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

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District Attorney Matt Powell Declines to Press Criminal Charges in Recall Recount Dumbauld Calls Affair "Silly"

By Abel Cruz s had been anticipated, Lubbock District Attorney Matt Powell issued a statement saying that he would not be "pursuing charges" against City Secretary Becky Garza nor anyone else "regarding the munici-

pal recall petition' Back in September, Recall 2007 organizers had submitted information and documentation to Powell personally; asking him to review the material and consider bringing criminal conduct charges against City Secretary Garza and City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon.



Leann Dumbauld



Becky Garza



Linda DeLeon

On Thursday the 15th of November, Powell issued his statement and findings to the media. Here is the statement in its entirety "After reviewing the materials presented and the applicable case law, the D.A's office will not pursue charges against anyone regarding the municipal recall petition.

This decision is based in part on the following: there is no applicable criminal statute under which to prosecute.

Section 273.001 of the Election Code applies to "conduct in connection with" an election. A recall petition is a collateral attack on a completed election. Signatures on the recall petitions are not "votes" and the recall petitions are not included in the definitions of a "ballot." Therefore, there is no clear unambiguous criminal offense. The law does not allow for prosecution by analogy.

Furthermore, even if there were some arguments to be made that the statute does apply, the affidavits are insufficient to require further investigation. First, the affidavits are not based on personal knowledge of an alleged crime. Second, they do not state any allegation of criminal conduct.

For the above stated reasons, the Criminal District Attorney's office is not authorized or required to take any further action on this matter.'

Shortly after the District Attorney issued his findings, Lubbock Mayor David Miller issued the following statement.

"I appreciate District Attorney Matt Powell for taking the time and care necessary to review this issue. Today's announcement re-confirms my confidence in the integrity, not only in the system itself, but most importantly in City Secretary Becky Garza and her staff. Ms. Garza conducts business in a highly professional and ethical manner.'

As far as the recall organizers are concerned, this is not the end of the road for them. Armando Gonzales, spokesperson for the group, says that they will now look into filing a civil suit in the matter. He says that for them, "it's not over just because Powell did not find some law to base the charges on"

Powell's statement seems to indicate that he did not find any election laws or statutes had been violated; based on the information he received from the petitioners; and based on how he interpreted the laws he judged the information given to him on. This is made clear in Powell's statement where he says that, "there is no applicable criminal statute under which to prosecute"

Recall 2007 spokesman Armando Gonzales also issued a statement to El Editor. In the statement, Gonzales says that, "We are very disappointed that the District Attorney could not find the wherewithal to prosecute Linda DeLeon and Becky Garza for: 1) Linda's access and ability to act on the petition that she possessed before it was officially certified, having opportunity to influence Becky Garza, 2) Becky Garza's rejection of scores of "qualified" and "valid" voters that signed the petition to have Linda DeLeon recalled'

We understand the D.A.'s logic and decision and we abide by it. However, we wish that there had been a way for the most powerful person in the County to have been able to declare a solution for this problem; the abuse of Power of the City of Lubbock's Secretary - the Chief Elections Officer.

City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld also re-inserted herself into the public controversy when she referred to the matter as "silly"; when asked for her reaction by a reporter from a local television station. This prompted organizers to issue a call for her resignation.

By Friday, recall organizers had sent a letter to several local, tate and national media outlets calling for Dumbauld's resignation. A copy of the letter, which can be found in our "Freedom of Expression" section on page 2, was also sent to every council member; including Mayor David Miller.

Does it end here? Not according to recall organizer Armando Gonzales who vowed to initiate another recall campaign against DeLeon until her term expires in 2010 if necessary.

El Editor sent an email to Councilwoman DeLeon, asking her for her reaction to Powell's statement; but we did not receive a response.

Email:acruztsc@aol.com



LHCC Proposed Merger with Lubbock Chamber to Come up Before Members for Vote

By Bidal Aguero hat has been a mainstay in the Lubbock Hispanic community for 33 years will probably continue to exist but in name only under a new merger plan being considered by the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of

Commerce (LHCC).

Several past Presidents of the

Hispanic chamber recently met

members to find out more about

The meeting was a result of a

previously held meeting of past

chamber presidents concern-

panic chamber. Past chamber

President David Martinez had

requested a meeting with the

current Chair, Velma Medina,

Chamber board to discuss the

One of those concerns was the

fear that the Lubbock Hispanic

Chamber, formerly known as

COMA, would no longer exist.

dez, a member of the Hispanic

chamber board, the plan calls

for the "LHCC Charter and

Articles of Incorporation to

According to Mike Arismen-

and the rest of the Hispanic

proposed merger and some

specific concerns.

ing the future of the His-

with present chamber board

the possible merger.

be dissolved or submitted back to the Secretary of State". Under this proposal, the

continue to exist, and will not

"program of work", or the various projects undertaken by the chamber throughout the year, will be achieved through the plan that has been presented.

"The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will still exist, if by shell only, and will not be dissolved for any reason. This will be done to provide for future situations that may arise."

> It was explained that although the Hispanic Chamber would exist "in shell only" the LHCC would continue with its program of work as they have in the past.

The merger plan was originally proposed to the LHCC in June 2007. Besides the fact that the charter will continue to exist and that the LHCC program of work would

continue, the proposal lists eight other positives for LHCC if the merger is approved. They include: Members of LHCC would qualify for the Firstcare insurance health plan which is sponsored by the Lubbock Chamber; increased financial stability; increase in personnel and resources; participation in high profile city events; representation on various Lubbock Chamber committees; accountability to provide more services with more resources; better marketability of events hosted by the Hispanic chamber and LHCC will have the ability to meet financial obligations.

Listed as negatives in the merger were 12 points; they included: possible loss of organizational identity; possible loss of membership in the Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce;

the state organization made up of Hispanic chambers from throughout the state of Texas; current Lubbock Chamber Board is not culturally diverse; LHCC membership has been independent for 33 years and concerns over losing a "Voice" in the community.

The list of negatives continues, with saying that the LHCC may get "lost in the shuffle" and will be completely subordinate to LCC; and that high exposure

Board was committed to the plan, Medina stated that "the only commitment we have from the Hispanic Chamber Board is to bring the proposal we talked about to the members for a vote. Our board is not voting either way. We will leave that decision to the members."

The group that has been more vocal in opposition to the merger has been the group of past presidents who held several meetings to discuss the



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at events is already enjoyed by the Hispanic chamber.

In addition, listed as negatives was the fact that the Lubbock chamber will select and hire the new leader or director of the Hispanic chamber; that the Lubbock chamber will have the final say in board appointments and that the LCC could possibly create a minority division, which would cause competition among members.

This last negative had caused considerable concern among LHC members because it was learned that even before a proposal for a merger was introduced, the Lubbock Chamber had discussions about forming a Minority or Hispanic division as part of the LCC.

At a meeting held to explain the plan to past Presidents of the LHCC Velma Medina, chair of the LHCC, said that the present board had "agreed that we are now ready to go out to the public with the proposed organizational chart. Our next step is the forums for the membership. We will hold 2 of them at Maggie Trejo Center on Tuesday, Dec 4 from 6-8pm and Saturday, Dec 1 from 10-12." Regarding the vote for merging and whether the LHCC

issue. "This is not a merger, this is a complete takeover," was a comment by past President Gilbert Flores.

After the meeting and the presentation of a revised proposal by members of the LHCC Board, sentiments among those present seemed to change. "I think that one of the rea-

sons that we were against the merger was the lack of information provided," said LHCC founder Bidal Aguero. "This new proposal seems to have taken all our concerns to mind and addressed them."

Medina said that she had no intentions to withhold information and that it was just because they were trying to develop the best plan possible.

"We commend the persons that were doing the negotiating for the Hispanic Chamber, they have done a good job and this is far better that the plan originally submitted," said Aguero.

The plan is to be considered by the Hispanic Chamber during its annual meeting on December 13 at 5:30 pm at American State Bank on Ave. Q and 13th.

(Next week: How will the Hispanic Chamber function under the Lubbock Chamber?) Email eleditor@sbcglobal.

First Thanksgiving really was in West Texas, y'all_

While the rest of America has accepted the Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock as the original Thanksgiving celebrants, certain Texas historians have long maintained that the first Thanksgiving took place, not at Plymouth Rock, but in Palo Duro Canyon._Our Thanksgiving icons would include the Palo Duro Canyon instead of Plymouth Rock. The Texas Indians would be in the history books and we might be eating buffalo instead of turkey every year. If you think leftover turkey is hard to finish, leftover buffalo could last families until the next Thanksgiving:)

Spanish explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado was the noted participant of that first Thanksgiving, Texas-style, and it can be argued that Coronado had more to be thankful for than the Pilgrims.

Coronado's expedition had left Mexico in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola, but instead of a mythical city of gold, Coronado and his men found the Llano Estacado, where there were no cities, no trees and very little water.

Coronado and his men wandered in circles for days, unable to find anything upon which to fix a compass. This is a land that, even today, can try a traveler's patience.

We can imagine just how thankful Coronado and his men must have been to leave behind those miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles, and downright ecstatic he must have been to find Palo Duro Canyon and the friendly Teyas Indians who lived there.

Coronado's records show that he celebrated Thanksgiving with the Indians on Ascension Thursday, May 23, 1541. Friar Juan de Padilla performed a Thanksgiving Mass witnessed by the Indians. Reports of the event said that the Indians were neither hostile nor friendly, but mostly baffled. They stared a lot.

At the time of the mass Coronado and his men had suffered a series of misadventures that make the Pilgrims' travails seem like a walk in the park. The expedition included 1500 men and thousands of horses, cattle and sheep. The purpose of the mission was to find Quivara, the riches of the Seven Cities of Cibola. He never found the Seven Cities, but at that point he probably didn't care.

An Indian Coronado's men called the Turk "because he looked like one" led the mass of men and critters on their dubious quest. The Turk (la Turque) led Coronado and his men onto the Llano Estacado, a vast expanse of shortgrass prairie with no settlements, no trees, very little water and nothing to fix a compass to.

Coronado and his men wandered in dazed circles for days on end, lost, hungry and thirsty on an endless "sea of grass." All the travels played tricks on the mind, and some of the men were hallucinating

The men and animals made a harrowing descent into the canyon where they encountered the Indians. A hailstorm hit the canyon the first night and stampeded the expedition's horses and destroyed much of their equipment.

Coronado sent hunters to venture onto the plains to kill buffalo, but the hunters got lost. Helpful comrades built fires and blew trumpets to help them find their way back to the canyon. Most did.

By now, Coronado had figured out that La Turque was lying about knowing the whereabouts of Quivira.

Some 300 years later, in 1848, not long after Texas had become a state, Gov. George T. Wood established the first Texas State Thanksgiving. Texas was the first state in the South to call for a day of Thanksgiving.

Coronado might have termed his expedition a failure, but he succeeded in giving Texas (which wouldn't be a state for three more centuries) something to add to its list of bragging rights - the country's first Thanksgiving.

Arroyo Cleanup Continues. Volunteers Increase



Clean up of the Arroyo in the Arroyo Quirino del Barrio Guadalupe continued this week with over 40 people participating including members of the Phi Alpha Delta and the Epsolan Alpha Beta faternaties at Tech. Also among the volunteer were Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and Councilman Todd Klein.

A very special helper was Jesse Perez who brought all his



Commentary: Local Democratic Leadership Lacking

By Charles Dunn

The embarrassing emergency meeting of the Lubbock County Democratic Party Executive Committee which was ostensibly called to "censure" Ysidro Gutierrez for exercising his free speech rights is another example of just how weak the local Democratic Party has become. While there are competing stories of the purpose of the meeting and ultimate outcome, the fact that the meeting was called in the first place points to the misplaced priorities of the local leadership. Instead of spending its time attempting to reverse 25 years of Republican control over every elected county wide office, including both State Representatives, the State Senator and our U.S. Congressman, the local leadership engages in petty infighting, endless letter to the editor writing, combative e-mails and other non-productive activities.

They should be ashamed of them-

In 2006 when the rest of the country was turning to the Democratic Party for a change in leadership and direction, Lubbock County Democrats suffered embarrassing defeats up and down the ballot. The top vote getter among local Democratic candidates was Pearlie Mayfield at 34%. Not one of the Democratic candidates, including the current county chairperson, raised or spent any significant amount of money or had the organizational skills necessary to defeat the incumbent they were challenging. This lack of competitiveness by Lubbock Democrats, at a time when other Democrats in Texas and nationwide enjoyed historic successes; should have been a wakeup call for a change in party leadership and strategy Instead, on the eve of filing season for the 2008 elections, local Democrats are faced with the prospects of another long election night next November.

It's time for local Democrats to take back their party and change the strategy that has failed to produce a winning county wide candidate in 25 years. We need new precinct chairs who will raise money for the party, organize their precincts for the party, and who will work to turn out the Party vote on Election Day. We need precinct chairs that will vote to elect Party officers who will change the current culture of defeat into one of victory. Angry letter writers and ideological purists need not apply.

Those who would rather fight, gripe and complain rather than work to better the Democratic Party in Lubbock are not welcome. Those who want change and are willing to work to achieve it should challenge those precinct chairs in order to take back their party.

And those in power, who have contributed to this mess, should resign.

(Mr. Dunn is a Lubbock Attorney Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

El Editor

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Creating Action The Job of a Real Newspaper of

RECORD

Don't Shoot the Messenger
The following letter is in response to an email sent to Abel Cruz from Clyde James;

a frequent letter writer to El Editor. James' letter can be found in our "Freedom of Expression" section on this page. Dear Mr. James,

You have made your position on both the Democratic Party and the DeLeon Recall story very clear in your previous letters and commentaries to El Editor.

While I usually do not address any correspondence sent to me personally or about me to El Editor in a public forum, I will make an exception in your case.

I doubt that anything I say at this point will change your position regarding the DeLeon and Democratic Party story you mention in your letter; so I am neither inclined to defend our coverage or to address your points in your letter. Besides, trying to convince someone to agree with me or writing things to please others are two things which I have no interest in doing. Those things I will leave up to you. But I will take some time to share some thoughts with you.

I believe Bidal has given you plenty of space to voice your opinions and commentaries; with the exception of one letter which I believe Bidal decided not to print. But all in all, you have had several opportunities to express your views in several lengthy letters to the editor and commentary you submitted to El Editor. In all cases, minus the one I previously mentioned, your letters and commentary were published in their entirety; as is the letter you sent to me which inspired this response.

Just a week or so ago, El Editor published your letter to the editor concerning the Democratic Party story without editing a single word. I believe we were fair in giving you more than sufficient space to express your views. If you have concluded that readers have not bought what you are selling via your letters; and therefore have to address every article or commentary we print regarding these two issues; then there is absolutely nothing more that we can do. We provide the space; it is up to you to make your arguments to convince people to see things as you do. And by your letter, I suspect that you feel that you have failed to do that.

The irony is that we had not planned to do a follow up story on the Democratic Party meeting until we received your version of what took place.

To now condemn us for our related content; would seem to me to equate to wanting to "shoot the messenger" because we did not parrot your position. I don't believe we made a judgment either way when deciding whether to print your letter or not. Had we had a personal agenda; we probably would not have printed it at all.

So before you shoot the horse you have ridden on in the past; figuratively speaking of course; you may want to reconsider.

You may be right, perhaps some people will start to consider El Editor a "periodic throwaway flier"? If by "periodic" you mean periodical? But I would ask you to consider this; to what publication will people look to then to provide the type of information and uncensored commentary found in El Editor; without having to pay for it? Will you rely on the Lubbock AJ to publish or represent your views and those of others who disagree with what we write and report? Do you think the AJ will print your letters without first editing; that is if they print them at all? Do you think that other local publications will print them? Do you think other publications like the AJ will allow you as much space to express your views as El Editor has?

If so I would suggest that you send the AJ and other publications your letters and see if they do; as you seem unhappy with our content. Perhaps their content is better suited to your liking?

By the way, it may interest you to know that this past year has been one of the most successful El Editor has ever enjoyed. Its readership has grown and both the newspaper and web site have enjoyed unprecedented popularity and recognition; sorry to disappoint you.

I appreciate all persons who take the time to read El Editor. I appreciate people who disagree with our content just as much as those who do. I do not start out with an agenda to try and please anyone who reads this newspaper. Neither do I start out to try to convince anyone of anything. What I do is express my own opinions in my columns and commentaries and editorials which I write for El Editor. As for the stories I write, I do so after careful thought and information gathering. If you feel that I/we/El Editor don't explore every angle or speak to every person involved; then perhaps you may want to get this type of news from the local daily. But good luck in trying to find these types of stories since they expend very little energy in exploring the issues we do. But, perhaps you will find their reporting more in line with your views?

For every time you have written in to express your displeasure with stories or commentaries which I have written, we have had other readers write to express their agreement with our coverage and to thank us for what we do; including an email from you this past year if memory serves me correctly.

But I try and keep things like that in perspective; reminding myself always, that one can go from hero to goat in a matter of seconds. I have been around this business and life in general, long enough to know that some days a person gets to be the pigeon and the next day they get to be the statue; or the recipient of the pigeon's contributions to society.

Mr. James, the newspaper business is about an exchange of ideas and opinions; disagreements; different points of views and beliefs. Each week, when people decide whether to read El Editor or not, they do so partially because they are interested in seeing what others have to say. If they never expected to read something which they disagree with they would never bother; their minds would already be made up. But they are not naïve enough to think that they will agree with everything that

El Editor is published so that people can make up their own minds as to where they stand on an issue. It is not our job to convince or sway a person one way or

If you have reached the point where you choose to stop reading El Editor; that is unfortunate for us; but it is something that is entirely out of my control and I will not try to convince you otherwise. As I suggested, perhaps you will find another local publication better suited to your liking.

And don't expect me to try and convince you to continue reading El Editor; I have been around long enough to know that some people will never be convinced that the reason they cannot see is because they have something stuck in their eye.

And at the end of the day, these matters are not life and death issues; they are political and social matters which will more often than not produce opposing views; that is just a natural part of the political process.

And lastly, while we regret to lose you as a reader; as we would any reader; and should you decide that we are nothing more than a "throwaway periodical"; and since El Editor's content does not meet your journalistic standards and you are afraid that we will become a "throwaway flier for a handful of people's fantasies"; perhaps you should discontinue sending us your letters to the editor or commentary for publication?

We would hate for your views and opinions to be included in a publication you

Thank you for taking the time to write. And by the way, please be sure and let me know if you have any luck in getting the AJ to print your letters.

Sincerely, Abel Cruz

Email: acruztsc@aol.com

'El Que Pica con la Cola'

y no me dio mucho espacio para escribir

esta semana. Pues no le hace. Yo estoy

conforme con lo que me dan porque se

que no me tienen que dar nada de espa-

cio para escribir ademas no quiero que me

digan que si no me gusta puedo mandar



but now along comes his son...and as they say; "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree". no me hagas reir!

Back in the 70's and 80's "El

Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings

with his tail" was a regular guest on

the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán"

has now retired his poisonous pen;

Ha, ahorita que estaba mirando las noticia en la tele salio el famoso Mike Leach. Ya lo traiban hasta esta semana pasada cuando le dio por la, tu sabes que a el equipo numero 3 en los United States,

Okalahoma. Pero cuando vide a Leach me acorde una cosa que quiero preguntarles. ¿A que no saben quien le corta el pelo a Leach. Le apuesto que nunca se pudiera imagenar que es el mismo barbero que le corta el pelo a Bidal. Simon que sí, es el mero mero Phil Flores de "Hair Designs by Phil". Ya saben cuando quieren saber quien va ganar el siquiente juego de Texas

Haber quien nota que ya El Editor nombro el Arroyo en el Guadalupe "El Rrroyo Quirino. En la opinion de este Alacran nadie lo merece mas ya que el Sr. Carlos Quirino ha hecho mucho para el mejoramiento del Barrio

Es todo por ahorita. Nos vemos la próxima semana...Go Raiders

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will not be published. Publisher Bidal Aguero

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Open Letter to City Officials

The City Manager of the City of Lubbock, Lee Ann Dumbauld has insulted the Recall Petition Signers of the Linda DeLeon recall 2007, by referring to their effort as "silly". Lee Ann Dumbauld said that enormous amounts of resources (money) have been spent on the effort. Lee Ann Dumbauld referred to ambiguous "members of our community" as being tired of the issue of the recall. This could easily be interpreted as a racist remark. However, we will focus on her statement that the efforts have been "silly"

The obvious ignorance of this statement would not normally receive the dignity of response, given the source of the babble, because she speaks of the 1300 hundred plus signers of our petition. We ask for a public, written apology for her use of careless language inappropriate of The City Manager of the City of Lubbock in regards to people participating in a legal democratic process approved by City Charter.

Were it her "community" seeking recall, perhaps she would not have uttered the stupidity.

Armando Gonzáles Recall 2007 Committee

:Gracias!

Bidal, muchas gracias. Estoy muy agradecida que nos mandas el periódico por carta electrónica. Siempre, mis estudiantes lo leen y les platican a sus padres la información que han leído. Es tiempo que su negocio sepa todo lo que sus periódico nos trae a nuestra clase.

Ernestine O. Cantu, M.Ed.; Lubbock via Email

Email to Abel Cruz from Clyde James

I am curious about the stories running in El Editor about the Democratic Party. It is natural for the press to want to disseminate information concerning matters of public interest.

I refer to the various "versions" you say are circulating about the events surrounding the special meeting of the executive committee.

I thought it was the function of good journalists to look into situations such as this, to gather information, to hear rumors, to interview people, to evaluate likely scenarios, and then TO RE-PORT THE TRUTH.

That is, if Chicken Little says the sky is falling, and John Roberts on channel 11 reports it is raining, then I think it is reasonably easy for a journalist to report in the paper that it rained, and not even mention Chicken Little's assessment.

If Hitler says the Jews are the root of all evil, after an investigation of the situation, it should be possible for a journalist to mention Hitler's statements, ALONG WITH A LIKELY MOTIVE FOR HIM HAVING ALLEGED WHAT HE DID, and then simply report that Hitler is a hatemonger lunatic, NOT that there are two "versions of the truth."

From there situations get harder to make judgments between, but judgments are required if you are to be a journalist, and not simply a transcriber on a public bulletin board.

Does it ever occur to anyone in El Editor that the people who they are reporting on might actually be motivated by public spiritedness, not by evil conspiracies? Do you all ever consider the consequences of disseminating "information" that is, in fact, not substantiated, not proved, and often completely false?

Case in point: On the recall of Councilwoman DeLeon. [And independent of the merits of the case] there were published over and over and over "allegations" from Mr. Gonzales in which he claimed the process of determining the number of valid signatures was tainted. It is not difficult to ascertain whether what he says is true. You don't need a District Attorney, a press conference, weeks of editorials, yellow-press "news" stories. You need simply a list of registered voters and a copy of the petition. You can determine for yourself, as I did for myself [going over the entire petition, name by name and comparing it to registered voters, and voters in the last council election], whether on the date of the submission of the petition, each signator [sic] is or is not a registered voter in council district one. Period. Simple.

Then when you've done that, the news story is not that Mr. Gonzales repeats for the quadrillionth time that the sky is falling, but rather that it rained - that is, that the news story is that each name has been checked by the diligent journalist, and X number of signators [sic] were found by that journalist to be registered voters, and Y number not registered voters. You would have found, had you done the work, as I did, that your number would have coincided with the City Secretary's number, and the accuracy of her work would have been part of the story.

The same goes for the Democratic Party meeting. The purpose of the meeting was as Sue stated it. She had the sole authority to call it. What other people, including myself, had in mind was simply what they had in mind. The authority that called the meeting had the reason it had, stated it, and that was that. Or can you read minds?

I very much want the Party to declare its position to be that the Party takes no sides in all the bizarre disputes exercising the minds of a tiny minority of the Hispanic community in the last nine months. I very much want the Party to state it is opposed to Council people and Commissioners getting in the middle of the internal policy-making process of the other entity.

I can't say whether Sue wanted to do that. I can't say what the members of the committee wanted to do, since those issues weren't submitted to it. I can say that there is consternation that a Democratic officeholder is screeching to high heavens

in "sugar daddy donated" radio time to the effect that another Democratic officeholder should not be an officeholder. That is a story. Why not report on some possible scenarios as to the motives behind that Commissioner's actions. I would certainly read and reread such stories, as I believe would many people in Lubbock. I have no clue why a simple bar closing should fracture the peace of the Hispanic community, the Democratic Party and Lubbock as a whole.

Since such speculations have not appeared in any organ of the press in Lubbock, I can only speculate privately inside my own conscience, and the only thing that occurs to me is that what we're dealing with is runaway ambition on the part of those who have caused this nasty dispute. I make no effort to hide what I think, and will instantly change my opinion if any evidence can be given me that what I have concluded is wrong.

The bizarrest thing about this whole thing is that I disagree with Linda on several of the issues that others have attempted to crucify her over, but don't think they are that important in the larger scheme of things. More importantly, I think the tactics of her opponents are sleazy, low-down, lie-based, personal vendettas not worthy of a good American or a good Democrat. That is why I've been so outspoken on the issue of Linda's tenure on the council, and on others' continued wild-eyed attacks on her.

If El Editor seeks to retain its status as a newspaper, and not a periodic throwaway flier for a handful of people's phantom fantasies, it needs to approach these things as journalists and not as

I suspect the abcess [sic] in the body politic of Lubbock will be lanced in March in the Democratic Primary. I am sure people with different views on this will be competing for nomination to office, but only one will win.

I very much suspect it will not be the "Democrat" who is tearing down Democratic officeholders, the Democratic Party and the Democratic leadership. Clyde James, Lubbock via Email

Change Thanksgiving to "Content and Grateful Day"

The only thing I like better than a short work week is a short work week coupled with a holiday! Thanksgiving is here and I am ready for a break; a break from the regular running around, all over town, that I

I looked up "Thanksgiving" in Wikipedia and found the following, "Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a traditional North American holiday to give thanks at the conclusion of the harvest season....

Thanksgiving meals are traditionally family events where certain kinds of food are served. First and foremost, turkey is the featured item in most Thanksgiving feasts (so much so that Thanksgiving is sometimes facetiously referred to as 'Turkey Day'). ... Often guests bring food items or help with cooking in the kitchen as part of a communal meal.

In keeping with the holiday theme of giving thanks, during the socializing or meal, people talk about what they are thankful for or tell about experiences during the past year which have caused them to feel grateful...

Wikipedia went on and on about the history, practices and significance of Thanksgiving but I can honestly say, I wasn't interested in reading anymore.

I'm sitting here thinking in what world do these people (Wikipedia) live in? "Guests bring food or help with cooking'? "People talk about what they are thankful for"? "Turkey is the featured item"? Well okay, maybe turkey is one of the items to be served, but so is chile con queso and frijoles and oh ya, don't forget the beer. But let's get real. The real featured item is Dallas Cowboy football with me, and I mean only me, doing the cooking and cleaning up afterwards. And as far as guests bringing food items well, that's only true if you consider cases of beer a food item.

Maybe, giving thanks happens as well. But that's usually reserved for halftime when my husband stretches, belches and says' "Babe, that was good. Can you bring me another beer? Oh, and another piece of pumpkin pie. That Wal-Mart can really cook!" And he actually thinks he's funny.

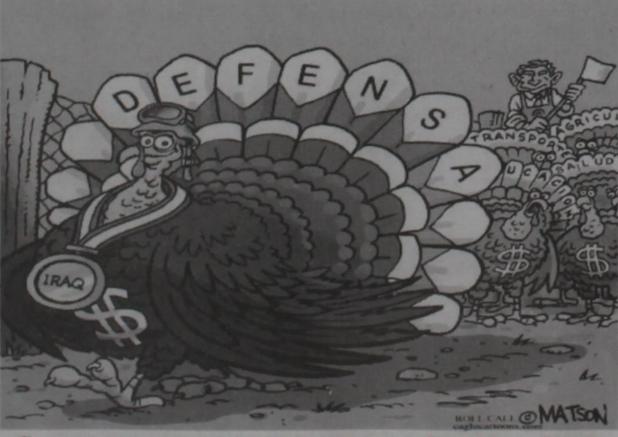
But you know what? And I know it's crazy but, I don't mind. Not on Thanksgiving Day and not on Christmas either. I don't mind because my husband is home, my kids are home and we're all having a good time just being a family. Talking to each other, watching the game, eating together, laughing together.

I guess Thanksgiving has evolved quite a bit from the first Thanksgiving observed in the US back on December 4, 1619. And I think it's evolved in how it is observed, but what hasn't changed is the spirit of why it is observed. Sure we don't shoot at indigenous people for entertainment anymore, we now watch the cowboys versus the redskins on television. And maybe we don't hunt a wild turkey for dinner but we do drink wild turkey before, during and after dinner. But the one true constant is being content on Thanksgiving Day. Content not only because our bellies are full and our house warm, but content because we're together, no school, no work, no running around taking my two kids here and there.

I think we should change the name to "Content Day" after all, who harvests anything anymore. I haven't been a farmer for, wait a minute; I've never been a farmer! But I think content isn't really as descriptive as I'd like. In fact, I know it isn't because on this special day I also genuinely reflect on the good things happening in my life, in my family's life and with enough shots of wild turkey, in the world. Don't get me wrong, I hate paying over \$3 a gallon for gas (soon to be over \$4), I hate knowing my natural gas bill is going to get really high come a few weeks more, and I hate that slut Suzy at work but, all in all, I have a lot more to be grateful for than not. I have people I love and who love me, I have food on the table and a warm house to live in, I have a partner in life who could be worse (sorry babe), and I have my faith

So, in conclusion I would say, let's change "Thanksgiving Day" to "Content and Grateful Day" after all, times have changed and I have never worn a funky pilgrim dress, not even for Halloween. And, come to think of it, my husband has never worn short pants, a big ass belt buckle or a stupid black hat - but I think

So, Happy Thanksgiving to all! And to all, be content and of course, grateful! RMS, Lubbock via Email



"LA MISMA AVE OBTIENE UN PERDON CADA AÑO!"

Obama y Giuliani, los más populares de la contienda

Si bien tanto los demócratas como los republicanos tienen fuertes opiniones sobre qué candidatos cuentan con las mejores posibilidades de conquistar la

presidencia en el 2008 --Hillary Clinton y Rudy Giuliani parecen los favoritos--, ello no coincide con quiénes les resultan más simpáticos, reveló una reciente encuesta.

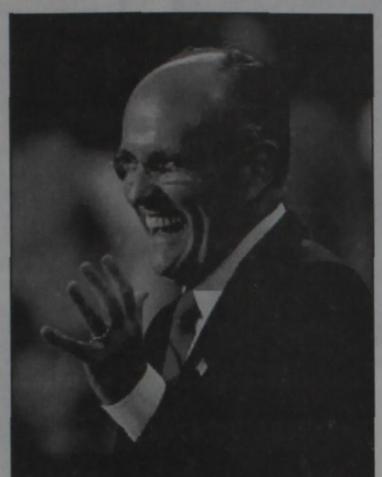
Las palmas, en cuestión de popularidad, corresponden a Barack Obama y a Giuliani.

Una encuesta de AP y Yahoo News, hecha a más de 2,000 personas, ofrece la ocasión de ver cuáles son las opiniones de los

estadounidenses sobre cada candidato, y cómo moldean su decisión de votar por determinado político. Y en ese sentido, cuestiones de personalidad, de política e inclusive de creencias religiosas, tienen también un importante peso.

En conjunto, según el sondeo, los demócratas dan más importancia a atributos personales que a posiciones políticas al comenzar la temporada electoral. En cuanto a los republicanos, dan más énfasis a la política.

Pero a veces las opciones resultan bastante extrañas. Por ejemplo, el republicano de línea



dura Donald Stokes, un obrero siderúrgico de 48 años de edad, de Waterbury, Connecticut, llevaría de vacaciones con su familia a un demócrata con fuertes credenciales liberales, John Edwards. A Stokes le encanta la personalidad de Edwards, arguyendo que se trata de una persona de trato fácil y que se toma la vida con calma. Sin embargo, Stokes piensa

votar por Giuliani porque percibe que el ex alcalde de Nueva York mostró virtudes de líder durante los devastadores ataques del 11 de septiembre del 2001.

Y Charolette Thompson, una diseñadora de jardines de 48 años que vive en Federal Way, estado de Washington, es una demócrata que respalda para presidente a Barack Obama. Sin embargo, si quisiera ir a jugar a los bolos, elegiría a "ese tipo que es mormón", el republicano Mitt Romney.

Si se pregunta a los demócratas qué cualidades personales prefieren en un candidato, es fácil saber por qué Clinton es la favorita. Los encuestados la consideran fuerte, experimentada, capaz de tomar decisiones y mostrar compasión.

Pero, en una medida de la polarización que despierta Clinton, al indagar si la elegirían para ir a jugar bolos o para salir de vacaciones, cerca de la mitad de los encuestados respondió que sí, y la otra mitad

descartó totalmente su compañía.

En el campo republicano, Giuliani tiene una fuerte ventaja. Se lo considera el candidato con más capacidad de decisión. Se cree que es fuerte y compasivo.

¿Cuál es el republicano más simpático? Nuevamente Giuliani es el preferido, no sólo en su partido, sino en su conjunto. Y en cuanto a popularidad, Obama parece llevarse las palmas sobre Giuliani, un 54 por ciento a un 46 por ciento. De todas maneras, eso no coincide con las preferencias a nivel político.

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Alexander Defends English-only at Work Bill

Caucus members said an amendment offered by Sen.
Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., that would protect workplaces with English-only policies from being sued for discrimination is discriminatory.

The amendment, passed by the Senate in the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, would bar the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from suing organizations that require their employees to speak English on the job.

"This is dangerous and wrong," members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrote in a letter to Democratic leaders of the House Appropriations Committee.

"English-only policies that do not relate to job performance are inherently discriminatory (and) are a major source of workplace discrimination against the nation's large and growing population of Hispanic, Asian-American, and other minority workers," the letter states.

Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, D-Ill., and a caucus member, said the amendment is rooted in "bigotry and prejudice," according to Congressional Quarterly.

Sen. Alexander said he is disappointed by the criticism.

"In order to be a citizen in this country, you're required to learn English, and there's a good reason for it," he said. "The civil rights laws of 1964 were intended to prohibit discrimination. They weren't intended to destroy our common language. English is the way we learn to live together."

He cited a lawsuit filed in April by the EEOC against the Salvation Army for allegedly discriminating against two employees in a Framingham, Mass., thrift store for requiring them to speak English on the iob

Sen. Alexander said he is

vexed by the actions of House Democratic leaders to strip his amendment from the conference bill, even though the House voted 218-186 earlier this month to instruct its conference negotiators to accept the bill with the amendment.

Now the meeting of Senate and House negotiators has been postponed indefinitely.

A spokesman in Democratic
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's
office, who spoke on background,
said the Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill likely will
be wrapped into an omnibus
appropriations bill that includes
several other spending measures
later this year.

At that point, Sen. Alexander's amendment could be considered, he said.

Sen. Alexander said he would not back down.

"I think we need more unity in the country, not more disunity, and our common language is one source of unity," he said.

Iraq, Afghan War Costs Are \$1.6 Trillion

The economic costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are estimated to total \$1.6 trillion -- roughly double the amount the White House has requested thus far, according to a new report by Democrats on Congress' Joint Economic Committee.

The report, released Tuesday, attempted to put a price tag on the two conflicts, including "hidden" costs such as interest payments on the money borrowed to pay for the wars, lost investment, the expense of long-term health care for injured veterans and the cost of oil market disruptions.

The \$1.6 trillion figure, for the period from 2002 to 2008, translates into a cost of \$20,900 for a family of four, the report said. The Bush administration has requested \$804 billion for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined, the report stated.

For the Iraq war only, total economic costs were estimated at \$1.3 trillion for the period

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from 2002 to 2008. That would cost a family of four \$16,500, the report said.

Future economic costs would be even greater. The report estimated that both wars would cost \$3.5 trillion between 2003 and 2017. Under that scenario, it would cost a family of four \$46,400, the report said.

Oil prices have surged since the start of the war, from about \$37 a barrel to well over \$90 a barrel in recent weeks, the report said. "Consistent disruptions from the war have affected oil prices," although the Iraq war is not responsible for all of the increase in oil prices, the report said.

Still, the report estimated that high oil prices have hit U.S. consumers in the pocket, transferring "approximately \$124 billion from U.S. oil consumers to foreign (oil) producers" from 2003 to 2008, the report said.

High oil prices can slow overall economic growth if that chills spending and investment

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by consumers and businesses. At the same time, high oil prices can spread inflation throughout the economy if companies decide to boost the prices of many other goods and services.

Meanwhile, "the sum of interest paid on Iraq-related debt from 2003 to 2017 will total over \$550 billion," the report said. The government has to make interest payments on the money it borrows to finance the national debt, which recently hit \$9 trillion for the first time.

The report comes as the House prepares to vote this week on another effort by Democrats to set a deadline for withdrawing troops from Iraq as a condition for providing another \$50 billion for the war.

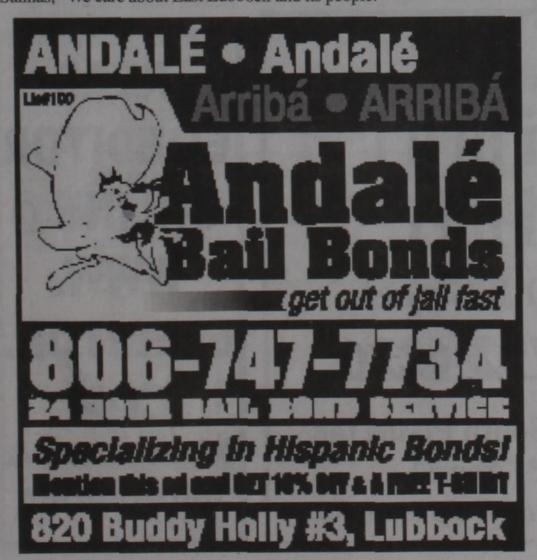
"What this report makes crystal clear is that the cost to our country in lives lost and dollars spent is tragically unacceptable," said Joint Economic Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., in a statement that accompanied the report's release.







Gilbert Salinas, Candidate for District 2 City Council, and Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez in cooperation with the Solid Waste Department of the City of Lubbock recently spent their Saturday morning cleaning East Lubbock. Eight dumpsters were positioned at four locations in East Lubbock for the residents to dispose of old appliances, tires, carpets and yard debris. "This is a way to help solve the problem of illegal dumping on the side of the road or in vacant lots," said Commissioner Gutierrez. "We want to have a clean neighborhood to attract new homes and businesses," said Gilbert Salinas, "We care about East Lubbock and its people."





Shakira has a new fixation

SHAKIRA was sick of being a celebrity. Colombia's sensationally successful singer-songwriter had just come off her "Oral Fixation" tour earlier this year, taking her to 140 cities on five continents to perform for 2.5 million fans. But even stardom can be a drag.

So she put away her revealing sequined gowns and hip-hugging pants, donned jeans and sneakers, tucked her famous shock of dyed hair under a cap and went undercover as a summer student at UCLA. She enrolled in a history of Western civilization course under her middle and last names, Isabel Mebarak, telling clueless classmates she was just visiting from Colombia.

"Oh, it was such a respite for me," Shakira recalls. "I felt that need to put a brake on everything, to escape from the celebrity life and reclaim a



normal life for a while. It was very healthy for me."

Her decompression from rock star to common coed was not just therapeutic, it coincided with the creative retreat she required to compose new songs for the film "Love in the Time of Cholera," which opened Friday. This is the first time she has written music for a movie, a challenge she assumed in honor of her compatriot, mentor and "dear friend," Gabriel García Márquez, the Nobel laureate whose novel of love and irrational devotion is the basis for the movie.

The work marks a radical departure for Shakira, from flashy, electrified pop/rock to



of Cholora

GABRIEL GARCÍA

MARQUEZ

gentle, acoustic, Latin American folk styles. The songs - a bolero and a traditional Andean tune -are almost period pieces, tailored to the film's genteel setting in

Cartagena circa 1900.

Shakira is arguably the most successful bicultural star Latin America has produced, and she's always been adept at straddling both English- and Spanishspeaking worlds with her seductive pop fusion that draws also on her Middle Eastern heritage. But these

songs required her to tap into deep cultural roots, to reconraised on in Barranquilla, music that still makes her cry and that instantly touches her soul, like a

"It was refreshing, because it allowed me to leave the pop universe for a moment and not think about the Top 10 on the radio, and not think about" She pauses. "And simply not

think. To just let the sensibility flow from those stories, let those García Márquez metaphors connect with the deepest part of me, and allow the music to be born form all of that."

She is speaking in Spanish in the pastoral, equally genteel setting of a patio restaurant at the Bel Air Hotel. She looks relaxed and casual, wearing a tank top and jeans, her hair loose and a bit disheveled, showing dark roots under a dyed, reddish brown crown. She accentuates the color contrast by fidgeting with a long naturally dark strand that she

pulls down along her neck and twirls at her shoulder. With-

out much makeup, she looks more like that average girl in history class than a sultry superstar. Now 30, she appears some-

younger than when I first met her in 2001 on the eve of releasing her first English-language album, "Laundry Service," a smash

that launched her global career. At that time, everything about her seemed more calculated - her appearance, her poses, her wardrobe, her answers. Today, Shakira doesn't have much more to prove, so she can let her hair down, somewhat. When her

> signaled that time was up after only 20 minutes, she WIIISpered conspiratorially with a coquettish chuckle, "We'll just steal a few more minutes."

handler

Then she went on to talk for an hour. 1 16 Colombia's image

Shakira, who writes her own songs in Spanish and English, speaks at times as if she's writing out sentences in long hand, like the character of Florentino Ariza (Javier Bardem) writing his first love letter to the woman for whom he'd wait half a century, Fermina Urbino (Giovanna Mezzogiorno). It's as if she has an automatic editor in her brain, scanning for the right words, selecting, deleting, selecting again.

When she talks about Colombia, she taps into a florid Castilian that flows in long passages, like the novel, which she calls "one of the last great love stories of our time." The film's cool reviews seem beside the point in light of her passion for it as a vehicle to provide a positive image of her country, one not of guerrillas and drug lords but of "starry nights and long silences by the sea." "That is the Colombia I wanted to share," she says, "and for that I felt it was a privilege to be involved in this project."

García Márquez himself urged Shakira to take an acting role in the movie, she says, but other commitments forced her to turn down what would have been her acting debut. Producer Scott Steindorff, however, reveals another reason for her decision. The role would have

required some nudity, he says, and Shakira was reluctant to do that. Shakira says she's received many acting offers over the years, but the right one hasn't come along. That's going to be harder than finding true love, since she imposes tough preconditions. "The script, the character, the director, it all has to come together to assure me that I'll be protected, because I have an image " She pauses again to correct herself. "I have a responsibility to my public, so I don't want to get into something that could fail."

That's the notorious control treak who micromanages every aspect of her career, down to every frame of her videos. "I control totally," she acknowledges, with a forced laugh that hints at insecurity. "So I need to put my [acting] career in the hands of the right person, including the right acting coach because I'm not sure what my thespian skills [destrezas histriónicas] may be. It's something that remains to be discovered."

On the other hand, she had no doubt about her ability to write the songs for this film. The music came to her spontaneously after she saw a rough cut in London. When it was over, she turned to British director Mike Newell, and hummed a melody for him.

She repeats the tune in a low sensual voice that fluctuates dramatically with melisma and falsetto: "Ay, mi bien, ta-ri-rida-da-ra, la-di di da di di da. . . . And it just started to come out of me like that, a spontaneous reaction. So I felt it was my duty, almost a moral one, to be involved with this project."

'In my blood'

That snippet turned into "Hay Amores," a bolero full of romance, poetry and yearning. It's a style that dates to the late 1800s, matching the movie's era, and was popularized throughout Latin America in the 1940s and '50s by guitar trios such as Los Panchos and Los Tres Reyes, whose surviving member was invited to play on the recording, available on iTunes and soon on the soundtrack.

"The bolero is in my blood," says Shakira. "And it's undoubtedly the pinnacle of romantic music. Nothing can capture the sentiment of love like a bolero does, and nothing else could do justice to this story."

The other original song, "Despedida," is written in a folk-

loric style evoking the mournful sound of Andean music, with native instruments such as the bombo, a drum, and the charango, a small guitar. Shakira calls it "the song of her dreams" because she had always wanted to write something that evoked "the lament of the Andes."

"The curious thing is that this is a song of farewell, of death, of loss, but at the same time, it was a pleasure to do," she says. "Digging into this new world of folklore was definitely one of the greatest challenges for me." Donated royalties

She was joined in the effort by influential Argentine musician Pedro Aznar as co-producer, along with Brazil's Antonio Pinto, who co-wrote the songs and the original score. All royalties from songs in the movie, including "Pienso En Ti" which she wrote at age 17, will go to Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Foundation), her nonprofit aimed at helping children who are victims

of violence in Colombia. Shakira worries that Latin America's traditional music represents a dying art on the continent, and delights at the suggestion of making a full album in the same style. But aside from the release this week of a DVD with concert and documentary footage, she has no plans for a new record.

Soon, she is joined by her fiancé, Antonio de la Rúa, a shaggy-haired lawyer who's the son of a former Argentine



president. Their steady relationship dates to the beginning of this century, before her fabulous ascent. They've lived through a lot of changes, she says, and surmounted their share of obstacles. but they've grown as individuals and "we're still together, still hand in hand."

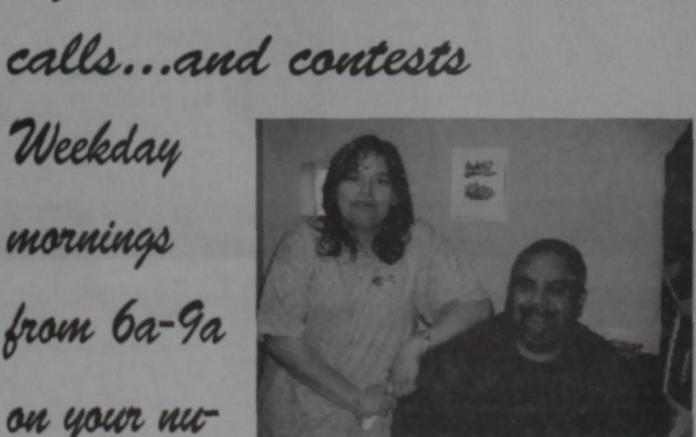
So does she believe in that old-fashioned concept of courtly, long-term love as portrayed in the movie? Is such romance relevant in a world of instant gratification, and how does she reconcile that with the raw rock culture she's embraced?

For the first time, Shakira appears to be at a loss for words. "Excuse me," she says, twirling her coffee cup in its saucer while composing her thoughts. "Love has always been full of patience, hasn't it? And patience is the privilege of those who truly love, right? Yes, it's difficult to imagine a Florentino Ariza today in 2007, but I'm an optimist. I believe that in all of us, in every man and woman, there is a Florentino and a Fermina, perhaps willing to wait, to transcend the obstacles of space and time, for the love of one's life."

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Why Detroit, Dallas get Turkey day benefit

Detroit and Dallas have been traditional TV games on Thanksgiving for a long time. When I was growing up there was always the Detroit-Green Bay game to watch followed by Dallas against whomever.

When I was in the NFL, there was always a feeling among many -- especially coaches and GMs -- that the Lions and Cowboys had an unfair advantage playing at home every Thanksgiving Day.

On a normal week, teams: Watch tape of Sunday's

game on Monday as well as get treatment.

 They are off on Tuesday. This is a union rule, but also a

good idea.

home game.

Wednesday, Thursday, and

Friday are the main practice

• Saturday is a 30-minute

walkthrough, usually, and then

the team travels to the away city

or stays at a local hotel for the

So both teams have to

condense six days into three

advantage day for the home

team is Wednesday since they

can go home and relax before

meetings the night before the

A second advantage gained

from a Thanksgiving game is

a 10-day break to rest up at a

you can say both away teams

get this break, too, and you are

right, but Dallas and Detroit get

The final advantage is hard to

measure, and that is the public-

it every year.

critical point in the season. Now,

don't have to travel. The players

they head to the team's hotel for

during Thanksgiving week. The

This is why Dallas wanted to play on Thanksgiving. Former Cowboys general manager Tex Schramm was a brilliant mar-

ity the team gets.

keting man who saw the value of having the whole country be able to see his team on national television on Thanksgiving Day, a day in which people would be gathered at homes and a natural TV audience would be available to watch football.

In the AFL, before the merger, Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt had the idea to play at home in Kansas City on Thanksgiving. When the merger came this game was taken away from Kansas City.

> The first coach to raise the issue of a competitive advantage was Vince Lombardi, whose Green Bay Packers had to travel to play to Detroit every Thanksgiving.

In 1962, which might have been Lombardi's best team, the Packers made their traditional trip to Detroit and ended up

, being upset by a very good Detroit Lions team. After that game Lombardi was able to get the NFL to start rotating the teams that had to play in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day.

To my knowledge, the next discussion about this came after I became general manager of the Redskins in 1989. The Cowboys had been down and we were told by the NFL office that the networks were concerned about the drop in TV ratings for the Dallas games, so the NFL asked for volunteers to host a Thanksgiving Day game.

The idea would be to keep the Detroit home game intact but rotate the site of the second game. But shortly after that, the Cowboys starting winning again and the networks did not want to give up Dallas as a Thanksgiving TV game.

Not long after that a motion was put in front of the owners to rotate the Thanksgiving Day games, because of competitive reasons. This was proposed by

the Competition Committee, which was chaired by Jim Finks, the now deceased Hall of Fame GM of the New Orleans Saints.

This proposal received a lot of support among the clubs and generated heated and long discussions. However the stats did not back up the argument of the Cowboys and Lions enjoying an unfair advantage.

Detroit had not been a consistently good team, so their winning percentage was not any better. And although Dallas had been a consistent winner, there was not any big swing in its winning percentage except for one stat: When Dallas had a winning team and played with the 10-day break after Thanksgiving, they rarely lost. In fact, at one point Dallas had a long winning streak after Thanksgiving.

The next argument, led by Hunt, was that having the same two teams play on Thanksgiving every year gave them an advantage in publicity. After all, both teams were guaranteed a game on national TV on a big ratings day. He also pointed out that both teams were from the NFC and this was an advantage to that conference. This was a big argument at the beginning of the free-agent system in the NFL.

The votes were beginning to add up in favor of passing the resolution to rotate the Thanksgiving Day games. There was then a break in the meeting, and at that point Detroit and Dallas began to work the room to get some votes. When we came back, the momentum had begun to change from a room that had a majority of teams favoring a switch in the format to keeping the games in Dallas and Detroit.

Both Dallas and Detroit spoke about how these games had become a great tradition in both of their cities. Detroit had the game on Thanksgiving since the 1930s. Discussions then centered on letting Detroit stay at home but force Dallas to play in different cities on Thanksgiving, but Dallas fought that.

Finally, some of the older owners, such as Wellington Mara of the New York Giants, spoke about the importance of tradition and keeping the status quo. After he spoke -- I do not remember if he spoke first -- some of the other veteran owners spoke to also keep the status quo.

The games would stay in Dallas and Detroit.

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

Barry Bonds Has Been Indicted. Will He Be Inducted?

Barry Bonds has been indicted. Will he ever be inducted?

Even if a jury dismisses the five counts of perjury and obstruction of justice against Bonds, his mere indictment and evidence that is expected to come to light at trial is liable to cripple his Hall of Fame candidacy, a handful of eligible voters said Friday.

"There is almost no way he ever makes it in," longtime Boston Globe columnist Peter Gammons said on ESPN. "Barry is such a lightning rod. There is such dislike for him. I don't think he ever makes the Hall of Fame."

Members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, who earn a lifetime Hall of Fame vote after 10 consecutive years of active membership, have shown little tolerance for players connected to baseball's steroids era. Mark McGwire, who stonewalled Congress during a hearing on steroids in baseball, was named on just 23.5 percent of the 545 ballots in January. It was his first year of eligibility. Seventy-five percent is required for enshrinement.

"The McGwire vote set the precedent," said BBWAA president Paul Hoynes, who covers the Indians for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "I would not vote for Bonds. I paint it all with the same brush. If you don't vote for McGwire, how can you vote for Bonds?"

Players become eligible five years after retirement, so Hall voters have time to step back and consider Bonds in the context of the drug-tainted era in which he played.

Some voters already have taken that step. Bernie Miklasz, a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, voted for McGwire and said he plans to vote for Bonds.

"Surely they were not the only users," Miklasz said. "So do we give all of the other players of the era a free pass?"

Miklasz said he could change his mind if new evidence comes to light, such as a positive steroid test. It would be the ultimate smoking gun, and in the 11-page indictment that was unsealed Thursday, federal investigators claimed to have evidence that Bonds tested positive.

Such evidence, combined with Major League Baseball's findings in its internal review, could

compel Commissioner Bud Selig to use the "best interests of the game" clause to suspend Bonds, wipe out the all-time home run record or even banish him from baseball.

Pete Rose, the game's all-time hits king, is still forbidden from appearing on a Hall of Fame ballot because he bet on the outcome of games while managing the Cincinnati Reds.

But Fay Vincent, who became commissioner shortly after Rose's banishment, cautioned against drawing parallels between the game's hit king and home run king.

"There is nothing the commissioner will do or should do," Vincent said. "Rose was in violation of a baseball rule - the most important baseball rule - so it was an internal matter. He's out and still out.

"This is a different case with Bonds. This case is about lying. It's not about steroids Even when it's over, and the evidence turns out to be terrific, I'm not clear on what baseball can do at that point."

Unless Selig removes Bonds from the ballot, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Bob Smizik said he would vote for him.

"I will not be the judge and jury for Major League Baseball," Smizik said. "If baseball doesn't want them in the Hall of Fame, take them off the ballot. They could do it with a snap of their fingers. But it's probably a moot point, after what happened with McGwire."

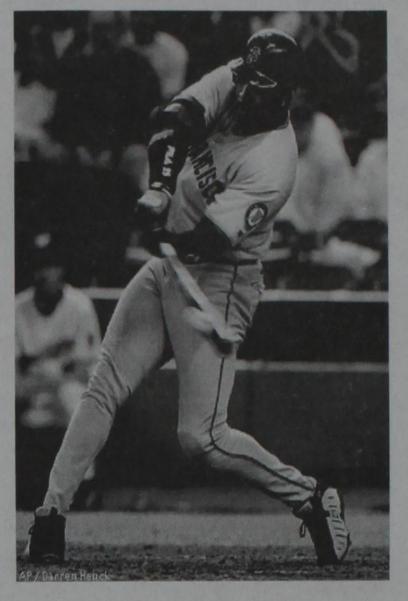
Smizik covered Bonds during the first seven seasons of his career, when he established himself as a great all-around player with the Pirates and won three of his seven MVP awards long before he was suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs.

That all-around greatness is what separates Bonds' tainted Hall of Fame candidacy from

that of McGwire, said Nick Peters of the Sacramento Bee.

"Bonds was a greater player than McGwire ever was," said Peters, who covered the Giants over five decades before retiring in October. "Bonds might not be a first-ballot guy now out of moral indignation, but I'm still voting for him because he was a superior athlete."

Hoynes takes an opposing



view, regarding it as a bigger shame if a player with Bonds' immense talent felt he had to take steroids.

"He didn't need to do this," Hoynes said. "The guy was one of the greatest players of all time before this ever happened....I just want somebody to be honest. I want somebody to step up and say, 'This is what I did and when I did it."

The Hall voters agreed that it's a good thing they have five years to reach a conclusion on Bonds and whether his record 762 home runs belong in Cooperstown. It's an issue that inspires plenty of mixed emotions, even among those who thought they knew where they stood.

"I've had problems with Barry over the years, more so than anyone in Pittsburgh," Smizik said. "But I feel bad for him. Intellectually it makes no sense, because he's a jerk, but I almost wish he'll win his case somehow and be exonerated. And I think he's guilty, too.

"How do you make sense of that?"

With Gigantic Payday Looming, Rodriguez Nets His Third MVP

Alex Rodriguez's whirlwind 2007 neared completion Monday when he was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in a landslide.

The New York Yankees third baseman received 26 of 28 firstplace votes and earned 382 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America: The Detroit Tigers' Magglio Ordonez finished second and received the other two first-place votes - both from Detroit-area writers.

Although A-Rod's 10-year, \$275 million contract to play for the Yankees through 2017 has not been completed, that appears to be only a matter of time.

"I have tremendous faith that I will be a world champion," Rodriguez said. "And what better place to do that than in New York? So hopefully everything

works out for everyone." With Rodriguez's return to pinstripes imminent, he did not have to spend Monday fending off questions on why he had opted out of his Yankees contract without even negotiating with the club.

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The only questions he put off regarded the evolution of events from his opt-out during Game 4 of the World Series on Oct. 28 to his meeting with Hank and Hal Steinbrenner last week in an attempt to lock up his future in pinstripes.

Rodriguez said he "would love" to address those questions at a more appropriate time - as in, after the contract is signed.

"There is a finish line in sight," he said, "and I'd like to just ask for a little patience. When the time is right, I'll be all yours to answer questions. All I can tell you is that the discussions with my wife (Cynthia) and the Steinbrenners went really well."

Hank Steinbrenner echoed Rodriguez's belief that A-Rod will be wearing pinstripes on opening day.

Said Steinbrenner, "I'm definitely very happy. Everything's going smoothly. Everything's going fine. It's just a matter of crossing the t's and dotting the i's - not necessarily with Alex."

Rodriguez, 32, had one of the best offensive seasons in major-

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league history. He batted .314 with 54 home runs, 156 RBIs and 143 runs scored. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he was the first player to lead the major leagues in home runs, RBIs and runs since the Yankees' Roger Maris did so in 1961.

Rodriguez had the fifth-highest RBI total in the majors since 1950. No Yankee has driven in more runs since Joe DiMaggio had 167 RBIs in 1937. He hit the most home runs by a Yankee since Maris' 61 and Mickey Mantle's 54 in 1961 and broke his own record for homeruns by a righthanded-hitting Yankee.

It was Rodriguez's third MVP award. He also won with Texas in 2003 and the Yankees in 2005.

"It was a magical season both on and off the field, coming together with my teammates in the clubhouse," he said. "It was a type of year that I'll never forget."

With Rodriguez returning to the fold for the next 10 seasons, he should have plenty of chances to go for a World Series ring. That is the one big gap in his career: He has never played in the World Series.

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Introduction

If you'd like to pay tribute to your Hispanic roots this Thanksgiving, here are a few ideas to get you started in that direction. Also included are some basic planning tips.

Instructions
Difficulty: Easy
Things You'll Need

Latin American Cookbooks Spanish Cookbooks Holiday Cookbooks Vegetarian Cookbook Steps

1 Step One

Figure out how many guests to invite. Consider the size of your home; the number of chairs, tables and dishes you'll need; and your ability to cook for a large number of people.

2 Step Two

Think about decorations for your home and dining table that will reflect your cultural upbringing. Bright colors are historically important to Hispanic cultures; think about playing with colors in the selection of the tablecloth and napkins. Other collectibles, which may be in storage or deep in closets, could be brought out as reminders of Thanksgivings past.

3 Step Three

Decide if you want to ask people to help you, either by bringing parts of the meal (wine, dessert, appetizers or side dishes), or by coming early to help.

4 Step Four

Determine the food preferences or restrictions of your guests. Are there any vegetarians or people with food allergies?

5 Step Five

Consider the sequence of the meal and its balance. Balance starchy dishes with lighter vegetable dishes. Consider how many courses you want to serve, as well as how many appetizers.

6 Step Six

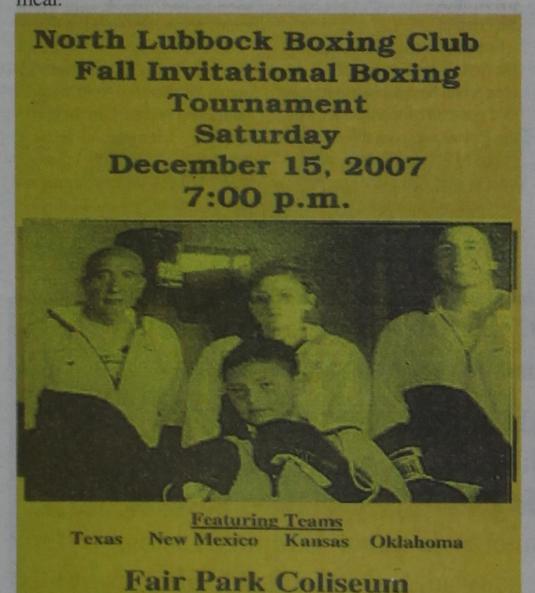
Move beyond traditional dishes and incorporate ingredients that reflect your Hispanic-American heritage. Consider scooping up a traditional spinach dip with toasted corn cups made from white corn tortillas. Think about alternative dishes that reflect your family's unique experience - chilled corn vichyssoise, jalapeno-spiked cornbread stuffing, or turkey mole. Or, instead of mashed potatoes, consider Spanish rice as a starch. Fry vanilla ice cream for dessert to serve alongside a pumpkin pie.

7 Step Seven

Once you've planned the menu, consider the timing and preparation of each dish. Is it physically possible for you to make all the dishes you've planned? If you've chosen to add a lot of spices to the dishes, are you sure everybody will tolerate it? Think about your kitchen and its limitations as well. If you have one oven, remember that a roasting turkey will be occupying it most of the time.

Tips & Warnings

Remember that people generally expect turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. Still, there is lots of room to add your own personal touch to the meal.



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On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

Literacy Important Among Hispanics

The number of Hispanics making Columbus home has nearly doubled in the last four years. But think about having to learn a second language while trying to take care of your family.

But the Muscogee County School District wants to help.

Imagine not being able to talk to your child's teacher because they don't understand Spanish. It's a scenario that plays out everyday.

But at Hispanic Family Literacy Day, the Muscogee County School District is helping Spanish speaking families take matters into their own hands.

Showing children reading can be fun...no matter the language. But also to encourage them to learn and understand English. But this event at the Tillinghurst Recreation Center is for the whole family.

"Just providing different ways in which the family can be informed and gain and have a love for learning together," said volunteer Jasmine Flores.

And that can be an uphill battle if your trying to establish your family in this country. Learning english can sometimes take a back seat to supporting your family.

But with out language skills that can be a bumpy ride.

"We know of situations were they can't communicate with their bill payers, they can't communicate with the people they rent from," said Sally Sinclair with the school district.

Read El Editor on the Internet www. eleditor.com

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving from

El Editor



The winner of the beautiful Grandfather clock given by House of Funiture for this Thanksgiving season was Juanita Medrano who recently moved from Florida to back to Lubbock. She is also celebrating her bithday. Congratulations.

La ganadora de el rejoj abuelo regalado por la Casa de Muebles fue Juanita Medrano. Ella es recien llegada de Florida y tambien estaba celebrando su cumpleaños.



Durante la rifa de 1- pavos regalados por El Editor que se llevo acabo en el lugar de House of Furniture por la Calle 28 y Ave. Q. Presente para la rifa estuvo Serenity y Johnny Torres quien Itambien logro ganar uno de los guajolotes.

During the raffle held this past Monday when El Editor gave away 10 turkeys and the House of Furnture on 28th Street and Ave. Q gave away a Grandfather clock. Present for the drawing was Serenity and Johnny Torres who were lucky and drew their own name to win one of the turkeys.



Pictured are is the staff of the House of Furnitre left to rightt, owner Robert Narvaiz, Mary Ellen Calderon, David and Johnny Hernandez together with Destiny Sanchez

Don't Drink and Drive this Holiday Season

At this event, organizers hope to promote literacy within the family. That way parents and children can teach each other the language.

And to show just how fun reading can be. That can be a book walk, puppet show, or just listening. But the benefits can be great for child and parent.

"They can communicate better so they can be a part of the society in which they're living in now," said Sinclair.

And one of the most important things to remember is that GED classes, English as a second language classes, and even citizenship classes are free through the Tillinghurst adult programs.

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