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Sex Scandals and Secrets at West Texas State School

A classic case of who knew what; and whether they pretended not to know it

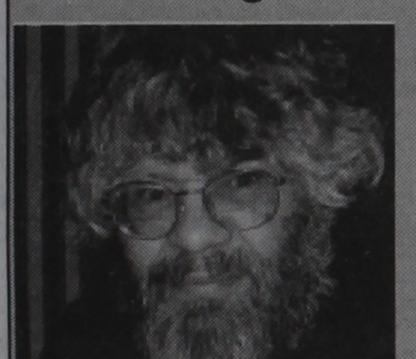
By Abel Cruz hances are, if you've traveled through the town of Pyote located about 17 miles from Monahans in West Texas, you've seen the sign directing visitors to the West Texas State School, a youth correctional and detention center under the authority of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC); the state agency charged with oversight of Texas' 13 juvenile correctional centers.

The commission "provides for the care, custody, rehabilitation and reestablishment in society of Texas' most chronically delinquent or serious juvenile offenders", according to the agency's web site. Included in the state system are 13 "secure institutions" like the one in Pyote and "9 residential halfway houses". Youth committed to a TYC institution are youth convicted of serious criminal offenses that rise to the level of a felony offense. The one major difference being that these acts were committed by youth at least 10 years of age but less than 17. TYC maintains jurisdiction over these youth until they reach the age of 21.

The large sprawling campus in Pyote may be unremarkable to the naked eye perhaps, but it's what has taken place behind the walls of the facility that has Texas Governor Rick Perry and other Texas legislators scrambling to find out if allegations of sexual abuse and other improprieties at the facility have been covered up. And more importantly; why nothing was ever done after an investigation uncovered a mountain of wrong doing and misdeeds by at least 2 top administrators.

It is a classic case of who knew what; when they knew it; and whether they pretended not to know it.

Comentarios de Bidal Agüero



This coming week again, we again poll L our readers to tell us their opinions on an important issue tat affect sour community. We have extended the deadline mainly because of Spring Break. Normally do this through emails but because of the importance of the issue this week we are printing the question in this column for the entire public to answer. We invite you send in your

Hispanic Pulse Question: past few weeks we have see our City fathers and leaders in our area travel to Austin and Washington D.C. to tell our legislators about what they say is our most dire needs. According to them those include energy, transportation and water.

Texas is currently has the worst teen age pregnancy rate in the nation. Texas currently has the 4th highest dropout rate. Twenty two percent of Lubbock residents live in poverty. Lubbock currently has the worst STD rate in the State. Children continue losing their health benefits with CHIP under current Texas law.

Do you think our City leaders should re-examine their priorities?

Send opinions to eleditor@sbcglobal.net **********

ne of our good friends at the Civic Center told us this past weekend while we were celebrating our Viva Aztlan that various phone calls were recieved at the Civic Center asking how come so many Mexicans were there dancing. The caller also stated that he was coing to call the immigration to come and check out everyone's papers.

To us and many that I mentioned it to, they expressessed little surprise that this would happen in Lubbock, on the Giant Side of Texas.

Those that did not attend this past week's activities missed an opportunity of a lifetime to see some of the most beautiful costumes and dancing that has ever come to Lubbock. Well there is always next year. By the way, I saw very few of my close friends from LULAC, the Chamber, Association of Women and other organizations attend. We could alsways blame spring break.

Our congratulations to the Ballet Folklorico Aztlan and Ballet Folklorico Nuestra Herencia for their awards during the Festival.

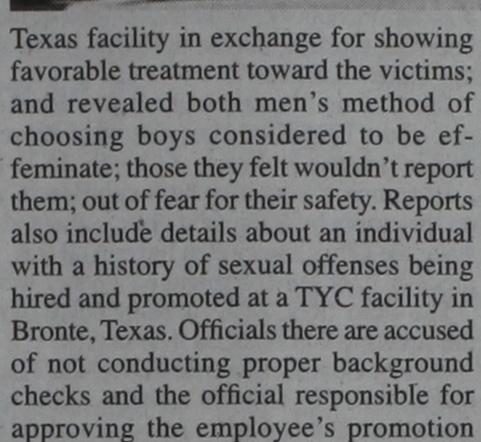
Cinco de Mayo will soon be here and plans are probably being made as we speak for differnet activities including Concerts. We hope that his year we mght see comeething culturally enriching for our young people to enjoy.

Efforts are also being made to make Cesar Chavez day national holiday. Ya era tiempo!

It's been two years since a Texas Ranger investigation concluded that at least two administrators, former principal John Paul Hernandez and former Assistant Superintendent Ray Brookins, sexually abused inmates at the facility in 2004.

And even though Texas Ranger Brian Burzynski, the Texas Ranger primarily responsible for the findings in the investigation, presented his findings to prosecutors at the "federal, state and local level", no one was ever charged or brought to trial to answer for what can only be described as despicable acts. In an emotional hearing before a special legislative committee, Ranger Burzynski "tearfully recounted his two year struggle to bring justice for the alleged victims..." He also lamented the fact that he had failed to bring justice to the many victims he had interviewed during his investigation and had assured that they would see justice served.

The reports from the investigation include victim's accounts alleging that both Brookins and Hernandez engaged in sexual acts with residents of the West



has admitted to not even looking at the individual's personnel file before approving the promotion.

And on Wednesday, March 14, a man by the name of Barry Ransberger, a former employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), which houses adult prisoners, was arrested in connection with charges that he had sexually assaulted an inmate at a TDCJ facility in Abilene in 2005; while an employee of the facility. But Ransberger quit when he found out that he was being investigated, he was then hired at a TYC facility in Brownwood, Texas; continuing the perception that at least some TYC employees are being hired without passing background checks or being hired despite having questionable work his-

As for former West Texas State School Assistant Superintendent, Ray Brookins, the Ranger investigation also found that he had a fondness for pornography when pornographic videos and other material were found during a search of his vehicle.

According to a story in the Texas Observer, "agency records showed that Brookins had performed oral sex on an 18 year old student; that he had watched another student masturbate; that he had inappropriately touched at least two other students; and that he had talked to students about sex toys, penis pumps, and masturbation". Hernandez's transgressions included late night encounters with students where he would feed them and show them movies in an effort to entice them.

Brookins resigned shortly after the investigation began and Hernandez resigned after he was informed that he would be terminated.

Last week, after reports surfaced in the Dallas Morning News and Texas Observer, the lid finally came off the whole sordid affair and Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Jay Kimbrough as Special Master to oversee an investigation into the reports of abuse and subsequent cover-up since 2005. In addition to Mr. Kimbrough, TYC board members unanimously selected Ed Owens as the commission's acting Executive Director to replace former Executive Director Dwight Harris, who was quoted in the Dallas Morning News as saying: "Quite frankly, it was a shock and a surprise to us that this could ever happen". The problem is that the Morn-

TYC investigation showed that a West Texas caseworker had addressed the issue to Mr. Harris at least 5 months before Ranger Burzynski's investigation. Those who know Mr. Owens praised him as a good choice and expressed confidence that he was the right person to act on whatever Mr. Kimbrough's investigation uncovered.

The Dallas Morning News reports that Mr. Kimbrough, has "moved swiftly, sending law enforcement agents to facilities across the state, opening investigations, running background checks on employees, and making plans for unannounced site visits". Kimbrough has also suspended the TYC's director of youth care investigations, Ray Worsham, over allegations that he had personally removed "damaging information from a report on sexual abuse at a West Texas juvenile prison".

For those who are wondering if there is a connection between the TYC system and the local juvenile center here in Lubbock; there is. One of the first stops for youth who get in trouble or violate the law, and who are too young to be assigned to an adult facility, is within the Texas juvenile justice system. Here in Lubbock, the facility is overseen by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and is totally separate from the TYC. The facility is located at 2025 N. Akron in north Lubbock. While some juvenile offenders manage to rehabilitate either through the services they are offered or by satisfactorily serving a probationary term, some youth are eventually committed to the TYC system after the case has been adjudicated.

(Continued Page 2)

ing News also reported that an internal Activistas pro inmigrantes presionan a legisladores_ Solicitan que se ponga alto a las redadas en el país

Maribel Hastings vistas e inmigrantes de todo el país inundaron Layer las oficinas de legisladores en el Congreso pidiendo una reforma migratoria amplia lo antes posible para evitar que, como el año pasado, dijeron, caiga víctima de la política electoral.

De momento, la estrategia legislativa para avanzar la reforma parece estar cambiando, pero se aseguró que es sólo para "agilizarla".

Pero los activistas dicen que hay

urgencia. "Estamos muy preocupados de que [la reforma] vuelva a caer en politiquería de candidatos, de poder. Nuestra comunidad está enfrentando una situación de crisis humanitaria que cada día es más seria", dijo a pregunta de La Opinión Ángela Sanbrano, directora del Centro de Recursos Centroamericanos de Los Ángeles (CARECEN), y presidenta de la junta directiva de la Asociación Nacional de Comunidades Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas (NALACC), al término de una rueda de prensa en el Congreso.

Los grupos solicitaron además una moratoria a las redadas y deportaciones y acudieron a dependencias del Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS) a condenar los efectos de los operativos: separación familiar y niños, muchos de ellos ciudadanos estadounidenses, dejados en el limbo.

Entre tanto, consideraciones de política electoral parecen influir en los esfuerzos que pretenden producir una ley que ambos partidos apoyen.

Ayer se indicó que las consultas continúan a todos los niveles pero para agilizar el proceso el senador demócrata de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, quien encabeza los esfuerzos en el Senado, ha optado, de momento, por proponer como base del debate el proyecto bipartidista que el Comité Judicial del Senado aprobó el año pasado.

Éste contemplaba una vía de legalización adquirida para millones de indocumentados -sin dividirlos en categorías-, un plan de trabajadores temporales, así como mecanismos de seguridad fronteriza y de verificación de elegibilidad de trabajadores, entre d'as

Aparentemente hay diferencias por asuntos "técnicos" con el senador republicano de Arizona, John McCain, aspirante a la nominación presidencial de su partido en 2008. Varios republicanos

que el año pasado apoyaron el proyecto integral se que jaron de que este año los estaban dejando fuera de las negociaciones.

De ahí que Kennedy opte por presentar un proyecto que el panel Judicial avanzó con el apoyo de cuatro senadores republicanos, incluyendo algunos de los que ahora se quejan de haber quedado fuera de las negociaciones, como Sam Brownback, de Kansas, quien, por cierto, también aspira a la nominación

presidencial republicana. Por su parte, los congresistas Luis Gutiérrez, demócrata de Illinois, y Jeff Flake, republicano de Arizona, negocian entre sí un proyecto de más de 700 páginas que, hasta ahora, se presentaría de forma independiente y no al mismo tiempo que el Senado, como se esperaba.

Sanbrano declaró que están conscientes de que "el ambiente político está muy complejo", pero que no por eso van a aceptar cualquier cosa que se les proponga.

Agregó: "Desde mi punto de vista, los demócratas y los republicanos se están echando la pelota unos a otros".

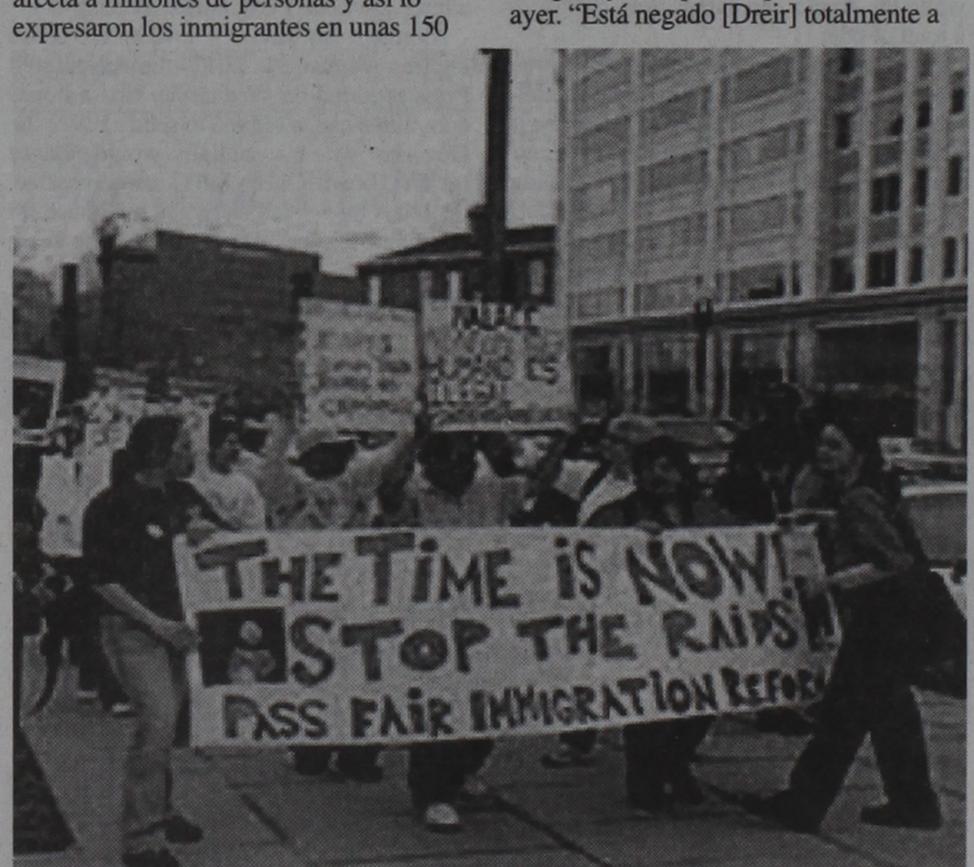
Los demócratas, ahora en mayoría, dicen que para aprobar cualquier medida necesitan de 20 republicanos en el Senado y de 40 a 50 republicanos en la Cámara Baja. Y los republicanos acusan a los demócratas de querer otorgar amnistías, mientras la Casa Blanca dice que apoya la reforma integral y negocia con aliados republicanos del Congreso un lenguaje que garantice votos republicanos.

"Ya empezó la campaña presidencial de 2008 y ahorita [los demócratas] se están posicionando para mantener las dos cámaras y ganar la presidencia. No quieren tomar temas candentes que los lleven a un debate donde hay mucha controversia", opinó Sanbrano.

Pero recordó que en 2006 los hispanos votaron por un cambio "y sabemos quiénes están con nosotros y quiénes no... y si los demócratas quieren demostrar que nos están apoyando, tienen que hacer cosas concretas para ganarse nuestro voto".

Mientras el Congreso pondera estrategias, la falta de una reforma amplia afecta a millones de personas y así lo

representa el congresista republicano David Dreir, opuesto al plan de reforma integral, y con quien esperaba reunirse



oficinas del Congreso.

Berenice, una joven de 15 años de edad de Los Ángeles, llegó a California cuando tenía año y medio. "No vine... Me trajeron", indicó, y como millones de alumnos indocumentados, quiere que la llamada DREAM Act se haga realidad. "Queremos educación, no deportación", declaró.

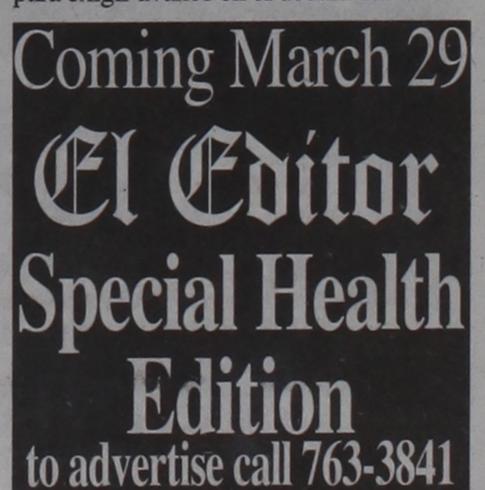
También de Los Ángeles, David Ceja, el joven de 17 años y ciudadano estadounidense cuya madre está presa en Texas en espera de ser deportada a México, presentó su caso, el de tres de sus hermanos y los de más de 400 niños en situaciones similares a través de cartas a los legisladores.

Al concluir su visita a la capital dijo que "no es justo lo que están haciendo con las familias porque las están separando", pero declaró que regresa "con más esperanza" de que haya una resolución.

Eso espera Ana González, quien vino desde Claremont, en el distrito que

todo lo que sea una reforma migratoria y está muy a favor del muro", indicó la activista.

Decenas de miembros del Movimiento por una Reforma Migratoria Igualitaria se dieron cita ayer en las oficinas del Congreso de EU, en Washington, D.C., para exigir avance en el debate del tema.



El Editor, Week of March 15 - 21, 2007

Do You Believe in Wizards?

By Abel Cruz

To borrow a line from Dorothy in the classic, The Wizard of Oz; "we sure aren't in small town Lubbock anymore Toto"!

From where I sit, all signs point to at least one certainty: Lubbock has gone from small West Texas town with a big city feel to one of those cities we used to read about and make fun of just a few years ago. "That doesn't happen here", someone would always say. "That only happens in big cities like Dallas or Houston".

Well, guess what? In a matter of a few years, we've managed to become one of those cities that we used to criticize because of their high crime rates and other "big city problems" which at the time didn't exist here.

In many ways, our little "model city on the llano" is quickly surpassing other larger cities in different parts of the country in several categories.

For instance, increased crime; I'm talking major crime like murders and kidnappings. Public safety issues without the necessary revenue to hire law enforcement personnel; increased traffic problems; city infrastructure deterioration resulting from increased vehicle traffic and increased population growth; water shortages; revenue shortages; property tax increases; increased neighborhood blight, neighborhood crime and neighborhood deterioration; environmental issues; and the list goes on and on.

Feel free to add the things that I've missed.

For the past few years, the people who have been in charge of managing this city have been enamored with unbridled economic development which has led to non-stop building; but it has also resulted in a drain on city resources. It has also led to taxpayers being over taxed and overcharged for city services. And it's still not enough.

Add to that the annexation of areas to accommodate the growth which has created a need for additional city services; then add to that a propensity by some in city government to always want to go to the "proverbial taxpayer well" to pay for those services instead of doing more with less, and well, you get the picture.

Sooner or later the well is going to run dry. Sooner or later, something's got to give. Who knows, we might even have our own "taxpayer's revolt" one of these days; you know like the ones that only happen in big cities.

You would think that commercial growth which has produced 2 super Wal-Mart's and a super Target and an endless stream of new commercial developments; new housing and rental units which have been hailed as economic windfalls would have paid off a little bit by now? Apparently it hasn't, since the city finds itself smack dab in the middle of a hiring freeze courtesy of our city manger; dependent on the revenue from red light cameras to hire more police officers. At least that's the latest shoe to drop at city hall.

Somehow, I cannot wrap my brain around the fact that we have had so much growth yet find ourselves in a position where we don't have the money to pay for increased police protection.

Perhaps we could call on the criminals who are robbing the stores and banks and assaulting women in their homes, to take some time off until we find enough money to hire police officers to catch them? Sounds absurd I know; about as absurd as budgeting to pay for new police officers with revenue from red light cameras instead of prioritizing and paying for those officers with taxpayer dollars. Isn't public safety what taxpayers pay for and want in the first place; before just about anything else!?*!?

OK, I'll calm down now... I mean LEDA alone has given out thousands upon thousands of our sales tax dollars as incentives for companies to either move their operation here or create new jobs. When is that supposed to start

paying off for us? Where are all the benefits we were supposed to derive from projects like the North Overton Redevelopment; from the countless other construction projects in the development itself? What happened?

Actually, TIF happened, but that's a story for another day. But let's take the North Overton project. On paper, it looked like a grand plan which would eliminate the blight and crime that was running rampant in the area previously known as the "Tech Ghetto". And it did; the problem is where did that crime element go to? Did it disappear all together? No. It

just migrated to other areas of town and now those other areas are becoming the new "Tech Ghettos" Did anyone plan for that? Another result from the progress we've experienced is an increase in traffic. Increased traffic begets

more drivers trying to get to their destination faster; which begets more red light runners; which begets a need for more police officers; and viola; some people down at city hall suddenly develop an affinity for red light cameras. Another example: economic development begets population growth; which begets increased water

usage; which begets water shortages; which begets city ordinances limiting water usage; which begets yearly increases in water rates; which ultimately leads to increased taxes or bond elections to buy more water resources.

Which leads me to wonder why we continue to want more economic development and grand hotels to attract people here if we don't even have enough water for those of us who already live here? What are they going to drink?

And we haven't even gotten into what it's doing to our city infrastructure yet! It's a never ending cycle. And unfortunately, it's the large corporations and developers that profit

most; while the tax burden is shifted to poor blokes like you and me. Hey, but look at it this way, if things work out like the Lubbock Entertainment and Arts Facilities

Task Force want them to, we could soon have an additional \$200 million dollars worth of entertainment and arts facilities.

Oh yeah, shiny new Civic Center, new baseball park, new performing arts centers, and a new Equestrian facility where I can ride my stick horse to my heart's content.

Oh yeah, it's the next grand plan which is supposed to revitalize this city's entertainment facilities and breathe new life back into downtown Lubbock.

But don't worry, the Mayor said in the last council meeting that "We won't move forward without additional citizen input. This is your town and it should be your decision".

Yeah, and I still believe in the "Wizard of Oz".

email: acruztsc@aol.com Sex Scandals in West Texas School from Page

In 2003 for example, TJPC records show that 2,519 individuals went from the Texas juvenile system into the TYC system. A breakdown of the numbers reveals that the largest number of youth committed were of Hispanic descent; 1,058 or 42% of the total. African Americans made up 31.3% or 788, while the Anglo percentage was 26.1% for a total of 658.

El Editor attempted to contact Les Brown, department head for the Lubbock juvenile facility but we did not receive a response to our email. For now, one would have to conclude that there exists a possibility that some youths previously housed at the North Lubbock facility may have ended up committed to a TYC correctional center. Perhaps, even to the West Texas facility in Pyote?

Ironically, part of the "Guiding Principles" statement on the Texas Youth Commission web site says that "TYC will protect the fundamental rights of youth". After reading

the investigative reports, one could easily surmise that the agency charged i with making sure that the rights of incarcerated youth are protected have failed to fulfill their mission; at least in this instance.

At the same special legislative hearing last week, the committee took a vote of no confidence in the TYC Board of Directors. Prior to that, board members had refused the legislator's requests that the entire board resign immediately. State Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Lufkin went so far as to charge that board members were part of the problem and is quoted as saying, "The system is broken. You're part of the broken system"; and asking board members how they slept at night.

But at least one TYC board member seems to disagree with State Representative McReynolds.

Dr. Juan Munoz, Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity

and Associate Vice Provost for Academic Development at Texas Tech University and board member of the Texas Youth Commission since his appointment by Governor Rick Perry in April of 2006 is: "very supportive of the Special Master, Jay Kimbrough; appointed by the Governor".

In a response to an email from El Editor,

Dr. Munoz further stated that he is "confident that the steps currently being taken at the agency will lead to substantive and sustained positive change".

Dr. Munoz also pointed out that he "was not a board member when the events currently being investigated transpired (and) did not attend last week's committee meeting".

Although Dr. Munoz's term on the board expires August 31, 2011, the Associated Press reported on Wednesday that a house committee had voted 6-0 to send a bill to the Governor which essentially would replace the TYC board. Once a bill clears committee, the bill is then voted on by the full house. At this point chances of the bill passing seem fairly strong; considering the fact that some Texas legislators blame TYC board members for the whole affair; or at least for not taking care of the situation.

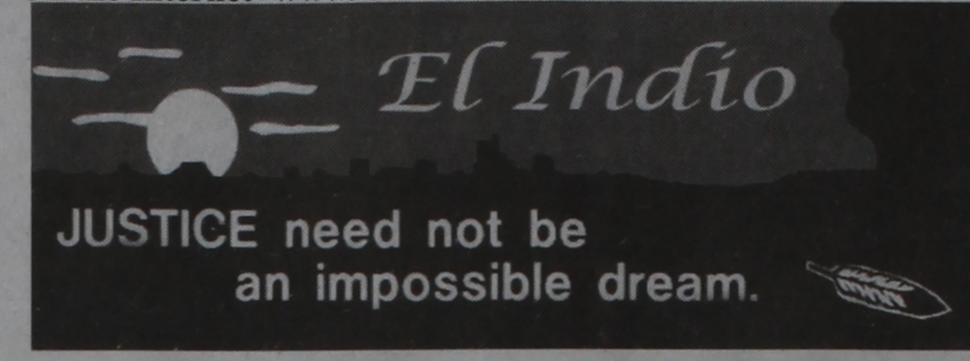
For the sake of the hundreds of youth that are incarcerated at the 13 state institutions



and other contracted facilities overseen by the Texas Youth Commission; and the youth which inevitably will one day follow in their footsteps; one can only hope that Dr. Munoz's confidence in the ongoing investigation will prove to be justified.

Email: acruztsc@aol.com

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com



"They Paved Paradise, and Put Up a Parking Lot."

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

"Don't it always seem to go; That you don't know what you've got Till it's gone; They paved paradise; and put up a parking lot." Joni Mitchell, "Big Yellow Taxi" The City Council has struck again! Can you believe it? Yet another successful business is to be dismantled....a Chicano business, at that....and yet another boondoggle perpetrated, at the expense of the taxpayers. Remember....when we say "taxpayers", that is YOU and ME....make no mistake!

The latest outrage.....this one with racial overtones.....is directed at the South Beach nightclub on Buddy Holly Avenue, a popular venue with the Latino and student communities. A few weeks ago, LINDA DeLEON, our NON-REPRESENTATIVE on the City Council, announced the scheme at a Hispanic Agenda meeting.....and the proposal has snowballed since then. It seems that the City bureaucrats have cooked up a "Visitor's Center" for the site.....at the cost of some 1.5 million dollars.

All of this is rather odd, considering that the property is across the street from the Depot building, which once housed a successful restaurant/bar, and now houses the "Buddy Holly Center", a museum facility. This writer has been told that the Center is underutilized, and would be a natural fit for a "Visitor's Center".

Just a few weeks ago, this writer toured the Visitor's Center in Roswell, near my property in New Mexico....this Center was a small but effective building located in downtown Roswell....perfectly adequate for the tourism which has boomed in Roswell since it has become UFO Central, a pilgrimage point for UFO and conspiracy theorists. Lubbock, without the draw of the UFO controversy, might hope for booming tourism, but the flood has yet to appear. The new "Center" is to be funded by the "hotel-motel tax"

The City non-leaders will tell you that the "hotel-motel tax" doesn't affect the rest of us.....but IT DOES.....because when those rooms sit vacant, the slack is taken up by the tax revenue.

Of course, if you drive by South Beach, you shall notice the McDougal Realty sign on the empty building next door....there you go again! It all makes you wonder what stake the City Councilmen have in all this, and whose agendas are being stroked in the process....or greased might be a better word!

The word "RECALL" is being heard more and more in the neighborhoods and on the streets of Lubbock, as it should.

County Commissioner YSIDRO GUTIERREZ spoke out against the South Beach outrage at a City Council meeting....but no other "minority" non-representatives have joined him at this date.....I wish we could clone YSIDRO, our only voice in public office!

Channel 34 just reported that the historic A.B. DAVIS house, located at the corner of Main Street and Avenue R, is to be moved five blocks south. This outrage is one of the final assaults on the Overton North neighborhood to be perpetrated by the McDOUGAL family....and Lubbock folks must ask, how much more? How much more of Lubbock's history is going to be destroyed by one family, with the City in collusion?

First, the historic Lindsey Theatre was torn down....to be replaced by.....you got it....a parking lot. When the Downtown Revitalization meeting a few weeks ago proposed building a new movie theatre downtown, Channel 34's JEFF KLOTZMAN said, "We used to have a movie theatre downtown....the Lindsey!"

Now we hear that the Cactus Theatre might be relocated as well.....why? How much can the overburdened taxpayers take??? Maybe an additional \$100 on the water bill? Thirteen years ago, this writer spoke against the destruction of the Treasure Island Golf Course....and 100 beautiful trees....before a City Council meeting, and the 26 August 1994 edition of The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal quoted me as saying:

'Parking lots are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree." My revision of Joyce Kilmer's famous poem "Trees" seemed to fit the situation perfectly! I also could have quoted Joni Mitchell, who wrote in "Big Yellow Taxi": "Don't it always seem to go; That you don't know what you've got Till it's gone; They paved

paradise; And put up a parking lot." While I am pleased that this splendid house is going to be preserved, I would be the first to say, "But it isn't where it was, where it became historic." Right across the street from the El Editor office, we can sit on the porch and see another "relocation"..... the historic Lane Hardwicke house which once sat at 9th and Avenue X has been

"relocated" and as a result has lost much of its historic significance. Lubbock apparently won't miss what it has until it's gone....but must we be condemned to repeat our history [or lack of it] over and over? Why is the Lubbock

power structure so beholden to the McDougals? Why is it considered dangerous to speak out against them and their schemes? We may only speculate about the reasons why the City of Lubbock is doing all

this.....but the damage that is being done is going to last for a long, long time. "Parking lots are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree." Roger Settler

RQSettler@aol.com EagleSpeakerTPR@aol.com

A Change of Heart on Guest Workers

By Janet Murguía

After President Bush highlighted the need for a temporary-worker program as part of a larger immigration reform in his State of the Union address, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) compared the president's proposal to slavery. Rangel is right to be concerned. Our nation's history with such programs has been dreadful.

Many Latinos still have searing memories of the infamous bracero program, which more than 50 years ago became synonymous with worker abuse. The current guest-worker programs for agriculture and other "non-skilled" labor are not much better. Experience tells us that there is good reason to be concerned that a new worker visa program could repeat these mistakes, creating a permanent, sizable subclass of workers who endure harsh treatment while simultaneously undercutting their American co-workers.

Despite these concerns, after decades of strongly opposing temporary-worker programs for the very reasons that Rangel articulates, my organization and many Latino leaders find ourselves in the interesting position of being principal advocates for a significant new worker visa program as part of comprehensive immigration reform. Some think we got here as the result of

some devil's bargain with our allies among business leaders: They get a new worker program, and we get a path to citizenship for undocumented workers. Not so. We have concluded that a new legal pathway for the future flow of immigrant workers to the United States is the safest, most reasonable path for immigrant workers, for their co-workers in this country, and for a nation hungry for order and control at the border. We share that hunger. Latinos know that

even if we pass immigration reforms that include a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who work, pay taxes and otherwise contribute to the United States, we will have failed to fix our nation's broken immigration system unless we do what previous reforms did not: Acknowledge that there will continue to be a flow across the border and that we will do everything we can to control and regulate it.

If this year's immigration debate accomplishes what the debate in 1986 did -- marry a legalization program with additional enforcement without addressing the future flow of migrants - we will have addressed the symptoms of our broken system without repairing

it. The cost of this mistake will be enormous: a continued death toll at the border; a sizable flow of undocumented workers who come to this country under harsher conditions; increased harassment of and discrimination against Hispanic Americans often mistaken for immigrants; and exacerbated public frustration that the immigration issue is still not under control.

But we do not have to repeat past mistakes. The immigration reform bill the Senate passed last year contains a much different model of a worker visa program than the unjust model we have lived with for decades. Workers would not be at the mercy of abusive employers in that they could change jobs and alert the authorities to mistreatment. Rather than becoming a permanent second-class workforce, they would have the opportunity to earn a path to permanent status - and ultimately citizenship - as one of the only classes of migrants able to petition for themselves rather than relying on an employer or relative to petition for them. There are important labor protections for immigrant workers as well as for their American co-workers, including a requirement that immigrant workers be paid the prevailing wage in an industry to avoid undercutting the wages of American workers employed there. The 110th Congress has an opportunity to build from this strong start and do even better.

We are deeply aware of the risks of going down this path in the immigration reform debate, including accusations that we are selling out one group of immigrant workers to help another. But our critics offer no practical solutions for the flow of migrants that will surely continue or for the abuses these workers will face if they survive the trip across the border. We owe it to migrants, as well as to the nation that their hard work will sustain, to shape a new path for migration that is legal, safe and endowed with protections for immigrant and American workers alike. The writer is president and chief executive

of the National Council of La Raza.

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Data Shows Texas Tech Spent \$2,820,000 Lobbying Congress Since 1998, Little-Known Loophole in New Congressional Gift Ban Allows Free Tickets From Taxpayer-Funded Lobbyists

The national free-market grassroots group Americans for Prosperity today released a letter urging Texas Tech President Jon Whitmore to declare publicly that the school will not provide free NCAA Basketball Tournament tickets to any Members of Congress or Congressional staffers in violation of the spirit of recently approved ethics reform legislation.

On Jan. 5, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted H. Res. 6, which included strict new ethics guidelines, including a ban on almost all gifts from registered lobbyists. Specifically, Section 203 of the resolution stipulates: "A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may not knowingly accept a gift from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs registered lobbyists."

However, H. Res. 6 preserves a curious loophole that exempts gifts from lobbyists paid for by state or local governments. In those situations, there is absolutely no monetary limit on the gifts that can be accepted. This exemption allows lobbyists for entities like public universities and city governments to ignore the new gift ban and attempt to unfairly influence Members of Congress and their staff with free courtside or luxury skybox tickets to sold-out sporting events like the Final Four or the Rose Bowl.

While this kind of unlimited gift-giving is considered completely unethical or even illegal if it is done by lobbyists representing private companies or not-for-profit groups like Americans for Prosperity, for some reason it is considered perfectly legal when it is done by taxpayer-funded government lobbyists, who are usually lobbying for additional federal funding at the expense of the taxpayer. That's the real March Madness, said AFP's President, Tim Phillips.

"I am writing to urge you to publicly declare that your institution will not provide free NCAA Tournament tickets to any U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, or any Congressional staffers through this giftban loophole for government lobbyists," Phillips wrote in his letter to Whitmore. also respectfully request that you contact the U.S. Representatives from your state and encourage them to support and co-sponsor legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Flake (6th Dist. - Ariz.) that would close this unfair loophole."

Lobbying by higher education institutions has exploded in recent years to as much as \$75 million, as has the number and expense of academic pork-barrel earmarks. This year's Tournament will include teams representing public universities like defending national champion University of Florida, which received \$2 million in 2005 for "facilities" and equipment for an animal facility," and to Texas A&M, which received \$1 million in 2006 for a "Renewable Energy Animal Waste Project."

Americans for Prosperity Foundation's "Ending Earmarks Express" road tour traveled more than 10,000 miles visiting the sites of 50 egregious pork-barrel projects in 37 states last year, including many public universities. Questionable academic earmarks highlighted by the Ending Earmarks Express included \$300,000 to map the catfish genome at Auburn University, \$500,000 to study how to eliminate wasteful federal spending at the University of Akron and \$1.7 million to the University of Missouri to research the cultivation of shiitake mushrooms.

NOTE: For more information, including a ranking of every school in the Tournament according to how much money they've spent lobbying Congress in recent years, visit: www.TheRealMarchMadness.com http://

www.therealmarchmadness.com/>. A Line in the Sand

Fed-up Texans by the hundreds descended on the Capitol in Austin, March 1st to voice their disapproval of the Trans Texas Corridor (TTC). About one hundred citizens signed up to speak a at the hearing while hundreds more submitted written comments. "We want a do-over, I think it's fair to say that many legislators who voted for this legislation in the past would like a do-over as well," said Sen. John Carona, R- Dallas. Carona is the chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. "I would like to see [the Texas Department of Transportation] slow down considerably to let us vet this more," said Carona. "My hope is that TxDOT will agree to a moratorium," he continued. Members of the public used their three-minute presentations to excoriate Governor Perry's grand plan to pave their farms and ranches for a road that many believe will only benefit the state and its elitist business partners. Legislators are belatedly trying to correct their errors in judgment from past sessions by offering a number of legislative fixes, including HB 857 that repeals the authority for the TTC and HB 962 and SB 165 that provides increases to the state gas tax. Texans hope their "line in the sand" will put a spoke in the TTC's wheels long enough to bring the project to a halt.

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Texas House votes to block Perry's HPV mandate

The Texas House sent Gov. Rick Perry a stinging rebuke Tuesday, overwhelmingly approving a measure that would reverse his order requiring schoolgirls be

vaccinated against a cancer-causing sexually transmitted disease.

"The Legislature should be the one to make the decision,"

said state Rep. Pat Haggerty, R-El Paso. "É This is not something that should be done by gubernatorial fiat."

With a 119-21 vote after about three hours of debate, the House passed a bill that would prohibit the state health commissioner from mandating that girls receive the human papillomavirus vaccine before attending school.

Perry angered lawmakers Feb. 2 when he issued an executive order requiring that girls ages 11 and 12 receive the inoculation before being admitted to the sixth grade.

He stood by his order Tuesday, saying that mandating the vaccine would protect 95 percent of Texas women against the HPV strains

> that cause cervical cancer.

"Gov. Perry will always stand on the side of protecting life," Perry

spokeswoman Krista Moody said. In the wake of Perry's order, legislators filed bills that would prevent the measure from taking effect and asked Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott whether Perry had authority to enforce the mandate.

Monday, Abbott, in an informal opinion, told lawmakers Perry's order was simply an advisory measure without the weight of law that would not force the state health commissioner to require the HPV shots.

. In addition to concerns over

Perry's end-run around lawmakers, legislators have worried that the mandate usurps parents' rights, that the drug could have negative long-term side effects and that the cost of the drug is too high.

"We do not warrant a mandate of a vaccine we do not know all the facts about," said state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, who sponsored the bill.

Some legislators, though, agreed that mandating the vaccine could save thousands of women from getting cervical cancer or developing cancer cells that lead to cancer.

Without the

mandate, state

Rep. Jessica Far-

rar, D-Houston, said girls - especially from minority communities

and in low-income households - might not have access to the drug that could potentially save

a crecientes redadas migratorias

que separan familias. El nuevo

movimiento "santuario" que

será lanzado públicamente en

fecha próxima sería semejante al

practicado por las Iglesias de las

entidades fronterizas de Estados

cuando los templos sirvieron de

albergue a refugiados centroamer-

"Los cristianos lucharemos

para prevenir que las familias

sean divididas", explicó Alexia

Salvatierra, directora ejecutiva de

Clérigos y Laicos Unidos por Jus-

ticia Económica (CLUE, por su

congrega a iglesias de diversos

CLUE promueve el nuevo

coalición de diversos credos y

a responder en forma activa y

pública a serias injusticias que

en la actualidad sufren nuestros

hermanos indocumentados que

está en su fase final de prepara-

ción y será dado a conocer en fe-

cha próxima en forma simultánea

Salvatierra informó que en el

AVISO PUBLICO

ACLARACIÓN BREVE DE LA

ENMIENDA

CONSTITUCIONAL

elección especial del

12 MAY DE 2007

PROPUESTA 1

(Resolución Senatorial Conjunta 13)

La Resolución Senatorial Conjunta

(S.J.R) Núm.13 serviría para

enmendar la Constitución a fin de

autorizar que la legislatura ajuste el

impuesto al valor a las escuelas

públicas o las tasas tributarias

correspondientes a contribuyentes

que tengan 65 o más años de edad

o que estén discapacitados y que

sean dueños de un hogar residencial

exento de dichos impuestos. De esa

manera la enmienda permitiria que

la legislatura conceda una

desgravación a consecuencia de la

reducción de tasas tributarias

promulgada por la 79 Legislatura

La enmienda que se propone

aparecería en la boleta de votación

en los siguientes términos:

"Enmienda constitucional que

autoriza a la legislatura para

disponer la reducción del monto

total de impuestos al valor que,

siendo para fines de las escuelas

públicas, puedan establecerse

sobre los hogares residenciales de

ancianos o discapacitados, de modo

que se refleje cualquier reducción

de la tasa tributaria correspondiente

a los ejercicios fiscales de 2006 y

Publicado por Roger Williams, Secre-

tario de Estado de Texas.

2007".

en su tercera sesión convocada.

a lo largo del país con múltiples

El lanzamiento del movimiento

Estados Unidos".

conferencias de prensa.

movimiento santuario como "una

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Unidos durante los años 80,

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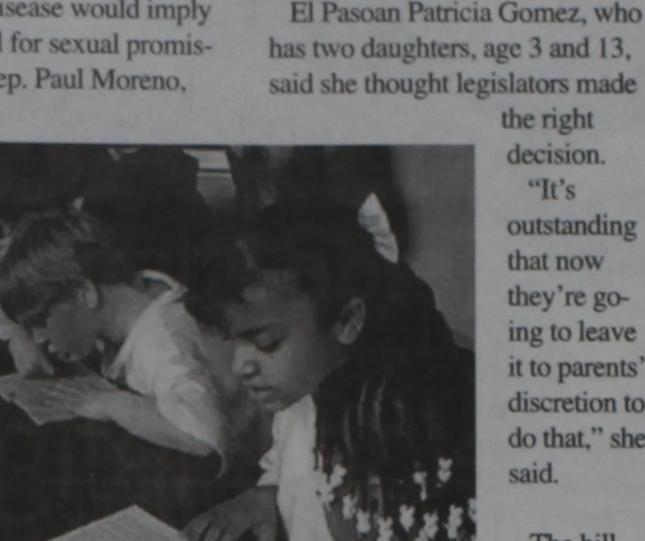
credos.

residen en

them from cancer.

"This issue has been highly politicized and the science and the benefits of the vaccine have been put on the back burner," Farrar

While some argue vaccinating young girls against sexually transmitted disease would imply tacit approval for sexual promiscuity, state Rep. Paul Moreno,



Serán iglesias de EU "santuario" de inmigrantes perseguidos

D-El Paso, said it was more about protecting them.

"We're trying to prevent dis-

State Rep. Norma Chávez, D-El Paso, said preventing HPV is an important health issue that will have to be addressed, but that she disapproved of Perry's mandate.

ease," he said.

"This conversation is far from over," she said.

El Pasoan Patricia Gomez, who has two daughters, age 3 and 13,

the right decision.

"It's outstanding that now they're going to leave it to parents' discretion to do that," she said.

The bill still must pass the Texas Senate, where it also has strong sup-

port. Perry could veto the bill, though he has not said whether he will do so.

in Gonzales U.S. President George Bush

Confidence

Wednesday said he is "not happy" about the way a number of federal prosecutors were fired by the U.S. Justice Department.

Bush, in an exchange with reporters in Merida, Mexico, said he still has confidence in Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and has asked him to go to Capitol Hill to explain to Congress why certain decisions were made.

Gonzales has been under fire for the dismissals of eight U.S. attorneys, but vowed he will not resign over the controversy. Former White House counsel Harriet Miers suggested all 93 U.S. attorneys be replaced at the start of Bush's second term. but the suggestion was deemed impractical.

"Mistakes were made," Bush said. "And I'm, frankly, not happy about it, because there is a lot of confusion over what really has been a customary practice by the presidents. U.S. attorneys and others serve at the pleasure of the president. Past administrations have removed U.S. attorneys. They're right to do so."

Hispanic Caucus dispute comes just as group poised for influence

Rep. Raul Grijalva says he feels like he's been in a "telenovela" - a steamy Spanish-language soap opera - as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrestles with a nasty power struggle, complete with accusations of name-calling.

The group has squandered time

on a "circus," the Arizona Democrat laments, and must "get back to the business we were elected to do."

Grijalva's frustration is shared by other Latino lawmakers and advocates as infighting has snarled the 21-member, all-Democratic group just as its power should be at its peak. Democrats finally are in control of Congress, the caucus represents the nation's fastest-growing minority group, immigration reform is a national

priority and many individual Hispanic lawmakers have risen to key leadership posts. Yet the focus has been on Rep. Loretta Sanchez quitting the caucus and accusing fellow Southern California Democrat Joe Baca, the group's chairman, of calling her a "whore."

Still, some analysts see the struggle as evidence that members now have real power to fight over. Most contend that the dispute will prove a temporary distraction as the caucus, which started in 1976 with five members, expands along with the growth of the Hispanic community.

"There's some growing pains that you're seeing here, but I think it's all, in the end, going to be a positive outcome and positive for the Hispanic community," Janet Murguia, president of the National Council for La Raza, said Monday. "With them having been so long in the minority ... I think they've kind of been out of practice in leveraging their voice."

Latinos now comprise nearly 15 percent of the U.S. population, though they accounted for only about 8 percent of the electorate in the 2004 presidential election, according to exit polls. Many are non-citizens, making them ineligible to vote.

There are 23 Hispanics in the 435-member House, according to the House clerk's office, a count that includes three Republicans from Florida who aren't in the Hispanic Caucus but excludes three lawmakers of Portuguese descent, including two Democratic caucus members. In the Senate there are three Hispanics.

The Hispanic Caucus was formed by late Democratic Rep. Edward Roybal of Los Angeles to give Latino lawmakers a voice in the model of the Congressional Black Caucus, which was founded in 1969 and now has 43

members. The Hispanic Caucus jumped in size when congressional districts were redrawn after each Census, more than doubling to about 12 members in 1982 and growing to 19 members in 1992, according to National Council of La Raza. Analysts expect more

> growth after the 2010 census.

Members include Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, chairwoman of the House

Small Business Committee, and others near the top of committees and in the House Democratic leadership.

Republicans were part of the group at one time but left in the mid-1990s in a dispute over Cuba.

"There's been personality conflicts within the caucus ever since the beginning," said Harry Pachon, Roybal's chief of staff in the late 1970s and now president of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California. "The big difference this time is they've gone public with it."

The most recent dispute has been undeniably public, and colorful, partly because of the personalities involved.

Loretta Sanchez, whose sister Rep. Linda Sanchez is also a Democratic House member from Southern California, has figured in her share of political dramas. During the 2000 Democratic convention in Los Angeles she planned a fundraiser at the Playboy Mansion, moving it only after criticism from party leaders.

Baca, who represents a working-class inland Southern California district, is known for winning a congressional chili-eating contest by eating a reported 47 chili peppers and has repeatedly introduced legislation to award golfer Tiger Woods a congressional gold medal. He was supported by only one of six women in the caucus when he was elected in November, and critics complain of an autocratic leadership style.

Baca denies calling Sanchez a whore. She says she won't rejoin the caucus as long as he remains chairman. He insists he won't step aside or share power, but after surviving a confidence vote last week agreed to accept some changes to how the caucus is run, including less emphasis on seniority.

Those changes are to be taken up Thursday, but there's no guarantee they'll do more than paper over the dispute. Some of Baca's critics, such as Reps. Hilda L. Solis and Dennis Cardoza of California, have stayed away from recent meetings and say they can be effective in Congress apart from the caucus.

Iglesias de distintas denomimovimiento participan líderes religiosos de diversas denominaciones en Estados Unidos se aprestan a servir de "santuario" naciones, incluyendo a la Iglesia Católica, Luterana, Metodista, a inmigrantes indocumentados Presbiteriana y otras. que enfrenten deportación o estén siendo perseguidos, en respuesta

"Estas son congregaciones de todo el país que ven esto como un asunto moral", precisó Salvatierra. La comunidad religiosa, dijo, tiene "una tradición de ser la voz de los que no tienen voz".

Salvatierra, una ministra luterana, precisó que las metas del nuevo movimiento santuario son: Asumir una posición moral y pública sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes y proteger a inmigrantes contra el odio.

Así como la discriminación y la injusta deportación y revelar el actual sufrimiento de trabajadores inmigrantes y de sus familias bajo las actuales leyes migratorias.

Bajo la estrategia a seguir, las iglesias proveerán públicamente albergue y protección a un número limitado de familias inmigrantes cuyos casos revelen claramente las contradicciones de la injusticia moral de las actuales leyes migratorias.

Para recibir albergue en los templos, las familias deberán estar en proceso de deportación y tener, en el caso de los adultos un buen récord laboral y una buena conducta.

Las iglesias participantes albergarán a las familias hasta por tres meses, pero éstas podrán rotarse de una congregación a otra conforme se necesite hasta que sus casos sean resueltos.

De acuerdo a la declaración

de principios del movimiento, "las iglesias estamos juntas en la creencia de que cada ser humano, sin importar su nacionalidad, tiene derechos básicos que deben ser resguardados, incluyendo el derecho al trabajo.

Así como "a la unidad familiar y el derecho a la seguridad física y emocional".

"Juzgamos que estos derechos están siendo violados por las leyes de inmigración y vemos y rechazamos ignorar, el sufrimiento de niños, muchos de los cuales son ciudadanos estadounidenses que están siendo separados de sus padres ilegales mediante una injusta deportación".

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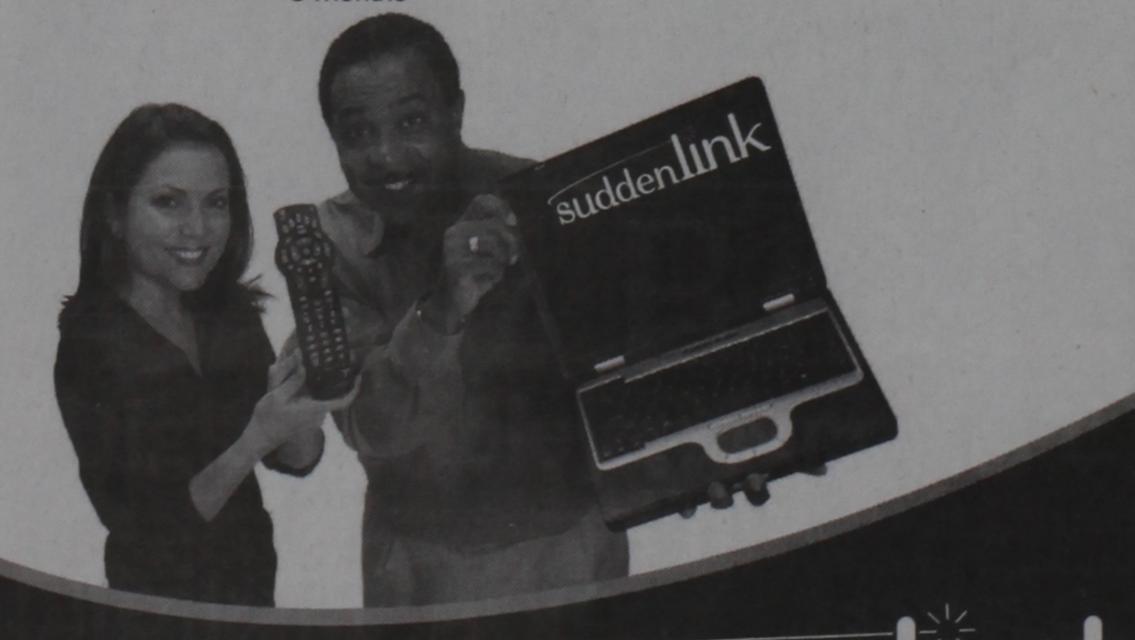
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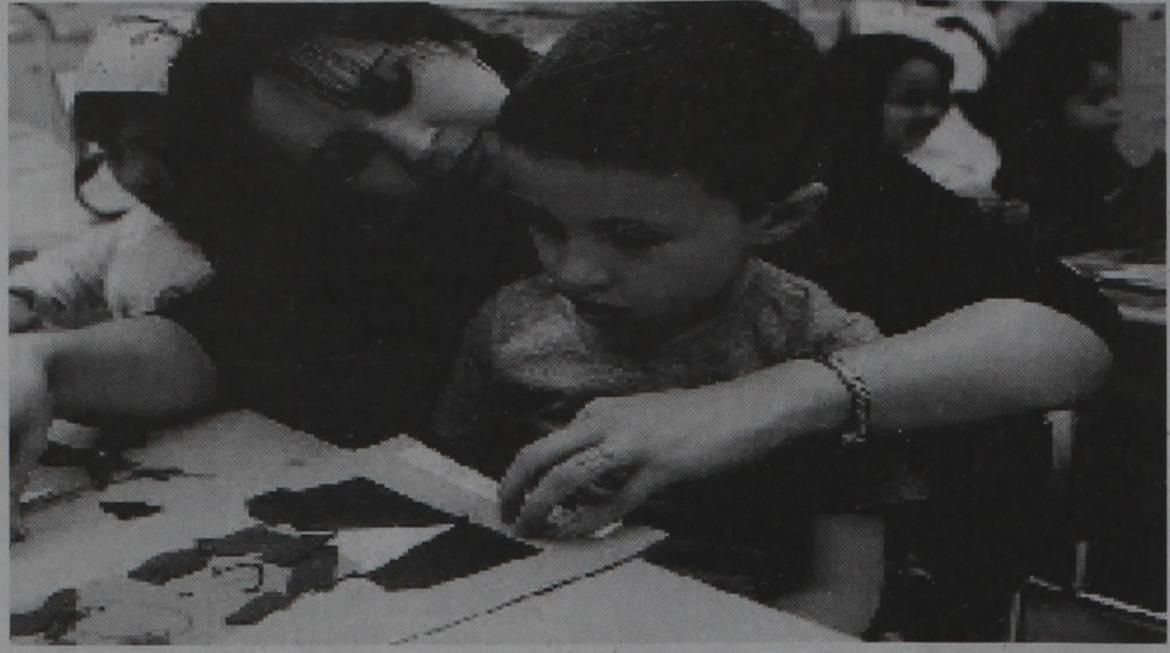
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Por nuestros niños



Los niños latinos también tienen más probabilidades que los blancos de empezar la escuela sin conocimientos básicos de lectura ni de matemáticas, por lo que es necesario que tengan acceso al prekinder.

Que los niños hispanos tengan acceso a la educación inicial del prekínder es uno de los pasos clave, no sólo para cerrar la brecha educativa que existe entre niños hispanos y los blancos, sino para prevenirla.

Así lo manifestó la directora Adjunta de Programas a Nivel Estatal de Pre-K Now, Danielle Gonzáles, quien emitió un comunicado sobre un informe de la Agrupación Nacional para la Educación de los Niños Hispanos que ofrece recomendaciones para aumentar la matrícula de hispanos en prekinder.

"Cuando hablamos de la brecha educativa que hay entre los niños latinos y los niños blancos, no debemos hablar tan sólo de cerrar la brecha, sino de prevenirla en primer lugar. Este nuevo informe concluye que el acceso a pre-k de alta calidad es una de las maneras más efectivas de garantizar que todos los niños cuenten con las destrezas necesarias para un buen desempeño escolar desde el primer día de kínder", puntualiza.

Detalla que estudios anteriores de Agrupación muestran que por lo menos uno de cada tres estudiantes hispanos empieza el kínder sin tener los conocimientos necesarios para un buen desempeño académico.

Los niños latinos también tienen más probabilidades que los blancos de empezar la escuela sin conocimientos básicos de lectura ni de matemáticas. Los estudios muestran que estas desigualdades persisten a lo largo de la carrera educativa de los niños y conducen a una tasa de deserción escolar del triple de la de otros grupos.

"Sabemos que el pre-kínder de calidad puede beneficiar a todos los niños en estas áreas, pero en este momento se les niega ese beneficio a demasiados niños latinos, debido a su costo o a barreras lingüísticas o culturales", agrega Gonzáles.

La directora especifica que sólo un 40 por ciento de niños hispanos asisten a prekínder en comparación con el 60 por ciento de niños blancos y afroamericanos e insta a los legisladores a que traten de resolver esta desigualdad.

"Durante muchos años hemos descuidado a los niños latinos y hemos permitido que empiecen

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la escuela en desventaja. Ya no podemos esperar más. Según los informes más recientes del censo, uno de cada cinco niños menores de cinco años en Estados Unidos es hispano. El futuro de nuestro país depende de nuestra capacidad y compromiso con la educación de este creciente segmento de nuestra población", demanda.

Eliminar obstáculos para la matrícula en prekínder, como el costo y la limitada disponibilidad, dice, contribuirá a asegurar que los niños hispanos tengan acceso a este importante primer paso en sus carreras educativas.

"Los legisladores a nivel federal y estatal deben ampliar considerablemente los programas estatales de Head Start y de pre-k a fin de incluir más niños, con divulgación coordinada para matricular niños hispanos. Ya es hora de que se responsabilicen de proporcionar pre-k a todos los niños hispanos. Cuando los niños hispanos estén preparados para la escuela y nuestras escuelas estén preparadas para los niños hispanos, la sociedad entera cosechará los beneficios", finaliza.

Pre-K Now colabora con activistas y autoridades encargadas de formular políticas estatales, a fin de encabezar un movimiento a favor de la educación de alta calidad para todos los niños de tres y cuatro años.

Fibromialgia, una enfermedad engañosa

Por más de una década, Claudia Contreras creyó tener artritis. Así se lo aseguraron varios médicos, quienes le recetaron medicamentos que tomó hasta noviembre de 2006, cuando un especialista le dijo que lo que tenía era fibromialgia.

"Nunca había escuchado hablar de esa enfermedad y me asusté", comenta la mujer de 46 años, natural de Puebla, México. "Pero me sentí mucho más tranquila cuando el médico me explicó y me dijo que por el tipo de dolor que sentía, más en los músculos que en las coyunturas, era más probable que se tratara de fibromialgia".

El nuevo diagnóstico resultó más que confirmado cuando Contreras se sometió a una prueba médica minuciosa que consiste en tocar ciertos puntos del cuerpo, los cuales duelen con un simple roce o presión. Hace muy poco que comenzó a utilizarse esta prueba con el objetivo de identificar el mal.

"Esta enfermedad me vino de repente y cambió por completo mi vida", cuenta Contreras. "Pero lo que más lamento son los 10 años que perdí de recibir un tratamiento médico efectivo como el que tengo ahora, donde me dan pastillas para relajar los músculos, antidepresivos, terapia de agua caliente, ejercicios de relajación y una dieta especial".

La historia de Contreras no es única. De acuerdo con la Asociación Nacional de fibromialgia (NFA), miles de personas tienen por años los síntomas del síndrome que es mal diagnosticado debido a que los dolores pueden confundirse con los artríticos.

"Las estadísticas muestran que más o menos el 5% de la población mundial padece de fibromialgia y unos 10 millones de estadounidenses la tienen", señala Claudia Carrillo, portavoz de la mencionada asociación.

Según estudios, el síndrome se da en personas de cualquier raza, sexo y edad. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las víctimas está conformada por mujeres (el 75% de los casos) y la incidencia es mayor entre los 20 y los 60 años de edad, siendo los más afectados aquellos que tienen entre 26 y 46 años.

Muchos se preguntan por qué resulta tan difícil el diagnóstico de esta enfermedad.

El doctor Bill McCarberg, especialista en medicina familiar con práctica en Kaiser Permanente de Escondido, San Diego, dice a La Opinión que la fibromialgia es un síndrome complejo de síntomas que incluyen dolores en los músculos y tejidos que conectan los huesos, ligamentos y tendones.

"Los síntomas y dolores pueden llegar a ser tan severos que interfieren con las actividades laborales y cotidianas de la persona", explica el doctor McCarberg, quien también es profesor de la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de San Diego.

diagnóstico, el galeno señala que resulta difícil debido a que hasta el momento no existe una prueba única de laboratorio que identifique el mal y los exámenes de sangre, radiografías y biopsias que se realizan al paciente resultan normales.

En cuanto al

Sin embargo, en 1990, el Colegio Americano de Reumatología (ACR) estableció un examen médico que ayuda al diagnóstico del saíndrome de la fibromialgia.

Según los criterios establecidos por el ACR, una persona la padece si presenta un historial de dolor generalizado durante un período mínimo de tres meses, así como dolor permanente en 11 ó 18 puntos específicos del cuerpo que son sensibles a la presión o al tacto.

Castillo dice que no se sabe a ciencia cierta qué la provoca, pero las investigaciones han deducido que existen diversos factores, que por sí solos o combinados, pueden causar fibromialgia. Por ejemplo, una enfermedad infecciosa, un trauma físico o emocional o cambios hormonales.

"Las tomografías tomadas a varias pacientes con fibromialgia han encontrado niveles anómalos de varias de las sustancias químicas involucradas en la transmisión y amplificación de la sensación de dolor; tanto hacia el cerebro como desde éste, y una disminución del flujo de sangre en áreas específicas de este órgano matriz", expresa Castillo.

Por su parte, el doctor Mc-Carberg dice que en materia de incidencia, se ha visto que el 40% de los casos se presenta de repente, sin motivo alguno; el 60%, después de un período en la vida de mucho estrés (pérdida del empleo, del compañero, etc.) o un trauma emocional causado por las lesiones de un accidente

automovilístico, golpe o caída.

La enfermedad no es hereditaria, no mata, no causa inflamación ni deformaciones y permanece en la persona durante toda la vida. "Por ahora tan sólo sabemos que podría estar involucrado un gen y que tan sólo pocas personas (8%) llegan a curarse", resalta el galeno.



McCarberg, quien es creador del programa Para Manejar el Dolor, de Kaiser Permanente, dice que existen varios tratamientos para tratar la fibromialgia; el más común es el que usa antidepresivos y medicamentos para el dolor, programas de ejercicios de estiramiento y cardiovasculares, baños de tina caliente, técnicas para aliviar la tensión muscular y la ansiedad y clases educativas

sobre el mal y la buena nutrición. "La educación sobre el comportamiento de la enfermedad y cómo reducir la intensidad de los múltiples dolores musculares es la clave para los pacientes que desean tener una mejor calidad de vida", acota.

Según el entrevistado, en materia de prevención tal vez la clave estaría en aprender a controlar el estrés, respetar el horario de sueño, hacer ejercicio y llevar una buena alimentación.

El doctor McCarberg informa que éstos son los síntomas más

Dolor muscular: generalmente se da en todo el cuerpo, aunque puede comenzar en el cuello u hombros, y extenderse a otras áreas al cabo de cierto tiempo. Según el sentir de los pacientes, el dolor se presenta de diversas formas: ardor, punzada, rigidez y sensibilidad.

Fatiga: el nivel de fatiga varía de un día para otro e interfiere con las actividades diarias de la

Alteración del sueño: se presenta durante las diferentes etapas del sueño. Las personas no tienen problemas para conciliarlo, pero se despiertan con frecuencia durante la noche y, como resultado, se sienten cansadas y agotadas al siguiente día.

Dificultad para pensar y cambios en el humor. Estudios han demostrado que las personas con fibromialgia pueden reportar lagunas mentales o dificultades para concentrarse o realizar tareas mentales sencillas.

Otros síntomas que se pueden presentar son: dolores de cabeza y abdomen, migrañas, movimiento involuntario de las piernas, mareos, estreñimiento y diarrea (síndrome de colon irritable) y espasmos e irritabilidad de la vejiga

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The people who bring you Calle Ocho every year seem to be a bit, er, competitive.

It has to be the biggest street festival in the United States. It has to be better than it was last year. It has to have more music, more food, more surprises.

They had to have the world's longest conga line (119,000 bodies shaking to Miami Sound Machine's Conga in 1988) and the world's biggest pinata (measuring 29 feet and weighing 10,000 pounds in 1990), marked in Guinness World Records.

This year, the Kiwanis of Little Havana which started the annual party in 1978 - wants to break the record for the world's largest Zumba, with more than 100 instructors leading thousands in the frenzied workout. The current record, set in the Philippines, is 48,000.

"We can break that," said Raul Camaliche, one of the chairmen of the Kiwanis Calle Ocho

committee, adding that Calle Ocho typically attracts more than a million people.

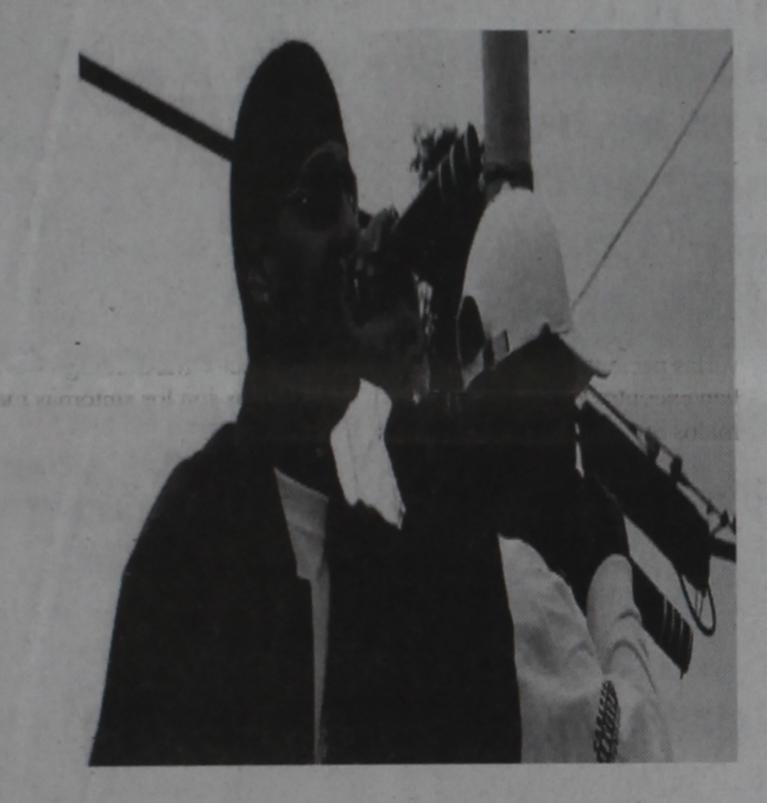
But the crowd will be moving long before that 3 p.m. aerobics break. With 24 stages across 23 blocks, Calle Ocho is one long, pulsating tribute to the sounds of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Because for all its other accouterments - food, competitions, free



samples of detergent and chewing gum - music has always been the focus of the Calle Ocho festival, the culmination of the Kiwanis' Carnaval Miami series of events, which fund the organization's projects for area youth.

The lineup is familiar, with Calle Ocho regulars like Willy Chirino, Oscar de Leon, Albita Rodriguez, Conjunto Progresso and Frankie Negron. Israel



"Cachao" Lopez, the legendary Cuban bassist, will close in a performance with local singer Marlon, who won a Spanish TV version of American Idol.

But this year, the stages will be in the middle of the street, instead of off to the sides.

"This way, people can feel like they are part of it," said Kiwanis President Lino Fernandez. "We want them to dance, not walk, from one end to the other."

Or not. This year, for the first time, Calle Ocho has been divided into

sections by music genre. "You can stay in one area and enjoy the type of music and entertain-



ment you like without , having to be shoulder-toshoulder walking through the crowd," said Guillermo Senmartin, the Kiwanis member in charge of the new Salsa-Son Zone.

Fernandez said it was part of the natural evolution as the festival -- which started as a 15-block party to showcase Cuban culture

to other communities - became a pan-American microcosm of the community it represents.

"As the city changes, we have changed," Fernandez said.

Already in the works for next year -- the festival's 30th anniversary - is a stab at yet another world record, this time for the largest number of couples in a rueda casino style salsa dance. The current record is 362 people - or 176 couples - in Singapore, he said. "We can do much better than that at Calle Ocho," Senmartin said,

confidently.

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Page 5 For Calle Ocho Organizers, The Menudo Search Is On

MTV Tr3's Follows The Casting Journey For Latin Teen Sensation

The search to recreate Menudo, one of the biggest and most successful Latin pop singing groups, gets underway on March 31 in Los Angeles, followed by casting sessions in Dallas, Miami and New York through the end of April. MTV Tr3's will chronicle the entire journey of thousands from the first audition to the last, culminating with the selection of seven finalists in Road to Menudo which debuts on May 12. The road continues on MTV this fall when the band will dwindle down to the five final members of the new Menudo as the channel air the 10-episode reality series (title TBD.)

Reveille is producing the MTV series in association with Road Games and Menudo Entertainment. Reveille, producer of the two-time Golden Globe winner and Latin crossover hit Ugly Betty, is expert in developing programming with multilingual appeal. The company also produces the Emmy Award-winning The Office, Nashville Star and The Biggest Loser, to name just

Once selected, Menudo will be part of the Epic Records family. The partnership between Epic and Menudo kicks off with a first single in July and the group's "debut" album in December 2007.

MTV Tr3's will document the nationwide search to find the talented and hungry young artists that will get their shot at making it big in the fast-paced world of the music industry. Four casting sessions will take place beginning in the Los Angeles community of Lynwood on March 31st at Plaza Mexico; in Miami on April 14th at Bayside Marketplace; in Dallas on April 21st at the Valley View Mall; and in New York on April 28th at the Queens Center Mall in Queens. Celebrity judges along with renowned music manager,

Johnny Wright will be on hand to audition teenage boys on their natural singing and dancing abilities, charisma and stage presence. The auditions are open to males who are at least 15 years old and appear to be less than 19 years old. All contestants will be asked to sing a song, in English or Spanish, from a pre-selected song list available on mtvtr3s. com. A legal guardian who can sign a release must accompany contestants under 18. Complete eligibility requirements are available at mtvtr3s.com.

"The Menudo series will introduce an entire new generation to a cross-cultural music phenomenon that once captured the hearts and minds of music fans all over the world," said Lois Curren, President, Entertainment and Programming, MTV. "The series is poised to deliver content that connects deeply with our audience by giving them unlimited access across all our screens, to the young and talented hopefuls aspiring to join Menudo and win their spot on the world stage."

MTV Tr3's' Road to Menudo which begins on May 12, will include four half-hour shows that take viewers to all auditions and give them front-row access to all the anticipation and excitement. After the casting sessions, 12 semi-finalists will be picked and each one will be featured in short form capsules that will introduce the potential band members to multiple MTV audiences across all MTV screens. MTV Tr3's' will also air a 1-hour special in July, Road to Menudo: The Finals, where the members of the new Menudo will be revealed.

MTV Tr3's will also produce a four-part series, Road to Menudo Presents: De La Calle to the Stage that showcases musical success stories from the Menudo audition cities such as Miami's Gloria Es-

de Diego Luna.

Chávez.

Rosenthal.

a Gael García Bernal "Y tu mamá

presentará en su estreno mundial

"Chávez", documental en el que

repasa la vida y la carrera del

boxeador mexicano Julio César

"Este apartado muestra la

pericia de algunos reconocidos

talentos fuera del campo en el

que son ya conocidos", dijo la

cofundadora del festival, Jane

también" (Alfonso Cuarón),

tefan and PitBull and New York's Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony and Fat Joe.

Online, mtvtr3s.com and myspace.com/mtvtr3s will feature

Road to Menudo details including casting information, audition highlights and early audience .

favorites. MTV

Tr3's Radio and VH1 Radio affiliates in the audition cities will feature on-air Menudo trivia contests for prizes,

interviews with the judges and live remotes at auditions with contestant interviews.

"MTV Tr3's has set out to create and define a new generation of Latino pop music and culture and what better expression of that than helping to discover the new Menudo, the biggest brand in Latin pop music over the last thirty years," said Lucia Ballas-Traynor, SVP and general manager of MTV Tr3's. "The new Menudo will be reflection of our audience in every way and we are going all out to ensure that every talented teenage boy across the country has a shot at stardom. It's another way MTV Tr3's is providing a voice to young Latinos."

Additional summertime Menudo programming on MTV Tr3's will include a half-hour special on the history of Menudo; Fans of Menudo, a trivia game between parents and teens; History of Boy Bands, a 30-minute look at the biggest and most successful boy bands of all time (Menudo, NKOB, BSB, NSYNC, Barrio as a solo artist.

Boys, Proyecto Uno, etc); and "Life after the Band," a half hour show featuring videos from the solo careers of boy band members (Ricky Martin, Robby Rosa, Justin Timberlake, Robbie Williams,

Ashley Parker Angel.) The MTV series will follow the



new Menudo's rise to super pop stardom and feature the band recording their first album together, learning about the music industry and interacting with legendary icons who will offer personal and professional advice along the way. As fans see the band struggle to become a cohesive unit, the guys will have to learn how to overcome their differences, challenges and rigorous work schedules during this crucial time in their career.

The original Menudo, which took the US and Latin America by storm during its run in the late 70s and 80s, recorded 35 albums and sold more than 40 million records and set concert attendance records worldwide and produced superstars Ricky Martin and Robby Rosa. The new Menudo will record a contemporary hip urban/Latin rhythmic sound and will be managed by Menudo Entertainment and legendary manager Johnny Wright who has worked with *NSYNC, Backstreet Boys and Justin Timberlake

Diego Luna estrenará Chávez en Festival de Cine en NY

El documental "Chávez", el debut tras las cámaras del actor mexicano Diego Luna, se estrenará aquí mundialmente esta primavera en la sexta edición del Festival de Cine de Tribeca, fundado por Robert de Niro.

Los organizadores del certamen, que se celebrará entre el 25 de abril y el 6 de mayo, hicieron público este martes otro avance de la programación de esta edición, después de que la víspera anunciaron las películas a concurso en las dos principales categorías.

Este martes difundieron los títulos que, fuera de la competición oficial, se exhibirán en las secciones "Encuentros", "Restaurada/

Redescubiertas" y "Medianoche".

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ACLARACIÓN BREVE DE LA **ENMIENDA** CONSTITUCIONAL elección especial del 12 MAY DE 2007

PROPUESTA 1

(Resolución Senatorial Conjunta 13)

La Resolución Senatorial Conjunta (S.J.R) Núm.13 serviría para enmendar la Constitución a fin de autorizar que la legislatura ajuste el impuesto al valor a las escuelas públicas o las tasas tributarias correspondientes a contribuyentes que tengan 65 o más años de edad o que estén discapacitados y que sean dueños de un hogar residencial exento de dichos impuestos. De esa manera la enmienda permitiría que la legislatura conceda una

desgravación a consecuencia de la reducción de tasas tributarias promulgada por la 79 Legislatura en su tercera sesión convocada.

La enmienda que se propone aparecería en la boleta de votación en los siguientes términos: "Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura para disponer la reducción del monto total de impuestos al valor que, siendo para fines de las escuelas públicas, puedan establecerse sobre los hogares residenciales de ancianos o discapacitados, de modo que se refleje cualquier reducción de la tasa tributaria correspondiente a los ejercicios fiscales de 2006 y 2007".

Publicado por Roger Williams, Secretario de Estado de Texas.

La presencia de México se incluye trabajos realizados por completa con la proyección de talentos ya reconocidos y que "Días de otoño", dirigida en 1962 según los organizadores "es popor Roberto Gavaldón, escrita sible que provoquen algunos de por Julio Alejandro y Emilio los comentarios más vivos dentro Carballido y protagonizada por del festival", destaca la presencia Pilar Pellicer, dentro de "Restauradas/Redescubiertas", gracias al El actor, que protagonizó junto

> trabajo de Gabriel Figueroa. En esta sección se incluyen cintas "del pasado de forma que parezcan nuevas otra vez", bien tras haber sido restauradas o porque nunca se difundieron lo suficiente o ni siquiera llegaron a estrenarse en Estados Unidos.

> Junto a estas dos cintas, y tal y como se anunció la víspera, otra mexicana se proyectará durante el certamen pero dentro de la competición oficial de largomet-

Estamos para que confien que le ayudaremos

en esos momentos delicados y tan importantes

rajes. Se trata de "Dos abrazos", de Enrique Begné.

En total, el Tribeca Film Festival presentará 159 largos y 85 cortos seleccionadas de entre cuatro mil 550 películas recibidas.

Festival de Cine de Tribeca fue fundado en 2002 por Robert de Niro, Rosenthal y Craig Hatkoff como respuesta a los atentados terroristas del 11-S para ayudar a la recuperación y revitalización de Nueva York, en especial de la zona del Bajo Maniatan.

En sus primeras cinco ediciones, el certamen ha atraído más de un millón y medio de personas y ha supuesto para la ciudad una derrama económica de 325 millones de dólares.



more than tread water without Dwy-

ane Wade and has made earning a

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com Weekly Essentials:

There's no busting West's best

¿Que Pasa?

Mentor Tech Banquet

Christopher Gardner, rags-to-riches author of "The Pursuit of Happyness" and CEO of Christopher Gardner International Holdings, will be the Mentor Tech event keynote speaker and gives motivational speeches addressing keys to self-empowerment, beating the odds and breaking cycles.

A series of circumstances in the 1980s left Gardner and his toddler son homeless in San Francisco. Without connections or a college degree, he earned a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program, then became a top earner at Bear Stearns & Co.

Gardner's book recently was made into a movie by the same title and starring Will Smith.

The banquet supports the Lauro Cavazos & Ophelia Powell Malone Mentoring Program (Mentor Tech), a program that enhances the quality of the educational experience of students from underrepresented populations through programs, services, advocacy and campus and community involvement.

Tickets are \$35 apiece or \$600 & \$400 for a table of eight.

To organize an interview with Gardner or for more information on the banquet, contact Cory Powell.

Covenant Schedules Free Health Screening

Covenant Health System will host a free Community Health Screening on Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

This program is one of several conducted throughout the year by Covenant as part of its Community Health Screening Initiative and is designed to help create healthier South Plains citizens by detecting potential health issues before they become life-threatening.

Medical professionals from Covenant will be on hand to check, among other things, weight, height and body mass index, blood pressure and cholesterol of those who attend the screening.

Tests for fecal blood, bone mineral density, hearing and dental issues also will be available.

In addition, there will be gender specific examinations for attendees.

Information concerning mental and general health issues as well as sexually transmitted diseases will be available.

For those interested in quitting smoking, Covenant health professionals will provide tobacco cessation tips.

No appointment is needed for the free Community Health Screening. More information can be obtained by calling Covenant Health System at 1-866-426-8362.

Covenant Health System is Offering: Medical Terminology Course

The Medical Terminology Course offered by Covenant Health System is designed to teach students to easily remember, pronounce and apply 350 prefixes, roots and suffixes that combine to form more than 11,000 medical terms. The course is designed for total retention through audio-visual instruction and interactive workbook activity.

Students in the course will have the opportunity to use organized, effective memory techniques to learn and remember the subject. The course includes 10 sessions that are each two hours long. The course does not provide continuing education or college credit, but it is a certificate-based course.

Anyone who works as a non-clinical employee or needs to know medical terms for his or her profession should attend. Students who are only interested in taking the course for self-improvement are also welcome.

The course fee is \$50 for public participants and \$25 for Covenant employees. Students must be present at all meetings to receive their certificate. Classes will meet in the Knipling Education Conference Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

☐ Thursday, April 5 ☐ Tuesday, April 3 ☐ Thursday, April 12 ☐ Tuesday, April 10 ☐ Thursday, April 19 ☐ Tuesday, April 17 ☐ Thursday, April 26 ☐ Tuesday, April 24 ☐ Thursday, May 3 ☐ Tuesday, May 1

Cash payment for the course must be made at the time of registration. A refund of \$25 will be applicable upon successful completion of the course.

To register for the course, please contact Janette Jimenez at the Knipling Education Conference Center, or for more information about the course, contact Scott Crane at 725-0766.

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The NCAA Tournament will rightfully captivate the minds of basketball fans around the country this week, but be sure to take a break from slaving over your brackets to catch the finest the sport has to offer.

The big boys in the Western Conference are about to do some heavy muscle-flexing.

Combined, Dallas, Phoenix, San Antonio, Utah and Houston won an unbelievable 42 consecutive games entering the week's action, led by the Mavericks' 17-game win streak, which was snapped Monday night with a 117-100 loss at Golden State.

Dallas looks to bounce back with a home game against Phoenix on Wednesday. The Suns, who had a 17-game win streak through January, will try and take down the Mavs for the first time in three tries.

Phoenix, which defeated Houston on Monday, takes a five-game win streak into Dallas. Now that Boris Diaw and Kurt Thomas are healthy, Mike D'Antonio hás his full complement of bigs to utilize.

It's amusing that despite wins

762-5059.

at 10:00 am at the Job Fair.

in nine of 10 games, the perception is that the Suns are slipping. Part of it has to do with the success Dallas and San Antonio (12 consecutive wins) have had, but there's also been displeasure with their performance last week, where they struggled to beat the short-handed, slumping Lakers. They also needed overtime to take out Charlotte and survived a lastsecond shot attempt by the Hornets to win Friday night. All those games were at home.

Beyond their games against Houston and Dallas, the Suns also have a back-to-back this weekend vs. Detroit and Denver.

After a shaky return in a loss at Cleveland last Monday, the Rockets have won three consecutive games with Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady complementing each other wonderfully. Utah has won six in a row and takes its act East for a four-game swing featuring back-to-backs against the Heat

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will be hosted by the Lubbock Chamber and will take place

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West, none has altered its public perception more than San An-

tonio in recent weeks. The talk throughout the league as recently as a month ago was that the Spurs were washed up. Finished. Between the Mavericks and Suns, they had been overtaken. After being humbled by Miami on Feb. 11, the Spurs haven't lost since - and likely won't this week. The Clippers, Bucks and Celtics don't figure to offer up much of a challenge, increasing the likelihood that at

west Division's juggernauts will carry a double-digit winning streak into next week.

Team of the week

least one of the South-

Udonis Haslem spoiled Washington's postgame party aspirations by knocking down a buzzer beater and pulling the Heat within one game of the Wizards in the Southeast Division. Miami continues to do

top four seed a very good possibility. The Heat have won their first five home games of the month, including statement games against the Pistons, Bulls and Wizards. Utah arrives for its lone visit of the season Tuesday, and after a brief trip to New Jersey on Thursday for a nationally televised game, the Heat finish the week back in Miami with weekend games against the Kings and Magic. If Pat Riley's team can continue to hold serve, there's a good chance they can pull ahead of Washington by this time next week.

Team of the weak

Indiana's post All-Star collapse has reached a boiling point. The Pacers have lost nine in a row entering Tuesday night's visit to Minnesota, a game they will play without top scorer Jermaine O'Neal. He opened the week in California getting a second opinion on his sprained left knee, and the earliest he'll be back is Wednesday's game against Washington. That's not expected to happen, either. With Miami and New York quickly gaining ground, and the Magic and Nets both better equipped to make a run over the NBA's final month, the Pacers' streak of nine consecutive playoff appearances looks destined to end.

Have a great Spring Break! Be Safe & **Drive Carefully**

"We're not firing on all cylin-

ders," Raja Bell said, "but I'm not going to put a negative spin on it anymore. We're fine."

and Magic and Sixers and Cavs.

Of all the teams in the loaded



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