

Lubbock Redistricting Plans to Be Presented to Public

By Eliseo Solis, Contributing Writer
The redistricting process to reflect the changes in population shifts for the last ten years has begun in earnest at the city, county and school district levels for the Lubbock jurisdictions. This process takes place every ten years and becomes more and more important as time goes by due to the dramatic increase of the Latino/Chicano population in the Lubbock. The Census has always been important but for our demographic population, this issue took on significantly more importance with the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Part of President Kennedy's plan before his assassination, the VRA was taken on by President Johnson and implemented with advocacy of people like Martin Luther King.

Back in the middle 1910s, single member districts were utilized to elect representatives to the various elected positions of government. This gradually began to change when people of color began to increase in numbers and become interested in the electoral process. This meant getting elected to office thus, unacceptable to the powers that be. As a result, changes had to be made. The first transformation from single member to at-large methods of electing representatives took place in Texas at Galveston. Rolando Rios, who is a preeminent scholar in Voting Rights issues would tell us these stories as we would travel from community to community looking for interest and especially plaintiffs for the law suits to force local governments into the Single Member scheme. After the Lubbock case was resolved

in 1984, other towns in West Texas like Seminole, Lamesa, Big Springs and Levelland followed followed the lead. Briefly, the at-large method of electing representatives involves having candidates run for office in the whole jurisdiction such as a school district. For the most part, the candidate who earns the most votes wins the election. This method put "minorities" at a disadvantage because of polarized voting. Whites would vote for whites no matter the qualifications of candidates who were Black or Brown, thus the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. In Single Member districts, as in Lubbock, the city is divided into 6 districts and people from each district elect their own representatives. Consequently, we now have representation in just about every governmental

body locally. So it is, that redistricting and the impact on our community is of utmost importance. Elected officials need the continued input that has been going on these past weeks. Others need to review the plans proposed before final submittal to the Justice Department. El Editor will try to stay up with the developments and report as well as analyze the plans proposed. Upcoming meetings will be announced as meeting dates approach. If the numbers being reported are correct, the increase in population by Chicanos should afford us the opportunity to expand our influence into other districts besides the traditional north and northeast sections. Commissioner James Kitten reported that the county plan should not pose too many problems since the proposed plan for

Pct. 3 involved reattaching voting Pct 17(Dupre) and 18(O.L. Slaton) to Commissioner's 3 as was the case before 1990. Esther Sepeda, President of the Hispanic Chamber stated that the

only issue that might draw some attention in the restructuring involves the State Representative District. Commissioner Flores was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Study Finds National Voting Disparity

WASHINGTON, -- Voters in congressional districts with low incomes and high percentages of minorities were far more likely to see their ballots discarded in last year's presidential election than voters in wealthier districts with fewer minorities, *The Washington Post* reported Monday, citing a national study.

The report, due to be released later Monday, is the first comprehensive nationwide examination of voting patterns and error rates. It shows that what happened in Florida last year was not an isolated phenomenon, *The Post* said.

"I think a lot of people thought the problem was a Florida problem and not a problem all around the country," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said. "This report shows it's a national issue and we need the federal government to step in."

The study was conducted by committee Democrats without participation by Republicans. Mark Corrallo, a Republican spokesman for the Government Reform Committee, said Republicans had not seen the report and he could not comment on the findings.

The new study concluded that although voters in low-

income areas are more likely to see their ballots not counted, there are ways to fix the problem. A late draft of the report was made available to news organizations in advance of Monday's scheduled release.

The study examined results in 40 congressional districts in 20 states. Half of the districts were in low-income areas with high percentages of minority voters. The other half were in more affluent areas with relatively few minorities, the newspaper said.

Overall, the study found that 4 percent of all ballots cast in the low-income districts were not tallied for the presidential race, compared with 1.2 percent in the higher-income districts.

The report said modern voting machines can significantly reduce the disparity. For example, where punch-card machines were used, the error rate in the low-income districts was 7.7 percent compared with 2 percent in the more affluent districts, a gap of 5.7 percentage points.

When optical scan machines were used and counted in the precincts, the error rate was 1.1 percent in the low-income districts and 0.5 percent in the affluent districts, a difference of 0.6 percentage points.

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez

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Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers
Vol. XXIII No. 41 Week of July 12 thru July 18, 2001 Lubbock, Tx

Bush's Judge Picker Could Be Picked

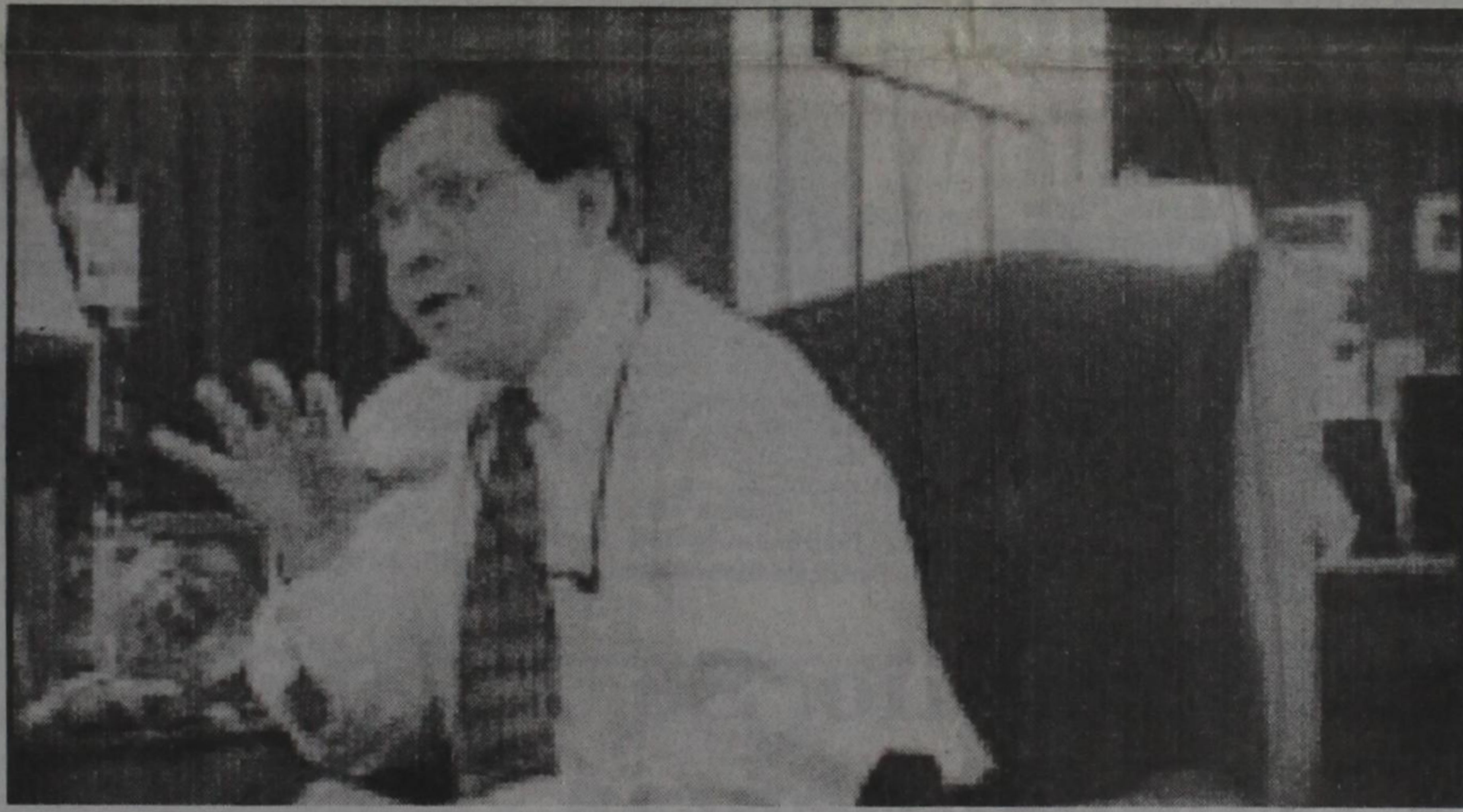
By Abraham McLaughlin
Staff writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

WASHINGTON
In the wood-paneled West Wing office of White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, two things stand out - and symbolize why this son of Mexican migrant workers could be the first Latino appointed to the US Supreme Court.

A framed photo of the two President Bushes, sharing a father-son moment in the Oval Office, is blown up to the size of a wall poster and hung where Mr. Gonzales can see it from his desk. "I love that picture," says Gonzales, a Bush-clan loyalist who has known both men for years.

Gonzales is so soft-spoken that one of the two tape recorders in front of him misses most of his words. His quiet, unassuming demeanor is a testament to his philosophy of how judges should judge - in a "humble," "restrained" way.

As Gonzales leads the White House search for judicial nominees, many here say he himself most embodies the qualities the administration is seeking for the bench. Gonzales' closeness and loyalty to President Bush, and his record of judicial restraint during his two years



SPEAKING SOFTLY, WIELDING CLOUT: Part of Gonzales' job is to vet nominees to the federal bench. Some observers say he himself could become a Supreme Court pick if a vacancy opens.

on the Texas Supreme Court, put his name among those often mentioned as a prospective nominee to the US Supreme Court, when and if a vacancy occurs.

Gonzales "has the temperament, intellect, and respect for the law that you'd look for in a candidate," says White House

chief of staff Andy Card, quickly adding that it would be "wrong for me to speculate" on who Mr. Bush might choose if a high-court vacancy occurs.

The close friendship between Gonzales and Bush means the president would not be venturing into the unknown with Gonzales - as the elder Bush

did when he nominated David Souter.

In 1990, the first President Bush plucked this New Hampshire judge from obscurity, in part because his lack of a big judicial paper trail gave opponents little to criticize. Later, Justice Souter became a surprisingly liberal justice.

Conservatives still criticize the choice.

While his judicial record is skimpy, like Souter's was, Gonzales' thinking is very familiar to his friend in the Oval Office.

The Bushes first encountered Gonzales as a Harvard-educated Houston lawyer with no apparent political ambitions.

Close Bush ties

The first President Bush offered him a job as part of what Gonzales has described as an outreach to rising stars in the minority community. But Gonzales turned him down, focusing instead on making partner.

Then, in 1995, newly elected Governor Bush of Texas remembered the man who had rejected his dad and tapped him to be legal counsel. Since then, Gonzales has proved his discretion and loyalty to a family that prizes both.

In 1996, for instance, Gonzales reportedly helped avoid an embarrassing situation for Bush by maneuvering him out of serving jury duty in a drunk-driving case. Gonzales and a few other top aides apparently knew about Bush's 1976 drunk-driving arrest in Maine - and worried it would be discovered during pretrial questioning. (The arrest did come out in the last days of the 2000 presidential race.)

Bush later appointed Gonzales secretary of State, and then to the Texas Supreme Court. That's why he's known around the White House as "the judge."

Today he's part White House ethics watchdog, part judicial vetter, and the presidency's chief legal defender.

Perhaps his biggest task so far has been to lead the selection of Bush's federal-court nominees - a group that observers say is largely very experienced and quite conservative. He's also had to scramble to put out ethical fires: Both Vice President Dick Cheney and top strategist Karl Rove are facing conflict-of-interest criticism. Gonzales says he's redoubling efforts to "refresh people's memories" about the ethical bright lines, because at the White House, he says, like it or not, "We work in a fishbowl."

Humble upbringing

It's a dramatic switch from the world he grew up in. His Mexican parents met as migrant workers in the US. Their education was limited: Neither made it to high school. But both worked hard to support Gonzales and his seven siblings, raising them in a two-bedroom house. He has said he learned

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Bush Announces Immigration Reform

NEW YORK, (United Press International via COMTEX) -- In a speech Tuesday on Ellis Island, a symbol of the nation's immigrant heritage, President Bush announced reforms to the nation's immigration system that would expedite applications.

"For those seeking entry, the process is often a prolonged ordeal full of complexities and burdens. I am committed to changing this with INS reforms that treat every immigrant with respect and fairness," Bush said.

In his first trip to New York state since assuming office, the president was accompanied by Sens. Hillary Clinton and Charles E. Schumer, both of whom are Democrats, and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to Ellis Island's Great Hall where

about two dozen immigrants were sworn in as American citizens.

Bush told the audience that while not every applicant is entitled to admission to the United States, each one is entitled to a timely and courteous review of his or her case.

"In the life of an immigrant, citizenship is a defining event. In the life of our nation, new citizens bring renewal. By taking an oath as you have done today, immigrants affirm a belief in the American creed," Bush told the newly sworn-in citizens.

For six decades Ellis Island, which is near the Statue of Liberty, served as the gateway for the approximately 12 million immigrants coming into the United States. Their descendants represent about



40 percent of the country's population. From 1882 to 1954, third-class and steerage passengers entered this country through the port of New York where they

underwent legal and medical inspection.

It was at Ellis Island that Bush outlined his plans for immigration reforms including accelerated processing of

applications and the extension of a temporary window which allows people to file for visas without returning to their country of origin.

"Today, here is the goal for the INS: a six-month standard from start to finish for processing applications for immigration. This won't be achievable in every case, but it's the standard of this administration, and I expect the INS to meet it," Bush said.

Under the new reforms, the INS would allow the surviving parent to take over as sponsor should a child's parent or financial sponsor die. And in the case of a minor child, entitlement to a visa would be measured by the age on the date of the application, not on the date the INS processes the visa.

Bush also proposed a \$500

million funding boost for the INS over five years for new personnel and employee performance initiatives to expedite case processing.

The president in the past has considered providing guest visas that would allow people from foreign countries, particularly Mexico, to come to the United States and work for a year. Administration officials believe it would cut down on the number of illegal immigrants who cross U.S. borders illegally to find higher-paying work.

"Immigration is not a problem to be solved. It is the sign of a confident and successful nation. And people who seek to make America their home should be met in that spirit by representatives of our government. New arrivals should be greeted not with suspicion and resentment but with openness and courtesy."

Abuso De Trabajadores Extranjeros "A Todo Nivel" en los EEUU

Por Mónica Deady

De los miles de obreros domésticos que llegan a los Estados Unidos todos los años, un gran número sin cálculo recibe malos tratos de parte de sus patrones.

Aquella es la mayor preocupación que enfoca el grupo Human Rights Watch, con base en Nueva York, en un informe titulado "Hidden in the Home: Abuse of Domestic Workers with Special Visas in the United States" ("Ocultos en casa: el abuso de trabajadores domésticos con visas especiales en los Estados Unidos"), publicado este mes.

El informe examina 43 relaciones laborales de obreros migrantes domésticos con visas especiales, detallando los casos de abuso. Concluye que con frecuencia los obreros se enfrentan con abuso físico, mental y psicológico y sugiere que tales malos tratos se dan a todo nivel entre los trabajadores domésticos.

Carol Pier, investigadora del programa para Estados Unidos en las oficinas del grupo en Washington, D.C. dice que el número de obreros abusados es difícil de calcular ya que no existen expedientes centralizados y los obreros encuentran obstáculos al querer reportar opresión o acoso.

Dichos obreros reciben tres tipos de visa para entrar a los Estados Unidos. Las visas de trabajo, A-3 y G-5, se otorgan a migrantes que trabajan especí-

ficamente para diplomáticos u oficiales de organismos internacionales. En la década de los noventa, se otorgaron más de 30,000 visas de este tipo. Desde noviembre de 1999, había 1,700 visas A-3 y 2,300 visas G-5 registradas. El estudio encontró en 1998 que el mayor porcentaje de visas A-3 y G-5 fueron otorgadas a trabajadores filipinos (22.3 por ciento), seguidos de indoneses (8.1%), peruanos (5.6 por ciento), hindúes (4.8 por ciento) y brasileños (4.7 por ciento).

Aunque se designan las visas B-1 como visas de negocios, se pueden otorgar a trabajadores domésticos. Son las visas que más frecuentemente se implementan de las visas no-inmigrantes, otorgándose unas 200,000 anualmente. Los recipientes de este tipo de visa pueden ejercer una variedad de oficios. Ni el Departamento de Estado ni el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización lleva cuentas del porcentaje de cuántas se otorgan a trabajadores domésticos.

El informe del Human Rights Watch declara que estas visas abren las puertas a mayores oportunidades de abuso. Las visas otorgan estatus legal al inmigrante siempre y cuando esté empleado el recipiente, con lo cual si el trabajador deja el empleo de su auspiciador, pierde el estatus legal en los Estados Unidos.

La conclusión del informe es que los obreros migrantes se ven obligados a escoger entre el respeto por sus derechos humanos y el mantener el estatus legal, ya que es prácticamente imposible cambiar de patrón.

Los abusos que se revelaron mediante entrevistas realizadas para el informe demuestran una variedad amplia de violaciones a los derechos humanos, incluyendo el asalto con agresión, restricciones de la libertad de movimiento, la retención de pasaportes, problemas de salud y seguridad personal, la retención y extorsión de sueldos, trabajos extras forzados, invasiones de la privacidad, el trabajo forzado y el tráfico de personas.

"Como los trabajadores siguen las reglas, se pensaría que los Estados Unidos los protegería del abuso", dice Pier. Explica que como no hay un solo departamento dentro del gobierno que se encargue de estos casos, nadie se hace responsable del problema.

El informe dice que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos no sólo ha fracasado al no proteger los derechos del trabajador, sino que también ha fallado al no proveer remedio efectivo a las violaciones. El Buró de Estadísticas Laborales de los Estados Unidos contó unos 847,000 trabajadores domésticos privados en el país en 1998.

Si bien las actuales leyes se

aplican en teoría a los obreros domésticos, en práctica se implementan sólo en el ámbito laboral público, y no en los domicilios privados. Aunque los trabajadores deberían poder entablar juicios, el informe cita varios obstáculos que se lo impiden.

Declara que si bien la División de Sueldos y Horas del Departamento de Trabajo ha tomado iniciativas para ayudar a los trabajadores de ingresos bajos, ha hecho poco con el dilema de los trabajadores domésticos. La división ha iniciado sólo 231 investigaciones entre el primero de enero, 1995 y el primero de octubre, 1999, anota Pier.

El grupo Human Rights Watch ofrece una serie de recomendaciones para proteger este segmento indefenso de nuestra sociedad. Entre éstas, que se realicen investigaciones sobre los antecedentes laborales de todos los que emplean a obreros domésticos, que se desarrolle un sistema para supervisar la implementación de las leyes laborales, y que se establezca un código de conducta más detallado para los trabajadores portadores de visas especiales.

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EDITORIAL

Redistricting In Lubbock

In the middle 1970's, The City of Lubbock was sued by the NAACP in an effort headed by Attorney Gene Gaines. The suit was later joined by Mexican American groups and other interested individuals and the it progressed.

The purpose of the law suit was to force city government through the city council to divide the jurisdiction into districts so that geographical representation could be obtained. The authority for such a law suit was the Voting Right Act that had been passed by the Johnson Administration in 1965. The Voting Rights Act had some teeth at that time and was hard to counteract by reactionaries who felt that equal representation was counterproductive of those in power. The power structure in Lubbock at the time felt it so unnecessary to have equal and geographical representation that they fought it all the way to the Supreme Court. The time and money used to fight this right of access to the political process was in excess of the millions. After 8 or 9 years of litigation, the

Supreme Court ruled against Lubbock and forced it to institute a single member district scheme for electing city council members in 1984. By the this time, law suits had been filed against the school board as well and as in about 10 to 12 jurisdictions around the West Texas area. This took place throughout the eighties until just about every governmental body had been sued, a total well over 70 by the end of the decade.

When Lubbock lost its case, the momentum became almost frantic because when Lubbock lost, the other cities, counties, and school districts decided that they would probably lose (they were right) and better to save taxpayers money. Most settled out of court except for two or three hardcore racist holdouts.

The argument for or against single member districts is basically over, although; the Voting Rights act has been weakened so much throughout the years by the conservatives that if someone was to challenge the system locally, they could probably succeed in re-establishing at large elections by crying reverse discrimination. Opponents realized that having blacks and Mexican Americans sitting next to them making decisions was not going to make the world come to an end. There is still subtle opposition but for the most part, Anglos now adays basically overtly support the system and no movement has been made to revert to the at-large system. (Basically, in the at-large scheme, everyone in the city votes for the same candidates who represent everybody.

In the single member system, people live in districts and only they can vote for their representatives.) Ultimately, the increase in Black and Latino/Chicano representation in West Texas was phenomenal. All this because of the tremendous amount of work and organizing conducted by activists wanting parity and justice during the 80s decade.

Willie Velasquez, Rolando Rios and The Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, El Editor and Bidal Aguerro, Commissioner Eliseo Solis, LULAC, G.I. Forum, the League of Women Voters and many courageous individuals serving as plaintiffs in Lubbock and the surrounding committees were instrumental in increasing the number of Chicano and Black elected officials from around 5 in 1982 to over 150 in 1992. It is probably higher now. And although one could question the quality of representation we now have in north and east Lubbock,

There is no question that the present setup is superior if for no other reason than that we see our elected official from time to time and they are more accessible. With the extreme importance put upon the redistricting process and the manner in which it can effect our community, we simply ask that those individuals having input into the process, particularly the elected officials now in office, take factors into account that will benefit the people they represent and not just their own self interest... as rumors seem to indicate is the case on the part of some of those officials.

The editorial staff at this newspaper will be scrutinizing the various plans in later reports and our take on the results when the final plans are made available.

But our newspaper can only serve to report and advocate change. As meetings are being held this week and in the weeks to come, it is the citizen's job to become involved in the process to assure that any changes made by redistricting will keep the the voting rights of all in mind.

Now is the time to speak and participate. Que no se les duerma el gallo!

Abuse of Foreign Domestic Workers "Widespread" In U.S.

By Mónica Deady

Of the thousands of domestic workers who come to the United States each year, a large but unknown number are mistreated by their employers. That's the major concern singled out by the New York-based Human Rights Watch in the report "Hidden in the Home: Abuse of Domestic Workers with Special Visas in the United States," which it released this month.

The report examines 43 employment relationships of migrant domestic workers with special visas, detailing cases of abuse. It concludes that the workers often face physical, mental and psychological abuse, and suggests that such mistreatment may be widespread among domestic workers.

Carol Pier, researcher for the group's U.S. program in the Washington, D.C., office, says the number of abused workers is elusive because no central records exist and workers are impeded in reporting oppression or harassment.

Such workers receive three types of visas to come to the United States. A-3 and G-5 work visas are issued to migrants specifically to work for diplomats or officials of international organi-

zations respectively. In the 1990s, more than 30,000 of these were issued. As of November 1999, there were 1,700 A-3s and 2,300 G-5s registered. The study found that in 1998 the largest percentage of A-3 and G-5 visas were issued to Filipino workers (22.3 percent), followed by Indonesians (8.1 percent), Peruvians (5.6 percent), Indians (4.8 percent), and Brazilians (4.7 percent).

B-1 visas are designed as business visas but can be allotted to domestic workers. They are the most frequently used non-immigrant visas, with approximately 200,000 issued annually. Applicants can work in a variety of occupations. Neither the State Department nor the Immigration and Naturalization Service keeps records of the percentage of how many are issued to domestic workers.

The HRW report claims that these visas allow more opportunities to make employees vulnerable to abuse. Since the visas grant legal immigrant status only if the workers are employed, leaving a sponsoring employer will cause the holders to lose legal status in the United States.

The report concludes that, because changing employers is nearly impossible, workers often have to choose between respect for their human rights and maintaining legal status.

Abuses revealed in interviews for the report demonstrate a wide array of human rights violations, including assault and battery, restricted freedom of movement, withholding passports, health and safety concerns, wage withholding and extortion, overworking, privacy invasions, forced labor and trafficking in persons.

"Because they (the workers) follow the rules, you would think the U.S. government would protect them from abuse," Pier says. Because there is no single department within the government to handle these cases, no one takes ownership of the issue, she explains.

The report claims the U.S. government has not only failed to protect the workers' human rights, it has failed to provide effective remedies to address violations. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics counted some 847,000 private household workers in the country in 1998.

While present laws in theory

apply to domestic workers, they are largely enforced in the public workplace, but not private homes. Although domestic workers should be able to file lawsuits, the report cites several obstacles that keep them from doing so.

It states that while the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor has taken initiatives to help low-wage workers, it has done little to address the dilemma of domestic workers. The division initiated only 231 investigations between Jan. 1, 1995, and Oct. 1, 1999, Pier notes.

HRW offers a number of recommendations to protect this defenseless segment of our society. Among them: background checks on employers, development of a system to monitor enforcement of labor laws, and the establishment of a more detailed code of conduct for workers with special visas.

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Para Los Latinos en Passaic, Se Atraso El Dia de la Independencia

Por Miguel Pérez

El salón hervía. Los discursos fueron numerosos y repetitivos. Y el sudor que manaba de unas 700 frentes en el auditorio de una escuela en Passaic, New Jersey, tres días antes del cuatro de julio, hizo difícil disfrutar del todo de la ocasión.

No obstante, valió la pena. No siempre se tiene la oportunidad de presenciar un momento histórico.

En la Escuela 6 en la ciudad de Passaic el primero de julio, una multitud mayormente latina saboreó el momento en el que Sammy Rivera, de 54 años, tomó el juramento convirtiéndose en el primer alcalde hispano en la historia de la ciudad.

La victoria de Rivera vino tras obstáculos aparentemente insuperables. Superó las tácticas divisorias tradicionales del establecimiento político de los blancos y un esfuerzo terriblemente injusto por parte del fiscal James Farmer que intentaba impedir que juramentara insistiendo que una convicción legal de hacía 15 años constituía fundamento para negarle el puesto que claramente había ganado, superando a tres opositores.

Afortunadamente, juez del estado, Robert Passero, rechazó el caso del fiscal, y una corte de apelación estatal rechazó la apelación presentada a continuación por Farmer para impedir que Rivera asumiera el puesto de alcalde.

Los votantes sabían cuando votaban el 8 de mayo que Sammy Rivera tenía antecedentes criminales. Sabían que cuando era policía en Puerto Rico, se confesó culpable de escribir un expediente policíaco falso para encubrir el hecho que otro policía había matado con un dis-

paro a un hombre de 22 años, sospechado de ser narcotraficante. Como castigo, sirvió cuatro años bajo libertad condicional además de hacer servicio a la comunidad.

Antes de ser elegido alcalde, fue elegido dos veces al consejo municipal de Passaic. En ambas elecciones, se había hecho mención de su convicción legal.

A los que votaban esta primavera, el pasado de Rivera no les parecía tan importante como sus planes para el futuro de una ciudad tremendamente necesitada de cambio. Esta es una ciudad -- ahora 63 por ciento hispana -- en la que los latinos que votan habían estado tan ferocemente intimidados y por tantos años que el gobierno federal mandó monitores para supervisar las elecciones. Aquí es donde el establecimiento político de los blancos ha implementado una especie de apartheid, al estilo de Passaic, que dicen los latinos se ve todavía con la manera en que se administran los servicios municipales en sus vecindades.

Hombre grueso de talante humilde, Rivera se parece a Sancho Panza pero se comporta como Don Quixote. Como si luchara con los molinos, durante la campaña el nuevo alcalde presentó un nuevo programa para la alcaldía -- que incluye proyectos ambiciosos de barrer con la basura y los malandros callejeros. Prometió llevar a cabo el proyecto de forma equitativa, sin favorecer a los sectores predominantemente blancos de la ciudad.

Al ganar en las urnas, prometió, "Trabajaré con todos. Con los que me apoyaron y con los que no... Pero nosotros (los latinos) estamos hartos de ser tratados como ciudadanos de segunda

categoría."

"Sí", enfatizó, "incluiremos a todos. No seremos como (administraciones anteriores) que siempre nos han dado migajas, quedándose con todo el pastel. Ya no habrá sólo un sector limpio de la ciudad mientras que el resto está sucio."

El primero de julio, el gesto que hizo irrumpir un trueno de aplauso fueron las palabras que todos habían esperado oír. La declaración de independencia latina de Rivera salió así: "Passaic no será la municipalidad más rica en términos de dinero. Pero sí somos la más rica en términos de la diversidad. Tengo orgullo de ser el primer alcalde latino de la ciudad."

Eran palabras que muchos latinos temían nunca oír, palabras que restauraron su fe en un sistema aparentemente dispuesto a

impedirles con engaños el acceso al poder político.

Ha sido como la trayectoria de Don Quixote para los latinos: nacionalizarse, registrarse al voto, sobreponerse a su propia desilusión y las divisiones resultantes, para ver que el alcalde que ellos eligieron gane dos juicios contra los esfuerzos del fiscal en prohibirle asumir el cargo político.

Para millones de nosotros en los Estados Unidos, el Día de la Independencia es celebración de un momento de la historia remota. Para los latinos en Passaic, la liberación recién comienza.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista con The Record en el norte de New Jersey. Contáctese con él por correo electrónico a: MiguelP23@ AOL.com)

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For Passaic Latinos, Independence Day Came Late

By Miguel Pérez

The room was scorching. The speeches were numerous and repetitious. And the sweat that flowed from some 700 foreheads in a Passaic, N.J., school auditorium three days before the Fourth of July made it difficult to enjoy the occasion fully.

But it was worth it. How often do you get to witness history?

At School 6 in Passaic on July 1, the mostly Latino crowd savored the moment when 54-year-old Sammy Rivera took the oath to become the city's first Hispanic mayor.

Rivera had beaten what seemed insurmountable odds. He had overcome the white po-

litical establishment's traditional divide-and-conquer tactics and a terribly unfair effort by the state's attorney general, James Farmer, to block him from being sworn in, claiming that a conviction 15 years earlier constituted grounds to deny him the office he won clearly over three opponents.

Fortunately, State Judge Robert Passero dismissed the attorney general's suit, and a state appeals court rejected Farmer's subsequent appeal to prevent Rivera from taking office.

The voters knew when they cast their ballots May 8 that Sammy Rivera had a criminal record. They knew that when

he was a cop in Puerto Rico, he pleaded guilty to filing a false police report to cover up for another officer who had shot and killed a 22-year-old drug suspect. For his crime, Rivera served four years' probation and did community service.

Twice before being voted in as mayor, he had been elected to the Passaic City Council. In those elections, the issue of his conviction had been brought up.

To city voters this spring, Rivera's past didn't seem as important as his plans for a city in dire need of change. This is a city -- now 63 percent Hispanic -- where Latino voters had been intimidated so fiercely and

for so long that the federal government sent monitors to oversee its elections. This is where the white political establishment has practiced a form of apartheid, Passaic style, which Latinos say is still visible in the way city services are administered in their neighborhoods.

A stocky man with a humble demeanor, Rivera looks like Sancho Panza but behaves like Don Quixote. As if battling windmills, in his campaign, the new mayor laid out a new agenda for City Hall -- one that included ambitious projects for cleaning the streets of both litter and hoodlums. He promised

continued on page 6

Elderly Latino Diabetic Mortality Rate More Than Twice as High as Non-Hispanic Whites

Los-Angeles, July 10 - Initial results from a UCLA-led study reported Tuesday that the mortality rate of Hispanics ages 65-74 years with diabetes was more than twice the rate of non-Hispanic whites. The same study also reported that, at any age level, the Latino mortality rate remains twice as high as non-Hispanic Whites.

The population-based, random digital dial telephone survey sampled 602 elderly immigrant and U.S.-born Latinos, as well as 577 non-Hispanic white elderly residents in two large targeted areas of Los Angeles County.

Some health experts have termed diabetes as a "Latino disease" not only because the condition has become of the top 10 causes of death for the ethnic group, but because it has is also the only one for which the Hispanic rate is significantly higher than the non-Hispanic White rate.

"Diabetes is a major source of health problems, particularly among the elderly in the Hispanic community," said David E. Hayes-Bautista, lead researcher and director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the UCLA School of Medicine. "Educational programs to reach this group are desperately needed."

Latino Attitudes: Some Differences, Some Surprises

According to the survey, Hispanic elderly are more



likely than non-Hispanic whites of the same age to cite the role of emotional factors, such as "susto" (strong emotional shock or trauma), "nervios" (emotional upset, not quite as strong as "susto") and stress as causative factors for diabetes.

Nearly one-sixth (13 percent) of the diabetic Hispanic elderly have never had an eye exam, citing that there was either an incomplete knowledge of the diabetes process or an incomplete knowledge of the medical care system. Doctors say that regular eye visits are important because if left untreated, diabetics can suffer eye damage, particularly glaucoma; and in some cases, loss of vision.

However, the study did find

that Latino elderly were as likely as non-Hispanic White to cite the role of heredity, diet and overweight in the causation of diabetes. It also found that Latinos were also no more likely than non-Hispanic White elderly to believe that diabetes cannot be prevented or managed, dispelling the notion that Latinos are "fatalistic".

Culturally-Sensitive, Bilingual Educational Programs Needed

While the vast majority of survey respondents preferred to take the interview in Spanish; nearly one-third preferred English, indicating the importance of a bilingual educational program to reach this group.

"The results of the survey

have tremendous implications in the development and implementation of services and education for Latinos," said Gustavo Valdespino, senior vice president, operations, Southern California for Tenet HealthSystem, sponsor of the survey. "Culturally sensitive, bilingual educational materials and support for diabetes management need to be top priorities."

More Details About The Study

The study, funded by the Tenet Healthcare Foundation, was conducted for the Roybal Immunization Consortium for Older Adults (RICO) in a joint project involving the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health & Culture, the Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology at California State University, Los Angeles, the California Department of Health, and the National Immunization Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tenet Healthcare owns and operates 111 acute care hospitals and numerous health care services nationally. Tenet is the largest hospital network in Southern California, with a great majority of hospitals located in predominantly Hispanic areas.

HispanicPR Wire contributed to this report.

Préguntele Al Procurador:

¿Puedo Decirle A Mi Ex-Esposa ?

P: Mi ex-esposa tiene la custodia de mis dos hijos, y yo siempre cumpla mis pagos de manutención (child support) a tiempo. Ella gasta este dinero para pagar la renta, electricidad y agua. Pero yo quiero que el dinero lo reciban mis niños directamente para cubrir sus gastos personales. ¿Tengo algún derecho para decirle a mi ex-esposa sobre cómo gastar ese dinero?

R: Los pagos para la manutención de niños son algo que ha sido ordenado por una corte, y deben ser entregados por el padre sin custodia al padre con custodia de los menores, para que tal padre pueda cuidar debidamente a los niños. El Código De Familia De Texas (Texas Family Code) claramente señala que el padre que recibe el dinero tiene el derecho de determinar la manera en que será utilizado.

El criar a un niño cuesta bastante, a pesar de que el padre con custodia reciba pagos de parte del otro padre. A menudo, los padres con custodia dependen de los pagos de manutención para pagar la renta, electricidad, agua y para poder ir de compras al supermercado. Claro que, un padre sin custodia puede darle apoyo adicional a sus niños, tal como

la compra de pañales, juguetes, comida y regalos. Sin embargo, los padres reciben crédito oficial por sus pagos solamente si tales cantidades son manejadas por la oficina de registro estatal (state registry), según la manera en que se haya dictaminado en la orden judicial correspondiente. Si un padre sin custodia le da dinero adicional o un regalo directamente a sus niños, esto no se considera como parte de los pagos normales para la manutención del menor.

Los pagos mensuales para la manutención de un niño los determina una corte según lo dispuesto por el Código De Familia De Texas. Los pagos de manutención generalmente corresponden al 20 por ciento de los ingresos netos del padre sin custodia si tiene un solo hijo, 25 por ciento para mantener a dos niños, hasta alcanzar un máximo del 40 por ciento para mantener a cinco o más niños que estén siendo cuidados por el mismo padre con custodia.

En un caso muy típico, la orden judicial le obliga al padre sin custodia de pagar 300 dólares al mes para mantener a dos niños. Esto corresponde a solamente 10 dólares al día para darle ropa, comida y techo a dos pequeños.

LHCC Membership Drive

The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a leader in affecting positive change and Providing business opportunities for all is conducting its Semi-Annual Membership Drive from July 12th through July 19th. A phone bank will be held on Tuesday, July 17th from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the LHCC office.

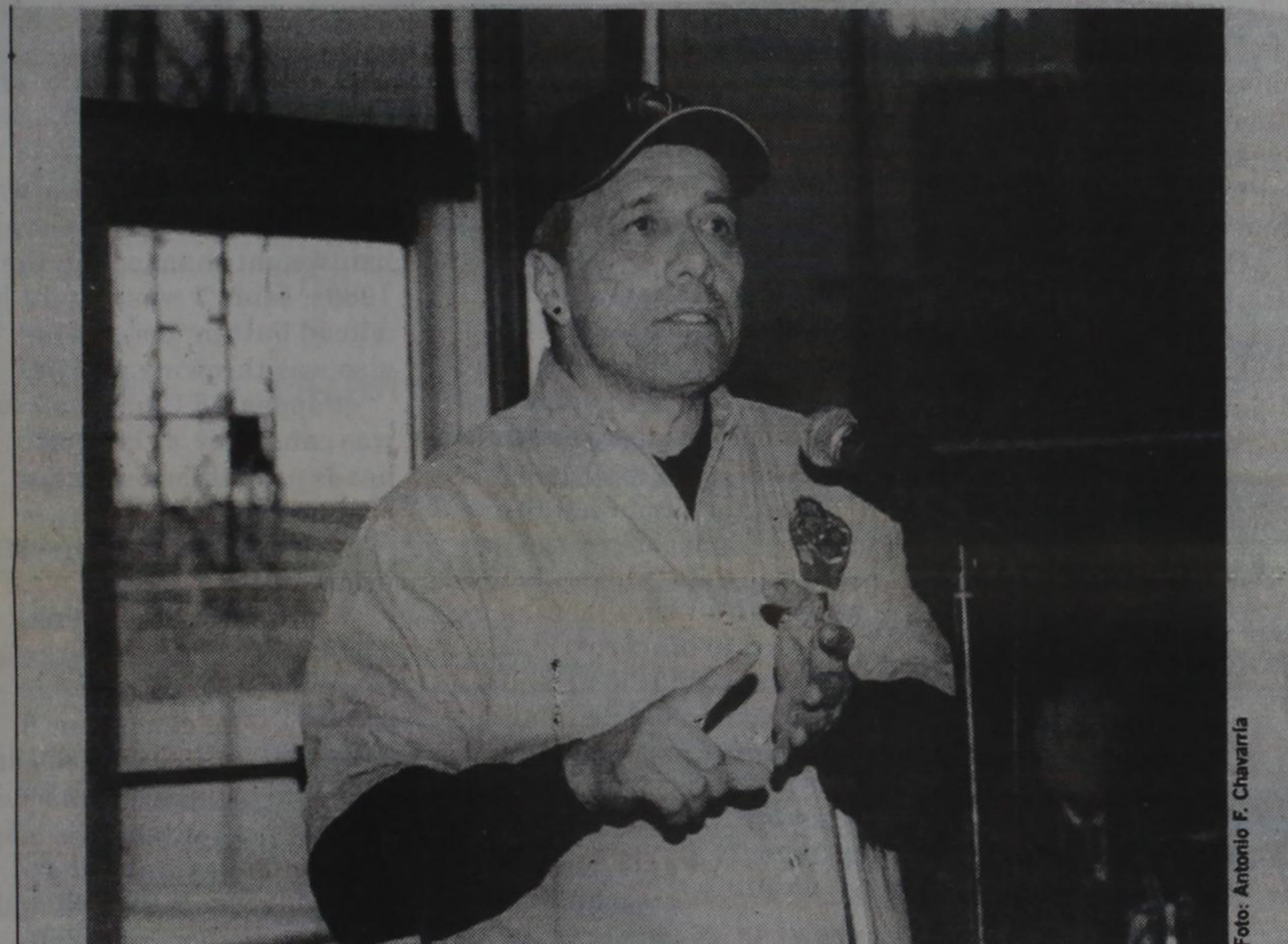


Foto: Antonio F. Chavarria

Por segundo año consecutivo el Sportman's Park de Cicero fue escenario del "Festival latino del libro y la familia".

Por dos días se realizó esta actividad, producida por el actor y activista Edward James Olmos, destacándose la amplia presencia de toda clase de compañías promocionando sus productos y la poca participación de librerías.

cándose la amplia presencia de toda clase de compañías promocionando sus productos y la poca participación de librerías.

Black Leader Urges Bush To Address Racial Issues

WASHINGTON, -- A prominent black leader urged the Bush administration to focus on racial profiling, election reform and racial disparities in the death penalty.

Kweisi Mfume, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), called for election reform and a "meaningful and quantifiable approach" to racial profiling at a press conference in New Orleans as the annual NAACP convention began.

Mfume said inequities in capital punishment that disproportionately affect blacks and Hispanics must be addressed.

"We will vehemently fight for what we believe in even if it is against the beliefs of this administration," he said.

"The administration gets a mixed report on civil rights, social justice and criminal justice issues," he added.

About 20,000 NAACP members and delegates are expected to attend the group's 92nd annual convention, which ends Thursday.

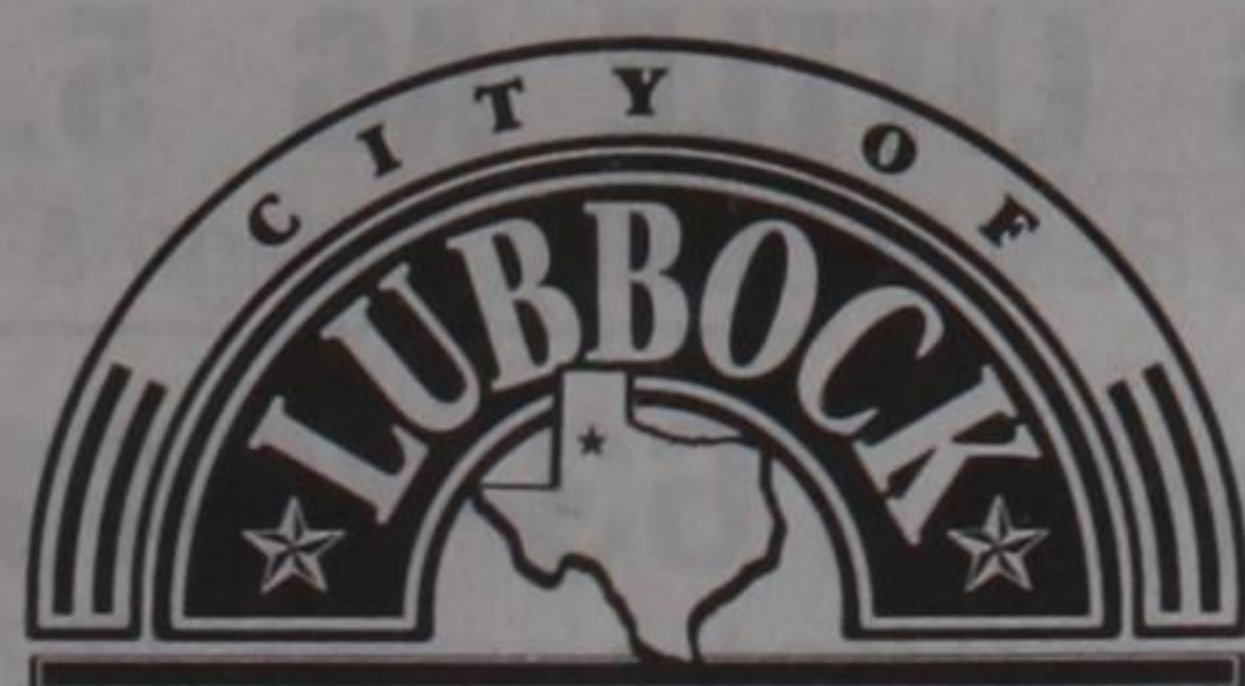
Besides racial issues, Mfume said NAACP will also focus on education, economic development, criminal justice and foreign policy during the convention.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Parks and Recreation Board will hold a public hearing Tuesday, July 17, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall 1625 13th Street in the Council Chambers. This hearing will allow for citizen comments on the following item:

The City of Lubbock has prepared a site plan for the development of Fiesta Plaza located west of University Avenue, south of the approximate location of the flowline of the North Fork of the Brazos River, north of the Westerner Fields and east of a line approximately 1320 feet west and parallel to University Avenue. Said development will be located in the 100 year floodplain as established by FEMA. The principal outdoor recreational facilities include an amphitheater, trails, pavillon, picnic stations, fishing pier and boat dock. A copy of the site plan may be reviewed at 1010 9th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79401.

For further information you may contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 775-2689. This hearing is open to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 775-2673, or write to Parks and Recreation Department P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.



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Economic Opportunity Forum 2001

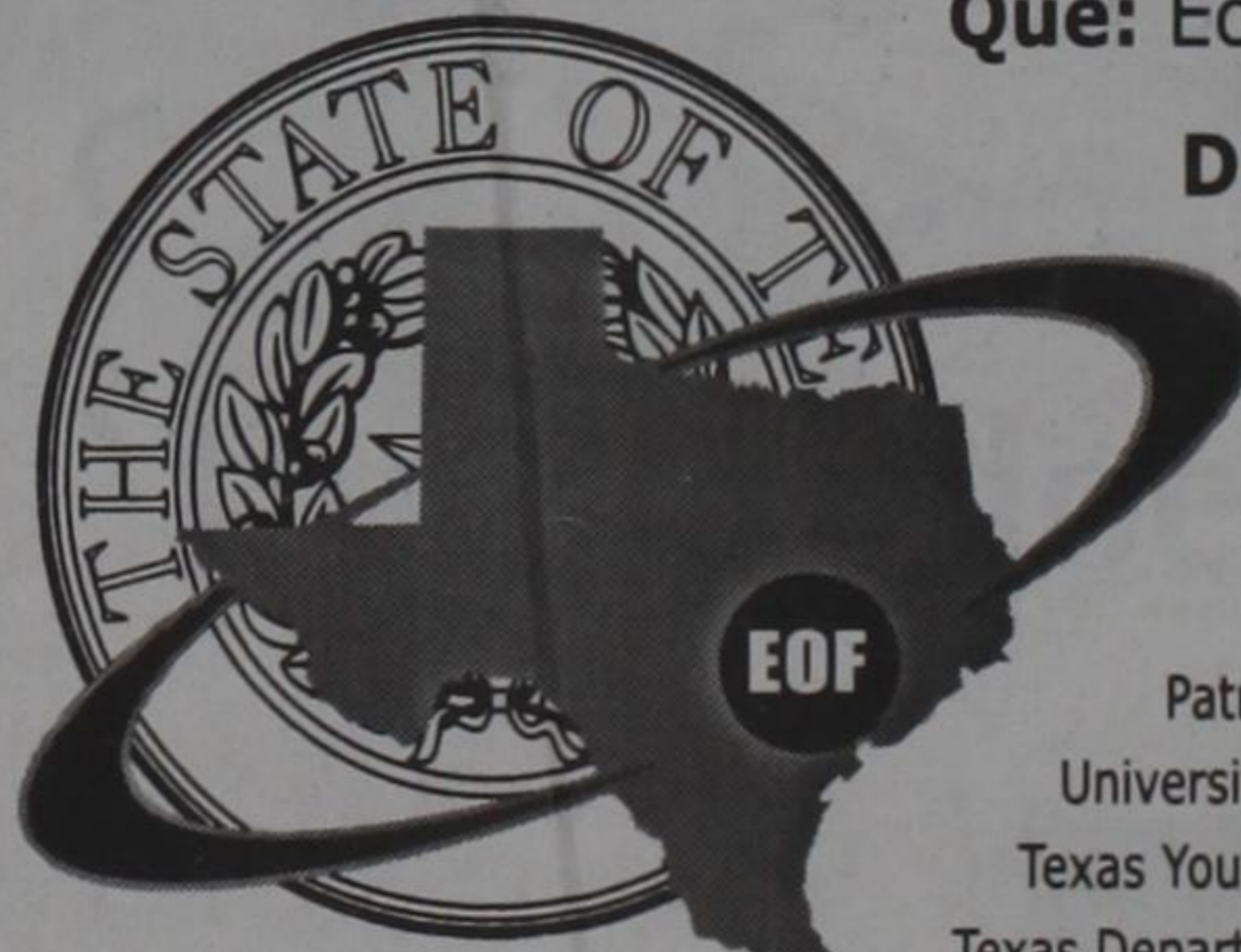
Qué: Economic Opportunity Forum 2001

Donde: Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, Austin, TX

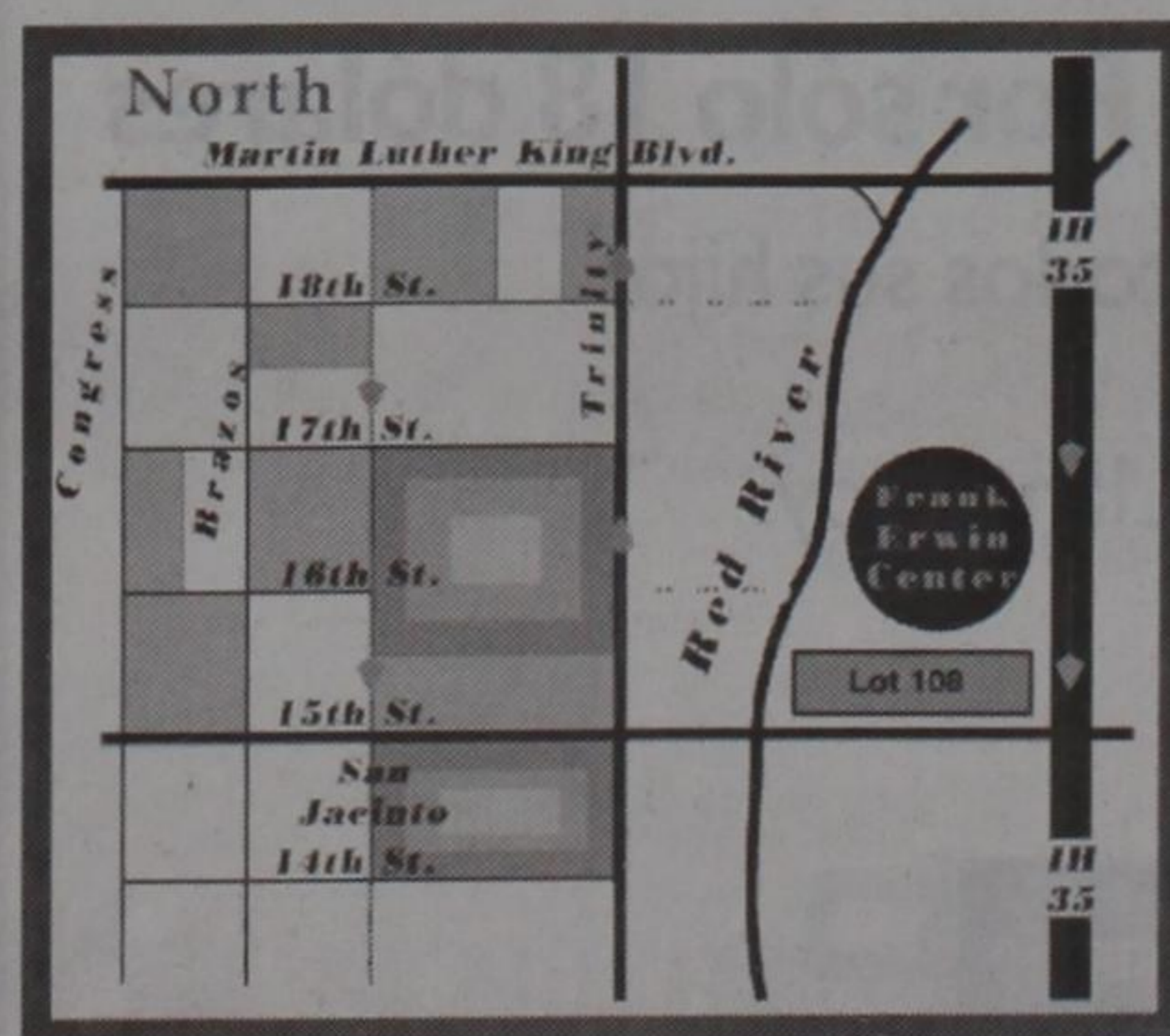
Fecha: July 19, 2001

Hora: 10a.m. - 4p.m.

Patronizado por: General Services Commission, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Lottery Commission, Texas Youth Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department on Aging, and Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention



El Mapa para llegar al Centro Erwin. Estacionamiento en la plaza 108.



Las oportunidades en el Foro incluyen:

- Negocio Electrónico
- Seminarios de Certificación
- Oportunidades para Recibir Contratos Inmediatos
- Vendedor
- Conozca los Compradores de servicios para el estado.
- Servicios Pertinentes

Para más información comuníquese con una de las siguientes personas: Jennifer Flores, GSC (512) 463-6958; Jose Montoya, TYC (512) 424-6256; Annette Smith, UT (512) 471-2850; or Joyce Bertolacini, TLC (512) 344-5293

Economic Opportunity Forum 2001

Hopkins, Trinidad Launch Their War of Words

NEW YORK -- Bernard Hopkins grabbed a miniature Puerto Rican flag from Felix Trinidad Jr.'s hand and threw it down Monday during an outdoor press conference to hype their undisputed middleweight title fight in September.

Trinidad and his father, who also trains and manages him, reacted with class. The fighters did not touch one another and the crowd in midtown Manhattan's Bryant Park did not misbehave.

"The way he threw down the banner that's the way he'll go down on Sept. 15," the senior Trinidad said.

His son's reaction was: "I'm not going to touch you. On Sept. 15, I will knock you down."

Replied Hopkins: "I don't apologize for anything I do. I think before I do anything."

The IBF-WBC champion from Philadelphia then took a larger paper Puerto Rican



flag, lowered it halfway down the stick and said: "the flag of Puerto Rico will be at half mast."

As the fighters were leaving, Trinidad, the WBA champion, said to Hopkins: "Thank you for recognizing you did wrong."

"I'm didn't apologize," Hopkins said, "and I'm not backing down."

While many in the crowd

shouted their displeasure at Hopkins, the elder Trinidad said: "I want all the people of Puerto Rico to treat Hopkins well and give him respect as a human being."

Hopkins sees his fight against Trinidad as a war. He makes it sound as if their battle for the undisputed middleweight championship will be a street fight.

"I've been accused of being dirty," Hopkins, 36, told reporters at HBO offices before the outdoor press conference.

After Trinidad knocked out William Joppy for the WBA title on May 12, Hopkins had talked about using elbows and knees, of turning the pay-per-view fight against the 28-year-old Puerto Rican into a brawl Sept. 15 in Madison Square Garden.

Asked how he would react to roughhouse tactics, Trinidad said through an interpreter, "The referee has to look closely if a fighter fights dirty. I'm planning to fight a clean fight and let the referee do his job."

Should the referee not do his job, the unbeaten Trinidad said at a news conference Monday, "I have hands and I can punish."

A smiling Trinidad added, "There is the possibility he can't do anything because the fight will end so fast."

It is Trinidad (40-0, 33

knockouts), a former IBF-WBC welterweight and super welterweight champion who is the favorite and perceived star of the show.

Trinidad is considered by more than a few people in boxing to be the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

This rankles Hopkins (39-2-1, 28 knockouts), who has held the IBF title since 1995 and won the WBC title on points from Keith Holmes on April 14, but who has been overshadowed by the likes of Trinidad, Shane Mosley, Oscar De La Hoya and Roy Jones Jr.

"Everybody's so quick to jump the gun and label a guy great," Hopkins said. "You become great because you beat one guy? Longevity, quality opponents and a lot of title defenses is greatness to me."

Trinidad, however seems to meet Hopkins' qualifications for greatness.

He has beaten a lot quality opponents, including De La Hoya, and he has been in 19 world title fights. That's three more than Hopkins, whose championship bouts include a decision loss to Jones in 1993 and had a draw with Mercado Segundo in 1995.

The Puerto Rican fighter also looked spectacular in knocking out Joppy in the fifth round and setting up his match with Hopkins.

"You're not the middleweight champion until you beat Bernard Hopkins," Hopkins said. "Everything Trinidad's gotten in the past few years, he deserves. When I beat him, slip the paper to me and give me what he's had -- the money, the press, the front page."

"I don't think in my mind the fight will be hard," Trinidad said. "My job is to make the fight easy."



Camacho's Imaged Tarnished In Controversial Decision Over Leija

NEW YORK -- Hector Camacho Jr. has drawn cheers, boos and laughter with his flamboyant entrances, which have included him riding a camel into the ring for a fight.

It was his exit, however, not his routine entrance, that drew catcalls early Sunday morning at a minor league ballpark in Coney Island, Brooklyn.

Camacho, 22, remained unbeaten, but his victory over veteran Jesse James Leija on a technical decision after five rounds tarnished the image of the WBA's No. 1-ranked super lightweight.

Leija and his manager,

The AP favored Leija 48-47.

"He quit in the corner," Bedford said. "His manager and promoter told him to tell the referee, he couldn't see."

"I clearly heard the doctor say the fight could go on," said Michael Buffer, the ring announcer.

"The doctor said he could continue," said Larry Merchant, HBO boxing analyst. "He said 'I can't see,' and the doctor said OK."

The doctor, referee Steve Smoger and the judges were ordered by the New York State Athletic Commission not to talk to the media.



Lester Bedford, called Camacho a quitter, and there is evidence that their description was accurate.

In the fifth round, a cut was opened across the Camacho's right eyelid.

At the end of the round, Dr. Robert Polafsky examined the cut.

After the doctor left the corner, Camacho walked across the ring and exchanged words with Leija, then returned to his corner. Leija, thinking Camacho had quit, raised his arms in triumph.

Then it was announced that the doctor had ordered the fight stopped, and under the rules it would go to the scorecards. Camacho was ahead 49-46 on two of them and 48-47 on the third. The decision was booed by a crowd of about 4,000 fans at KeySpan Park.

Camacho (33-0, 18 knockouts), whose father was WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion in the 1980s, said, "I was caught by a head butt by Leija, who also was throwing elbows."

It appeared Camacho's cut was caused by a clash of heads as both boxers were leaning in.

Leija was cut over the left eye in the first round.

"I'm a man," said Leija, 35, (42-6-2, 17 knockouts), a former WBC super featherweight champion. "I fight through it when I'm cut."

Before the fight, Camacho, who lives in Puerto Rico, said he was the draw and that Kostya Tszyu, WBC-IBF 140-pound champion, and Zab Judah, IBF champion, needed him.

The two are scheduled to fight in November, and now it appears that the winner of the bout needs Camacho less than he thinks.

In a 12-round heavyweight match, Kirk Johnson of Canada earned the WBA's No. 1 ranking with a unanimous decision over Larry Donald.

Summer Surgical Technology Testing Date Added

A summer pre-entrance exam has been added for the South Plains College surgical technology program at the Reese Center.

The pre-entrance exam will be given July 20 in the computerized testing facilities on the SPC Levelland campus. The test is set for 9 a.m. in the Technical Arts Building, room 110. Fee is \$25, payable by money order. Pre-registration is required.

Testing for the surgical technology and vocational nursing programs at the Reese Center have been moved to SPC Levelland to facilitate the testing procedure.

Additional exams are scheduled at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sept. 13 and Sept. 20.

The exams are among requirements for admission to the spring 2002 classes.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Lissa Sharp, testing coordinator, at 894-9611, ext. 2367 or 2530.

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Latina Immigrants Describe Violations

Following are examples of domestic worker abuses reported in the Human Rights Watch report:

-- Anita Ortega, a Guatemalan G-5 domestic worker, was verbally promised \$300 a month with raises plus room and board, and she signed a contract. Her employer did not

give her the raises, and her salary, as determined by Human Rights Watch, came to \$1.74 an hour, 39 percent of the federal hourly minimum wage at that time.

-- Paula Jiménez, a Colombian A-3 domestic worker, was not allowed to leave her employer's house except on Sunday, which was her day off. She was told to work as if she were

in Colombia.

-- Elena Castro, a Peruvian G-5 domestic worker, was ordered to clean the bathroom with Tilex. She received no warning from her employer about its toxicity or other health and safety information, such as opening windows or leaving the room. She said that cleaning the bathroom was "torture -- toxic."

Magic 93.7 invites you to listen to us all day for your chance to win GREAT PRIZES and to hear the Hottest Tejano Hits!!!!

Tejano Chisme

Hola mi linda gente! I'm Jennifer "La Chismosa" from Magic 93.7 with your Tejano Chisme. If you missed out on the Chisme, then not to worry, I got it for you right here!!!

* Well what can I say Stephanie Lynn is trying to make a come back ... But if she keeps getting busted with the illegal drugs like she did this past weekend in Nueva Laredo ... she'll never make a come back.

* Just a bit on info for you guys about Control ... they are the first group since Grupo Limite to enjoy crossover radio play in the Norteno, Grupero and Tejano radio formats.

* Coming to Lubbock sooner than you think Los Garcia Bros. and Stampede

Hasta la proxima have a Safe Tejano Day! I'm Jennifer "La Chismosa" from Magic 93.7 with your Tejano Chisme!!!

MAGIC 93.7 TOP 10

TW	TITLE	ARTIST
1	No Eres Para Mi	Elida y Avante
2	Los Tres Amigos	Roberto Pulido
3	Dime Porque	Kumbia Kings
4	El Guarare	Jimmy Gonzales
5	Pobre Corazon	Jay Perez
6	Un Ratito	Stefani
7	Si Deveras Eres Hombre	Shelly Lares
8	Soy Yo	Bobby Pulido
9	Yo Si	Stampede
10	Infie!	Joe Lopez

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Tony "T" y Cucuie The Magic Morning Team from 5:30 am - 10:00 am
Hi! This is Tony "T" and Cucuie the Magic Morning Team ... Join us every weekday morning for the best Tejano fun in la mananas on Magic 93.7!!!!!!

Jake Gonzales from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

WAAASSSAAPPIIIIIINNNN this is Jake Gonzales inviting you to join me for the Tejano Classic Café and the all request lunch hour at 12 noon on Magic 93.7!!!!

DJ Lopez from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

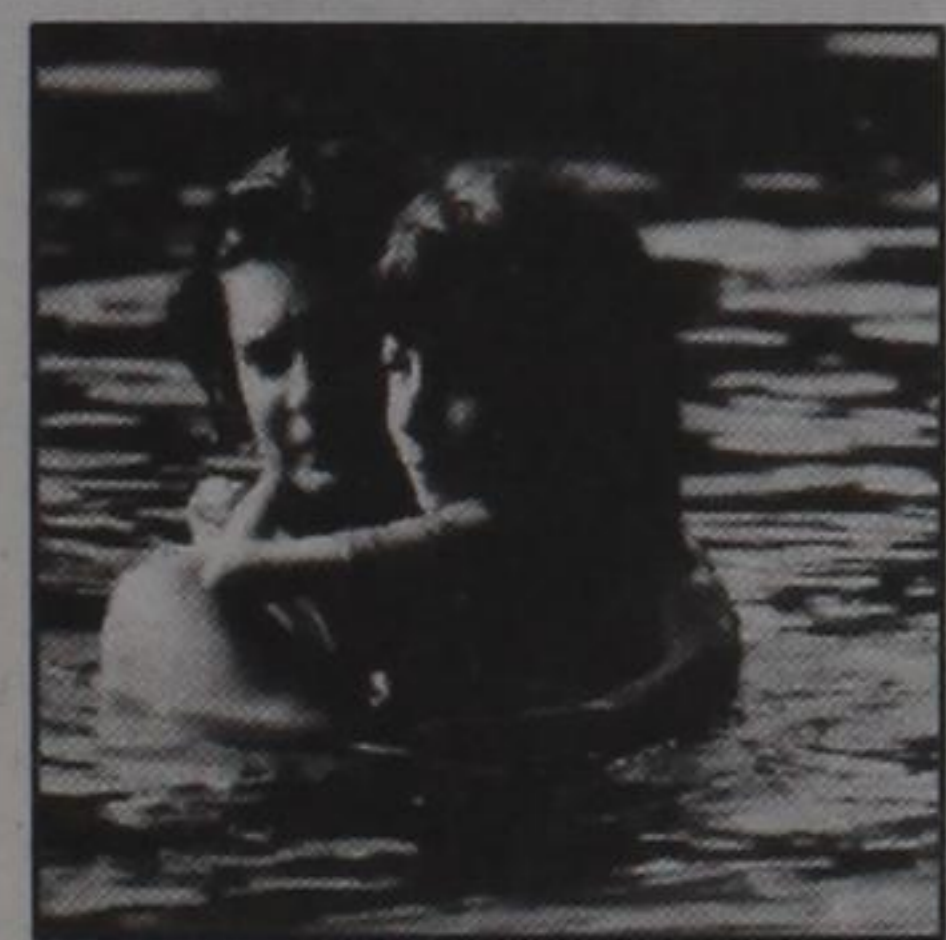
Yoyoyo DJ Lopez inviting you to catch the hottest Tejano show in town at 5 o'clock with the Magic Cruz Home "The Hottest Tejano and Cumbia Mixes" with DJ Lopez on Magic 93.7!!!!

Jennifer "La Chismosa" from 7:00 pm - Midnite

Hola mi linda gente this is Jennifer "La Chismosa" bringing you the Tejano Hit Rumble ... the Top 9 @ 9 The Magic Love Lines ... and can't forget about your Tejano Chisme on Magic 93.7!! porque Las Mujeres Mandan!

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El Comité Educación de la Cámara de Representantes Presenta el Sitio Web "Ningún Niño Olvidado" (No Child Left Behind)

El sitio promueve la ley de educación Ningún Niño Olvidado del Presidente Bush para la Comunidad Hispana

WASHINGTON, DC -- El presidente del Comité de Educación y Fuerza Laboral de la Cámara de Representantes, John Boehner (R-OH), presentó hoy una versión en español del sitio Web oficial del Comité (<http://edworkforce.house.gov/v/spanish/>) para divulgar a la comunidad hispana el mensaje bipartita de reforma de la educación del Presidente George W. Bush. El Comité de Educación y Fuerza Laboral de la Cámara de Representantes es el primer comité de la Cámara que implementa un sitio Web en español.

En mayo, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó la Ley Ningún Niño Olvidado (No Child

Left Behind) (H.R. 1) del Presidente, que se concentra en cerrar la brecha de aprovechamiento existente entre los estudiantes hispanos y sus compañeros, por una abrumadora mayoría de votos bipartitas de 384 a 45. Según un reciente informe del Panel Nacional de Objetivos sobre Educación (National Education Goal Panel), únicamente dos estados redujeron la brecha de aprovechamiento en lectura existente entre estudiantes blancos y estudiantes hispanos. Como promedio, el estudiante blanco consiguió 29 puntos más que el estudiante hispano en las pruebas estándar de lectura.

"La brecha de aprovechamiento entre los estudiantes hispanos y sus compañeros es inaceptable. Nuestro nuevo sitio Web ayudará a nuestros electores de habla his-

House Education committee Unveils Spanish-Language "No Child Left Behind" Website

Site Promotes President Bush's No Child Left Behind Education Bill to Hispanic Community

WASHINGTON, D.C. - House Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) today unveiled a Spanish version of the committee's official website:

(<http://edworkforce.house.gov/spanish/>) to bring President George W. Bush's message of bipartisan education reform to the Hispanic community. The Education & the Workforce Committee is the first House committee to implement a Spanish-language website.

In May, the House passed the President's No Child Left Behind bill (H.R. 1), which focuses on closing the achievement gap between Hispanic students and their peers, by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 384-45. According to a National Education Goal Panel report released earlier this year, only two states reduced the reading achievement gap between white students and Hispanic stud-

ents. On average, whites scored 29 points ahead of Hispanics on standardized reading tests.

"The achievement gap between Hispanic students and their peers is unacceptable. Our new website will help our Spanish-speaking constituents learn more about the President's plan to help their children reach their fullest educational potential," Boehner said. "The President's No Child Left Behind education plan is the most important legislative initiative we will consider this year and it is vitally important that we communicate the message of high standards for our schools in every way possible."

"With the Hispanic popula-

Page 5
pana a informarse sobre el plan del Presidente para poder ayudar a sus hijos a conseguir su máxima capacidad educacional," expresó Boehner. "El plan de educación Ningún Niño Olvidado del Presidente es la más importante iniciativa legislativa que consideraremos este año y es indispensable que demos a conocer el mensaje de altos niveles para nuestras escuelas de todas las formas posibles."

"Con la población hispana en continuo aumento en los Estados Unidos cada año, es fundamental para nosotros llegar a esta importante comunidad y ayudarles a estar informados," señaló Boehner. "El Presidente Bush ha realizado un admirable esfuerzo en llegar a los ciudadanos de origen hispano. Nosotros estamos siguiendo su ejemplo."

Los datos de la Oficina de Censo indican que la población hispana del país aumentó súbitamente en la última década para colocarse en más de un 12 por ciento de la población estadounidense. Para el año 2020, se espera que la población hispana aumente en otro 20 por ciento. (Tom Raum, "Bush emphasis on Latin America, Asia tracks immigration trends," Associated Press, 23 de junio del 2001)

every year, it's important for us to reach out to this important community and help them stay informed," Boehner said. "President Bush has made an admirable effort to reach out to Hispanic Americans. We are following his example."

Census Bureau data indicates America's Hispanic population has skyrocketed in the past decade, with Hispanics accounting for more than 12 percent of the nation's population. By 2020, the Hispanic population is expected to grow by another 20 percent. (Tom Raum, "Bush emphasis on Latin America, Asia tracks immigration trends," Associated Press, June 23, 2001)



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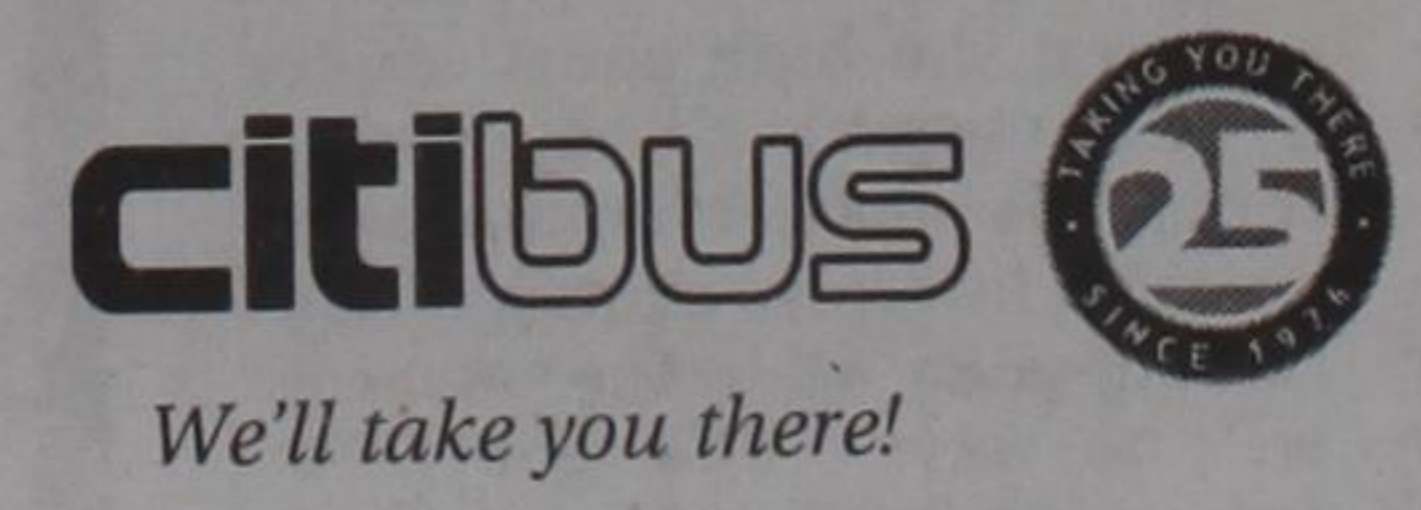


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A Group of Central Americans Cross the Suchiate River, Which Marks the Border



between Guatemala and Mexico, on rafts in Tapachula, Chiapas, southern Mexico, Thursday, July 5, 2001. Investigators will soon begin large-scale arrests of corrupt police who helped traffickers make southern Mexico into a huge illegal immigration pipeline to the United States, a top official said Thursday. Mexican President Vicente Fox toured Mexico's southern border Thursday to oversee efforts to strengthen security there, and stamp out corruption that fuels trafficking in Central American immigrants. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

Congressional Effort to Comorate Juan Seguin With a U.S. Postal Service Stamp

(WASHINGTON, DC) Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez today joined a bipartisan coalition of members of Congress to introduce legislation, H. Res. 186, which would encourage the United States Postal Service to issue a postage stamp commemorating San Antonio native Juan Seguin. A prominent political and military figure of the Texas War for Independence, Juan Seguin fought in the battles of Bexar, Concepcion, the Alamo and San Jacinto and served in numerous government posts throughout much of Texas' early political history.

"William Travis, Sam Houston, James Bowie, and Davey Crockett were not alone in the fight for Texas Independence," Congressman Rodriguez said. "An active critic of General Santa Anna's tyrannical dictatorship, Juan Seguin was ultimately promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Texas volunteer army. His sacrifices on and off the battlefield helped secure Texas' status as a Republic and ultimately as a state."

Seguin's life spanned the various facets of Texas' statehood, as did his political leadership. As a soldier, Juan Seguin escaped sure death at the Alamo

because he had been sent to gather reinforcements. Seguin eventually went on to fight in the Battle of San Jacinto, a crushing defeat for the Mexican army.

"Juan Seguin's contributions did not stop on the battlefield," Congressman Rodriguez said. "In addition to his distinguished military career, Seguin served as Mayor of San Antonio, Senator in the Congress of the Republic of Texas, and County Judge for Wilson County. Until his death in Nuevo Laredo on August 27,

1889, he remained a loyal public servant. It's only right that we recognize his contributions to the Great State of Texas."

Juan Seguin's remains were returned to Texas for burial in Seguin, the town named in his honor, during ceremonies on July 4, 1976. "The story of Juan Seguin is yet another outstanding epic of Texas courage and leadership that deserves our recognition. I'm proud to be a part of this commemorative effort and I urge the US Postal Service to issue the stamp."

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to do it in an equitable way, no longer favoring the predominantly white sections of town.

On winning at the ballot box, he promised, "I will work with everyone. With those who supported me and those who didn't support me. ... But we (Latinos) are tired of being treated as second-class citizens."

"Yes," he emphasized, "we will include everyone. We will not be like (past administrations) who have always given us the crumbs and kept the rest of the pie. There will no longer be one sector of the city that is clean while the rest of the city is dirty."

On July 1, the gesture that brought the house down with thunderous applause -- were words everyone had been waiting to hear. Rivera's declaration of Latino independence came out this way: "Passaic may not be the wealthiest municipality in terms of money. But we are

certainly the wealthiest in terms of diversity. I am proud to be the city's first Latino mayor."

Those were words many Latinos feared they would never hear, words that restored their faith in a system that seemed rigged to cheat them out of political power.

Their journey has been quixotic: becoming citizens, registering to vote, overcoming their own disillusionment and resulting divisiveness, and seeing the mayor they elected win two court battles against the attorney general's efforts to bar him from public office.

For millions of us in the United States, Independence Day celebrates a time in distant history. For Latinos in Passaic, liberation has just started.

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From Page One

the ethic of hard work from his dad - who may be partly responsible for the fact that Gonzales usually starts his White House days at 6:30 a.m. and ends them around 7:00 p.m.

But he does make time to play, especially with the president: He went along on Bush's first golf outing as president last week. And he and his family have gone to Camp David with the Bushes. "They ... speak as friends as much as lawyer and client," Mr. Card says.

This closeness has led to Supreme Court speculation. For his part, the unassuming Gonzales insists, "I'm not a candidate. I'm focused on doing this job. I love this job." (Observers say that's a pitch-perfect answer for someone who's at least open to taking the post.)

For now, Gonzales' role is to lead the search for a nominee. But Bush has chosen his headhunter for a post before: Bush charged Mr. Cheney to find a running mate - then picked him for the post.

As Gonzales speaks quietly about the search, he reveals not only what qualities the White House is looking for - but his own approach to judging.

The 'Judge's' philosophy
 • Political fray may derail 'White House Inc.'

In keeping with a conservative judicial philosophy, he says the personal opinions of individual judges on matters like abortion or race don't - or shouldn't - matter. "It's unacceptable," he says, "to come to the bench with pre-conceived notions or ideas of how I'm going to rule on a different case." It's "unfair to the litigants."

More important, he says, is "the process" judges use to decide a case - such as whether they rely heavily on precedent. Also crucial are a judge's competence and character, including humility, a trait Gonzales, coincidentally, appears to have lots of.

As a judge, he says, "You've got to realize how much power you have. You can take away minor children from feuding parents; you can put an 18-year-old kid in prison."

Yet, Gonzales has rarely had to deal with such heart-wrenching family or criminal issues - an

unusual thing for someone being considered for the highest court in the land.

As a lawyer in Houston, he mostly worked on business cases. He arrived on the Texas Supreme Court as an unknown quantity. But he developed a reputation as a centrist judge who asked tough questions and wrote well-reasoned opinions.

"He was a good technical lawyer and judge," says Harvey Kronberg, a Texas political observer. Yet even as a judge, he dealt only with civil suits. Criminal cases go to another court.

Despite this lack of experience - indeed, perhaps, because of it - observers say Gonzales would have a good shot at surviving a Senate confirmation fight.

On abortion - always an explosive issue - he appears to have a mixed record. On one hand, he talks about a "strict" interpretation of the Constitution - a signal that he doesn't see a specific right to abortions spelled out in that document. On the other, he joined a majority Texas Supreme Court decision that allowed lower-court judges, in individual cases, to override a law requiring a minor to tell her parents that she planned to get an abortion.

Hiring conservatives

That decision worries some conservatives. But since Gonzales' arrival in Washington, he's done two things that please them: He removed the American Bar Association, which they see as liberal, from its role in vetting White House judicial picks; and he has hired many conservatives to work with him, including former aides to conservative Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, and former independent counsel and Clinton nemesis Kenneth Starr.

Finally, there's his ethnic heritage. If appointed, he would be the first Hispanic to serve on the high court. Asked if that would be a positive thing, his answer is characteristically low-key, even guarded: "It depends who the nominee is," he says. "It's got to be someone who would do a good job on the court. Otherwise it may undermine confidence in the court in the Hispanic community - and in other communities."

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