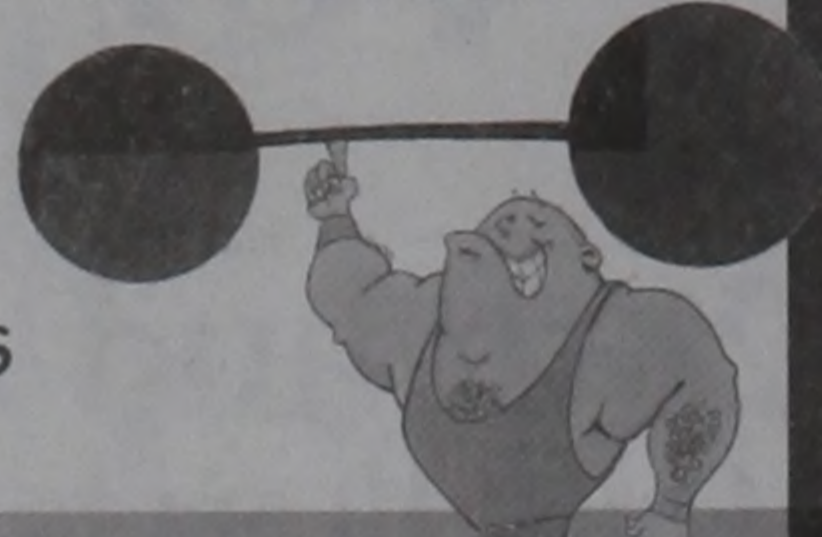


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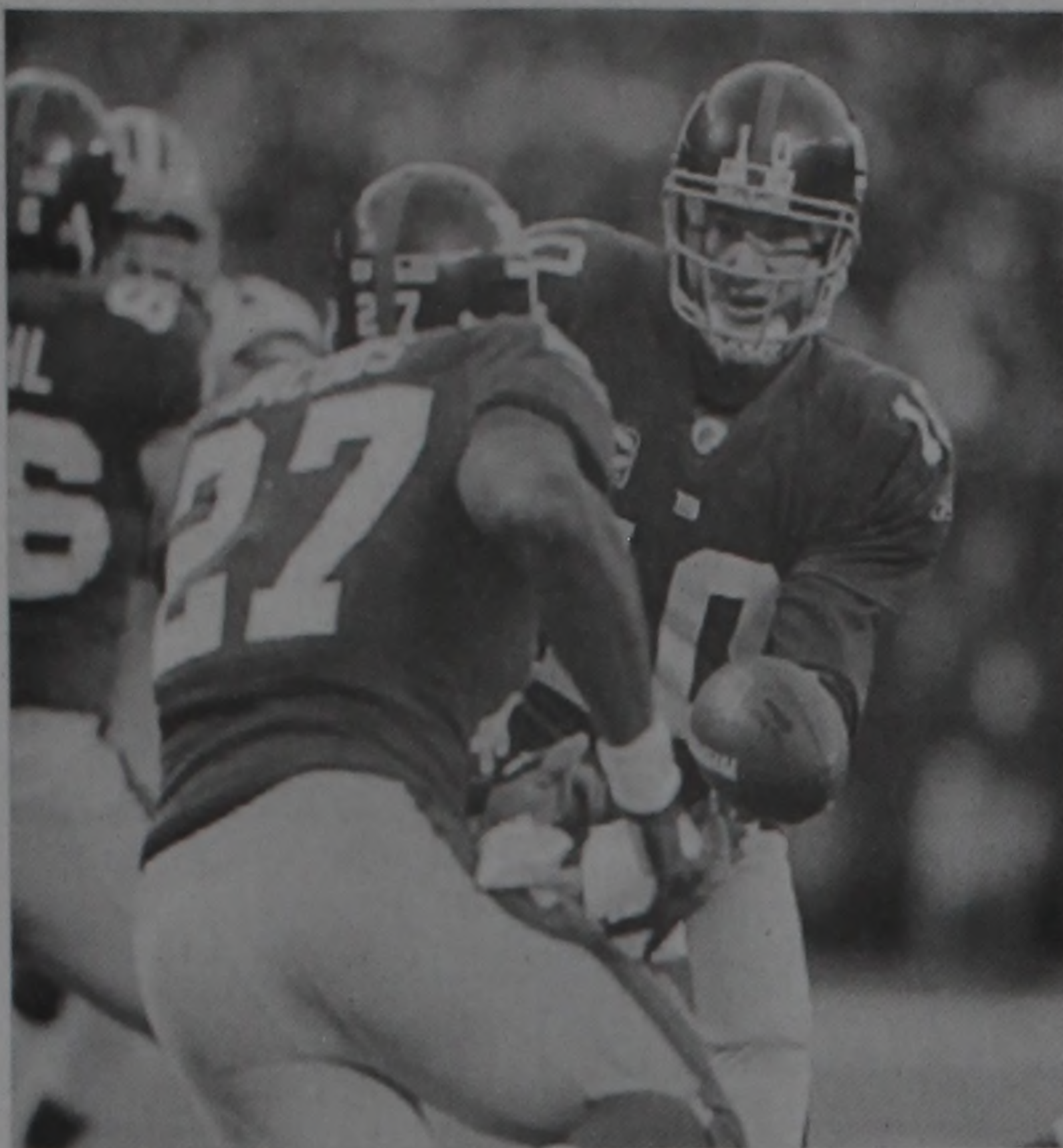


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Giants dominate reeling Cowboys, send Dallas into last place



Halfway through the season, it's safe to say the Super Bowl champion New York Giants are the team to beat in the NFC, and the injury ravaged Dallas Cowboys -- the preseason favorite -- will need to make a run after their bye just to make the postseason.

Eli Manning threw three touchdown passes, Brandon Jacobs rushed for 117 yards and a score and the Giants defense took advantage of the continued absence of the injured Tony Romo to intercept three passes in a 35-14 victory on Sunday.

"When a football team comes in here and it is kind of depleted as far as injuries go, you don't want to give them any sunlight," said Giants defensive end Justin Tuck. "You don't want to give them any light whatsoever."

In winning their five straight at home, the Giants (7-1) were in control from start in opening a three-game lead over the defending NFC East champion Cowboys (5-4) in the division.

"It was important for us to win the game and be 2-0 in our division," Pierce said. "When we were 4-0, somebody asked me about an undefeated season. I just think about being undefeated in our division. That's 6-0. That's the most important record to us. This is another step toward that."

The loss was the third in four games for Dallas, which fell into last place in the division behind Washington (6-2) and Philadelphia (5-3), not something anyone expected from the team many considered the favorite to win the NFC.

However, nobody expected the Cowboys to either lose Romo for three games with a broken pinkie or to have safety Roy Williams and punter Mat McBriar lost to season-ending injuries or to have cornerback Pacman Jones suspended again.

"We still have seven games left and we need to go on a run," Cowboys linebacker Bradie James said.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones smiled when asked if the goal was to simply make the playoffs.

"If you give me the playoffs and not worry about the division, I'll take it," Jones said after the game, adding the return of Romo after the bye will only fix one of the many things wrong with his team.

There was plenty wrong on Sunday. Despite getting three turnovers and a score from his defense, the Cowboys were still blown out.

Manning threw touchdown passes of 13 yards to Kevin Boss, 5 to Steve Smith and 11 to Amani Toomer, with the scores by Smith and Toomer being set up by Corey Webster's interceptions of Brad Johnson, Romo's replacement.

"The coaches preach turnovers," Webster said. "We pin our ears back and let ourselves go once we start getting turnovers. If we keep getting turnovers, it builds more and more confidence."

The Giants' three interceptions all led to touchdowns.

Jacobs scored on a 12-yard run two plays after James Butler picked off Brooks Bollinger's first pass in the opening minutes of the

third quarter. Derrick Ward added a 17-yard touchdown run to ice the game in the fourth quarter.

Dallas showed little on offense without Romo. The Cowboys turned the ball over four times, with Terrell Owens adding a rare fumble in the second quarter at the Giants 10-yard line.

Cornerback Mike Jenkins scored Dallas' first touchdown with a 23-yard, second-quarter interception on a play that Manning and Plaxico Burress were not on the same page.

Bollinger, whose entrance into the game in the second half only helped the Giants pad their lead, added an 8-yard touchdown pass to Owens in the fourth quarter, a drive set up by a questionable roughing the passer call against Tuck, who had 2½ of the Giants four sacks.

Steve Spagnuolo's pressure defense limited the Cowboys to 183 total yards, with 75 of those coming on the drive in which Tuck was penalized.

The Giants took the opening kickoff and went 75 yards in 11 plays with Manning (16-of-27 for 147 yards) hitting Boss in the corner of the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

Dallas had a chance to get right back in the game in the quarter when Johnson hit Roy Williams with a 28-yard pass for a first down at the Giants 25.

On the next play, Owens ran a look-in pattern and Johnson led him too much with the pass. Webster caught the ball and returned it 57 yards to the Dallas 27. Manning found Smith in the middle of the field on a third-and-3 from the Dallas 5 for the touchdown.

Jenkins put Dallas on the board, catching a pass alone in the right flat and walking into the end zone. It came on the series following Owens' fumble, his first since 2004.

Webster helped restore the 14-point lead late in the quarter picking off a poorly thrown ball by Johnson at the Giants 47 and returning it a yard.

Jacobs ran for 25 yards on first down and Manning eventually capped the drive with his TD pass to Toomer.

Cowboys coach Wade Phillips lifted Johnson after intermission and Bollinger made the move backfire throwing an interception right to Butler on his first pass.

Jacobs blew through a big hole to open a 28-7 lead and the game was never in doubt after that.

Chavez Jr. dominates rematch with Vanda

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. left no doubt with his performance Saturday night.

Chavez dominated his 10-round super welterweight fight against Matt Vanda from start to finish for the unanimous decision victory at Mandalay Bay.

It was a rematch of their July bout in Hermosillo, México, where Chavez took a controversial split decision, a victory some felt was the result of favorable hometown scoring for the son of Mexican fighting legend Julio Cesar Chavez Sr.

This time, Chavez Jr. was victorious by convincing scores of 99-91, 97-93 and 98-92.

Chavez was the aggressor in the first fight to control the early and middle rounds. But he struggled with stamina and faded late - he said because of flu-like symptoms - as Vanda nearly recorded the knockout. Several thought the St. Paul, Minn., native did enough to win on points.

"The way I boxed tonight, it showed that I was sick (during the first fight)," Chavez said through an interpreter. "I dictated the pace inside the ring. I was boxing with him and exchanging with him."

The rematch followed a similar script in the early rounds, but this time, the 22-year-old Chavez didn't let up. He never lost control of the fight and was



constantly on the attack.

Chavez (38-0-1, 29 KOs) closed the fight by landing combination after combination in the final round. It was the complete opposite of the first fight, where he barely escaped without being knocked out and collapsed in his corner in exhaustion once the fight ended.

"I wanted him to see an entirely different fighter than the last time," Chavez said. "I was able to change it up."

Vanda (38-8) had his moments, but he couldn't match the heavier and more frequent punches of Chavez.

In the undercard, Jorge Arce retained his WBA interim flyweight title with a fourth round technical knockout of Isidro Garcia.

Arce (51-4-1) recorded the

fight's lone knockdown when he floored Garcia with a shot to the body midway through the fourth. Garcia managed to get up, but referee Tony Weeks stopped the fight seconds later when Garcia couldn't fend off a series of Arce punches in the corner.

Also, Nonito Donaire kept his IBF flyweight title with a technical knockout victory against Moruti Mthalane. The fight, which appeared to be even, was stopped 1 minute, 31 seconds into the sixth round because Mthalane couldn't finish with a laceration on his inner eye-lid.

"I switched up and threw a left, and boom it hit him," Donaire said. "I knew that was it. There was no need to punish him anymore. He couldn't see me."

Mejor entrenador de boxeo de todos los tiempos asesorará a De La Hoya contra Pacquiao

Como si le faltara más promoción a la pelea entre Oscar De La Hoya y Manny Pacquiao el 6 de diciembre en Las Vegas, Golden Boy Promotions anunció el jueves que el legendario entrenador Angelo Dundee se unirá al equipo del mexicano-americano, reportó el sitio de internet ESPNdeportes.

Richard Shaefer, presidente de Golden Boy, dijo que habían estado hablando con Dundee

Dundee revisará videos de pelea, consultará con el equipo De La Hoya con respecto a



técnicas y estrategias, visitará el campo de entrenamiento en Big Bear y participará en todos los eventos la semana de la pelea. A pesar de ayudar a De La Hoya y Beristáin, Angelo no estará en la esquina la noche de la pelea, dejando sólo a Beristáin como la única voz durante el combate.

"Luego de trabajar con Ali y Leonard, creo que es perfecto que tenga la oportunidad

de trabajar con el peleador más importante de esta era", dijo Dundee. "Esta pelea ante Pacquiao es la más grande que el boxeo haya visto en muchos años y estoy entusiasmado de ser parte de ella y ayudar a Oscar a conseguir la victoria".

Dundee, que ingresó al Salón de la Fama Internacional del Boxeo en 1994, ha estado en el deporte de los guantes la mayor parte de su vida y es uno de los más respetados embajadores del deporte. En el ring, ha trabajado con 15 campeones mundiales, incluyendo a Ali, Leonard, Foreman, Carmen Basilio, José Napoles, Luis Rodríguez y Willie Pastrano. Ahora tendrá al Golden Boy bajo sus alas.

por algunas semanas y le parece buena la idea. "Tener a alguien como él en el equipo, con su espectacular currículum y su experiencia, pensé que que era una gran idea. Cuando hablamos con Angelo, él estaba muy emocionado y contento de participar. Oscar estaba contento también de conocer a una leyenda y todo salió bien", dijo Schaefer. "Me siento honrado de tener a Angelo en mi equipo para la pelea más grande de mi carrera", dijo De La Hoya. "Su conocimiento del boxeo no se compara con nadie, y junto a Nacho Beristáin, siento que tengo un equipo imbatible en mi esquina para la pelea ante Pacquiao", dijo De La Hoya.

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Diabetes se duplica en EE.UU

El incremento de la obesidad en el país está ocasionando otro efecto también alarmante: la tasa de casos nuevos de diabetes casi se duplicó en Estados Unidos en los últimos 10 años, dijo el gobierno.

Las tasas más altas se registraron en el sur, según la primera revisión estado por estado de diagnósticos nuevos. La peor estuvo en Virginia Occidental, donde aproximadamente 13 de cada 1,000 adultos fueron diagnosticados con la enfermedad en el período 2005-2007. La tasa más baja se registró en Minnesota, con cinco de cada 1,000.

A nivel nacional, la tasa de casos nuevos subió de cerca de cinco por cada 1,000 a mediados de la década de 1990, a nueve por 1,000

a mediados de esta década.

Casi el 90% de los casos son diabetes tipo 2, la forma vinculada a la obesidad.

Los descubrimientos coinciden con las tendencias vistas en obesidad y falta de ejercicio, dos aspectos de salud en los cuales los estados del sur del país también están en los niveles más críticos.

"No es sorprendente que el problema sea mayor en el sur",

coincidió Matt Petersen, quien supervisa datos y estadísticas para la Asociación Estadounidense de la Diabetes.

El estudio, encabezado por Karen Kirtland, del Centro para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés), proporciona una panorámica actualizado sobre dónde está detonando la enfermedad.

La información deberá ser de gran ayuda mientras el gobierno y las compañías de seguros médicos deciden dónde enfocar las campañas de prevención, señaló Petersen.

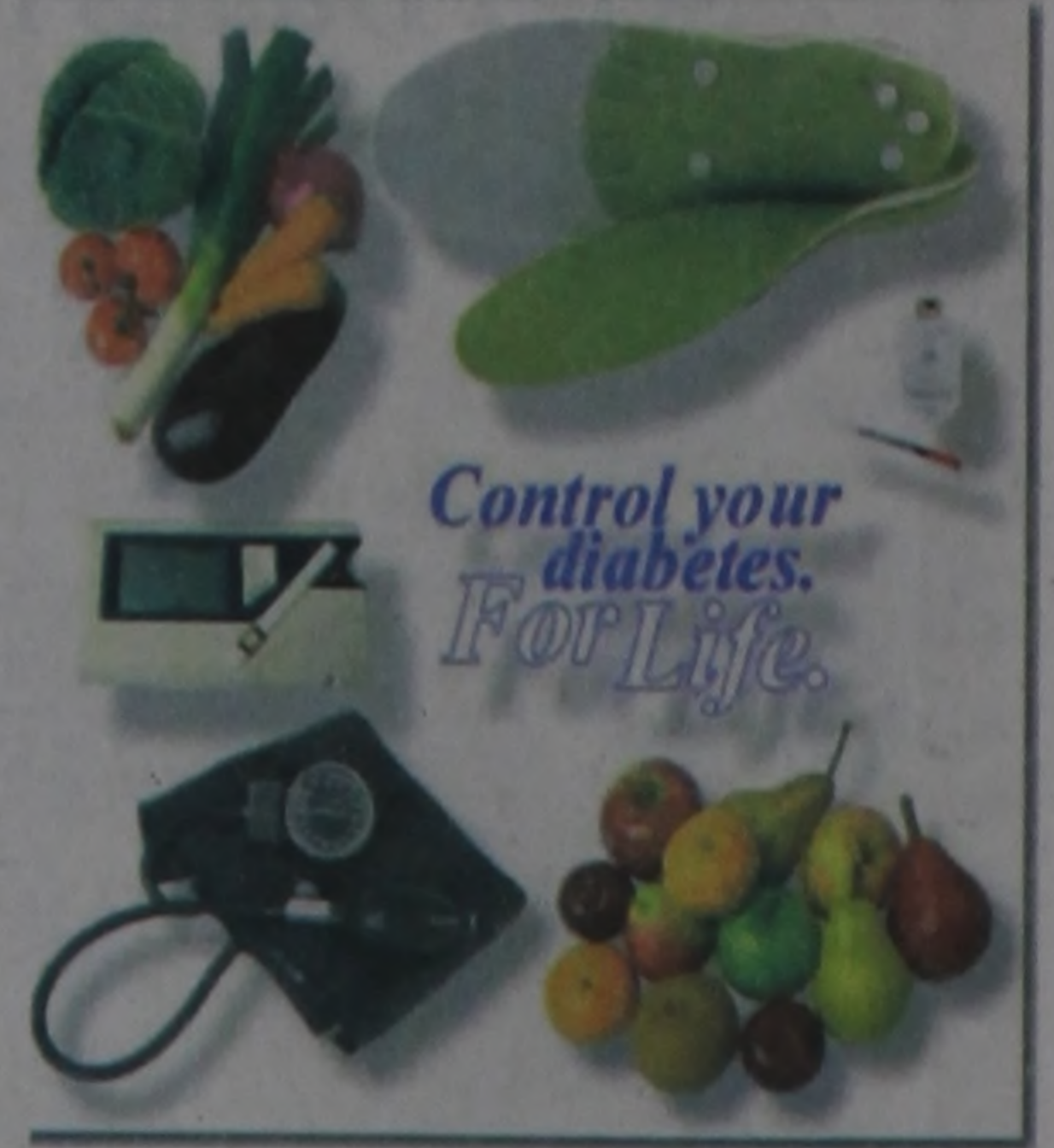
La diabetes fue la séptima causa de muerte en el país en el 2006, según los CDC. Más de 23 millones de estadounidenses padecen diabetes, y la cifra está creciendo rápidamente. Aproximadamente 1.6 millones de casos nuevos se diagnosticaron entre adultos el año pasado.

La diabetes tipo 2 no produce ni utiliza insulina, una hormona necesaria para convertir el azúcar en energía.

La enfermedad puede ocasionar que se acumule el azúcar en el cuerpo, provocando complicaciones como enfermedades del corazón, ceguera y problemas de circulación que pueden derivar en amputaciones.

El estudio involucró una encuesta de más de 260,000 adultos.

Virginia Occidental, Carolina del Sur, Alabama, Georgia, Texas y Tennesi tuvieron las tasas más altas, con 11 casos por cada 1,000 o superiores. Puerto Rico estuvo tan alto como Virginia Occidental. Minnesota, Hawaii y Wyoming tuvieron las tasas más bajas.



Enfermedades del corazón, primera causa del muerte en el mundo

Las enfermedades cardiovasculares son la principal causa de muerte en el mundo, aunque en los países de bajos ingresos las infecciones respiratorias ocupan el primer puesto, según un informe global presentado hoy por la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).

En el mundo, las principales causas de fallecimientos después de las enfermedades cardiovasculares son las infecciones respiratorias, las diarreas, el sida, la tuberculosis, cánceres pulmonares y accidentes de tráfico, según el amplio estudio elaborado con los datos de muertes de 2004.

En los países pobres son las infecciones y enfermedades parasitarias, así como las diarreas.

De los 60 millones de personas que murieron en 2004, más de la mitad de ellas eran mayores de 60 años, pero el estudio muestra claramente las diferencias por

regiones.



Así, en África, el 46 por ciento de todas las muertes en 2004 fueron de niños menores de 15 años, mientras que en los países ricos sólo el 1 por ciento eran de ese grupo de edad.

Inversamente, sólo el 20 por ciento de los fallecidos en África eran mayores de 60 años, mientras que en el mundo industrializado lo eran el 84 por ciento.

De cada diez muertes globales, seis se debieron a enfermedades no infecciosas, tres a las

infecciosas (transmisibles) y una a heridas.

En 2004 murieron unos 10,4 millones de niños menores de cinco años, el 73 por ciento de ellos debido a seis causas: infecciones respiratorias agudas (especialmente neumonía), diarrea, nacimientos prematuros, infecciones neonatales, asfixia al nacer y malaria.

De cada diez niños que mueren de malaria, 9 viven en África, así como 9 de cada diez que mueren de sida, son algunos de los datos del informe.

En todo el mundo, los hombres de entre 15 y 60 años corren mucho más riesgo de morir que las mujeres de la misma categoría de edad.

Esas muertes se deben sobre todo a las tasas más elevadas de cardiopatías, y a los trauma-

tismos, especialmente los debidos a la violencia y los conflictos.

Esta diferencia es la más marcada en América Latina, Caribe, Oriente Medio y Europa del Este.

Si entre los adultos de África la principal causa de muerte es el sida, en Europa son las enfermedades cardiovasculares y las heridas.



En base a los datos de 2004, la OMS ha elaborado unas proyecciones para el 2030 que indican que habrá un gran descenso de las muertes por

enfermedades transmisibles, entre ellas el sida, la tuberculosis y la malaria.

Las muertes por sida se espera que aumenten de 2.2 millones en 2008 hasta 2.4 millones en 2012 y luego bajen a 1.2 millones en 2030.

Se prevé que para 2030, las enfermedades no transmisibles causen globalmente tres cuartas partes de las muertes, entre ellas los cánceres, que aumentarán de 7.4 millones de fallecimientos en 2004 a 11,8 millones en 2030.

También se prevé un incremento del 28 por ciento de los fallecimientos globales debidos a heridas, cuya causa principal serán los accidentes de tráfico, que pasarán de los 1,3 millones de fallecimientos en 2004 a 2,4 millones en 2030.

Para ese año, la OMS prevé que las principales causas de muerte sean las enfermedades cerebrovasculares y las infecciones respiratorias, especialmente neumonía.

Las muertes por tabaquismo se calcula que aumentarán de 5,4 millones en 2004 a 8,3 millones en 2030, cuando representarán casi el 10 por ciento de los fallecimientos totales.

El sida disminuirá pero seguirá siendo la décima causa de muerte en el mundo; la tuberculosis bajará al puesto 20, y la diarrea al 22.

El envejecimiento de la población incrementará los casos de cáncer y los accidentes de tráfico subirán al puesto quinto de causas de muerte, desde el noveno actual.

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