



City Election Candidate's Slate

Monday's deadline saw just two more candidates join the already filled slate of candidates for district 4 Lubbock elected offices.

Confirming what had long been speculated, District 4 Councilwoman Phyllis Jones issued a statement saying that she would not be seeking reelection. In her statement Jones referred to the last 4 years as "a highlight" of her life. "However" she continued, "I have decided not to seek reelection. I has been an invaluable experience to work with the citizens of my district and Lubbock, as well as the Mayor, members of the city council and the hard working employees of the city of Lubbock."

These candidates have filed for the District 4 seat. Paul Beane, Jerry Bell and Tom Keisling. Bell chairs the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and also ran unsuccessfully for at large seat on the LISD board in 2006.

"Paul Beane is a long time Lubbock radio veteran" and well known radio talk show host. Last week he took a leave of absence from his job as General Manager of Lubbock's KRBL-FM radio station to run his campaign but will return to the air after the election.

In the race for District 2, the term ends incumbent Daylin Bell has 3 challengers, Armando Gortalez, Gilbert Salinas, and Frady Green.

Lubbock residents are familiar with Gonzales for the role he played in recall efforts against Linda DeLeon and as co-host of Tejano Times Talk Radio along with his kids which airs weekdays from 7:00PM - 8:00PM.

304PM Monday - Friday on KRFBM Salinas' information states that he is an electrician by trade and a graduate of Escadado High School. Green is a Lubbock native who took local media and returned to Lubbock for about 20 years in live in Dallas but he is not registered to vote. His occupation is as a welder. Green is eligible to run for office since "he is not a registered voter" according to City Secretary Becky Garza. Garza issued a statement this week though which says that after seeking a legal opinion, "Mr Green is eligible to be a candidate though he is not presently a registered voter." If Green wins the election, he will only be able to serve if he is a registered voter according to Garza.

In the Mayoral race, Mayor David Miller will compete with three opponents for the opportunity to hold on to his seat. Former District 5 City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Martin filed on the first day of the filing period. On Monday he was joined by Gilbert Montano and Roger Selter.

Selter was most recently in the news when he organized a third recall effort against Councilwoman Linda DeLeon. Last week, the City Secretary announced that although organizers had turned in over 700 signatures, only 208 had been validated during her review of the signatures. Consequently the effort failed since 494 valid signatures are required to force a recall election in this case.

Aside from the Mayor's race, which is expected to be an expensive mostly two person race between Miller and Martin, the District 2 race is also expected to generate a high degree of media and public scrutiny.

An East Side resident who spoke to El Editor, but who didn't want their name used, says they have not seen any meaningful representation from Price and say that they have been disappointed in his failure to go against other council members and just settle for whatever other council members will give him, if anything. If this evaluation is a predominant view in District 2, then Prices opponents are sure to capitalize on his ineffectiveness as a campaign issue.

Also this past week, the City Secretary conducted a drawing to see in what order the candidate's names would appear on the ballot in May. Here's the final ballot order:

- Mayor District 4 Jerry Bell
- Pearl Beane District 5
- Tom Keisling District 6
- David Miller District 6
- Gilbert Salinas District 6
- Armando Gortalez District 2
- Floyd Price District 2
- Frady Green District 2
- Armando Gortalez District 2
- Gilbert Salinas District 2

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News Briefs

Where Have All the Jobs Gone

Here in Lubbock, local economists are quick to point out that the area is not as affected by economic and employment downturns as much as other areas of the country. But recently released numbers show the area is not as immune as some economists and business related industry leaders would like us believe.

The latest numbers show that the Lubbock-Crosby County area which is coupled together for statistical purposes ranked near the bottom in annual job growth and that the area had lost over 2,500 jobs in January. That added to Lubbock's unemployment rate which stood at 3.6% in January.

On the national front, the Labor Department estimated that 63,000 jobs were lost in February alone. According to the report, "it was the second consecutive monthly decline and the third straight drop for private sector."

The national unemployment rate stood at 4.9% in January. Also, in the "bad news" department, local media reported that a local banking institution was being eliminated 75 jobs as of Friday. The bank which has been operating as State National will become Compass Bank.

Gas Prices - How High Will They Go?

About all that is known about gas prices these days is that they are sky high and when they will continue to go up. The big questions are how high will prices go and when will it happen?

And on the dreaded news end, even economists who predict that they will peak at \$4 per gallon this summer are unsure if that figure is too low.

According to Texas Tech economics professor, Robert Ricketts, the price hikes are "invaluable" but the question of how high and when remains "difficult to guess." Ricketts says that prices in California are already in the \$4 per gallon range; and in fact the online site mapogroup.com shows the price at \$4.20 per gallon in Lee Vining. Ca. Ricketts says that his guess is that we won't see \$4 per gallon by the summer here in Lubbock; and he also predicts that consumption will fall, perhaps due to the high prices; "easing some price pressure in the short term."

Some perspective is required here to illustrate just how fast prices have climbed. In 2000, when George Bush took office, the price for a gallon of gas averaged around \$1.42 per gallon here in Lubbock. The national average was \$1.54. Back then 16 gallons purchased in Lubbock would have cost \$22.72.

Contrast that to last October when prices were at about \$2.77 per gallon. Based on that price for gallons of gas, the average gallon capacity of a mid size vehicle would have cost the driver \$44.32. This past week, the price of those same 16 gallons will cost \$48.80 at \$3.05 per gallon; a difference of \$4.48. Multiply that amount by 4 for someone who fills up once a week and one can quickly see how much the increase in gas prices are costing Lubbock residents more per month \$17.92. And when compared to the year 2000 price, drivers are paying \$26.08 more for the same 16 gallons over 100%.

When the \$17.92 amount might not seem like much, consider that most working families have at least 2 vehicles and that some folks fill up twice per week. And that is a midsize vehicle; imagine those motorists who drive SUV's or pick-up trucks?

This past week, the price for a barrel of oil reached an all time high of \$108 per barrel. This coupled with the general state of the economy and worry has to set in about how much more the prices will go up.

And most everyone agrees that things will get worse before they get better. On Tuesday of this past week, the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded in Texas was \$3.14, premium was going for \$3.45 with Spring Break right around the corner. Prices are expected to go up as demand goes up.

According to the online site gasbuddy.com prices in Lubbock for a gallon of unleaded range from a low of \$3.44 at Murphy Sales, at 4th Street and Ave R; to a high of \$3.40 at the Phillips 66 station at Parkway Drive and Cherry Ave in East Lubbock.

Nationally, drivers in Missouri, Tennessee were paying the lowest price; \$2.57, with the highest prices being charged in Mesquite, California, \$4.26 and Hawaii at \$4.25 per gallon.

The scary part is that even \$4 dollars a gallon may not be where the roller coaster ride ends. According to Rick Egan, "In the long term, if we don't do something to shore up our fiscal imbalances and stem the fall of the dollar, we might wish that you only cost \$4 per gallon."

Email: acruzsc@oil.com or elditor@scglobo.net

Arina Aztlan set to start Friday

In an area where ho-downs and square dance is the norm, this weekend's brilliant and elegant Mexican costumes and the fiery music of mariachi will be the standard as 18 different folkloric dance troupes converge on Lubbock's Civic Center to compete for awards in this year's Viva Aztlan Dance Festival. The event organized by Lubbock-Crosby Aztlan marks its fourteenth annual and this year promises to be the best ever.

Ballets will come to Lubbock from Chicago, El Paso, Dallas, Madsheer and Madstone, Texas, Harb, Rowell, New Mexico and Denver and Puerto Colorado Two Lubbock ballets will also participate in the competition. Each group is normally comprised of fifteen to thirty dancers ranging in age from 3 to 16.

Troupes will gather to establish the best in costume, style, technique and choreography established by a 20 minute presentation and judged by 4 expert professors of dance. "Mestras" as the professors of dance are Jesus Chacon from Austin, Rudolfo Hernandez from El Paso, Isidro Salas from Houston and Rafael Rodriguez Vazquez from Chihuahua, MX.

This year, Lubbock-Crosby Aztlan and the Ballet Folklorico Aztlan announced that this year's Festival Viva Aztlan has been accepted as part of Lubbock's Centennial Celebration. The 12th annual performance of the event will be presented at the Lubbock Civic Center on March 14 and 15 and will feature the performance of Marchi and Folklorico groups from throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The program also invites dance, orchestra and band students to hands on workshops in mariachi music/Mexican folkloric dance.

Besides the workshops and competition, the event will feature two special presentations including a Friday night concert by the world renowned Los Amigos from El Paso. The mariachi recently appeared at the Mariachi Conference in Tucson Arizona and have conducted mariachi workshops throughout Texas. They are working to promote mariachi music among young people in the public schools.

Also during the Festival, the winners of last year's Best of Festival Award will be featured in a Folklorico Showcase in which the Best of the Year's Ballet Folklorico from Chicago will present traditional dances from many different states in Mexico and also different areas of the Mexico. The folkloric group has promised to present it's celebrated "Los Concheros" set which presents dances dating back to the time of the Aztecs



chil Conference in Tucson Arizona and have conducted mariachi workshops throughout Texas. They are working to promote mariachi music among young people in the public schools.

The event is sponsored by Civic Lubbock Inc., The Lubbock Area Foundation, Sybil Harrington Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission of the Arts and El Editor Newspapers.

Viva Aztlan Dance Festival is funded in part by grants from Civic Lubbock Inc., the Sybil B. Harrington Endowment for the Arts of the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the Texas Commission for the Arts. Additional help is also given by Univision, Tri-color Magy 93.7, La Ley, Coca Cola and El Editor Newspaper.

For ticket and more information Contact Zenaida Aguero Reyes at 252-2828 or Bidal Aguero 741-4971.

A Neighborhood's Symbol of Accomplishment

With winter mostly a memory and spring just a few days away, Guadalupe Neighborhood Association members are once again making plans to meet again show up to help complete the project which was started last year.

The "arroyo", which means creek or stream in English, is located just north of the Aztlan Park area and the name is both a descriptive and geographical term. It is also the way most of the neighborhood's residents have described the location over the years.

But it means so much more than just a stretch of land to local residents and people who once lived in the Guadalupe barrio. In fact it is for someone who lived in the area before the 1970 tornado they most likely will have a story or anecdote about their experience.

The association's president, Lila Medina de Quirino who along with her husband Carlos Quirino has spearheaded the effort gives credit to all the people who have come out to help on the previous Saturdays. She cites folks and remembers "hanging out" in the very area that is being cleaned up today.

These days it has quickly become an icon of sorts within and outside of the community. A vivid, living symbol of a natural landscape that is slowly being saved from environmental ruin by people who care about their neighborhood.

And most importantly it has become a symbol of what a community organization can accomplish when assisted by city officials.

Medina de Quirino who along with her husband Carlos Quirino has spearheaded the effort gives credit to all the people who have come out to help on the previous Saturdays. She cites folks and remembers "hanging out" in the very area that is being cleaned up today.

Medina de Quirino says that even Mayor David Miller is scheduled to show up this Saturday to help in the effort.

Carlos Quirino also tells El Editor that just this past Saturday they noticed that lighting had been installed at one location in the area. He says the light shines down on the same arroyo location which the group has been cleaning up, and he hopes additional lighting will be installed.

The clean up effort is scheduled for this Saturday March 15 and will take place from 8:30AM to 12 Noon. Neighborhood residents and those interested in preserving the environment or who perhaps once lived in the "barrio" are encouraged to come out and help. Refreshments and breakfast "barritos" will be provided for people who show up during breakfast hours.

Fighting Against Identity Theft: Prevention Tips

According to the United Postal Service (USPS) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), identity theft is a serious crime that has many sources. The USPS reports that every year, people from all walks of life become victims.

US Postmaster General John E. Potter reports that according to a recent FTC survey only 28% of all victims reported that the theft of their identity was connected to mail, however, that is still too many. Thus the reason, our USPS postal system is continuing to work to make our mail even more secure and strives to reduce that percentage to zero.

Both the USPS and FTC agree that identity is valuable. If someone steals it to commit fraudulent acts, it can affect just about every aspect of your life, including your credit standing, your ability to purchase a car or a home, or even getting a job or medical care. The downside of it all is that it can take years to repair that damage. Most importantly, it can happen to any of us, in ways we never imagine.

Identified theft occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identity theft can cost you, not only in time and money, but it can also easily destroy your credit and run your good name. DIETTER-DETECT-DEFEND = AVOID THEFT. That is the basic theme of the FTC's public awareness campaign in helping citizens fight against identity theft.

The FTC states that you can DEFEND against ID theft as soon as you suspect it, if you follow the following key tips. (1) Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit report, and review the reports carefully. The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The 3 nationwide consumer reporting companies have TOLL-FREE numbers for

placing an initial 90-day FRAUD ALERT; call to just 1 of the companies is sufficient (Equifax - 1-800-525-6285; Experian - 1-888-880-8080; AN or 397-3742; OR TransUnion - 1-800-EMER-7289). Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports. (2) Close ALL accounts. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently. Call the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened or changed without your okay. Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents. Use the ID Theft Affidavit at www.ftc.gov/idtheft to support your written statement. Ask for verification that the disputed accounts have been closed and the fraudulent debts discharged. (3) File a police report. File a report with law enforcement officials to help you to identify Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, and Washington, DC 20580.

Again, for more information, about any of the information outlined here, or to learn more about ID theft and how to DIETTER, DETECT, and DEFEND against it, visit the website: www.ftc.gov/idtheft. Or, by phone, you can call 1-877-ID-THFT (or 438-4338); or TTY, at 1-866-653-4281. Or, by mail, you can write to -Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, and Washington, DC 20580.

This information is from Texas State Representative Robert R. Alonso's Weekly "Capital Report".

Editorial

Iraq: When Will the Bleeding Stop?

In March of 2003, we awakened to the news that our country was at war with Iraq. On President Bush's order, our military had taken action against Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Over the years we have spoken out on the flawed intelligence and the misinformation used by the Bush administration to justify the invasion. We were against the military action when it started and still are today.

This week, after another 5 years of a senseless war and military and political miscalculation, we once again awakened to the news that 8 more of our military soldiers had been killed. According to news reports, 5 of them "while chatting with shopkeepers" in Central Baghdad, and the other 3 in a roadside bomb attack in Diyala province.

Each week the news in the number of soldiers who have been killed since the war began at the top of our front page as a reminder that we should not forget the men and women who have lost their life in service of their country and its people.

Last week that number was 3,974. Sadly, sooner rather than later, that number will inevitably reach another milestone: 4,000.

The much needed changing of the guard at the White House cannot come soon enough as far as we are concerned. January 20, 2009, Inauguration Day, will hopefully also mark the day when the wheels are put in motion to begin to honestly look at how we can politically, morally, rationally, and economically begin to extricate ourselves from this no win situation.

We understand the issues involved. Our national security interests in the region, our interest in the country's oil, although those supposedly great oil resources have helped much more in getting the Iraqis to pay for their share of bringing Democracy to the people of Iraq, or is that a hollow war slogan?

In regard to the "no terrorism" and the "fight them over there so we don't have to fight them here" rhetoric; those two long nigh political slogans designed to appeal to people's worst fears.

Besides we have long believed that an imposed system of government on a people cannot succeed in a country where ethnic and religious fanaticisms outweigh a desire to live under the rule of Democracy.

And what about the oil, how about sending some our way to offset the outrageous gas prices we are paying now.

When George Bush took office in 2000, oil was about \$27 dollars a barrel. On Wednesday crude oil closed at \$110.00 a barrel, where is the payoff and when will it come?

Sadly for the American people, there will no payoff; the payoff is reserved for Vice President Dick Cheney's cohorts and companies like Halliburton which have enriched themselves while America's soldiers have shed American blood.

We also understand that once we broke it we owned it like Secretary of State Colin Powell once said.

But after almost 4,000 American lives lost, along with hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives lost; after close to 30,000 of our soldiers wounded and a great number of those in need of medical care for the rest of their life; we have to ask when will the bleeding stop; both literally and figuratively?

When will we refuse our rights on our domestic issues like the economy and our giant budget deficits; a large portion of which is due to the billions of dollars borrowed for this war? An enormous debt that has been accumulating paying for what history will show as Mr. Bush's greatest failure.

As a conservative who ran on government and fiscal conservatism, and Mr. Bush has now gotten so deep in debt and mired in a war in which we fear our debt to our returning veterans will never be paid. Each day we read stories about veterans who have been abandoned by our military or who have gotten lost in the red tape and cracks in the system. They have paid the ultimate price on the battlefield and now they have to fight bureaucrats here at home in order to receive the medical care they rightfully deserve.

Perhaps some who read this will be tempted to say we are soft on issues of national security or are in some way unpatriotic; or use that old standby generic term, "bleeding heart liberals".

If being a conservative gets you a 5 year war with no end in sight, trillions of dollars in debt, close to 4,000 lost American lives in the prime of their lives, a false sense of patriotism, a loss on the brink of a recession, a declining standing in the global economy, a loss of credibility among the world's population, and a complete manipulation of the constitution for political needs; then we'll gladly take the liberal label over the conservative one.

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Much has changed for Hispanic Americans since 1968. Forty years ago, Hispanic of the U.S. population Today, that number has reached 15 percent and is growing.

Back then, we were largely invisible outside of the Southwest and a few other pockets around the country. Today, we comprise the nation's largest ethnic minority and the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. electorate.

Forty years ago, upwards of 80 percent of Hispanic students dropped out of school, perhaps a quarter owned their own homes, and there were just a handful of Latino elected officials nationally. Since then, the dropout rate has been cut in half, 50 percent of Latino families are homeowners, and there are more than 5,000 Hispanic elected officials.

In 1968, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) was created with one goal: to strengthen the United States by promoting the advancement of Latino families. Forty years later, we have much to be proud of. The Non-Profit Times recognized NCLR's leadership with its coveted "Power and Influence Top 50" award, honoring the top 50 leaders shaping the nonprofit world. NCLR was featured alongside Habitat for Humanity and the Heritage Foundation in Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits, a book that analyzes the practices of 12 "high-impact" nonprofit organizations that have successfully made social change.

NCLR has received this recognition for its partnership with the nearly 300 community-based organizations in our Affiliate Network; we continue to try to level the playing field in many areas, including:

Education - NCLR supports 100 community-based schools, serving nearly 25,000 students annually.

Homeownership - Since 1997, the NCLR Homeownership Network has provided counseling to nearly 145,000 families and has helped more than 23,000 Latino families buy their own homes.

Head Start - NCLR has long championed making this valuable preschool program more accessible to Hispanic children, who after

decades of under-enrollment have now reached parity in attendance with their peers. In 2005, Congress increased Head Start funding by \$35 million to expand access for children of farmworkers.

nHealthCare - NCLR has helped build health clinics and train lay health educators; in 2006, these clinics and educators provided care and disease prevention to nearly 100,000 people.

Citizenship - Our affiliates work to help Hispanic immigrants integrate fully into U.S. society by providing English-language and civics classes and assistance with naturalization and voter registration.

While we have made much progress as a community, and as a nation, in the last 40 years, we still have work to do to realize our vision of a country where everyone has an equal opportunity to achieve the American Dream. While NCLR's founders had to fight to get attention four decades ago, Latinos often receive the wrong kind of attention today.

For example, although Hispanic Americans have proudly served our country throughout our history and are fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan today, some question our loyalty, and others call us a threat.

But we will not let these negative forces derail us from working to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Simply put, if 12 students do not succeed in school, then our educational system cannot succeed. If Latino families do not secure a comfortable level of financial stability and savings, then neither will our country prosper economically. And if Hispanics are not fully integrated into the mainstream, our nation will not achieve the social cohesion required of the world's greatest multiracial democracy.

Looking toward the next 40 years, one thing is clear: the Latino community's future is this nation's future. Let's work to make that future a bright one for all of us.

(Janet Murguía, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest civil rights and advocacy organization, writes a monthly column for Hispanic Link News Service. Reach her at jm@nclr.org. @2008.

LA DIFERENCIA QUE HAYEN 40 AÑOS

Janet Murguía

Desde el año 1968 much ha cambiado para los hispanoamericanos. Hoy cuarenta años, los hispanos constituyen menos del 4% de la población de los Estados Unidos, pero el porcentaje ha llegado al 15% y sigue creciendo.

En otras palabras, éramos casi invisibles fuera del suroeste y uno que otro grupo en otras partes del país. Hoy, los hispanos comprenden el grupo étnico minoritario más grande y con mayor crecimiento electoral de los Estados Unidos. Hoy, somos más visibles y habido sólo un puñado de funcionarios electos latinos en el gobierno. Desde entonces la tasa de abandono de los estudios ha bajado a la mitad, cerca del 50% de las familias latinas se dueñan de su vivienda, y hay más de 5.000 familias propietarias de escuelas hispanas.

En 1968, el Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR) surgió por sus siglas en inglés) fue creado con una meta: fortalecer a los Estados Unidos mediante el avance de las familias latinas. Cuarenta años después, tenemos mucho por lo que sentimos orgullosos: el No Profit Times ha reconocido el liderazgo de NCLR con su poderoso premio "Power and Influence Top 50" (Poder e Influencia, los 50 primeros) que honra a los 50 líderes que dan forma al mundo de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro. NCLR también comparte el Premio de las Prácticas de Alto Impacto y el Heritage Foundation en Fuerzas por el Bien. Los Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits, un libro que analiza las prácticas de 12 organizaciones sin fines de lucro que "mayor impacto" que ha logrado hacer un cambio social.

NCLR ha recibido este reconocimiento por lo que, en conjunto con cerca de 300 organizaciones comunitarias que forman parte de nuestra Red de Afiliados, contamos trabajando por lograr la igualdad de oportunidades en muchas áreas, incluyendo:

Educación - NCLR apoya a 100 escuelas comunitarias que atienden a casi 25,000 estudiantes anualmente.

Propiedad de viviendas - Desde 1997, la red de propietarios de NCLR ha proporcionado consejo a cerca de 145,000 familias y ha ayudado a más de 23,000 familias latinas a comprar su propia casa.

Head Start - NCLR, por mucho tiempo, ha abogado por que este importante programa de educación preescolar sea más accesible a los niños hispanos, quienes después de décadas de cifras bajas de inscripción, han logrado ahora alcanzar la paridad en asistencia con sus semejantes no hispanos. En el 2005, el Congreso aumentó el financiamiento de Head Start en \$35 millones para extender el acceso a los hijos de trabajadores agrícolas.

La salud - NCLR ha ayudado a construir clínicas de salud y a capacitar a 21 organizaciones de salud sin fines de lucro; en 2006, estas clínicas y los educadores proporcionaron cuidados y prevención de enfermedades a cerca de 100,000 personas.

La ciudadanía - Nuestros afiliados trabajan para ayudar a los inmigrantes hispanos a integrarse completamente en la sociedad estadounidense al proporcionarles acceso a clases de inglés y de cívica, y ofrecerles ayuda con los trámites para hacerse ciudadanos y registrarse para votar.

Aunque hemos progresado mucho como comunidad y como nación en los últimos cuarenta años, todavía nos queda trabajo por hacer para alcanzar nuestra visión de un país en el que todos tengamos las mismas oportunidades de realizar el sueño americano. A pesar de la lucha que los fundadores de NCLR hicieron para llamar la atención, cuatro décadas atrás, a menudo los latinos reciben hoy el tipo de atención que no necesitan.

Como ejemplo, aunque los hispanoamericanos hemos servido a nuestro país con orgullo a través de toda nuestra historia, y a pesar de seguir luchando y muriendo en Irak y Afganistán hoy, hay algunos que cuestionan nuestra lealtad, mientras que otros no reconocen una amenaza.

Pero nosotros no permitiremos que estas fuerzas negativas nos desvíen de nuestro trabajo por mejorar las oportunidades para los hispanoamericanos. Así de sencillo - si los estudiantes latinos no tienen éxito en la escuela, nuestro propio sistema educativo tampoco podrá ser exitoso. Si las familias latinas no tienen seguridad un nivel adecuado de estabilidad financiera y de hogar, nuestro país tampoco prosperará económicamente. Y si los hispanos no están totalmente integrados en la sociedad general, esta nación no alcanzará la cohesión social que se requiere de la democracia multirracial más grande del mundo.

En los 40 años por venir, una cosa es clara: el futuro de la comunidad latina es el futuro de esta nación. Trabajemos juntos para hacer que ese futuro sea brillante para cada uno de nosotros.

"Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

And Our Next Beauty Contestants Are...

If you thought the County Commissioner's race got ugly, wait until the LISD School Board race gets underway! Apparently, school board member Mario Ybarra is being challenged by that fearless community activist Lala Chavez (AJ 03/11/08).

Seems Mario is very upset when he learned that Lala was running against him. Seems Mario (Linda DeLeon's cousin) thought that he was not being fair when he said "just because". Well Mario, "just because" isn't good enough is it?

Of course, we hear Linda DeLeon has vowed to back Mario up with all of her little tricks, including using spies in the Chavez campaign camp. If for one am glad someone is running against Mario. I've said it before and I'll say it again: Mario is a nice enough guy, but an ineffective, self-centered bump on the log school board member. I mean, come on, I know mushrooms with more sense and savvy and victor than Mario. I also know Mario was appointed over David Langston and Gumption Hernandez just because he was Linda's cousin. I know Lala has had three years to prove himself especially with the proposed OL Slaton closing and he did nothing. Or at least, he did nothing until he knew it wasn't going to close then, he tried to take credit for stopping it! Shish, what a jerk!

The County Commissioner's race left me a bit drained. Let me wonder what the community wants in its leadership. I still believe that our community wants a champion who will fight when necessary and not just be quiet when a news story comes out stating that Hispanic and African-American kids are being short-changed by LISD (AJ 02/08/08). Mario where were you?

I say, let the fun begin!
"Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Submissions may be sent via email to elditor@bcgglobal.net

Viva Aztlan Friday's Schedule - March 14, 2008

- Registration 9:00 a.m. Civic Center Theatre
- Mariachi Workshop 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon Rooms 108-111
- Children Workshop 10:00 to 12:00 Noon Theatre
- Region: Nuevo Leon Instructor: Isidro Salas
- Children Workshop 10:00 to 12:00 Noon *Room
- Region: Campeche Instructor: Jesus Chacon
- Lunch (On your own) 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Mariachi Workshop 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Rooms 108-111
- Warm up for workshops 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Theatre
- Adult Workshop 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Civic Center Theatre
- Region: TBA Instructor: Rafael Rodriguez Vasquez
- Children Workshop 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Room 107
- Region: Jalisco Instructor: Jesus Chacon
- Children Competition
- 3:35 to 3:55 p.m. les Ballet Folklorico - Lubbock, TX
- 4:00 to 4:20 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Aztlan - Lubbock, TX
- 4:25 to 4:45 p.m. Roswell Folklorico - Roswell, NM
- 4:50 to 5:10 p.m. Aguila de Oro-Hobbs, NM
- 5:15 to 5:35 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Back of the Yards - Chicago, IL
- Dinner (on your own) 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Mariachi Concert
- 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. Opening concert - Mariachi Nueva Generacion, Mariachi Mi Tierra, and Mariachi Amistad
- 7:45 to 9:00 p.m. Mariachi Los Arrieros - El Paso, Texas

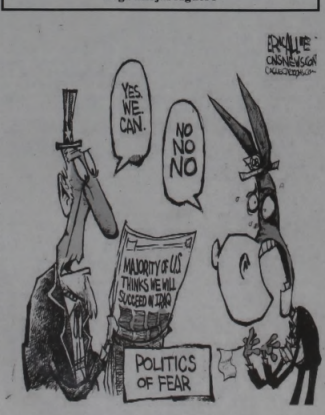
Saturday's Schedule - March 15, 2008

- Adult Workshop 8:00 to 10:15 a.m. Theatre
- Region: Veracruz Instructor: (Thematic) Rodolfo Hernandez
- Adult Workshop 8:00 to 10:15 a.m. * Room
- Region: Veracruz Instructor: Isidro Salas (Sotavento)
- Mariachi Workshop 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon Rooms 108 - 111
- Director Seminar 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Room - 112
- Presented by Juan Cuevas
- Adult Competition
- 10:30 - 10:55 a.m. Ahue Tascacame-Collejo de Bachilleres 46 - Cd. Juarez
- 11:00 - 11:25 a.m. Edinburg Parks & Rec Folklorico Dance Team- Edinburg, TX
- 11:30 - 11:55 a.m. Grupo de Danza Folklorico Raramuri - Anthony, NM
- Lunch (on your own) 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Mariachi Workshop
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Rooms 108 - 111
- Adult Competition
- 1:00 - 1:25 p.m. Grupo Folklorico Hidalgo - Hidalgo, TX
- 1:30 - 1:55 p.m. Corazon of OK Panhandle State Univ - Goodwell, OK
- 2:00 - 2:25 p.m. Edinburg HS Grupo Folklorico Mixin - Edinburg, TX
- 2:30 - 2:55 p.m. Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico - Muleshoe, TX
- 3:00 - 3:25 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Back of the Yards - Chicago, IL
- 3:30 - 3:55 p.m. Edinburg North HS Ritmo Dorado - Edinburg, TX
- 4:00 - 4:25 p.m. Alma Folklorico de Oklahoma - Guyton, OK
- 4:30 - 4:55 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Aztlan - Lubbock, TX
- 5:00 - 5:25 p.m. Grupo Folklorico Jaguar - Edinburg, TX
- 5:30 - 5:55 p.m. Roswell Folklorico - Roswell, NM
- Dinner - on your own
- Showcase
- 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Civic Center Theatre
- Ballet Folklorico Back of the Yards - Chicago
- IL Awards Ceremony - Intermession Entertainment by La Nueva Onda
- 9:15 - 10:30 p.m. Civic Center Theatre

El Editor

El Editor is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.elditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas by emailing our e-editions to elditor@bcgglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841. Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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Impulsan proyecto duro de migración

EEUU: 25% de jovencitas con enfermedades de transmisión sexual

La minoría republicana de la Cámara Baja, con el apoyo de varios demócratas, presentó ayer una petición para forzar al liderazgo congresual a llevar a pleno un proyecto migratorio. La demócrata enfocada en la aplicación de leyes aunque no queda claro si reunirán las 218 firmas requeridas para obligar a la discusión de la medida.

republicanos (Whip), cree que de momento, unos cien republicanos podrían firmar la petición (discharge petition). Pero que esa cifra podría aumentar. Y que

generalmente empleada por la minoría.

Pero es año electoral y los republicanos no son los únicos interesados en demostrar a sus representados que han ejercido mano dura contra la inmigración indocumentada o que cuando menos lo han intentado.

Entre esos demócratas hay congresistas como Shuler que fueron electos en 2006 en distritos conservadores de inclinación republicana y de hecho, ganaron esas comarcas prometiendo mano dura contra los indocumentados.

Whalen indicó a La Opinión que "el congresista habría preferido que el proyecto llegara al pleno por los mecanismos regulares, pero al mismo tiempo piensa que la medida merece ser discutida en este Congreso".

Sobre el argumento de que Shuler, como otros demócratas y republicanos, sólo quieren sacar ventaja política del tema migratorio en año electoral, Whalen afirmó que "estamos en total desacuerdo con ese argumento".

"Esto no está políticamente motivado. Se trata de asegurar las fronteras y de garantizar que quienes trabajan en Estados Unidos están autorizados para hacerlo", agregó Whalen.

Al menos en un principio, uno de los coautoridades del plan de Shuler es el congresista demócrata de Texas, Cro Rodríguez.

La petición pretende además poner en jaque al liderazgo demócrata cameral que ha evitado el tema migratorio a toda costa.

Primero argumentaron que el

Senado tenía que actuar y el fracaso de la reforma integral en la Cámara Alta les concedió armas para decir que no había apoyo para el tema.

Empaño, algunos congresistas demócratas hispanos, como Luis Gutiérrez, de Illinois, han mantenido la presión para cuando menos debarjar alguna propuesta o lograr algún tipo de protección temporal para los indocumentados mientras se retoma el debate de la reforma amplia en un nuevo Congreso.

De hecho, la bancada latina dice que si procede el proyecto de Shuler debería incluir un alivio migratorio para los indocumentados.

Es evidente que hay sectores republicanos y demócratas que quieren sacarle partido al tema migratorio en año electoral, que aunque analistas coinciden en que es un asunto que no gana elecciones.

La semana pasada un grupo de senadores republicanos anunció que intentarían avanzar más de 15 medidas enfocadas en seguridad.

Los dos precandidatos presidenciales demócratas, Barack Obama y Hillary Clinton, apoyan la reforma migratoria integral, aunque Clinton, contrario a Obama, se opone a las licencias de conducir para indocumentados.

John McCain, el seguro nominado presidencial republicano, fue coautor de un proyecto de reforma integral, pero ahora dice que primero debe garantizarse la seguridad absoluta de las fronteras y deportar a unos dos millones de indocumentados con historial criminal.

Alrededor de un 25% de las adolescentes de Estados Unidos sufren de algún tipo de enfermedad transmitida

reti Blythe, especialista en medicina para adolescentes de la Facultad de Medicina de la universidad de Indiana,



por vía sexual, esto es, unas tres millones de jovencitas, según el primer estudio de ese grupo por edad.

Un virus que causa cáncer cervical es la infección más común en las adolescentes entre los 14 y 19 años, en tanto el sector más afectado es el de las jovencitas negras. Casi la mitad de las muchachas negras participantes en la encuesta sufrían de al menos una forma de enfermedad de transmisión sexual.

Entre jovencitas blancas y mexicano-estadounidenses, el promedio era de un 20%, según determinó un estudio de los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades.

Entre las jovencitas que admitieron haber mantenido relaciones sexuales, la tasa fue del 40%. En general, utilizan el término "relaciones sexuales" para referirse a la penetración vaginal, pero otros tipos de relaciones, como el sexo oral, también pueden disminuir algunas infecciones.

Para muchos expertos las cifras parecen "abrumadoras", dijo la doctora Marga

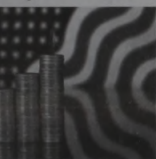
y directora del comité de pediatría de la Academia de Pediatría de Estados Unidos. Pero el estudio, añadió Blythe, sólo destaca algo que los médicos encargados de tratar adolescentes observan de manera cotidiana.

El doctor John Douglas, director de la división de prevención de enfermedades de transmisión sexual de los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades, dijo que los resultados son los primeros en examinar la incidencia de estos males entre las adolescentes norteamericanas. Añadió que los porcentajes reflejan tasas reales de ese tipo de infecciones.

El doctor Kevin Fenton, quien trabaja en los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades, dijo que las enfermedades de transmisión sexual causan infertilidad y cáncer cervical en las mujeres, y que por lo tanto, "el examen, la vacunación y otras estrategias de prevención para mujeres sexualmente activas figuran entre nuestras prioridades en materia de salud pública".

Is the U.S. Avoiding a Recession?

The U.S. economy will suffer as the slumping housing market eats away at job creation and consumer spending, but the nation should avoid slipping into a recession this year, according to a new economic report.



A recession could still happen though, if the credit crisis that has stifled the housing market deepens, preventing consumers from buying big-ticket items like cars and businesses from spending on equipment, according to the quarterly Anderson Forecast by the University of California at Los Angeles.

Leamer said the nation may be experiencing negative economic growth in the current quarter. Economists generally look for at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth before they make a recession determination.

"We don't see that happening," said Edward Leamer, director and co-author of the forecast released Tuesday. "This is a tough call, but I will be very surprised if this thing actually precipitates into recession."

The biggest risk of recession comes from the credit crisis that emerged last year as home values began to tumble and the number of mortgage defaults and foreclosures soared, the economist said.

The forecast anticipates job growth remaining sluggish in 2008, with the U.S. unemployment rate rising to 5.5 percent by the end of the year. The February rate was 4.8 percent.

Major financial institutions were racked by credit losses as the value of securities backed by mortgages sank, causing the traditional outlet through which banks borrow money to seize up.

The forecast expects the economy to post gross domestic product growth of about 1.5 percent this year, rising to about 3 percent growth in 2009. GDP grew 2.2 percent in 2007, the weakest showing in five years.

"Americans are not as wealthy as they thought they were, and that's going to factor into consumer spending going forward, but it doesn't cause a recession because consumers all realize their lack of wealth at different points in time," he said. Another potential factor in a recession would be widespread job losses.

The no-recession forecast runs counter to the outlook among many economists and financial pundits, who contend the economy has already started to shrink amid rising unemployment, job losses, record oil prices, and the lingering effects of the housing and credit crises.

Leamer, who has maintained a no-recession forecast in recent quarters, said that's not likely. "So far the labor markets are slowing but not collapsing," he said.

The U.S. lost 63,000 payroll jobs last month, the second consecutive month of job losses. The last time the U.S. posted a two-month drop in payroll jobs was in 2003, when employers were still struggling through the aftermath of the 2001 recession.

He expects housing starts, which fell from a high of 2.3 million units in January 2006 to 1 million units this January, to bottom out in the summer.

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Rockers Without Borders: Latin America's New Musicians Arrive Stateside

Two decades ago, Latin America began to export its own take on rock 'n' roll, reggae and hip-hop, infusing them with an identifying Hispanic sensibility and making a point to sing them in Spanish. Dubbed rock en español, the scene attracted fans in the English-speaking world, making at least two of the most popular acts -- Mexico's Mana and Colombia's Juanes -- headliners across North America and Europe.

Flash-forward to today, and a backlash is under way. Mexican bands raised on American and British indie-rock of the '90s -- with such names as Hong Kong Blood Opera, Hummelwell, Descartes & Kant, Six Million Dollar Year, Mottel, Allison, Los Dynamite, and Susie 4 (pronounced like the '70s American singer-actress Suzi Quatro) -- are making music that doesn't wear much Hispanic heritage on its hipster sleeve. In fact, members of this new breed sing mostly in English, and several of these bands will be showcased this week at the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, making the first steps into an English-language market of which they've dreamed.

"We're just being honest with what we like and what we've listened to," says Andres Velasco, lead singer of Chikita Violenta, one of the most talked-about of the new bands.

He says he was always more into the moody atmospherics of England's Radiohead and the heavy noise of New York's Sonic Youth than the Mexico uber alles style of an older band like Maldita Vecindad or the proudly Chilango (Mexico City) punk-folklorico of Cafe Tacuba.

"Ninety percent of the music we've heard is rock music made outside of Mexico. And a couple of its come from American backgrounds, so it's always been natural to us," Velasco says. "I don't think that I have to learn traditional music blended with rock. Hey, if I go to Sweden, does it have to be traditional Viking music blended with metal? Rock 'n' roll is a global thing."

So global, in fact, that Chikita Violenta's latest album, The Stars and Sums Sessions, was recorded in Toronto under the tutelage of producer David Newfield, best-known for his work with Broken Social Scene, the Canadian band that includes Grammy nominee Feist.

Los Dynamite singer Diego Solorzano tells a similar story. A fan of Iggy Pop and Marvin Gaye, he'd like to relocate his group to the U.S. "We're actually thinking of next year moving to New York -- or Detroit," he explains. "We love the Detroit music scene, Motown and the White Stripes."

South by Southwest booker Alicia Zertuche is not at all surprised by this changing mind-set. "It's something that's been going on for several years," she says. "A lot of these kids attending schools that are either American or British schools so they have this influence. ... It's finally surfaced and reached the attention of media outlets here in the United States and the U.K. [as] they've finally reached a certain level of maturity in their sound."

All these people point to other reasons, as well, for the new wave: the upsurge in use of MySpace (allowing users easy access to bands from all over the world), touring by U.S. and European acts (once rare in Mexico), and the popularity of a couple of alt-rock Mexico City radio stations.

"Now there's a huge indie scene here and it's growing," Velasco says. "Things are cooking well in Mexico City."

But controversy has also been on the menu.

Agustin Garza, who writes about Latin culture for the Los Angeles Times, last summer castigated the new kids in print for abandoning their culture. "Today's Mexican bands reject the concept of fusing rock with native forms of Latin American folk music. ... The upstarts don't care

to incorporate Mexican music or reflect Mexican reality in their songs," he wrote. "The desire to be something other than Mexican has long been the cultural curse of the Mexican middle and upper classes. ... Many slavishly follow American and European fashion, hairdos, and dances, while looking down on their own culture. But self-hatred makes for lousy music."

Velasco dismisses such criticism. "It's much less of a problem now but, in the '90s with the rock en español movement, singing in a language other than Spanish was frowned on," he says, noting that it's part of the "love-hate relationship" many in Mexico have with American culture. "A lot of people here are very down-to-the-roots; if you're from Mexico, you have to sing

in Spanish. ... People say, 'You should sing in Spanish and talk about politicians.' And we're like, 'We're just doing old-fashioned rock 'n' roll music, the kind we've always loved since we were 12.'"

That Velasco and his compatriots do sing in English might open doors globally that remained closed to most of their rock en español predecessors. "Most of them are seeking crossover potential. They want to travel the world, play the States," says South by Southwest's Zertuche. "The ability for Mexican acts to have a larger audience in the U.S. is one we've believed in for some time," concurs Brent Grulke, the fest's creative director.

Even if they do crossover, Zertuche says, that doesn't mean

these guys are jettisoning their heritage. "We love it down here. We love Mexico City," Velasco emphasizes. "But it would be an interesting experience to relocate and to try to play in a different league and see how that works



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Viva Aztlan! Dance Festival is funded in part by grants from Civic Lubbock Inc as recommended by the City of Lubbock, the Sybil B Harrington Endowment for the Arts of the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the Texas Commission for the Arts. Additional support given by Magic 93.7, Coca Cola, LISD and El Editor Newspapers.



Barrera no descarta su regreso

The late Pat Tillman, a former Arizona State linebacker who gave up a professional football career to join the military, is among 19 players up for election to the College Football Hall of Fame for the first time this year.



The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame released a ballot Tuesday with 75 players and eight coaches eligible for election to the hall.

Tillman played linebacker for the Sun Devils from 1994-97 and was one of the best defensive players in the Pac-10 over his final two seasons. He was one of the leaders of the last Arizona State team to play in the Rose Bowl. The Sun Devils lost

to Ohio State 20-17 in 1997. Tillman went on to play safety for the Arizona Cardinals, but quit football, giving up millions of dollars in salary, and became an Army Ranger.

He was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan in 2004.

Also among the first-timers in the College Hall of Fame ballot are Kansas quarterback Bobby Douglas (1966-68), Florida linebacker Wilber Mar-

shall (1980-83), Temple running back Paul Palmer (1983-86) and Notre Dame Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown.

12 more will be done by the 12,000 National Football Foundation members and those votes will be submitted to the NFF's Honors Court, which selects the Hall of Fame class.

The class of 2008 will be announced May 1 and indicated Dec. 9 at the NFF awards dinner in New York.

On the Mark: Vazquez shows the heart of a champion

The doctor removed the sutures this morning, leaving puffy reddened creases over both eyebrows and the disturbingly purplish remnant of slit above the right lid. All told, there had been less than two dozen stitches. But who's counting?

"Superficial," Israel Vazquez says of his cuts. "They were not deep."

To pronounce Vazquez healed would be a gross exaggeration. But his appearance is much improved, considering what it had been just days before when the glow above his left eye approximated the size of a baby's mouth.

Vazquez recalls the referee raising his arm in triumph: "I have aches. I can't move very well. But I feel happy."

His was a bliss earned the hard way. On the night of March 1 at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Ca., Vazquez won a split decision over Rafael Marquez. It was their third fight in only a year, an epic trilogy that bears mention with the very best in boxing history, though you wouldn't know it from the coverage, or lack thereof.

"It's a damn shame, too. This time of year, most fans have more important things to worry about, like their NCAA pools or their fantasy rosters. Still, these fights — providing such incontrovertible and dramatic evidence of the fighters' worthiness — should not have passed with so little praise."

There are reasons for this, of course. Vazquez and Marquez fight at a mere 122 pounds. And they don't speak much English, and even if they did, wouldn't demean their rivalry by chirping cheap lyrics.

"Marquez has a big heart," says Vazquez. "I needed to fight him."

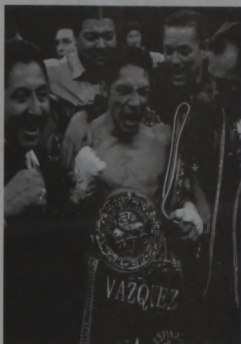
Though he knocked Marquez down in the third round of their first bout, Vazquez would tell his trainer, Freddie Roach, to call it off after seven. He hadn't been able to breathe since early in the fight, when his nasal passages became clogged with broken bits of cartilage and clotted blood.

Even after surgery to reconstruct Vazquez's nose, Roach left the fighter's corner. "I hope the best for him," Roach told the Arizona Republic. "But I worry about him."

If Vazquez wasn't the betting favorite for the rematch, he was at least accustomed to his underdog status. His manager, Frank Espinosa, would recall a fight that served as an audition

for promoters at Top Rank. "A club fighter," said the man from Top Rank. "Send him back to Mexico."

Instead, Espinosa took him in, letting Vazquez stay in his house for a year or so. "I just had a feel-



ing about this kid," he says.

Vazquez would win the rematch with Marquez. He was cut badly under the right eye, but still managed to take out Marquez in the sixth. The finale, 10 days ago, saw Vazquez go down in the fourth, only to mount a ferocious assault in the final seconds of the 12th round. Only the ropes held up Marquez.

"A big heart," Vazquez says again. "My punches hit very, very hard in that last round."

Then again, the answer's already quite clear. He prefers Los Angeles to his hometown, Mexico City. "You can live better here," he says.

A couple of years ago, he bought a modest three-bedroom in a modest neighborhood, Huntington Park. There's a lemon tree in the front yard, a barbecue out back and an SUV in the driveway.

Vazquez has painted the rooms himself. His boys — Israel, 5, and Anthony, 2 — are on the living room floor with their puppies when Laura makes her entrance. Vazquez met his wife back in 2000 at a beauty parlor where she cut his hair. It took him two months to get up the nerve to ask her out. She is all he is not, as bubbly as he is stoic, ample where he is bony, soft where he is scarred. Laura Vazquez has a beauty parlor of her own now. Vazquez — so ferocious in the ring — seems dazed in her presence, content to watch her bat her ample eyelashes as she explains the application of warm-water compresses to her husband's cuts after a fight. It's good to know somebody's bleeding for all the right reasons.

Iván Rodríguez confía en la rotación de pitcheo de los Tigres

Iván Rodríguez confía en la rotación de pitcheo de los Tigres

catcher Iván Rodríguez (izq) entra a su quinta temporada con los Tigres de Detroit y conducirá el pitcheo del equipo, reforzado para la vendida temporada.



Si alguien puede hablar del cuerpo de pitcheo de los Tigres de Detroit es el puertorriqueño Iván Rodríguez.

El veterano catcher, quien entra a su quinto año con los Tigres, coincidió con muchos conocedores del béisbol en el sentido de que es mejor tener una de las mejores rotaciones de la Liga Americana.

Se trata de un cuerpo monticular que ya tenía abundantes como Justin Verlander (18-6), Jeremy Bonderman (11-9),

Nate Robertson (9-13) y Kenny Rogers (3-4) y lesionado gran parte de la temporada) ahora contará con Dontrelle Inge (10-15), procedente de los Marlins de Florida.

"El pitcheo se ve muy bien. Claro, nuestro pitcheo siempre ha estado fuerte, pero ahora con Willis en la rotación se pone mucho mejor", expresó Rodríguez.

"Pero lo que tenemos que hacer es mantenernos saludables", agregó.

Rodríguez está bien motivado con la potente alineación que se conformará para el 2008, con la adición del venezolano Miguel Cabrera.

"Con un lineup como este vamos a anotar muchas carreras", aseguró.

México se la juega hoy con Sudáfrica

La selección preolímpica mexicana de beisbol tomó ayer un día de descanso antes de enfrentarse hoy a su similar de Sudáfrica, en el torneo clasificatorio a los Juegos Olímpicos, que se realiza en Taiwán.

La mayoría de las selecciones participantes tuvieron una jornada de descanso luego de cuatro fechas, en las que México sumó tres descualros por una victoria ante Australia el lunes por 7-4, por lo que buscarán su segundo triunfo en fila ante Sudáfrica.

La novena mexicana está consciente de que requiere de las tres victorias en los juegos contra Sudáfrica, Alemania y España, para seguir aspirando a calificar a la lista olímpica, pero contrario a mostrarse nerviosos y presionados han tomado con calma el reto.

Por su parte, el infelider

regiomontano Roberto Saucedo causó baja al lastimarse el hombro izquierdo cuando llegaba a la segunda base en el duelo ante Australia y estará en reposo de 10 a 15 días, por lo que recibió muestras de apoyo de sus compañeros.

El contingente azteca que dirige José Tolentino va hoy en busca de su segundo triunfo al hilo en el estadio Intercontinental, con la confianza de obtener un triunfo que les permita escalar en la clasificación.

"Ahora aspiramos a un tercer lugar, en lo personal quería un primer lugar, al menos el segundo, y si queremos ir a los Juegos Olímpicos debemos aplicarnos, porque es un gran equipo este que traemos y las cosas desafortunadamente no han salido como queríamos", declaró el zurdo y también ex bigleaguer, Teodoro Higuera, que fungió como instructor de lanzadores.

Tolentino, un ex bigleaguer, anunció al derecho Francisco Campos como su lanzador abridor.

"Me he estado preparando para el duelo luego de participar en labor de relevo. Y estoy listo para mañana [hoy], señaló el llamado "Pancho Ponches".



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