

Iraq - Portrait of War
2,528
American Military
Deaths thru
June 28, 2006

El Editor

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

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Supreme Court Rules in Texas Redistricting Case

Orders Redistricting for South Texas District 23

In a clear sign that the Supreme Court will look the other way when it comes to political gerrymandering, and may even split along party lines in rulings of this kind, the Court ruled in favor of Tom DeLay and his gerrymandered meddling in Texas state politics.

On a vote of 7-2, the Supreme Court rejected the argument that the Texas redistricting plan, orchestrated by then U.S. House Republican Majority Leader, Tom DeLay is unconstitutional because the redistricting occurred in the middle of the decade. Usually, redistricting is done immediately after the U.S. Census every 10 years. Opponents to the redistricting had argued that it was unconstitutional for states to redistrict political boundaries based on a desire to advance their political party.

The result of the new boundaries, engineered by the Republican controlled Texas State Legislature in 2004, resulted in Republicans picking up 5 Congressional House seats. But the court rejected argument by the opponents that the redrawing of district boundaries was politically gerrymandered; a term used to describe a political effort by a political party, to manipulate an area so as to gain political advantage.

But in a victory for civil rights organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens, who had joined in the suit, the Court ruled that the Republican effort to protect one of its own, Representative Henry

Bonilla, by redistricting District 23 in South Texas, violates the Voting Rights Act.

In 2004, Republicans, fearing that Republican Henry Bonilla would lose his congressional seat in the predominately Hispanic district he represented, realigned the boundary lines to make sure that Bonilla could win reelection. Bonilla did, but now the Court has voted, 5-4, that "Faced with this loss of voter support, the legislature acted to protect Bonilla's incumbency by changing the lines -- and hence the population mix -- of the district, a largely Anglo, Republican area in central Texas," wrote Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. The redrawn lines had resulted in over 100,000 Hispanics being redistricted out of the original boundaries.

Now, it will be up to either the courts or the state legislature to remedy the situation. In his opinion, Kennedy wrote that, "The changes to District 23 undermined the progress of a racial group that has been subject to significant voting-related discrimination and that was becoming increasingly politically active and cohesive, in essence the State took away the Latinos' opportunity because Latinos were about to exercise it."

"The Court has noted that incumbency protection can be a legitimate factor in districting... but experience teaches that incumbency protection can take various forms, not all of them in the interests of the constituents." The ruling said this apparent "intentional discrimination" cannot be allowed. The justice though did not specify how the situation should be

remedied before this year's November election.

The justice's ruling left intact the redistricted District 19, which covers Lubbock County, Abilene, and a geographically absurd jagged area of West Texas. The move in 2004 resulted in 24 year veteran Congressman, Charles Stenholm, losing his seat to current Congressman, Randy Neugebauer. This November, first time political candidate and Texas Tech Law School Professor, Robert Ricketts will try and unseat Neugebauer.

His success will largely depend on his support from a Democratic party which up to this point, had held out hope that the Supreme Court would rule in their favor; and mandate another more favorable redistricting in the state.

Perhaps, Mary G. Wilson, president of the league of women voters, expressed most Democrat's sentiments when she said, "Tom DeLay showed the way, and the Supreme Court said okay"

To Comment: Email: acruzts@aol.com

The Loss of a Texas Treasure

Lala's; Longtime Downtown Cafe Closes

By Manda Klein
It's 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and Lala and Conrado Cavazos have just sat down to eat. They have been up since 3:30 in the morning and a 12 hour day is winding down. Just an hour ago food service stopped at the restaurant because for the third time in as many days they ran out of food. "Everyone is just hearing that we are closing, so they want to come in and have one last meal," explains Lala Cavazos. For over twenty-five years locals and many who work in the downtown area have made Lala's a lunch staple. The Cavazos have been surprised by the outpouring of support from the many customers who have become their close friends.

"We aren't really retiring; we are just going to rest and recover. I think in about 6-9 months we will be ready to start again," explains Lala. Due to some family health issues, the Cavazos decided it was time to take better care of themselves and focus their energy on their health. An indication that this is not a retirement is that while they have sold the restaurant, they did not sell their equipment. With children in San Antonio and the Texas Valley, they are considering a move further south. "We want to get closer to our kids and grandkids and spend some time with them. Our daughter, Cleste has even thought about opening a restaurant," shares Lala. Originally from Alamo, Texas they settled in Lubbock after migrating here for many years to work in the cotton fields. When asked if they had any advice to offer to someone trying to open a small business Lala stated, "Just work hard, anybody can do it. But you have to love it." Conrado agrees. The Cavazos are no strangers to hard work and long hours. They have poured their all into their restaurant. For the last twenty five years, they have worked 12+ hour days 6 days a week.

The fruit of their labor has been all the happy memories they have captured. The walls of the restaurant are lined with photos of family, friends and politicians, framed prints, religious icons and art work. They will keep all of them. "I can't part with them," explains Lala "every one of them has a special story, a special memory.



"I'll find another place to hang them." Conrado chimes in, "Yeah, we have had a lot of good people here." Both life long Democrats, they recall hosting a myriad of political fundraisers. "I am not sure why Lala's was always the place for Democrats to gather but we were always glad to welcome everyone." A moment they both recall was when Hillary Clinton visited the Hub City during the 1996 re-election campaign. Lala recalls, "I see her now and I remember her sitting here and eating with us."

It wasn't just hosting political events that meant so much to the Cavazos, Conrado explains, "probably one of our greatest joys was helping kids with cancer." Over the years they have hosted 20-30 fundraisers a year for a particular family or a local child needing medical assistance. "We didn't always have money to give but we had the restaurant and we had time to give and in a way that helped them out."

And all the friends they made, neither can begin to put into words when asked about all the friendships they made. They both share genuine affection for those customers who have been with them for the last twenty five years. "All of those people are great. They are like family to us," says Conrado. Just a few weeks ago Lala recalls hosting a 65 year class reunion for a long time friend and customer, Inez Crawford, and some of her classmates. "Oh, we just love her; she

doesn't make it in as often now but for years she was in here every Thursday for mole." Known to work the crowd while Lala worked in the kitchen, Conrado also recalls the favorite meals of retired judges, attorneys and city workers. "Oh yeah, they would come in and I'd already know what they wanted."

On Saturday, July 1 Lala and Conrado Cavazos will serve breakfast and lunch like they have for the past twenty five years and then they will close the door to Lala's. The neon "open" sign in the window won't light up again. As Lala put it, "I guess its time to say goodbye." If the past few weeks are any indication, you should arrive early if you want to enjoy one last meal. Give a hug and a handshake to Lala and Conrado they have given us good food, good times and great memories. Lubbock will surely miss this Texas treasurer.

What kind of job has the congressman from the Republican gerrymandered 19th District, Randy Neugebauer, been doing the past 2 years in Congress? Our readers know:

I oppose almost every vote Neugebauer makes, from support for the failed policies in Iraq to his uncaring attitude concerning immigration. He votes for tax cuts which have resulted in a ten trillion dollar national debt, but will not raise the minimum wage for the poorest workers. He is a sycophant of the Bush administration and his large contributors, which include campaign funds from a Tom Delay run Republican PAC. It is time to elect an energetic Congressman with new ideas, an expert on tax policies and a REAL compassionate conservative, Robert Ricketts. I urge your readers to support this outstanding candidate in the November election. Grace Rogers, Lubbock via Email

When I read this week's question regarding the job Randy Neugebauer has been doing for the people of District 19, another question came to my mind, "Has Neugebauer been working for District 19?"

He voted against funding our military troops.
He voted against funding hurricane relief.
He voted to give tax relief to oil companies.
He voted to give a \$900 million tax break to the timber industry.
He voted to raise the estate tax exemption to \$10 million per couple. This vote alone will cost the country \$760 BILLION dollars.

With the per capita income of District 19 just above \$16,000 a year, I don't see that there were too many multimillionaires, oil companies or timber interest in District 19 for Neugebauer to be representing. Just who is he trying to help?

Johnnie Jones, Chair, Lubbock County Democrats, Lubbock via Email

Hears no evil speaks no evil sees no evil and only listens to lobby folks with big bucks.
Screwed the middle class and all good citizens of this nation and is a corporate drug dealer and a supporter of the Cheney "go --- yourself" leadership of greed and puppet master to the BUSHVILLE FOLLIES dance of the oil fairy's. That's why we moved to Colorado
Keep the faith

Robert C. Maize, Pueblo Colorado, via Email

Congressman Neugebauer is doing a great job for the Republican Party and himself! He has completely forgotten certain Americans, and those of us who do not own billion dollar corporations. He needs to be reminded of his famous campaign commercials regarding his "moral Christian values!" His voting indicates he leaves those values at home most of the time! Last week he voted against raising the minimum wage (10 years since last raise) which hurt those less fortunate workers, who's families depend on those minimum wage jobs for their survival. Last year when HR 4437 was passed, which criminalized undocumented immigrants as felons, along with anyone who assists them, and initiated other inhumane acts against them, he voted for that bill also! Congressman Neugebauer refuses to meet with certain members of his district! Last year a group of state employees tried to meet with him on two occasions, and were never given the opportunity. This was an effort to ask for his support on a pending amendment to the Agriculture funding bill, which could have saved the State millions by not allowing a private company to initiate a massive privatization effort of state social services without US congressional investigation and approval. In my book HE FAILS!

Miguel Torres, Lubbock via Email

There is only one thing to say. He (Randy Neugebauer) has voted the straight Bush line without regard for what his constituents would like. He does not represent me and he does not represent a great many people I know.
Peg Wilson, Lubbock via Email

Randy Neugebauer is one of eight Texas Republican congressmen who accepted campaign money from a corrupt House colleague. Since the corruption has been exposed, though, Neugebauer is the only one who says he is going to keep the money. According to the Dallas Morning News, Neugebauer accepted the money from California Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who pleaded guilty to bribery and income tax evasion for taking \$2.4 million from defense contractors. Before he was caught, Cunningham's PAC had donated \$20,000 to the eight House members from Texas. Randy Neugebauer and the ethically-challenged Tom DeLay together received \$9,000, nearly half of the total. A spokesman for DeLay, who is facing his own indictment for political corruption, said DeLay will either donate his money to charity or return it to Cunningham. Five of the other six congressmen have said they will donate their money to charity, and the sixth could not be reached for comment. A Washington state representative who accepted a mere \$1,000 from Cunningham nine years ago is donating it to charity to avoid the taint. Nevertheless, Neugebauer says he is keeping the money because it was "raised in a previous election cycle," as if that somehow removes the stigma. Neugebauer is willing to keep money that is too dirty even for Tom DeLay to handle.
Ralph H. Brock, Lawyer, Lubbock via Email

Randy Neugebauer does not serve the interests of West Texans! For example, he has:

Voted against funding for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (but did ask the conflict to end)

Voted against funding for Hurricane victims

Voted to allow President Bush to violate the FISA law when wiretapping

Voted to raise the exemption of the estate tax to \$10 million a couple before a single cent in tax is owed

Voted for a \$900 tax break to timber industries (please tell me where the forests are in district 19)

Neugebauer has also voted to cut aid to college students (such as Pell grants, for lower-income students), and to make student loans more expensive. He has voted against federal disaster aid to the farmers and ranchers of this region (we know several ranchers whose grassland was destroyed, cattle killed, and fences burned). Voting against students (and the colleges they would attend) and farmers and ranchers is the same as voting against every citizen of West Texas, since Texas Tech and agriculture are the backbone of our economy. Neugebauer votes, instead, for a \$25 million "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska, serving an island with a population of 50 people, and for tax cuts for the very wealthiest. Of course, he is himself among the very wealthiest; maybe he doesn't understand the vast majority of the people he represents. He does not deserve either your endorsement, or the votes of any citizen of West Texas. (We sure do miss Charlie Stenholm!)

Thanks!
Judith Fullingim, Lubbock via Email
"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to scruza@aol.com All comments in the Community Voices section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum to mainstream media, so readers wishing to express their opinions and comments may do so.

Wisconsin Congressman Fearful of Attending LULAC National Convention in Own Back Yard

It is said that one can catch more flies with honey than vinegar, perhaps that's why the national League of United Latin American Citizens invited the poster boy for anti-immigration xenophobes, Congressman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wisconsin, to speak at their annual convention being held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. So far, the congressman has declined the invitation to face the thousands of LULAC members who will attend their organization's yearly convention.

The league wants to hear it directly from U.S. Representative James Sensenbrenner on why he "proposed a bill that would make it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally and, among other things, build a 700-mile fence along the US Mexico border". As expected, Sensenbrenner had not responded to any of the many invitations which had been extended. Sensenbrenner told representatives of the group that he has votes scheduled in Washington through Friday and constituent business on Saturday, said Jeff Lungren,

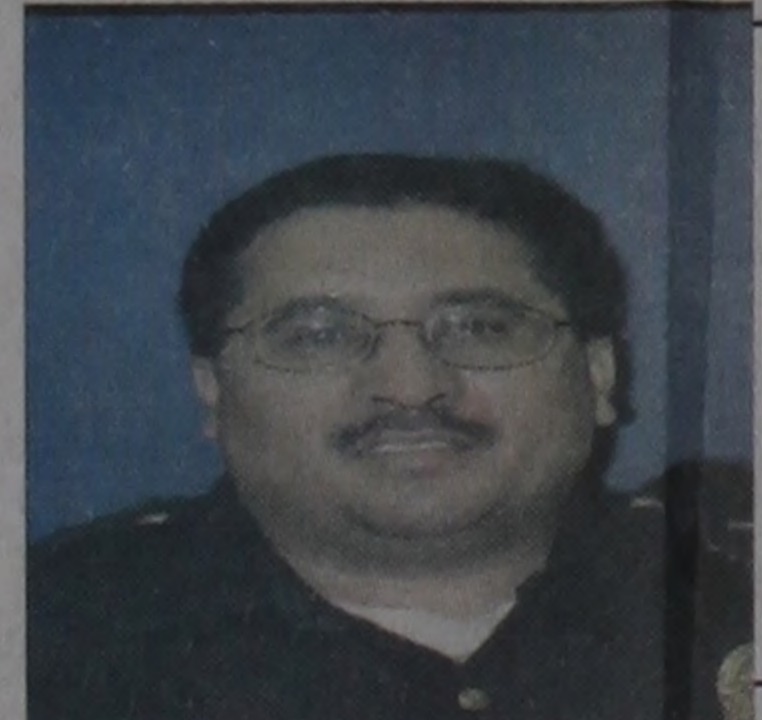
a spokesman for Sensenbrenner and the House Judiciary Committee. A likely excuse for someone who probably has good reason to not want to appear before a group who was instrumental in organizing the huge demonstrations, held in April and May, against the Sensenbrenner sponsored legislation, HR 4437.

Sensenbrenner was one of the main sponsors of HR 4437, which would raise the level of crossing into this country without proper documentation from a misdemeanor to a felony crime. A large majority of the country's Hispanic population has come out in full political and social force against the bill; with Sensenbrenner being the target of their anger.

More than 10,000 LULAC members are expected at this year's convention which is being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The convention started Monday, June 26, and will culminate on Saturday, July 1. The primary focus of the convention will be on immigration, health care, (continued on page 6)

Captain Quintana Falls to Sudden Heart Attack

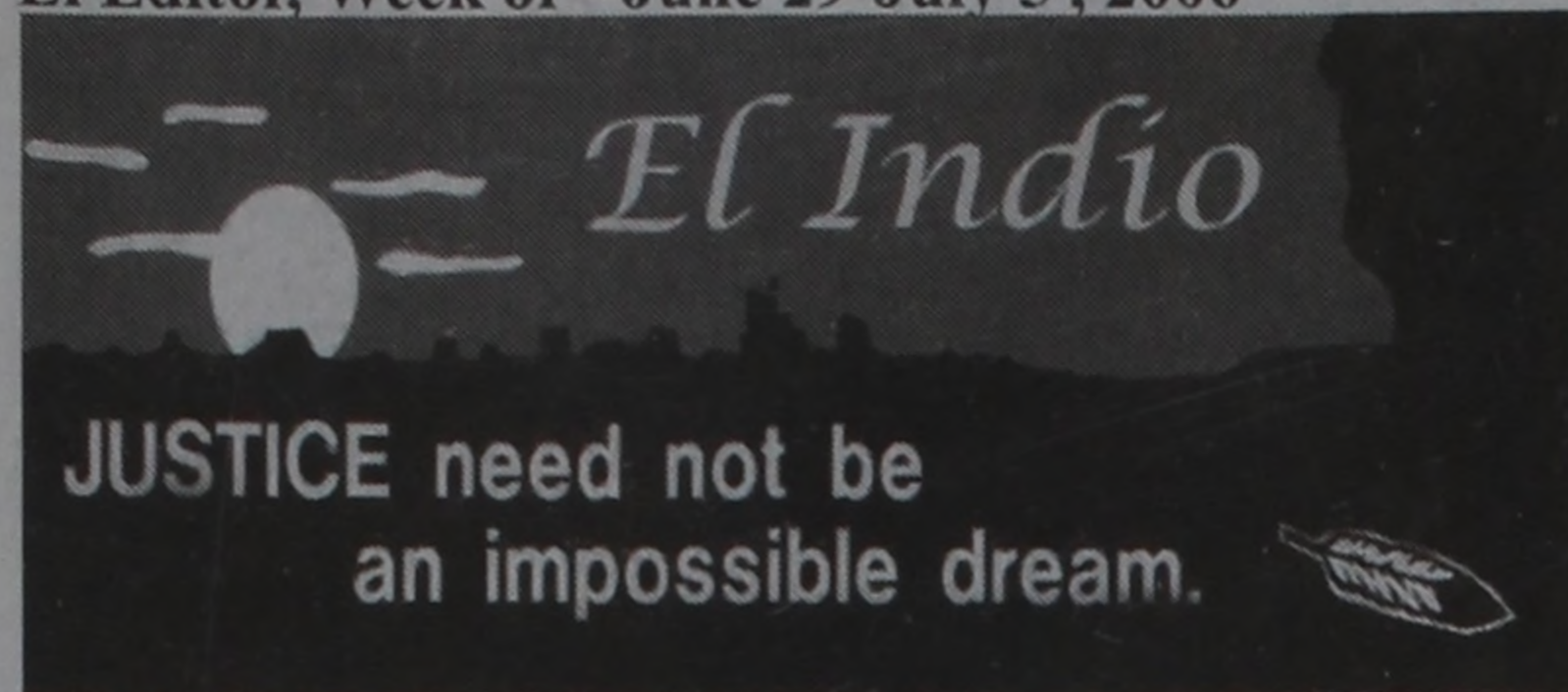
One of "Lubbock's finest" unexpectedly died this past week. Captain Victor Quintana passed away from an apparent heart attack on June 25, 2006. On Sunday morning around 9:00 a.m. he began



experiencing shortness of breath while at home with his family. He and his wife made preparations to go to the hospital, but Capt. Quintana lost consciousness.

EMS was called but despite their heroic efforts, Capt. Quintana never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 9:22 a.m.

Capt. Quintana worked for the City of Lubbock for a short time prior to joining the Lubbock Police Academy on February 2, 1987. Capt. Quintana served in patrol division for an extended period during which time he attained the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant he was transferred to Police Administration where he served as PIO and Internal Affairs Commander. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in November of 2004. He then returned to Patrol for a brief period before being transferred to his last position as Special Operations Commander which includes Narcotics, Gangs, and Vice Units. Capt. Quintana was 44 years old.



Whole Enchilada.....A Little Bit is Better Than Nada!

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

It is said that half of a pie is better than none.....but in the words of the popular song, "Sometimes you want the whole enchilada...a little bit is better than nada!"

The U.S. Supreme Court weighed in this week with its Texas Redistricting decision.....and sure enough, only a "little bit" for Texas minorities, who were roundly screwed by the Tom DeLay-inspired redistricting fiasco. You remember...the reborn "Killer Bees", a group of Texas Legislators opposed to the travesty, fled to Oklahoma and New Mexico in a vain attempt to prevent the most blatant redistricting of Congressional districts in Texas history...a true Gerrymander in every sense of the word, carried to historic extremes.

It is a crying shame that the headlines are trumpeting that the Tom DeLay-Rick Perry types won the decision...the truth is that the Court resurrected the oldest bugaboo in the long history of redistricting struggles..."What to do with West Texas"...specifically the West Texas between El Paso, Midland-Odessa and San Antonio, now known as District 23.

This writer has been involved directly in redistricting efforts and lawsuits since 1970, and the one factor that always has legislators scratching their heads is, "What to do with West Texas." The problem is that El Paso has just enough population to secure one Congressional district, and just enough more to create a problem with the vast rural areas of the Big Bend and the Edwards Plateau to the east. Historically, a Congressional District has been created which combines El Paso suburbs with northwest San Antonio suburbs...quite a stretch, even by Texas standards. The resulting district is bigger than Rhode Island, or Delaware, or several other political entities you might name...

What was REALLY wrong with the DeLay redistricting was that it targeted non-minority white Texas Democrats in a particularly partisan manner...and in the middle of a decade, when redistricting is historically done only once a decade, at the beginning. The new Court decision will not address the wrongs done to Charlie Stenholm, Martin Frost or Nick Lampson...but it shall redress the grievances of Central Texas...the wrongs done to Lloyd Doggett and minorities in general...because if you redraw District 23, you also have to redraw the "snake districts" of Central and South Texas...which took Lloyd Doggett's Austin district and snaked it down to the border...and then did the same to two or three others.

"Sometimes you want the whole enchilada"...these blatant attempts to dilute minority representation were not specifically addressed by the decision, but when you redraw one, you effectively redraw several others..."a little bit is better than nada"...not all of the minority concerns are being addressed, but at least a few shall be corrected by this decision. By redrawing a few districts, a domino effect will be created which may restore at least some of the travesties committed by Tom DeLay, Tom Craddick, Rick Perry, Randy Neugebauer and Co.

Perhaps El Editor will have space next week to show you just how ridiculous the DeLay districts are...here in our area, a narrow band of counties links Lubbock with Abilene for the first time in Texas history...another big stretch...and why? So Tom Craddick's home county of Midland can have its own district for the first time.

More on this next week...IT IS HIGH TIME for the corrupt leadership which orchestrated this Gerrymander to be swept out of office...Democrats should vote Democratic this fall, and thoughtful Republicans should also vote Democratic in the Congressional and Legislative races to purge these radical elements from the GOP, and restore responsible Bi-Partisan leadership to our country, before these corrupt elements run us all into bankruptcy with their high-blown schemes!

The Rise of American Plutocracy

by Jim Hightower

When Bill Gates, the richest man on earth, was asked a few years ago whether he considered himself rich, he demurred by saying: "I'm clearly not by some definition middle class."

Well, gosh, I guess not! By no definition are you middle class when you're sitting on a \$46.5 billion fortune.

Still, the Powers That Be keep insisting that America is a "classless" society, and politicians of both parties keep pursuing economic policies that are based on the happy theory that a "rising tide lifts all boats." They don't like anyone pointing out that the boats of the privileged few are yachts, while most people are paddling along in leaky rowboats, and too many Americans don't even have a piece of driftwood to cling to.

That aside, however, it's simply not true that America's prosperity is broadly shared. As the old saying goes, "Them that's got is them that gets"... and "them" keeps getting

more and more. Forget poor people and the sinking middle class, let's look only at the top ten percent of money earners in our country.

A recent study of income gains between 1972 and 2000 shows that if you were in the 90th percentile of income, your wages and salaries increased by 34 percent during this span - about one percent a year. If you were in the 99th percentile, though, your income jumped by 87 percent. But it's at the 99.9th percentile that the real fun begins - this is the millionaire class, and their income gain was a joyous 181 percent. For true joy, however, go to the 99.99th percentile - these multimillionaires saw their incomes rise by 497 percent.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Bear in mind that this was before George W, whose tax and other economic policies have sent a tidal wave of new riches into those tippy-top percentiles, further widening the gap. The tide is rising, but so is the inequality, dangerously separating the pri

In their own Words

The Immigration and English Language Debate

This Country was Founded by Immigrants of all Nationalities

I have been following the immigration issue for the past year and a half, for I am an immigration consultant, and I love what I do. For I believe that is what my grandparents had in mind when they came here, so that all of their children's families could have a better life, and help those that needed help; my father and mother did this work for 50 years plus together.

I go to various churches and organizations and give out immigration information on discrimination, qualifications for permanent residency, citizenship, and renewal of permanent resident cards. It saddens me to see not only minutemen, klu klux klan, Republicans, but our own people asking for the immigrants to be sent back to a life of uncertainty. Not only was this country founded by immigrants of all nationalities, many changed their names so that they could escape the persecution that they had tried to leave behind and not to have to face the same persecution here.

It is sad that in the twenty-first century we are no better off than we were then, that the society we live in considers themselves better than these immigrants when our forefathers came to this country seeking a better life so that their children and people after that would not have to suffer through the same indignations and discriminations that they had to suffer. The minutemen are vigilantes by Bush's own words, which is illegal, but is still going on. The klu klux klan think they are the perfect race and they terrorized people into believing it, but they are trying to keep terrorist's out, for we already have enough in the U.S. as was proven in Oklahoma city.

The Republican House and Senate play with words; they call the Senate version amnesty: amnesty is what was given to President Nixon by President Ford even though what he did was illegal and no fines were paid.

To get to apply to become a U.S. citizen some of these immigrants are going to have to wait from 10 to 23 years; so as to keep the people focused on immigration and gays, so that they may keep on with the war and raising gas prices so that the oil companies can turn a profit.

Again this week the Republicans turned down the minimum wage increase. If you get hurt on the job, people that I know have chosen to report it on their own insurance, so they don't go through all the hassles, that way they can get treated, for not many doctors accept workmen's comp anymore. Medicines that my daughter needs for her asthma are high and we can barely afford them; they're cheaper in Canada but the Republicans say they are of lower quality. I guess we can blame it on immigrants: they've caused these problems by not "voting". Could it be that is what the Republicans are "scared of"?

Dario Rendón Jr.
Lubbock via email

Hablar Inglés es Responsabilidad Cívica

Son varias preguntas, ¿Estas son mis respuestas...

Bueno, primeramente pienso que el prohibir el idioma español en los Estados Unidos es algo que va en contra de la misma cultura estadounidense... no solo hay hispano-parlantes en Estados Unidos sino otros idiomas, aunque claro, éstas no tienen importancia en éste momento por que no est-n bajo presión política.

Ahora, el idioma Inglés es el idioma oficial de este país, no hay duda de eso y pienso que todos tenemos la responsabilidad de aprender el idioma si es que pensamos quedarnos aquí por largo tiempo... es importante para poder comunicarnos y defendernos en cualquier situación. Si yo viajo a

Francia y me quedo allí por un buen rato, no puedo pretender que los franceses me acomoden a mí en mi idioma.

¿Qué impacto tendría en la población hispana la prohibición del idioma Español? Para mí sería algo extremadamente inaceptable... poder comunicarme en mi idioma es un privilegio y un derecho de nacimiento... y como dije anteriormente hablar Inglés es una responsabilidad cívica. Se que esto ocasionaría protestas, todos lo sabemos y creo que una prohibición colectiva no llegaría a suceder.

La mayoría de los hispanos nacidos en este país ya perdieron su idioma, si no me cree hable con su hijo o su hija... Los que llegaron aquí de otros países lo perderán en la segunda o tercera generación...pero el idioma no se acabar- por que continuaremos llegando.

Maria Estrada, Lubbock
via Email

Speaking English is a Civic Responsibility

Translated from Spanish

I think that prohibiting the speaking of Spanish language in the United States is something that goes against the same American culture. It not only are there Spanish-speaking (people) in the United States but other languages as well, to be sure, these other languages do not have equal importance at this moment because they are not under political pressure (as is the Spanish language issue).

There is no doubt that the English language is the official language of this country, and I think that all we have the responsibility to learn the language if we are to remain here for a long time. It is important to be able to communicate and to defend ourselves in whatever situation we encounter. If I travel to France and I remain there for a short time, I cannot expect that the French will accommodate me in my language (Spanish).

What impact would the prohibition of the Spanish language have on the Hispanic community? For me it would be something extremely unacceptable "to be able to communicate in my language (Spanish) is a privilege and a birthright" and as I previously stated, speaking English is a civic responsibility. This would cause protests, we all know it, and I believe that a collective prohibition on speaking Spanish will not happen.

Most of the Hispanics born in this country have already lost their (native) language; if you don't believe me just try and talk to your son or daughter in Spanish! Those arriving from other countries will also lose their language in the second or third generation but the language will not die out because we will continue arriving in this country.

Maria Estrada, Lubbock
via Email

Motivated by Fear?

I believe that this legislation is aimed primarily at Spanish-speakers and that it preys on the fear that many English-only speakers feel about being surrounded by people they do not understand in the communities where they grew up and are raising families.

The language barrier, as anyone who has lived where their own language is not understood, is a huge obstacle to forming relationships where confidence in each other, opportunity, justice and understanding can flourish. This legislation is not to my liking. I do not believe for one moment it will stop anyone from speaking Spanish at home, with their friends or to their Spanish-speaking business associates. If it has any impact at all it will be to harden feelings of animosity and make life just that much more difficult for those in the initial stages of gaining a foothold in American society. America is never at its best when motivated by fear.

Susan Barrick, Lubbock
via Email

Editor's note:
Barrick is a candidate for Lubbock County Judge; it is refreshing to see a political candidate express their view honestly and openly. The candidate's web site is www.susanbarrick.com

To Comment, Email:
eleditor@sbcglobal.com

Empowerment Begins With Us

By Abel Cruz

Dominating the news this past week, are several important issues. Although, I'll be the first to admit that some of the news stories can be a little dull and uninteresting, they still are important issues that we would do well to pay attention to. Why?

Because, although all politics may be local, what happens on a national level, sooner or later, will also touch our everyday lives; or those of people we care about. Unfortunately, research shows that most Americans seem to be unengaged in the political process, until a specific issue touches them in a personal way. By then, it usually is too late to do anything about it.

It's Only Money!

Multi-billionaire Warren Buffet decided that he would leave what could amount to over 30 billion dollars, yes, that's billion, to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Talk about generosity!

Essentially what happened is that Buffet decided that Gates and his wife would do a better job of distributing his wealth through their foundation than anyone else could.

The agreement calls for Gates and his wife to get approximately \$1.5 billion dollars per year, but stipulates that the whole \$1.5 billion be spent within that one year period of time. The money will be used to combat things such as world hunger, diseases like AIDS, and other humanitarian efforts.

And in return, Buffet asked for absolutely nothing; although he was offered and accepted, a seat on the foundation's board. In fact, the foundation will not even have any reference to Buffet's name.

That's what I call a noble act of kindness!

But can he walk the walk?

In the U.S. Senate, Democratic Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid from Nevada, has vowed to block the recently voted on obscene congressional pay raise until the minimum wage is increased. He can talk the talk; now let's see if he can walk the walk. I doubt it!

Could it happen?

According to a news report on electronic voting, New York University's Brennan Center for Justice, a single person could swing an election by manipulating electronic voting machines.

Part of the problem, according to the report, is that fewer than half the states require a paper trail of recorded votes. It would take a person with the technological know-how and access to the voting machine's software to manipulate the results.

Don't know if the machines used here in Lubbock County, produce a paper record. But it might be a good idea if they did.

Treason or Trickery by the "Bush-istas"

Representative Peter King, R-New York, is ready to charge The New York Times with treason. In an ridiculous political rant, King is quoted as saying that "I am asking the Attorney General to begin an investigation and prosecution of the

New York Times — the reporters, the editors and the publisher. We're at war, and for the Times to release information about secret operations and methods is treasonous." King claims the newspaper violated the Espionage Act, and that the paper was, "pompous, arrogant, and more concerned about a left-wing elitist agenda than it is about the security of the American people."

Once again, Republicans are using the same old, "we're at war" excuse and pretense to get away with whatever they want to justify. The fact of the matter is that this country's constitution protects the freedom of the press, during war and during peace time; that is if we are ever lucky enough to see peace again on our lifetime. Judging by the way the Bush administration is handling things, we'll be lucky just to be fighting 2 wars at the same time; Iraq and Afghanistan; although; Iran still remains a volatile situation and the North Koreans are intent on declaring their "in your face" opposition to the Bush administration.

Just take note of Bush and Cheney's comments on the Times situation: Bush "for people to leak that program, and for a newspaper to publish it, does great harm to the United States of America." Cheney: "Some of the press, in particular the New York Times, have made the job of defending against further terrorist attacks more difficult by insisting on publishing detailed information about vital national security programs." Bush's Press secretary Tony Snow went even further, suggesting the New York Times had undermined Americans' "right to live."

Americans right to live? What in the heck does that mean? No one, especially The Times, has undermined my right to live; have they yours? Just another example of Republican "scare them to death mumbo jumbo" to justify their unlawful wiretapping and wire transfer "eavesdropping"

The scary part is that Republicans from Bush and Cheney on down to our own Congressman Randy Neugebauer, have latched on to the belief that the attack on this country on September 11, has given the administration a blank check to do whatever they well please; even if it means breaking the law.

Whatever happened to the great political foundations that this country was founded on: like freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection of civil rights?

Blaze of "Old Glory"

By a vote of 66-34, just one vote short of passage, the Senate failed to pass legislation which would have made it illegal for any person to desecrate the U.S. flag. The amendment to the constitution, had it passed in the Senate would have then been sent to the states for ratification. Thirty eight states would have to have ratified the amendment within a 7 year period in order for the amendment to become the 28th amendment to the constitution.

Protecting our Right to Vote

Before 1965, a large segment of minority voters in this country literally had to pay or meet other ridiculous criteria, (example: in the south, affecting mostly black voters, if your father had not voted, you were not eligible to vote either; in Texas it was a poll tax) in order to be able to vote. In 2006, by delaying the renewal of the Voting Rights Act, the law which remedied many of those politically and racist motivated tactics, the Republican Party may be hoping for a trip back to the future.

And once again, Hispanic and black voters, will for the most part, be the ones disenfranchised: maybe not by being deprived of the right to vote, but intimidated into not voting.

With the 2004 general elections right around the corner, and the 2008 presidential elections in sight, the delay by the Republican controlled congress is threatening to eliminate the act all together. If that happens, requirements such as providing bilingual ballots or making language translators available would be a thing of the past.

The intent is clear; first they use issues like immigration reform and border security to make sure that mostly Hispanic immigrants who have crossed here without documentation never get a pathway to citizenship so they can vote. Second; they use tactics such as delaying the passage of this landmark legislation to ensure their hold on the control of congress and everything else that goes with it.

Thomas Paine, the great American writer, once wrote that "the right to vote is the primary right by which other rights are protected". How will we make sure this right and privilege will not be diluted by a few Republicans; intent on challenging Hispanic and black voters every step of the way to the ballot box?

The answer may lie in our ability to empower ourselves with information and then make sure we are not intimidated from stepping into that voting booth.

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Spain's World Cup agony continues, thanks to France

French fans had not celebrated with such abandon in a World Cup stadium since 1998. Then again, Zinedine Zidane had not played a game like this one in eight years.

They're not ready to throw his retirement party just yet. The French team set up the deciding goal on Tuesday night, then scored one of his own minutes later to lead France to a 3-1 win over hard-luck Spain.

Zidane, who is retiring after this World Cup, scored two goals in the 1998 final to beat Brazil. He will get one more shot at the tournament favorite when the two teams face off in Saturday's quarterfinal.

Instead of the washed-up team that looked ready for retirement as recently as last week, France is suddenly two matches away from a return to the World Cup final.

After the game, Zidane's smile was as genial as ever before, the twinkle in his eyes as sparkling. Only the ruddy crow's feet around his eyes showed that eight years had passed since France's last title.

"The adventure continues," he said. "We didn't want it to stop." During the match, it was hard to tell whether it was 1998 or 2006.

Zidane took the free kick in the 83rd minute that found an onrushing Patrick Vieira, who headed it off and into the net to break a 1-1 deadlock.

Zidane then finished off his brilliant night with a solo run into the penalty area, his golden shoes flashing as he cut inside one defender before wrong-footing goalkeeper Iker Casillas for a goal of his own.

At 34, and with each World Cup match possibly his last, that is something.

"He kept going -- for the whole match," said France coach Raymond Domenech.

Even in the dying moments, when younger players were exhausted, Zidane was heading out crosses and rushing back with the abandon of a teenager to stop a Spanish attack.

"You know what Zizou's influence can be," Domenech said.



"We're happy for him that he's 34 and in the 90th minute he still had the legs to score, and if I could be any happier, that makes it special for me."

And just like 1998, he remains the undisputed leader.

"We feel as though a common cause has been born in the team," Zidane said. "We are very happy to be through to the quarterfinal."

France won its title match with Brazil 3-0 in two World Cup goals. Its run in this World Cup seemed improbable just a week ago, when France was struggling to score and Zidane was suspended for too many yellow cards.

For Spain, the agony continues. In 76 years of the World Cup, Spain has never finished better than fourth.

After an excellent first round, this was supposed to be the year.

"We were all convinced that this would be the World Cup when would make it," said veteran striker Raul Gonzalez. "But the moment of truth was today. And yet again we're disappointed."

Spain got its hopes up in the 28th minute, when Lilian Thuram stepped on the foot of Pablo Ibanez in the area, prompting referee Christiano Copelli to award a penalty kick. David

Villa slotted it perfectly, low in the left corner and just out of reach of Fabien Barthez.

The game turned when France got its equalizing goal in the 41st minute. Vieira sent speedy Franck Ribery into open space with a pass, and the Marseille winger swept the ball past goalkeeper Iker Casillas with his right foot and sent it home with his left, just ahead of two onrushing defenders.

At the end of the game, France's "old men" -- Zidane, Vieira and Barthez -- were all embracing and saluting the ecstatic tricolor fans among the 43,000 sellout crowd.

"We are still far from winning the cup but that's our target," Vieira said. "We know that we

can achieve a lot and we'll keep working hard. Many people didn't expect us to win today but we proved them wrong."

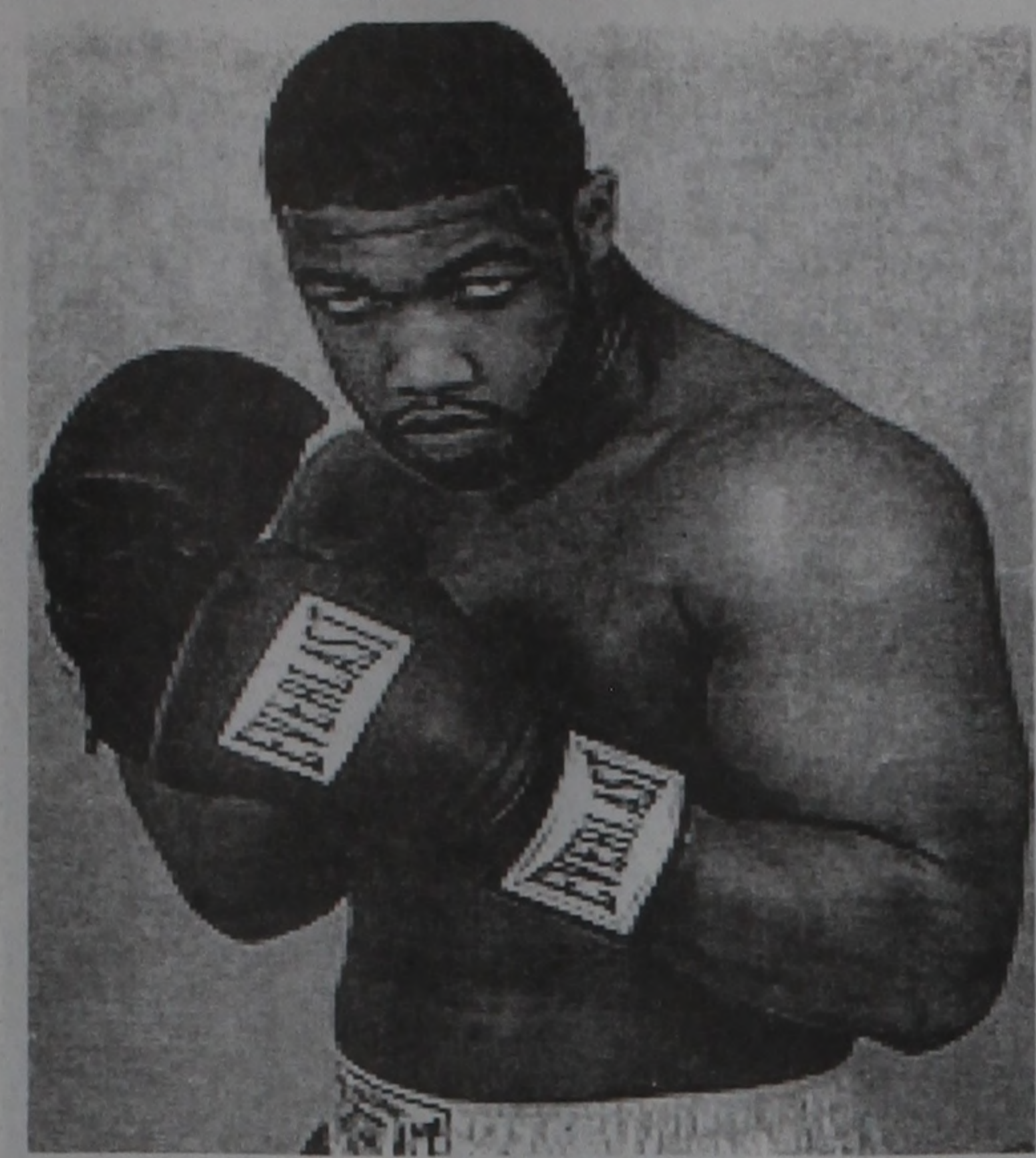
He said the team was already looking forward to Brazil.

"We have an exceptional game ahead of us," Domenech said. "As the players were saying in the locker room, it is for games like this that we live in the soccer world, for this kind of excitement."

But France is intent now on going further.

"Our only aim," Domenech said, "is to be there on July 9."

That's the day of the World Cup final -- and the last possible date for that Zidane retirement party.



Educated Witherspoon not your typical boxer

Just a guess, but I imagine the manipulative Matty Walker character, in Turner's 1981 breakthrough role, was a boxing fan. Had to be. Because Matty's favorable impression of the simplistic male, tunnel-visioned and generally oblivious to outside influences, is a blueprint for a number of the sport's foremost achievers.

Chazz Witherspoon is 12-0 with seven knockouts.

For many educated people, boxing is something of a guilty pleasure, a chance to walk on the wild side, if only vicariously, with dangerous dudes they'd rather not meet up with in a dark alley.

Heavyweight prospect Chazz Witherspoon, who graduated from Philadelphia's prestigious Saint Joseph's University with a 3.8 cumulative grade-point average (out of a possible 4.0), clearly is too intellectual and of too varied interests to project the proper air of menace. For whatever reason, the public wants its boxing big men to slug opponents harder than they hit the books, to earn advanced degrees in the sweet science rather than diplomas in such academic disciplines as pharmaceutical marketing.

When Witherspoon, the second cousin of two-time former heavyweight titlist Tim Witherspoon, speaks, it sounds less like another variation of "I'll molder da bum" than a clinical treatise on qualitative research.

"Chazz wants to learn everything, and he wants to learn it now," said Tim Witherspoon, 48, who has taken on an increased training role with his 27-year-old relative. "Anything you tell him, he picks up fast. Sometimes you have to try to slow him down."

On July 1, the 6-4, 228-pound Chazz Witherspoon (12-0, 7 KOs) takes on Mike Alexander (11-0, 8 KOs) in the 10-round main event of a ShoBox card from Manistee, Mich., which is unique in its premise: five of the featured fighters are the sons or nephews of former world champions.

In addition to Witherspoon, other next-generation performers on the card include middleweights Ronald Hearn (8-0, 6 KOs), James McGirt Jr. (11-0, 7 KOs), Stephan Pryor (10-1, 7 KOs) and lightweight Jorge Paez Jr. (9-0, 7 KOs).

"Being related to somebody great in the boxing game is a gift, and it's a curse," Chazz Witherspoon said. "You're held to a higher standard of scrutiny because you have some big shoes to fill."

"The media attention helps, but when you're still in the learning process, as I am, you're under a microscope. Somebody without a famous last name can fly under the radar until they become great."

Flying under the radar is even more difficult for the younger Witherspoon, if only because he is tied to the rare deep thinkers in a sport whose attraction always has been based more in visceral reaction than contemplative analysis. It's OK in boxing, even praiseworthy in some instances, to be perceived as an unthinking destructive force so long as you deliver the knockouts.

From Jack Dempsey to Sonny Liston to George Foreman (the pre-grilled version, at least) to Mike Tyson, some of the fight game's most celebrated performers have projected a brute

strength and hint of cruelty which appeals to many Americans' more primal instincts.

Some boxing aficionados appreciate guile and artistry, of the sort which Bernard Hopkins demonstrated a couple of weeks ago with his clinically precise thumping of Antonio Tarver. But perhaps that appreciation is heightened by the realization that Hopkins, as was the case with Willie Pep, Pernell Whitaker and others, relied more on street smarts than formal education to rise to the top of their profession.

It's not necessarily that we prefer our athletes to be a bit thick, but violence and academia make for an uneasy mix. Remember what former quarterback-turned-NFL-analyst Joe Theismann blurted when asked about the brainpower of some supposedly high-IQ head coaches? "A genius, to me, is somebody like Norman Einstein," said Theismann, whose undergraduate days at Notre Dame apparently were not spent in the study of the theory of relativity.

Gene Tunney was a Marine, but a poetry-reading one whose scholarly demeanor often seemed at odds with his brutal job description. Isn't the heavyweight champion of the world supposed to be the baddest man on the planet? Someone who could walk into any saloon and loudly announce, as John L. Sullivan frequently did, that he could whip any S.O.B. in the house?

Even with two victories over the fearsome Dempsey, Tunney usually has been relegated to a lesser rank in boxing history than the "Manassas Mauler," perhaps because anyone who deigned to author a text on his craft probably came across as being too scholarly.

In more recent years, James Smith obfuscated the fact that he had earned a college degree from Shaw University by adopting the spine-tingling name of "Bonecrusher," which is more suggestive of a boia constrictor than a bookworm.

The American heavyweight most often depicted as this coun-

continued on page 5

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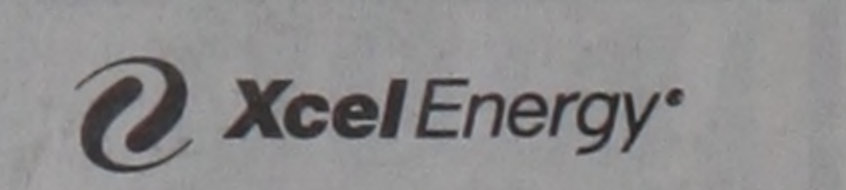


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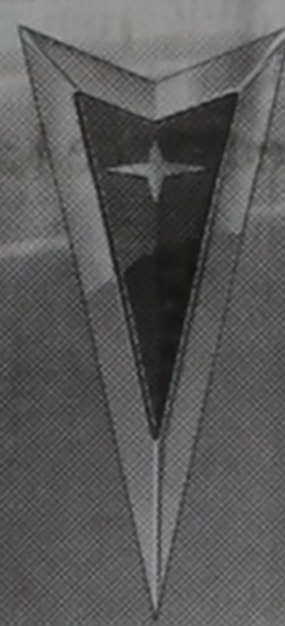
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From Page 3

Superman Star Returns to Iowa

try's brightest hope in the division, Calvin Brock, also has his sheepskin, from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. But Brock's unanimous decision over Timur Ibragimov last weekend failed to raise his profile or excitement quotient among thrill-seeking spectators who care less for drab technical proficiency than for flourishes of unvarnished power.

The Klitschko brothers, Vitali and Wladimir, also boast college degrees — from the University of Kiev, of all places — and they are furthermore burdened by social consciences which serve to set them apart. If being a world champion is not the end-all, be-all of a fighter's existence, to which purpose does it serve to be endowed with a pulverizing right cross? In boxing, strength and courage are often perceived as virtues unto themselves, not to be diluted by issues that extend beyond the ring or which require serious thought.

And could it be that Lennox Lewis' failure to fire the global imagination of fight fans, at least in comparison to the conflagration sparked by Tyson, owed in part to his quiet dignity and interest in chess?

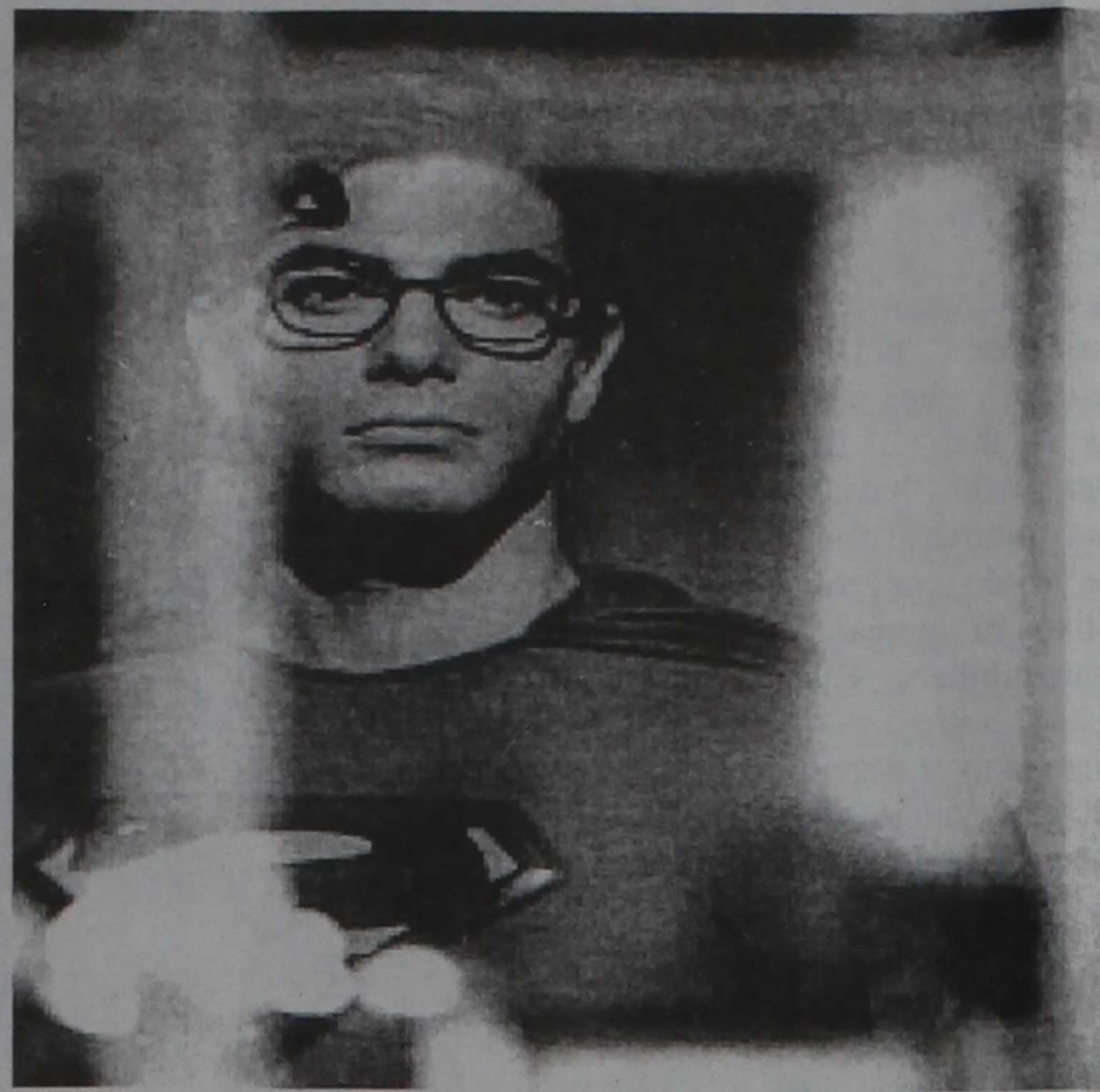
Chazz Witherspoon might be the one to certify that boxing finally is as open to crossover acts as torch standards and Mexican-flavored mariachi.

One press release describes the newer 'Spoon' as "intelligent, polite, articulate, level-headed, modest and mature," real-world assets which count for only so much in the fight game unless they are accompanied by the ability to leave a discombobulated opponent stretched on the canvas, wondering what that ringing in his ears is.

An alternate to the 2004 Athens Olympics, Chazz won a national Golden Gloves championship by winning all five of his bouts by knockout.

It's still very early, but a buzz is starting to rise above a kid who earned a full academic scholarship to Saint Joe's and can recite all the atomic weights on the periodic table. Maybe a high SAT and a high kayo ratio aren't so incompatible, after all.

What will they think of next?



Superman's parents say Brandon Routh is still the kind and earnest son they raised in Norwalk. That may be true, but things are changing for the star of "Superman Returns."

Back in Iowa for a special premiere of his new movie, Routh was greeted by dozens of fans as

he walked the red carpet outside Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines on Sunday. It was quite a change from the relative anonymity of growing up in a sleepy town like Norwalk.

"Having people at the airport, wanting autographs or taking photos of me getting out of a car

- it's definitely different," the 26-year-old actor said.

The hoopla was also a far cry from another recent trip to Iowa, when Routh crashed on his buddy's floor in Iowa City during the University of Iowa's homecoming weekend in November.

The screening was delayed more than 40 minutes as Routh worked the crowd outside the theater, posing for pictures, signing autographs and talking to members of the media.

Still, his mother, Katie Routh, said she hasn't seen much difference in her son. "He's the same," she said. "I haven't seen any change whatsoever."

Routh has also learned that fame doesn't necessarily mean fortune - at least not yet. Asked what his first big purchase was since landing the role, the newest Superman replied: "You don't make so much on the first one. So no big purchases yet."

"We'll get there though." "Superman Returns," also starring Kate Bosworth and Kevin Spacey, opens in theaters Wednesday.



Salma Hayek joins HRW to Stop Violence Against Women

Salma Hayek joined the Human Rights Watch (HRW) organization in order to ask the presidential candidates in Mexico to make the commitment to "prevent and punish" crimes against women.

Hayek, HWR, and 65 other social groups in Mexico and the US got together to make this call in an open letter that was sent to the candidates running for office on July 2.

"It's outrageous that Mexican women must live afraid of the killers harassing them on the streets," Hayek stated. The actress has a foundation that supports initiatives around the world to prevent violence against women.

Hayek stated that every Mexican deserves a president that will end all the killings.

Jose Miguel Vivanco, HWR director in the Americas, stated that "despite some efforts done by the government to investigate these brutal crimes, women are still being kidnapped, tortured, and killed in Mexico."

"Before voting, Mexicans should know which presidential candidate, if any, will make the commitment to end these terrible acts."

That is why those who signed the letter stated that next June 30 they will tell the people which candidates have made the commitment to fight these crimes.

Non-government organizations

have stated that for the last 13 years, more than 400 women have been murdered or have "disappeared" in Ciudad Juarez, in the state of Chihuahua.

In most cases, the authorities have not been able to establish who was responsible for the crimes, and some 34 victims are still reported missing.

The letter demands a series of specific measures to improve security for women in the country. "We're asking the candidates to commit before June 30," Vivanco stated.

The measures include placing an electric fence in some unsafe areas, as well as implementing early warning mechanisms to prevent violence against women, like a toll free number nationwide to receive these kinds of reports.

"These measures are, really, the minimum we need to prove that the next administration is truly concerned about the brutality against women in Mexico," Vivanco stated.

"The mothers of those women who have disappeared or been killed in Juarez are tireless in their efforts to get justice," stated Eve Ensler, founder of V-Day, a worldwide movement to eradicate violence against women and girls.

She added that, "we support those women and urge the voters to consider the missing women when casting their vote."

NCLR Urges No Vote on Sterns Amendment to Voting Rights Act

Washington, DC - The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., today urged the U.S. House of Representatives to reject the Sterns amendment to H.R. 5672, which would strike the language assistance provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), up for reauthorization in 2007.

"The historic success of the Voting Rights Act, and its language assistance provisions, is undeniable and its continued necessity undisputed," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "The VRA reauthorization has the overwhelming support of members on both sides of the aisle, and the House leadership should stop capitulating to a tiny minority representing the most extreme wing of the House on this issue."

"It is deeply unfortunate that a small band of members have hijacked this bill by waving the red cape of 'illegal immigration.' To be perfectly clear, this is not an immigration issue; it is about helping U.S. citizens who have

both the right and the duty to vote. Section 203 is a key part of helping these citizens - naturalized and native-born alike - become better informed participants in the political process," continued Murguía.

"VRA has been the gateway to full political participation for La-

tinians and Asian Americans as it has been for African Americans. We urge members to reject the Sterns amendment and other attempts to legislate through the back door and allow a vote on the reauthorization to move forward as quickly as possible," concluded Murguía.



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Texas Congressional Redistricting Map Upheld, but Redrawing of Border Districts Ordered

The Supreme Court upheld a Texas congressional redistricting map on Wednesday, but ordered a redrawing of border districts because Republican efforts to protect Rep. Henry Bonilla violated the Constitution by diluting Hispanic voting strength.

In a divided opinion, justices rejected challenges by minority rights groups and Democrats that the 2003 redrawing of congressional lines, directed by former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, was excessively partisan.

The court also said state legislatures may redraw districts whenever they like, rather than being limited to once per decade following the decennial census. But the court did find that lopping off half of predominantly Hispanic Laredo and replacing it

with Anglo ranching counties to move 100,000 Latino voters out of Bonilla's district, the 23rd, violated the Voting Rights Act.

In the 2003 remap, the district's Hispanic population was reduced to 50.9 percent from 63 percent.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said after the 2002 election, the district had an "increasingly powerful Latino population that threatened to oust the incumbent Republican, Henry Bonilla."

"Faced with this loss of voter support, the legislature acted to protect Bonilla's incumbency by changing the lines — and hence the population mix — of the district," Kennedy wrote.

The court did not address challenges to the 25th congressional

district, held by Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, but said the district would have to be redrawn "to remedy the District 23 violation."

Sandwiched in between the seat held by Bonilla, R-San Antonio, and Doggett, is the 28th congressional district, held by Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, which takes in southern Bexar County.

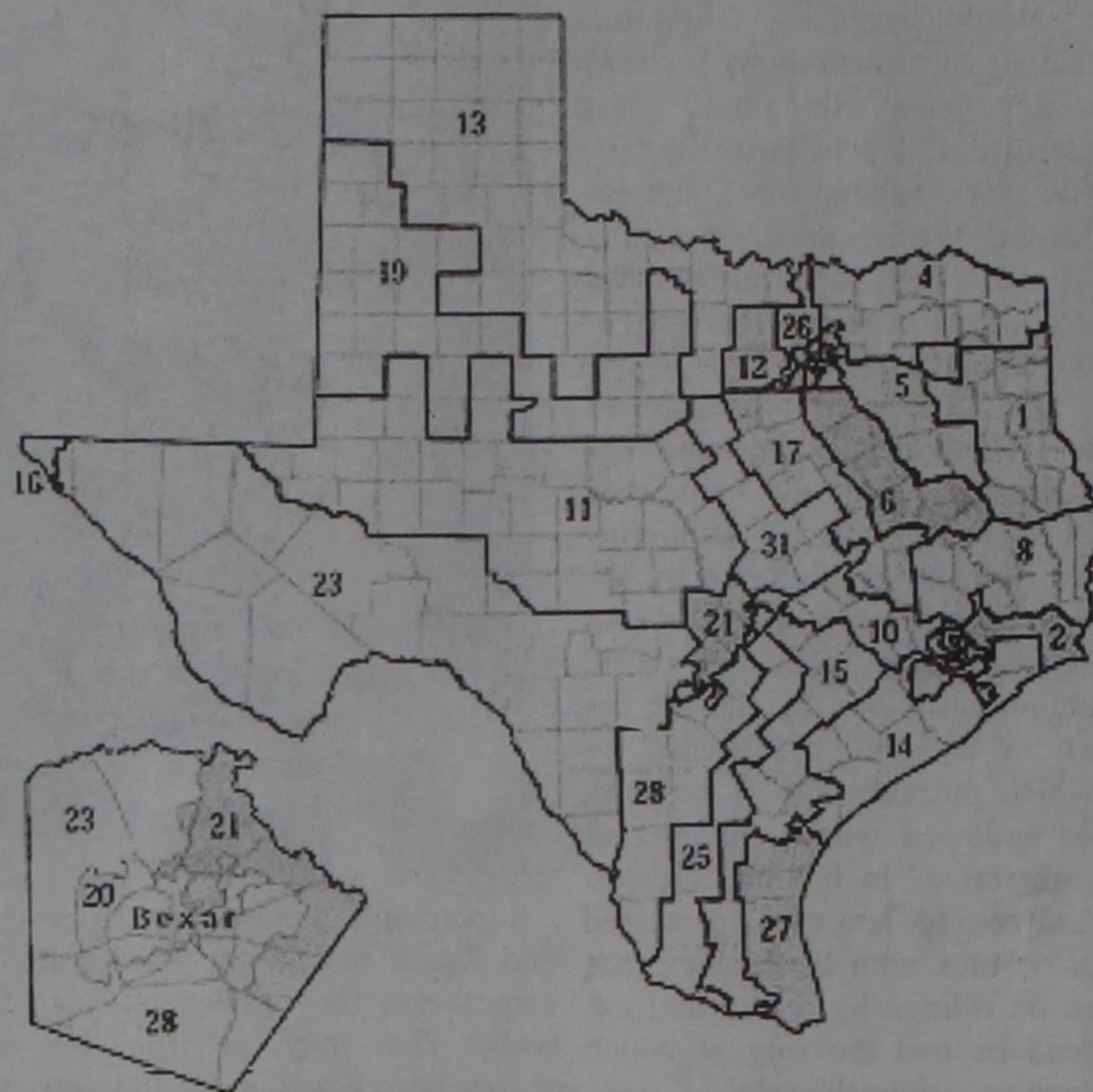
Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, who as head of the Senate Democratic Caucus led a flight of lawmakers to New Mexico in 2003 in an ultimately failed effort to stop redistricting, said she was saddened at the broad implications of the decision on mid-decade redistricting. While still studying the ruling,

she said, "I'm just sad to see it. I think the decision that redistricting can occur at any time really puts into flux the public's best interest. It's a recipe for mischief."

With a majority in the U.S. House that's "not a very strong majority," she said, "My fear now is that ... (ellipsis) even states who have now gone Democratic will feel undue pressure to do congressional redistricting to increase the Democratic numbers. That's just bad public policy, whether it's Democratic or Republican."

GOP consultant Royal Masset, however, said Texas was in a "highly unique" situation in which there was a quick Republican ascendancy and Democrats still had a congressional major-

Congressional districts



Washington mira con calma la elección en México

Estados Unidos se declara dispuesto a trabajar con quien resulte vencedor de las elecciones mexicanas este domingo, confiado en que un eventual triunfo del izquierdista Andrés Manuel López Obrador no perturbará una estrecha relación bilateral que goza de solidez institucional.

El presidente estadounidense, George W. Bush, indicó hace más de un año que trabajará con quien reemplace al derechista Vicente Fox, a quien las leyes mexicanas impiden buscar la reelección.

"Quienquiera que gane en México, electo de una manera libre y justa, y gobierno democráticamente, tendrá el apoyo de Estados Unidos", se limitó a señalar a la AFP Eric Watnik, portavoz del buró latinoamericano del Departamento de Estado, evitando referirse directamente a López Obrador.

Sin embargo, varios expertos admiten cierto nerviosismo en los sectores más conservadores del gobierno estadounidense.

El gobierno de Bush "claramente tiene una preferencia en la elección y no es López Obrador", dijo Pamela Starr, del

centro de análisis Consejo de Relaciones Exteriores, con sede en Nueva York, en una teleconferencia de prensa.

"Hay elementos en Washington que están muy, muy preocupados por un crecimiento de la izquierda en Latinoamérica, pero con México, con los años, Estados Unidos ha aprendido —al menos el Ejecutivo— que lo peor que puede hacer es querer tener una influencia y opinar quién debe ser el presidente", porque eso puede generar el efecto contrario, indicó.

Algunos temen que la política económica de López Obrador no será clara, o que no tendrá voluntad de cooperar en temas de seguridad, pero la opinión no es compartida por todos, coincidió Andrew Selee, director para México del centro de estudios Woodrow Wilson, basado en Washington.

"Estados Unidos tiene una oportunidad para volver a lanzar una relación que en muchos aspectos ha tropezado en torno a la migración", estimó. Un triunfo de López Obrador "puede cambiar el tono de la relación, pero por debajo coren intereses que

unen a ambos países", afirmó.

Según Selee, una victoria de la izquierda abriría más espacio político para que Washington acometa la reforma migratoria como más considere conveniente.

La relación bilateral seguirá afianzándose quienquiera que gane porque hay instituciones que garantizan la comunicación, como el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN) o la Sociedad para la Prosperidad fundada por Bush y Fox, indicó Starr.

"La base de la relación es más sólida y está más institucionalizada que nunca en el pasado", consideró.

López Obrador, ex alcalde de la capital mexicana y representante del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD, izquierda), enfrentará en las urnas al oficialista Felipe Calderón, del Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN, derecha).

Las últimas encuestas dieron una leve ventaja de dos puntos a López Obrador. Más lejos, en tercer lugar, aparece Roberto

Madrazo, candidato del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), que gobernó México durante 71 años consecutivos hasta la victoria de Fox en el año 2000.

Cualquiera sea el desenlace, la elección afectará profundamente las relaciones bilaterales, señaló George Grayson, profesor del College of William and Mary (Virginia) y autor de El mesías mexicano, una reciente biografía de López Obrador.

El ex alcalde de la Ciudad de México "ve al neoliberalismo como malvado", aunque "no creo que forme un frente con Hugo Chávez, (Fidel) Castro, (Néstor) Kirchner o Evo Morales", dijo Grayson a la AFP.

Aunque López Obrador se tornará más pragmático si es electo, tras una etapa inicial de crecimiento por el alza del gasto su gobierno vería menos inversiones extranjeras y más inflación y déficit fiscal, opinó.

Más mexicanos intentarían cruzar ilegalmente la frontera norte, algo que también puede repercutir negativamente en la relación bilateral, sostuvo.

ity. He said he didn't think frequent redistricting would become common around the country.

But in Texas, he said, the ruling is a clear and big victory for the GOP.

"It's a good morning for Republicans," Masset said, though "not necessarily for Henry Bonilla."

Rolando Rios, an attorney for the League of United Latin American Citizens, a plaintiff in the redistricting case, said at least three congressional districts likely will be redrawn because of the Supreme Court ruling.

"It's a clear victory, because they are going to have to change the 23rd district, which will have a ripple effect in South Texas and possibly allow Latinos to pick up another district," Rios said.

The high court did not specify a timetable for redrawing the 23rd district. The Texas Attorney General's office issued a statement saying, "The timeline and the procedure for redrawing the only district requiring further action will be addressed by the three-judge federal district court at a hearing in the near future."

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, who as head of the Senate Democratic Caucus led a

flight of lawmakers to New Mexico in 2003 in an ultimately failed effort to stop redistricting, said she was saddened at the broad implications of the decision on mid-decade redistricting.

While still studying the ruling, she said, "I'm just sad to see it. I think the decision that redistricting can occur at any time really puts into flux the public's best interest. It's a recipe for mischief."

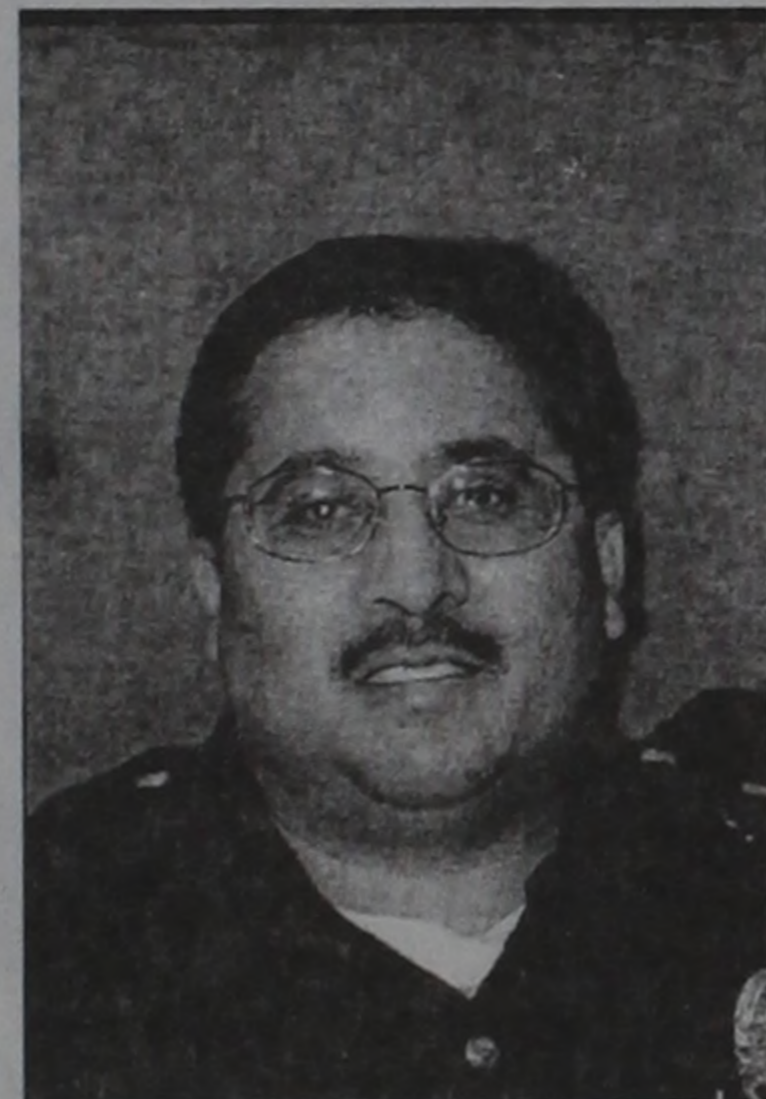
With a majority in the U.S. House that's "not a very strong majority," she said, "My fear now is that ... even states who have now gone Democratic will feel undue pressure to do congressional redistricting to increase the Democratic numbers. That's just bad public policy, whether it's Democratic or Republican." GOP consultant Royal Masset, however, said Texas was in a "highly unique" situation in which there was a quick Republican ascendancy and Democrats still had a congressional majority.

He said he didn't think frequent redistricting would become common around the country.

But in Texas, he said, the ruling is a clear and big victory for the GOP. "It's a good morning for Republicans," Masset said, though "not necessarily for Henry Bonilla."

Victor Quintana Will Be Missed El Editor

Captain Victor Quintana passed away from an apparent heart attack on June 25, 2006. On Sunday morning around 9:00 a.m. he began experiencing shortness of breath while at home with his family. He and his wife made preparations to go to the hospital, but Capt. Quintana lost consciousness. EMS was called but despite their heroic efforts, Capt. Quintana never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 9:22 a.m.



Lieutenant he was transferred to Police Administration where he

served as PIO and Internal Affairs Commander. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in November of 2004. He then returned to Patrol for a brief period before being transferred to his last position as Special Operations Commander which includes Narcotics, Gangs, and Vice Units. Capt. Quintana was 44 years old.

Captain Victor Quintana is survived by his wife, Graciela (Gracie) Quintana and four children (two sons, 17 and 5, and two daughters 9 and 7).

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Quintana family at this time.

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Ensaladas de Independencia



En Estados Unidos la fiesta de la independencia generalmente se celebra en familia. Amigos y parientes se reúnen en los parques o en el patio de las casas, donde la parrilla y las comidas

frías son los principales invitados.

Así es que si este año se compromete a preparar un platillo para la celebración del Cuatro de Julio, diga que usted lleva la ensalada. Le daremos algunos consejos.

Las ensaladas son los platillos favoritos de los días de calor. Pueden servirse como acompañantes o bien pueden constituir una merienda completa.

Para hacer una buena ensalada es necesario que los ingredientes sean siempre de primera calidad. El aceite de oliva se considera el mejor, aunque algunas personas prefieren otras variedades.

Cuando elija el vinagre, asegúrese de que sea de vino tinto, ya que se considera de más

alta calidad.

La ensalada se debe preparar cuando menos media hora antes de servirla para que la verdura se impregne bien del aceite y del vinagre, pero no siempre: cuando la ensalada es de lechuga debe hacerse al momento de servirse, porque de otra forma la lechuga se oxida y marchita.

Para que esté dura lechuga y tenga mejor aspecto, se limpia y lava unas dos horas antes de servirse y se acomoda en una fuente con bastante hielo en el refrigerador para que se endurezca. A la hora de prepararla, se pone en una toalla de cocina y se escurra para que no tenga nada de agua.

Cuando prepare ensaladas con cualquier otra verdura cruda, haga lo mismo que con la lechuga;

solamente las verduras cocidas se escurren en caliente y se preparan enseguida para que reposen en el aceite.

¡Buen provecho!

Si tiene preguntas, comentarios o quiere conocer más trucos de cocina o aprender nuevas recetas, escriba a La Opinión, Vida y Estilo, 700 S. Flower St., Suite 3100, Los Angeles, CA, 90017 o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico a vidayestilo@laopinion.com o a katiablankley@yahoo.com. La Opinión no envía recetas a domicilio.

Ensalada de menta y naranja

Ingredientes:

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2 cucharadas de menta, fina-

mente picada

4 cucharadas de jugo de limón
6 cucharadas de vinagre de vino

2 cucharadas de azúcar

Sal y pimienta negra, recién molida

Ramitas de menta para adornar

Preparación:

Pele las naranjas, quíteles la piel blanca y córtelas en rebanadas muy finas. Colóquelas en un recipiente de servir, espolvoréelas con la menta picada.

Aparte, mezcle el jugo de limón y el vinagre, añada el azúcar, al gusto.

Sazone con sal y pimienta y vierta sobre las naranjas y la menta. Decore con ramitas de yerbabuena.

Da para cuatro porciones.

Endurecen requisitos para tener Medicaid

A partir del sábado 1 de julio entra en vigor la ley que requiere a los beneficiarios de Medicaid en todo el país (Medi-Cal en California) probar con documentos su estado migratorio. Entretanto, varias organizaciones que velan por el acceso de los ciudadanos a la salud presentarán hoy una demanda contra el gobierno federal pidiendo que se detenga la implementación de la medida, que calificaron de inconstitucional.

"Hay una gran ironía en todo esto", dijo a La Opinión Ron Pollack, director ejecutivo de la organización Families USA, una de las organizaciones demandantes. "Los congresistas republicanos que presentaron esta ley lo hicieron para demostrar que son duros contra la inmigración ilegal. Pero los más perjudicados van a ser ciudadanos estadounidenses, como ancianos, gente con problemas mentales o discapacitados, así como niños en hogares de crianza".

Asimismo, la directora del Departamento de Salud de California dijo que por el momento no habrá cambios en los derechos o beneficios de los receptores de Medi-Cal, ya que apenas están preparando las directivas para que los condados implementen la ley. El retraso se debe a que el

gobierno federal no emitió sus reglamentos hasta principios de este mes, aunque la ley se firmó en febrero.

La demanda será presentada hoy en un tribunal federal de Chicago y pedirá una orden de emergencia que suspenda la aplicación de la medida.

La ley no modifica la elegibilidad a Medicaid, el programa federal de salud que se otorga únicamente a ciudadanos de Estados Unidos y residentes legales con más de cinco años de serlo. Pero hasta ahora, la mayoría de los estados del país sólo requería una declaración de ciudadanía del solicitante, aunque tenían la posibilidad de requerir documentos si tenían dudas al respecto.

El cambio fue impulsado hace unos meses por dos congresistas republicanos de Georgia, Nathan Deal y Charlie Norwood, alegando que debían contrarrestar el fraude cometido por indocumentados para obtener beneficios, aunque nunca se probó que dicho fraude fuera un problema extendido.

De hecho, Mark B. McClellan, administrador de los Centros para Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid, la agencia federal que administra ambos programas de salud, citó entonces un reporte



del Inspector General del Departamento Federal de Salud (HHS) Sandra Shewry, la directora del Departamento de Salud de California, dijo que de acuerdo con las investigaciones en este es-

cientos de que existan tale".

De acuerdo con el Centro de Prioridades de Presupuesto y Política, millones de ciudadanos estarían en peligro de perder su cobertura de salud. Estimaron que 1.7 millones de beneficiarios, ciudadanos y adultos, no

tado, las incidencias de fraude se encuentran principalmente en proveedores de salud que presentan reclamos fraudulentos para cobrar al estado en exceso y no de parte de los beneficiarios.

de su aplicación por el gobierno federal, resultará en más ciudadanos sin cobertura médica, rebrotas en la obtención de esta cobertura para nuevos solicitantes y un aumento de costos para los estados, en parte por la burocracia necesaria para verificar los documentos.

Las organizaciones temen que el nuevo requisito y lo estricto tienen acceso a los documentos necesarios para probar su elegibilidad y entre 1.4 y 2.9 millones de niños, no tienen ni certificado de nacimiento ni pasaporte para hacer lo propio.

"Si nos preocupa el fraude, y tomamos medidas para prevenirlo", dijo Shewry en una entrevista. "En California, el gobernador ha estado más preocupado por proteger la elegibilidad y que las personas que tienen derecho a ello estén cubiertas".

Un estudio del gobierno federal halló 30,000 casos de fraude de personas no elegibles que recibían Medicaid en todo el país. El universo de beneficiarios es de más de 50 millones.

El universo de beneficiarios es de más de 50 millones.

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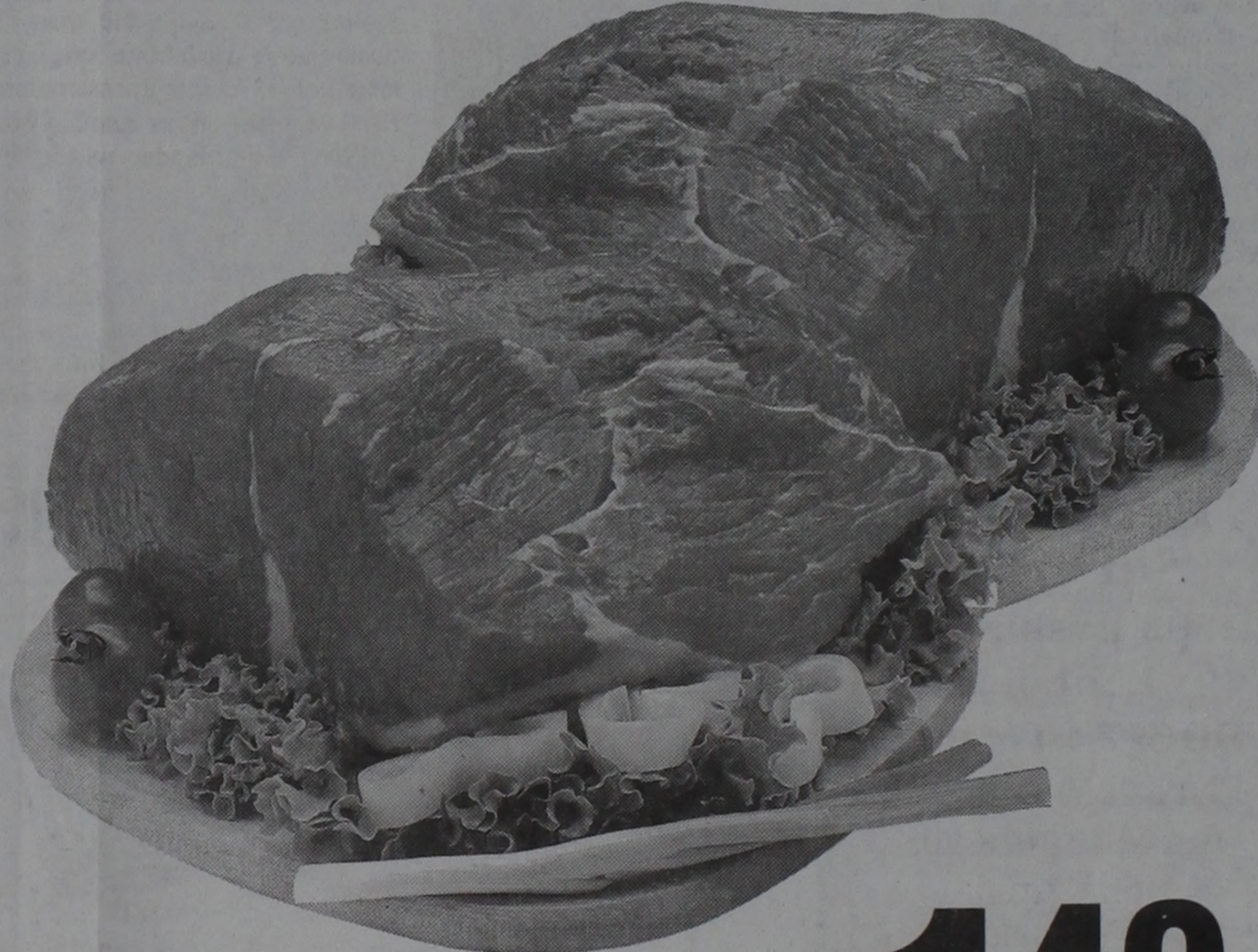
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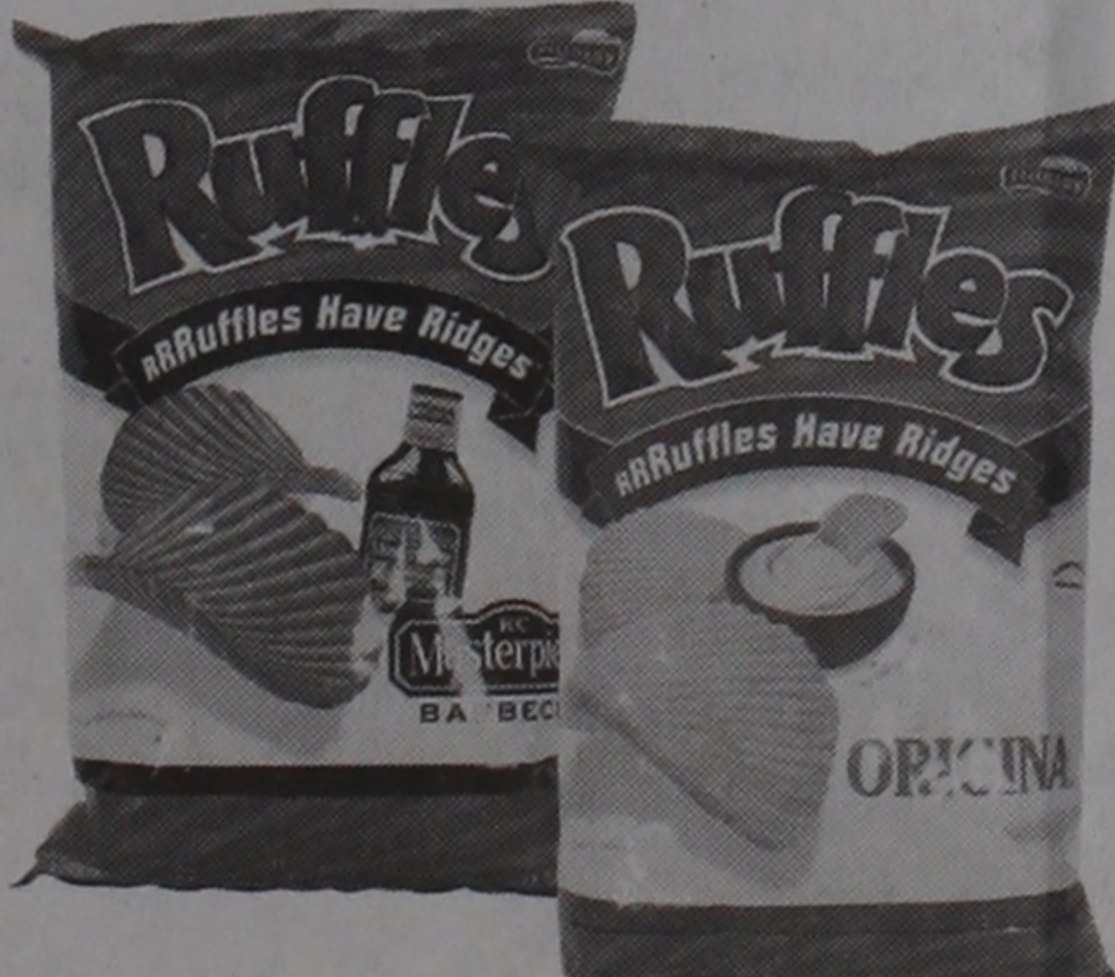
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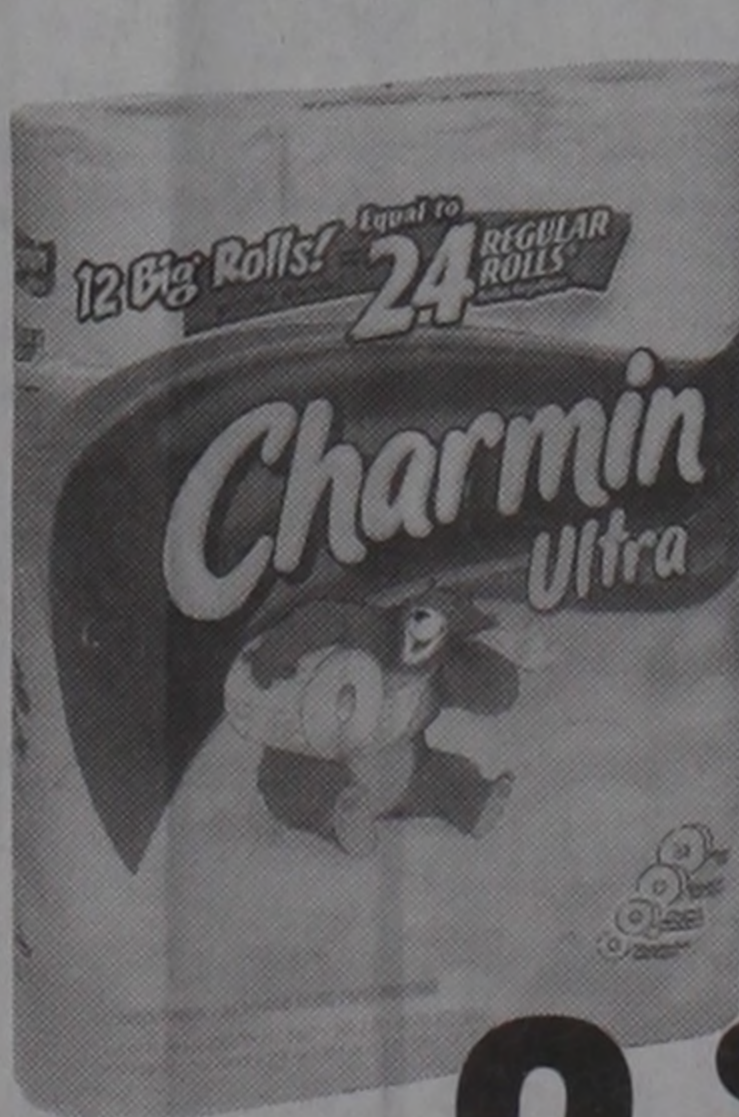
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For the Borboas, the Fourth of July Honors Family Traditions

By Diane Garcia

With eight mouths to feed, my mother stretched every dollar my dad gave her from his income as a Los Angeles postal employee.

I didn't realize until I was an adult how extravagant they were when it came to the Fourth of July, with mounds of home-fried chicken, potato salad and bottled soft drinks to go with family staples of arroz, frijoles and tortillas. We especially looked forward to the fireworks display in our La Puente neighborhood. It

included sparklers for every child.

Patriotism decorates each of my childhood recollections of my father, who at 80 still wears his baseball cap with the lettering "Peleliu Marine Corps" displayed on it.

As we were growing up, my father, ex-Marine Cpl. James A. Borboa, would sit us down in front of our black-and-white Sears console TV to watch nearly every movie depicting dramas of the gallant, horrific conflicts of WWII.

My dad was born in Arizona. His parents moved to East Los Angeles when he was an infant. After his 17th birthday, as World War II was raging, he kept begging his mother to sign his enlistment papers until she relented.

Still a teenager, in 1944 he fought in one of the last and bloodiest battles in the Pacific. It occurred on the island of Peleliu in Oceania, the Palau chain, a group of islands in the North Pacific Ocean, southeast of the Philippines, as General Douglas

MacArthur readied to retake the U.S. island territory that was invaded by the Japanese just hours after Pearl Harbor.

"Peleliu exists as a costly battle...with the highest casualty rate in terms of men and material of any amphibious assault in the war in the Pacific...The bravery of the American servicemen who fought there is beyond question," writes military historian Jeremy Gypton in "Proven Courage, Slight Reward."

My father's patriotic legacy has continued with his family. His son Jimo served two tours of duty as a Marine in Vietnam, retiring after 20 years of service. His daughter Darlene served in

the Army.

His grandchildren, Zachary Beerman and Kevin Ott, were Marines too. Kevin, now 26, was discharged in January following service in Afghanistan and Iraq. He attends a community college in Virginia with the assistance of the G.I. Bill and his disability award.

"My hopes were to have an opportunity to finish college. The deciding factor to join the Marines was that Tata and Tio Jimo had been successful," Kevin says. "Overall, I've improved in leadership and management skills, responsibility and teamwork through the camaraderie."

Kevin, explaining his new appreciation for the Fourth of July, says, "I was part of a group that did something that our forefathers did for us."

"Tata," as we affectionately called my dad's father, emigrated from Mexico at age 10, crossing with an older brother. He lived until he was 104. He never became a citizen, never had papers, spoke only Spanish and received Social Security benefits after he retired.

"In those days," my dad recalls, "Mexicans just came

over and worked; no questions were asked.

My father maintains that some people can't separate their disapproval of the War on Terror from their understanding of the notion of patriotism. "They don't know what freedom is. They never fought for freedom, so how can they know what a combat veteran feels?"

Nor is he hesitant to weigh in on the Washington debate over Iraq.

"Most senators and congressmen never were in military service, much less combat. How do they know what freedom is? If it wasn't for the 'greatest generation of our time,' we might all be speaking German or Japanese."

We, the spirits of patriotism, proudly adorn ourselves with the red, white and blue, bequeathed to us by the silent-fallen soldiers - since the birth of this nation.

To quote George Orwell: "People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

May we all continue to sleep peacefully in our beds.

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Para los Borboa, el Cuatro de Julio hace Honor a una Tradicion Familiar

Diane Garcia

Con ocho hijos que alimentar, mi madre exprimía cada dólar que mi papá le daba de su ingreso como empleado de correos de Los Angeles.

No me di cuenta sino hasta que fui adulta lo extravagantes que eran en cuanto al Cuatro de Julio, con montones de pollo frito casero, ensalada de papas y gaseosas en botella para acompañar a la vianda familiar de arroz, frijoles, y tortillas. Nos gustaba en especial ver los fuegos artificiales en nuestro barrio de La Puente, que incluía palos chisperos para todos los niños.

Cada recuerdo que tengo de mi padre viene decorado de patriotismo, quien a los 80 años aún lleva su gorra de béisbol con la seña bordada "Peleliu Marine Corps".

En lo que crecíamos, mi padre, anterior corporal de la Marina, James A. Borboa, nos sentaba frente a nuestra televisión blanco y negro de consola de Sears para ver prácticamente todas las películas dramáticas de los conflictos gallardos y horribos de la segunda guerra mundial.

Mi papá nació en Arizona y de bebé se mudó con sus padres a Los Angeles. Después de

cumplir los 17 años, en lo que bullía la segunda guerra mundial, le rogaba a su madre constantemente que firmara los documentos para alistarse, hasta que finalmente accedió.

En 1944, todavía adolescente, peleó en una de las últimas y más sangrientas batallas del Pacífico, en la isla de Peleliu, en Oceania, del archipiélago Palau, un conjunto de islas del Pacífico norte, al sureste de las Filipinas. En ese entonces el general Douglas MacArthur se preparaba a retomar el territorio isleño estadounidense que habían invadido los japoneses a sólo horas del ataque de Pearl Harbor.

"Peleliu existe como batalla costosa...con el mayor número de bajas en términos de soldados y materiales de ningún otro asalto anfíbio de la guerra en el Pacífico...La valentía de los soldados americanos quienes pelearon allí no se cuestiona en lo más mínimo", escribe historiador militar Jeremy Gypton, en "Proven Courage, Slight Reward" (Valentía comprobada, escasa recompensa).

El legajo patriótico de mi padre ha continuado con su familia. Su hijo Jimo sirvió dos

periodos como soldado de la Marina en Vietnam, jubilándose tras 20 años de servicio. Su hija Darlene sirvió en el ejército.

Sus nietos, Zachary Beerman y Kevin Ott, también sirvieron en la Marina. Kevin, de 26 años hoy, salió en enero después de servir en Afganistán y en Irak. Asiste a una universidad comunitaria en Virginia con apoyo financiero federal para los que han servido en las fuerzas militares (G.I. Bill en inglés) y su recompensa por discapacidad.

"Yo quería tener la oportunidad de terminar la universidad. El factor decisivo en alistarme a la fuerza marina fue que Tata y Tio Jimo habían tenido éxito", explica Kevin. "En total, he mejorado en términos de liderazgo y habilidades administrativas, responsabilidad y trabajo en equipo mediante la camaradería".

Kevin, explicando su aprecio por el Cuatro de Julio, dice, "Formé parte de un grupo que hizo algo que nuestros antepasados hicieron por nosotros".

"Tata", como llamamos cariñosamente al padre de mi papá, emigró de México a los 10 años, con un hermano mayor. Vivió hasta cumplir los 104 años. Nunca se hizo ciudadano, nunca

tuvo papeles, habló sólo español y recibió beneficios del Seguro Social cuando se jubiló.

"En aquel entonces", recuerda mi papá, "Los mexicanos simplemente venían y trabajaban; no se hacía preguntas".

Mi padre mantiene que algunas personas no saben separar su desaprobación de la Guerra sobre el Terror de su comprensión de la noción del patriotismo. "No saben lo que es la libertad. Nunca pelearon por la libertad, entonces, ¿cómo pueden saber lo que siente un veterano de combates?"

Tampoco se retrae de dar su opinión sobre el debate en Washington referente a Irak.

"La mayoría de los senadores y congresistas nunca hicieron servicio militar, mucho menos vieron combate. ¿Cómo saben ellos lo que es la libertad? Si no hubiera sido gracias a la "generación más grande de nuestros tiempos", podríamos estar todos hablando alemán o japonés".

Nosotros, los espíritus del patriotismo, orgullosamente nos adornamos de rojo, blanco y azul, lo que los soldados callados, caídos, nos han legado desde los albores de esta nación.

Citando a George Orwell, "La gente duerme tranquilamente en sus lechos de noche sólo porque hombres hoscos están alertas, dispuestos a incurrir en la violencia, por ellos".

Que todos sigamos durmiendo tranquilamente en nuestros lechos.

Culture, History, Education & Future

Pageant instills culture and promotes higher education

Young women from Lubbock County and the surrounding area are encouraged to submit applications to compete in the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant, held in conjunction with Lubbock's 16th of September celebration.

Single women of Hispanic or Latin decent, between the ages of 17 through 24-years-old, who are currently seniors in high school or enrolled in a college or university, are invited to experience an opportunity of a lifetime.

The 2006 pageant will be held Thursday, September 14, 2006 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater and will kick off a week of festivities in conjunction with



the 16th of September celebration. The community wide event allows Lubbock residents to embrace Mexican-American culture, and encourages community wide participation.

Interested individuals can request an online application at www.fiestasdelllano.org or by calling the Pageant Director:

Participants will be required to submit their completed applications and a \$150 entry fee at a mandatory contestant orientation, to be held Saturday, July 22, 2006, at 1:00 PM, in the College of Education, located on the Texas Tech campus. (between Boston Ave and Flint Ave on 18th Street)

For more information, please call Rosa Salazar, Pageant Chair/ Director, at (806) 793-0300.

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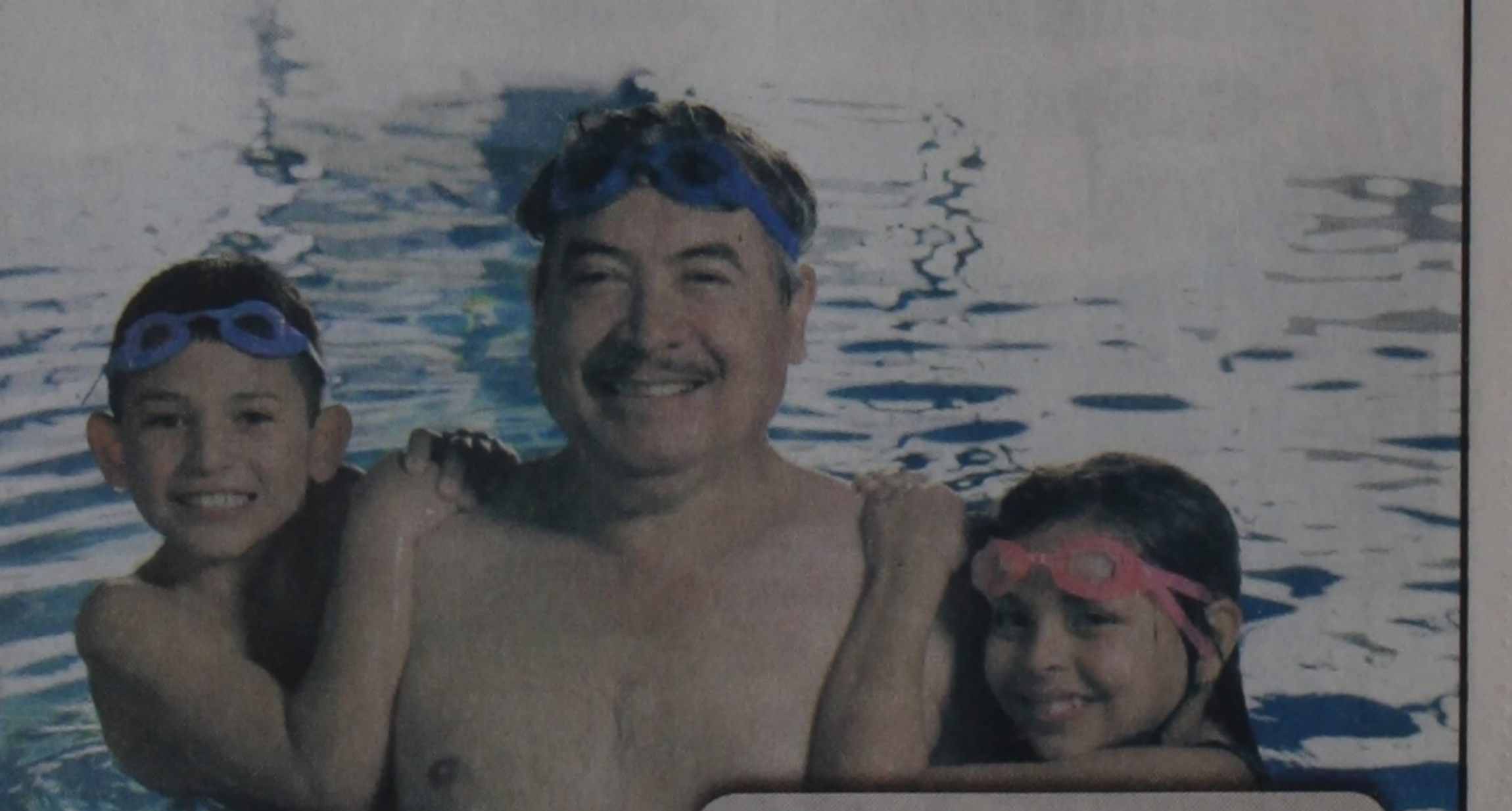
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Juan nunca se imaginó que tenía riesgo de sufrir una enfermedad cardiovascular. Hasta que una mañana, mientras nadaba, tuvo un ataque al corazón. Fue trasladado a Covenant Hospital y durante una hora, su corazón dejó de latir cuatro veces más. Cada vez, el equipo de cardiología de Covenant logró resucitarlo. Afortunadamente desde 1965, Covenant Heart Institute ha sido el líder de la región en tecnología y tratamiento de las enfermedades cardiovasculares. Covenant ofrece una serie comprensiva de servicios de investigación de alta tecnología como el escáner CT de 64 rajadas, el Centro de Dolor de Pecho y rehabilitación. Aún más importante, Covenant posee un personal apasionado y dedicado a que sus pacientes recuperen la salud. Mientras Juan estaba en cirugía, una enfermera de Covenant rezó con su esposa, y se mantuvo a su lado a pesar de que su turno ya había terminado. Gracias a la dedicación del personal de Covenant, Juan regresó a nadar dos meses más tarde. "Tuve dos cosas siempre a mi favor," él explica. "Los mejores médicos y enfermeras que un hombre puede pedir, y la mano de Dios."

Para hacer un cita y obtener tu examen del corazón GRATUITO, llama al 1.866.4COVENANT (1.866.426.8362). También te mandaremos absolutamente GRATIS nuestro Kit de Información para Mantener un Corazón Saludable.

Una mañana, mientras Juan nadaba, su corazón paro de latir.

Sin embargo, ahora su enfermedad cardiovascular está bajo control, y Juan tiene tiempo de sobra para compartir con sus nietos.



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Have A Nice Day!