

El Saltillo

"El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz"
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Hispanics Are Having Increasing Sway In U.S. Elections

Several Hispanic candidates are running for governor in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, southwestern states with a large Hispanic vote that is being strongly courted by Democrats and Republicans alike.

Two strong Hispanic candidates are vying for the Democratic nomination in the Texas primaries - millionaire Tony Sanchez and former state Attorney General Dan Morales.

According to Antonio Gonzalez, the president of the William C. Velasquez Institute for political research, neither inspires colorful commentary in what is expected to be a very exciting primary election campaign.

Nonetheless, the candidates will make Texas history by participating in a ground-breaking televised debate in Spanish, a first for the state's gubernatorial race.

Republican incumbent Gov. Rick Perry, who is running unopposed in his party's primary, has taken note: he is currently studying Spanish and occasionally uses Spanish phrases.

Perry is said to be copying the style of the state's previous governor, President George W. Bush, as he courts the Hispanic vote by visiting Hispanic communities and displaying his affinity for the Spanish language and culture.

President Bush has been credited with getting some Hispanics to switch their traditional party affiliation away from the Democrats to the Republicans.

The other southwest gubernatorial



Hispanic candidates are also Democrats.

Perhaps the area's most viable Hispanic candidate is New Mexico's Bill Richardson, who served as energy secretary and later U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under former President Bill Clinton.

Richardson, a bilingual whose mother is Mexican, is likely to win the Democratic primary, as well as November's general elections, analysts say.

His high-profile past as a former cabinet member and Congressman guarantee Richardson a top spot in November's election, University of New Mexico Political Science Prof. Chris Garcia said.

Although two-thirds of all Hispanic voters vote Democratic, analysts note that Latinos are not as strongly affiliated with the Democratic Party as they once were.

"Hispanics demand that (candidates) speak to them directly and respond when they see themselves reflected in their messages," Hector de Leon, the regional director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) in Houston, told EFE.

With respect to that line of thinking, Republicans have made strong inroads into a historically Democratic stronghold by directing their messages at Hispanics, who in turn replied at the ballot box.

Hispanic Brand Names Burn Deep

Carlos Andrade has a secret formula for competing in the cutthroat U.S. beverage market: rice water and tamarind juice.

It might not sound all that spectacular, but Andrade, like other Mexican entrepreneurs, has found a niche in the growing number of U.S. Hispanics craving things from south of the border.

With an estimated annual buying power of \$450 billion, Mexicans and other Hispanics living in the United States have become one of the most sought-after consumer groups for Mexican and U.S. businesses, sparking fierce competition between everything from small juice manufacturers to giant entertainment conglomerates.

Many Mexican companies, which often complain they can't compete with U.S. manufacturers, believe they have an advantage when it

comes to the 20.6 million Mexicans living in the United States. Their products are reminders of home and bear names many Hispanics grew up with and trust.

"They are waiting for brands they know and love," said Marco Espinosa, North American promotion director for the Mexican Bank for Foreign Trade.

Building on its powerful brand name in Latin America, Mexico-based Grupo Bimbo, the world's third-largest bread-maker, has focused on acquiring bakeries in states with growing Hispanic populations, including Texas and California.

Andrade, unable to market small bottles of fruit drinks in the saturated U.S. juice market, found a niche with little competition: horchata, a rice-based drink; tamarind juice; and agua de

jamaica, an infusion of hibiscus flowers.

His family's factory on the outskirts of Mexico City already produces the three traditional Mexican drinks for the national market. Now he's selling them in the eastern United States.

His goal this year is to increase, his roughly \$1 million in annual U.S. sales by 20 percent.

"They have money. And they want to buy Mexican products, even if the quality isn't as good or the price is higher," he said of Hispanics in the United States.

Census reports show Hispanics make up 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, a 60 percent increase in a decade. That figure, along with marketing data showing the U.S. Hispanic market is largely underserved, has ignited a bidding war for its attention.

Se Proyecta 'Recesión Larga Para Latinos

Por Arlene Martinez

A pesar del optimismo mostrado por algunos que pronostican un fin a la recesión nacional tan pronto como este verano, los problemas económicos para los latinos podrían continuar mucho después de la recuperación de la economía nacional.

Esta perspectiva oscura se delineó en un estudio del Centro Hispano Pew, con el título de "New Lows from New Highs: Latino Economic Losses in the Current Recession", emitido por el grupo de investigación sin afiliación partidaria el 24 de enero.

Los datos no incluyen la isla de Puerto Rico ni especifican a los trabajadores indocumentados.

Las barreras lingüísticas, niveles bajos educativos, falta de conocimiento y experiencia con el mercado laboral, y el no tener estatus legal contribuyen a índices altos de desempleo de latinos cuando decae la economía, según el estudio.

Los hispanos se encuentran particularmente susceptibles a los efectos económicos prolongados, por lo que se concentran entre tres industrias: la manufactura, las ventas y la construcción. En cuanto a la manufactura, por ejemplo, las pérdidas de trabajos eran 10 por ciento del total de los índices de desempleo nacionales, pero representaban el doble en desempleo de latinos. Como conjunto, los tres sectores representan 50 por ciento del total del desempleo latino, indica el informe.

Notó, sorprendentemente, que el grupo más afectado ha sido y continuará siendo hispanos de segunda generación. Los inmigrantes hispanos hoy sufren 8 por ciento de desempleo a comparación con los de segunda generación, con 9.6 por ciento, y 5.7 por ciento para todos los grupos étnicos.

"No participan de lleno en la comunidad inmigrante ni se integran completamente en las áreas más formales de la fuerza laboral", dijo Roberto Suro, director del Centro Hispano Pew. Añadió que mientras los inmigrantes se fían de redes informales en la comunidad, como los parientes o información que reciben de oídas para conseguir trabajo, los latinos de segunda generación utilizan métodos más tradicionales: la preparación de hojas de vida y el rellenar solicitudes de empleo.

Para poder predecir el efecto de la recesión actual en los latinos, los economistas Alan Krueger y Jonathan Orszag se valieron de 50 proyecciones independientes elaboradas por economistas del sector privado, reportadas según los indicadores económicos Blue Chip. Como promedio, los índices de de-

semplo para hispanos culminarán en 8.5 por ciento en el segundo cuarto - 0.6 por ciento más alto que los índices de diciembre del 2000 que reportó el Departamento de Trabajo - y después se nivelarán.

Las 10 proyecciones más pesimistas pronosticaron índices de 9.2 por ciento para fines de 2002, después de culminar en 9.3 por ciento en el segundo cuarto Las 10 proyecciones más optimistas pronosticaron un auge en el desempleo latino hasta 8 por ciento en el primer cuarto de este año antes de caer a 7.5 por ciento.

Si la recesión actual es reflejo de la de la década de los setenta, que duró oficialmente de noviembre de 1973 a marzo de 1975, los latinos no volverán a las tasas de crecimiento anteriores a la recesión hasta comienzos del 2007, según proyectan los inversio-



gadores. Si refleja la de la década de los ochenta, los latinos se recuperarán en el tercer cuarto de 2004. Pero quizás más apta a comparación con la recesión hoy - por razones tanto de cercanía temporal y constitución de la población hispana - es la recesión que duró del verano de 1990 hasta marzo de 1991, con lo cual los latinos no se recuperarán hasta marzo de 2008, dos años después que el resto de la economía se haya enderezado.

En octubre del 2000, apenas unos meses antes del choque de las compañías dot.com, los latinos disfrutaban un índice bajo de desempleo, casi sin precedentes, de 5 por ciento, o 778,000 personas desempleadas. Sólo algo más de un año después los latinos se encaraban con una tasa de 7.9 por ciento, con 1,260,000 personas desempleadas.

Entre otras cosas descubiertas: - Los trabajadores de ascendencia mexicana sufren ahora una tasa de desempleo de 7.9 por ciento en contraste con 7.3 por ciento para los restantes grupos de hispanos. La cifra aumenta a 8.9 por ciento para las mexicanas.

- En la ciudad de Nueva York, el desempleo latino podría llegar a niveles entre 12.8 por ciento y 15.2 por ciento. Los latinos allí se beneficiaron muy poco de la economía robusta de los últimos años de los noventa, además que durante esta última década se han sumado muchos inmigrantes a la población.

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Spanish Lessons Are On the GOP Agenda

BY JEFF ZELENY

AUSTIN, Texas -- The intensified drive to draw Hispanic voters to the Republican Party isn't a voluntary mission of political correctness, but a matter of sheer necessity at the ballot box.

Worried that legions of campaign workers nationally can't speak the fastest-growing language of political importance, the Republican National Committee is sending key operatives to intense Spanish language classes.

For up to two weeks, GOP officials from selected states will immerse themselves in vocabulary and conversation at the Berlitz Language School in Washington.

"We can't survive as a party without getting more of the Hispanic vote," said Matthew Dowd, a pollster and senior adviser to the RNC.

The statistics tell the story best: President Bush won the votes of 35 percent of Hispanic Americans, while Al Gore received 62 percent. If the votes are cast in the same proportions in the 2004 presidential race, the GOP predicts, Bush would lose by up to 3 million votes.

Republicans studied the sobering facts at the party's recent strategy meeting. The new chairman of the Republican National Committee, Marc Racicot, delivered a mandate to party activists before they returned to their home states to plot strategies for winning races in this competitive midterm election year.

"We have an incredible opportunity right now to expand the party, not only in terms of diversity, but also in terms of numbers," said Racicot, a former governor

of Montana.

In 1990, Hispanics made up 9 percent of the U.S. population. Last year's census said the Hispanic population has increased to 12 percent, an increase that creates the potential for millions of new voters, not only in places like Texas, California and Arizona, but also Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, among other states.

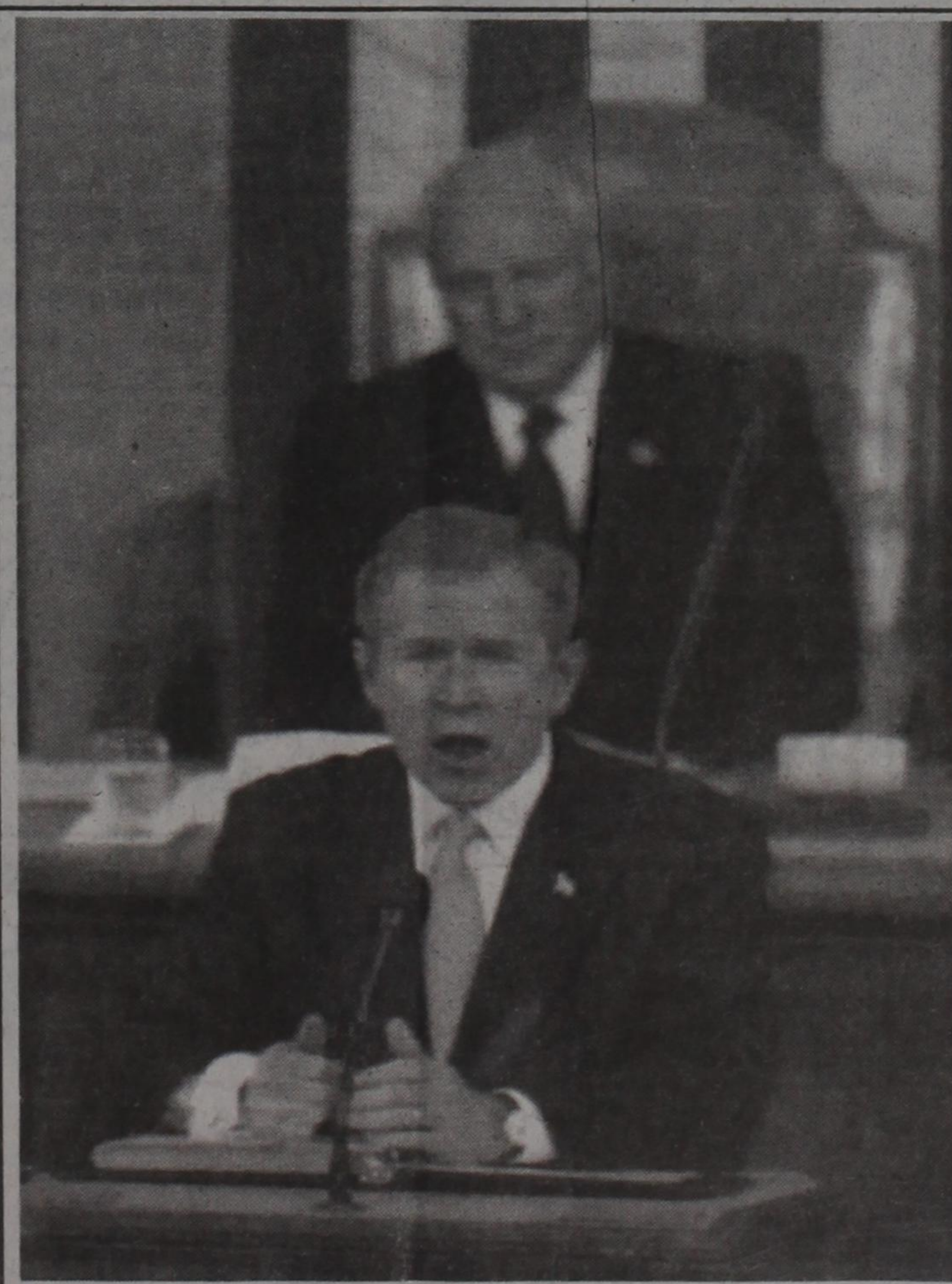
Republicans once relied on conservative Hispanic voters in states like Florida, Dowd said, but today the electorate is not so easily defined.

In 1988, when President George Bush ran for office, two of every three Hispanic votes came from Cuban-Americans, who lean largely Republican. When his son ran in 2000, two of every three Hispanic voters were non-Cuban and Democratic-leaning.

Democrats say their party is more aligned with concerns of Hispanic voters.

At the Democratic National Committee meeting last week in Washington, party Chairman Terry McAuliffe mocked the GOP effort in a speech and vowed Democrats would not surrender the Hispanic vote.

"They say they plan to teach RNC members to speak Spanish, and I think that's great," McAuliffe said. "Hispanic communities should be able to



hear in their native tongue about the Republican policies designed to help the special interests at the expense of working families."

Both parties, though, are aggressively competing behind-the-scenes for the growing Hispanic vote. Democrats and Republicans have created separate Spanish-speaking public relations staffs to produce television programs, mailings and radio addresses that most non-Hispanic voters never see or hear.

President Bush, who frequently speaks some Spanish during public appearances, is bolstering the GOP effort. Earlier this month in California, for example, the president held a televised town meeting sponsored by the Latino Coalition Foundation, the Ontario Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Latin Business Association. Internal GOP polling indicates that as Hispanics rise on the economic ladder they have greater tendency to

vote like whites and support Republican candidates.

But Republicans must delicately balance just how far they reach out to new citizens.

The president's recent proposal to restore food stamps to more than 363,000 legal immigrants in his 2003 budget drew sharp criticism from conservatives who accused him of trying to buy votes at a 10-year cost of \$2.1 billion.

"It's plain to see that the president has chosen to steal a page from the Democrats' playbook," said Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo. "His attempt to expand our political base through surrendering to the Hispanic vote is usually the Democrats' job. Votes can't be bought with welfare."

At the same time, public opinion polls indicate that some Hispanic voters think the outreach amounts to pandering.

Nevertheless, sending top GOP operatives to Spanish language school underscores how serious the Republican Party is in trying to making itself more attractive to Hispanic voters.

Marlys Popma, the executive director of the Republican Party of Iowa, hopes to learn the language to recruit candidates and increase voter registration in a state where the Hispanic population has grown exponentially in the last decade.

In a state where Bush lost by only a few thousand ballots, new voters will be key in future elections. "The party has been perceived as exclusionary," Popma said. "But President Bush has awakened Republicans to the fact that these are our people. It's a long-term prospect of teaching and learning for both sides, but it will have a huge impact in 2004."

Freedom of Speech:

In Any Language

By Miguel Pérez
Perhaps it was the angry reaction by Hispanic community leaders. Maybe it was a good political move in a city where Latinos are a majority. Or maybe someone realized that the Constitution gives us freedom of speech -- in any language.

But something happened on the way to imposing an English-only policy at Paterson, N.J., municipal court the other day. Almost as fast as it became known in the city -- and just as the outrage was spreading among Latinos throughout the state -- the English-only policy was reversed.

I say, "God bless America!" -- especially since América is a Spanish word.

Maybe this is a sign that we are reaching a time in our society when respect for diversity prevails, when xenophobes can no longer violate the civil rights of immigrants, when even judges can't get away with discriminatory policies.

"Please be advised that all employees are to speak English while you are at your work stations," wrote presiding Municipal Court Judge Karole Graves in a memo that served only to drive a bigger wedge between those who speak foreign languages

and those who are threatened by them.

Thankfully, the clash was defused by Superior Court Assignment Judge Robert Passero, who either directed or persuaded Graves to rescind the order two days after it was issued.

The memo reportedly was prompted by an employee who feared that her co-workers were talking about her in Spanish. But it enraged Latino community activists, who mobilized quickly. They threatened to take the judge to court over the constitutional right to free speech en español.

Demanding that the judge's "offensive" order be rescinded immediately "to avoid costly and unnecessary litigation," attorney Martin Pérez, president of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey, wrote a letter to Passero and to Paterson Mayor Marty Barnes. It noted that the English-only policy "bespeaks intolerance" and violates the free-speech rights.

Similar sentiments were expressed by most Latino leaders, including Paterson Councilman Juan Torres and ex-Councilwoman María Magda O'Keefe. The latter said she was especially offended because she had cast a vote to put Graves on the bench.

Some Latinos were even critical of one of their own. Councilman José "Joey" Torres defended the judge's decision, saying, "It's a job, and we are in America."

In America, the Constitution doesn't say we are only free to speak English.

Yet this happens every so often in this country nowadays. Some individuals with low self-esteem will complain that people are talking about them. Usually this is not blown out of proportion -- unless, of course, the gossiping is being done in a foreign language.

Something that gives validity to their childish whining.

Many immigrants see the complainers as xenophobes. But those who complain often say it's all about courtesy (even when they're eavesdropping), about speaking in a language that everyone understands.

An extreme case occurred at the University of Georgia just two weeks ago. A Latino student, Kevin Sánchez, was chastised, "Speak English. You're in America," and then hit in the face for conversing in Spanish with a friend and then challenged by several other students in front of a fraternity house.

Those who throw fits when they

hear Spanish fail to see that such bonding among people who share the same culture and language is simply human nature, confirmed by countless psycholinguistic studies. People don't even think about it when they switch between languages. It just happens.

And it's not limited to foreign languages. When people who use a common form of expression get together, they revert to their shared point of reference -- even if it's through colloquialisms. New Jersey Colombians are drawn to other Colombians just like people from Texas or South Carolina are drawn to people from their states.

But as long as they are doing their jobs, why does anyone else need to know what they are saying among themselves?

What's next? Will they ban whispering, even if it's in English, because some people may think others are talking about them? Or is the problem only with foreign languages?

I hate to call this xenophobia. I know it's a strong word. But if it walks like un pato and it quacks like un pato, what's so hard to understand?

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Prueba De Fuego Política:

Dandidatos a Gobernador de Texas Debaten en Castellano

Por Victor Landa

Empresario multimillonario de Laredo, Tony Sánchez y anterior fiscal del estado Dan Morales, los dos candidatos con mayores posibilidades de ganar en la contienda por gobernador de Texas, puesto a cargo de George W. Bush hasta ser elegido presidente de los Estados Unidos, han quedado en enfrentarse en el primer debate en español emitido por televisión.

No se ha establecido todavía la fecha para ningún debate -- ni en inglés -- pero no se puede subestimar la importancia del debate en español. El mero hecho que la dialéctica -- que será televisada por todo el estado gracias a la red de Telemundo, sea en español hace de ella un hito histórico en la política estadounidense.

Lo que hace el debate hasta más extraordinario son las personas que lo oirán.

En inglés, la contienda entre Sánchez y Morales por televisión se llevará a cabo en un gran ámbito político en el que los votantes pueden hacer la comparación entre los candidatos y sus propios preceptos políticos.

Pero un debate en español será como estar en casa. En español el debate se vuelve más críol que competencia. La atención de los videntes, reunidos frente a sus televisores por todo el estado, será menos medida y más fuego.

A diferencia de muchos latinos participantes en la política estadounidense, los dos candidatos hablan y comprenden bien la lengua. Se presentarán ante un electorado específico y hablarán con un código y una inflexión que no se podrá traducir, que se comprenden así como se comprenden los gestos.

La sílaba levemente alzada, la pausa entre palabras, la inclinación de la cabeza -- todas significan algo en todos los idiomas, pero no siempre significan lo mismo.

En castellano, en casa, los candidatos sentirán el escrutinio de los videntes no sólo por su plataforma y el éxito con el que puedan comunicar sus posiciones. Se les juzgará también como representantes del grupo, enviados como "uno de nosotros" a la comunidad mayor. En español, aquí cuenta más que el simple intercambio de ideas.

¿Sería diferente si los candidatos no fueran latinos, aunque hablaran bien el castellano? Claro que sí, pero ése no es el caso ahora.

Tenemos a dos candidatos, cara a

cara, intercambiando actitudes con posturas e inflexiones porque no podrán evitar aquellas matices. Y un público sabio los estará midiendo.

Ahora es el comienzo de una nueva era para la política de los latinos en Texas y más allá, en muchas frentes. Ya no se puede dar por sentado el voto hispano. El suponer que los latinos votarán siempre por un latino no vale más. Los latinos votan por el candidato que mejor representa sus intereses, como todo votante de esta nación.

No obstante, esta vez se elige, al menos en la primera vuelta, entre uno y otro.

El mayor beneficio que probablemente se derive del debate será el interés que suscita. Esperemos que se registren más votantes y vayan a votar el día de la elección.

La participación latina en las elecciones es notablemente baja, y cada vez que se encuentra bien representado el electorado frente a las urnas, se vuelve más fuerte la nación. Yo creo que hasta ahora los latinos no han confiado en el sistema. Tendían a ser más cínicos con un sistema que nunca les dio el porqué participar en el proceso electoral.

Pero que esto no se tome como falta de intelecto. Entre los hispanos hay una comprensión aguda y sentido práctico que percibe cuando un candidato quiere simplemente el voto o cuando de verdad quiere ser líder. El motivo será transparente en español.

En el curso de la historia y de las generaciones, los latinos han desarrollado un sentido de sobrevivencia con el que se les dice a los dirigentes y poderosos lo que se cree ellos quieren oír. Pero el intelecto y la experiencia saben ver la diferencia. Espero que el debate en español abra un espacio en el que la gente pueda sentirse con confianza y expresar sus ideas.

Hay que verlo como el individuo abriéndose camino, construyendo y domando un nuevo espacio político, esencialmente, convirtiendo la tierra baldía en algo fructífero.

No hay nada más "americano". El debate ofrece una oportunidad maravillosa pero acarrea además un peso excepcional, no sólo para los candidatos, sino también para la comunidad.

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La Libertad De Expresin:

En La Lengua Que Séa

Por Miguel Pérez

Quizás ocurrió por la enfurecida respuesta de los líderes comunitarios hispanos. Acaso fue una buena decisión política en una ciudad en que los latinos conforman la mayoría. O tal vez alguien se dió cuenta de que la Constitución nos otorga el derecho a la libertad de expression -- en cualquier lengua.

Lo cierto es que el otro día algo sucedió en el trayecto hacia la imposición de una norma de inglés solamente (English-Only) en la corte municipal de Paterson, Nueva Jersey.

La norma fue revertida casi tan pronto como se supo de ella en la ciudad -- y justo cuando la indignación pública crecía entre los latinos de todo el estado.

"Bendita sea América," digo yo-- especialmente considerando que "América" es una palabra castellana. Quizás es ésta una señal de que estamos llegando a un punto en nuestra sociedad en que el respeto por la diversidad prevalezca, en que los xenofóbicos no puedan ya infringir sobre los derechos civiles de los inmigrantes, y en que los jueces no puedan salirse con la suya en materia de políticas discriminatorias.

"Por favor, sépase que todos los empleados deberán hablar en inglés mientras se encuentren en sus espacios de trabajo", dijo la Juez Presidente de la Corte Municipal.

Karole Graves, en un memorando que sólo contribuyó a dividir aún más a aquéllos que que hablan lenguas extranjeras de aquéllos que se sienten amenazados por ellas.

Afortunadamente, el Juez Designado de la Corte Superior, Robert Passero, disolvió el conflicto: u ordenó o persuadió a Graves a retirar la orden del memorando dos días después de que fuera emitida.

Según informaciones, el memorando surgió por una empleada que se quejó de compañeros de trabajo porque hablaban de ella en castellano. El memorando terminó enojando a líderes comunitarioslatinos, que se movilizaron con ligereza y amenazaron con demandar a la juez por su derecho constitucional a la libertad de expresión.

Exigiendo que la 'ofensiva' orden fuera retirada inmediatamente "para evitar litigación costosa e innecesaria", el licenciado Martin Pérez, presidente de la Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey, dirigió una carta a Passero y al Alcalde de Paterson, Marty Barnes. La carta señalaba que la política de inglés solamente "denota intolerancia" e "infringe sobre los derechos de libre expresión".

La mayoría de los líderes latinos expresaron preocupaciones similares, incluidos Juan Torres, miembro del consejo municipal de Paterson, y María Magda O'Keefe,

ex-miembro del consejo. O'Keefe dijo estar particularmente ofendida porque había votado por Graves para elegirla a la corte.

Algunos latinos criticaron incluso a uno de los suyos, al miembro del consejo municipal José "Joey" Torres, quien defendió la decisión de la juez, diciendo, "es un trabajo, y estamos en América".

En América, la Constitución no dice que sólo somos libres de hablar inglés.

No obstante, en estos días, esto sucede cada cierto tiempo en este país. Alguien con baja autoestima se queja de que hay gente que habla mal de él o ella. Por lo general, esto no trasciende a niveles más altos -- a menos, claro está, que el chismorreo ocurra en otro idioma. Entonces, por alguna razón, eso le da legitimidad a la queja infantil.

Muchos inmigrantes ven a este tipo de persona como xenofóbica, pero también dicen que es un asunto de cortesía, de hablar, aún en privado, en una lengua que todos entendamos.

Un caso extremo sucedió en la Universidad de Georgia apenas hace dos semanas. Un estudiante latino, Kevin Sánchez, fue castigado: "¡Hable inglés! Estas en América." Fue golpeado en la cara porconversar en español con un amigo y luego enfrentado por varios otros estudiantes en frente de una casa de un asociación

masculino estudiantil.

Lo que no notan es que este tipo de compartir entre las personas que tienen cultura y lengua en común es sencillamente parte de la naturaleza humana, como confirman numerosos estudios psicolingüísticos. La gente ni siquiera lo piensa cuando cambia de una lengua a otra. Sucede y ya.

Más aún, este tipo de compartir no ocurre sólo por lengua extranjera común. Cuando gente que usa una manera de hablar particular se junta, retornan a su punto, de referencia compartido, aún si es sólo a través de expresiones de su habla común. Los colombianos de Nueva Jersey se acercan a otros colombianos así como la gente de Texas o de Carolina del Sur se acerca a otra gente de esos estados.

Y es que, mientras estén haciendo su trabajo, ¿qué le importa a nadie lo que estén diciéndose entre ellos?

¿Después de esto qué? ¿Van a prohibir las murmuraciones, aún si son en inglés, porque a alguien le puede parecer que están hablando de él o ella? ¿O es que el problema es sólo con las lenguas extranjeras? Odio llamarle a esto xenofobia. Sé que es una palabra fuerte. Pero si camina como un pato y grazna como un pato ¿qué duda cabe?

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Political Crucible:

Texas Gubernatorial Candidates Debate In Spanish

By Victor Landa

Multimillonario Laredo businessman Tony Sánchez and former state Attorney General Dan Morales, the two leading Democratic candidates for the Texas governorship, have agreed to face off in a first-ever televised Spanish-language debate for the post George W. Bush held until he was elected U.S. president.

No date for this -- and at least one face-off in English -- has been pinned down yet, but its significance can't be underestimated. The mere fact that the debate, to be televised throughout the state by the Telemundo network, will be in Spanish makes it historic in U.S. politics.

What will make it even more remarkable are the people who will be listening.

In English, the Sánchez-Morales television contest will be in a large political arena where voters can measure each man against their own beliefs and inclinations.

But a debate in Spanish will be like being at home. In Spanish, the debate becomes more a crucible than a competition. The attention of the spectators, assembled in front of their televisions all across thestate, will be less scale and more fire.

Unlike many Latinos in politics, both men speak and understand the language well. They will go before a specific electorate and address issues in a code and inflection that cannot be translated, that are understood in the way gestures are understood.

A syllable carried with a slight lilt, a hesitation between words, a slant of the head -- all of these have meaning in any language, but they differ between one and another.

In Spanish, en casa, the candidates will be scrutinized not only for their platforms and how well they manage to communicate their positions. They will also be judged as representatives of the group, sent off as "one of us" to the larger community. In Spanish, there is more at stake than a mere exchange of ideas.

Would it be different if one of the candidates were not Latino, yet well versed in Spanish? Of course it would. But that's not the case.

We have two Hispanic candidates looking each other in the eye and exchanging attitudes in postures and inflections because they won't be able to escape those nuances. And a knowing audience will be sizing them up.

This is in many ways the opening of a new era for Latino politics in Texas and beyond. Hispanic votes can no longer be taken for granted. The assumption that Latinos will always vote for a Latino no longer carries any weight. Latinos vote for the candidate that best represents their interests, just like any other voters in the nation.

This time around, though, the choice, at least in the primary, is between uno y otro.

Probably the greatest benefit to come from this debate will be the interest it will generate. Hopefully, more people will register to vote and actually go to the polls on Election Day. Latino participation

in elections is notoriously low, and any time the electorate is well represented at the polls the nation becomes stronger.

My belief is that until now many Latinos have felt a lack of trust. They leaned more toward cynicism in a system that never really gave them a reason to engage in the process.

But don't mistake this for a lack of intellect. There's a very keen understanding and practical sense among Hispanics that knows when a candidate merely wants a vote or

truly wants to lead. In Spanish, the motive will be more transparent.

Over the course of history and generations, Latinos have developed a sense of survival, of telling officials and powerful people what you think they want to hear. But your mind and experience know differently. My hope is that this Spanish debate will provide a comfort zone where people will be able to trust enough to speak their minds.

Think of it as individuals forging ahead, building and taming new

political space, in essence changing a barren landscape into something fruitful.

What could be more "American"?

This debate offers a wonderful opportunity but it also carries an exceptional burden, not only for the candidates, but for the community as well.

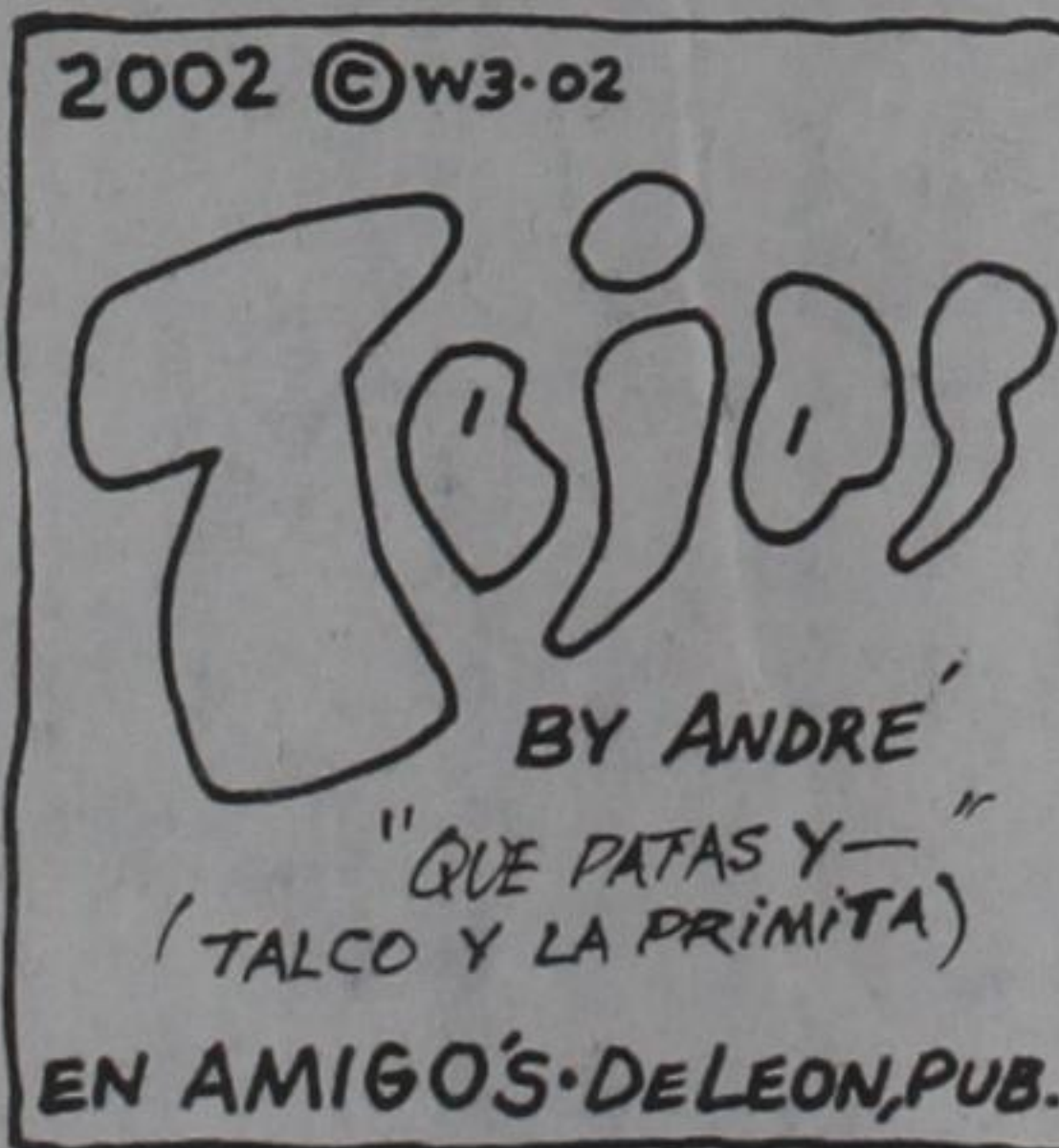
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Ya Viene El Vestival Viva Aztlan Lean Mas en las Proximas Semanas

El Editor Newspapers

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¿Que Pasa?

Our Lady of Grace Host Benefit

Our Lady of Grace Community is holding a benefit fundraiser for Women's Protective Services on Saturday, February 9, 2002 from 10 am until noon. It will be held at their parish activities center which is located on 3111 Erskine Street, in Lubbock.

The morning's events will consist of entertainment, food and prizes. The University Singers and a Mariachi Band will be present to entertain the crowd. There will be door prizes, raffle drawings and a live auction.

All is being offered for an entry fee of only \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. All proceeds will benefit Women's Protective Services. For information call 748-5292.

Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association

The Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association will be celebrating Black History Month by hosting a Lincoln-Douglas Tea. There will be speaker for the occasion plus guest artist.

The theme is "We can't forget the past, but we can Rise above it." The event will be held at KoKo Palace at 5101 south Avenue Q starting at 4:00 p.m.

Donation of \$5.00 per person will be applied and children under 12 free. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 763-9168.

Postal Inspectors Request Public's Assistance to Catch Mail Thieves

In recent weeks the City of Lubbock has experienced significant theft of mail from both residential and business mail boxes. This has resulted in financial losses to numerous individual checking, savings, and credit card accounts.

The Southwest Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is asking for the public's help in developing a suspect(s) in this case. If a member of the public has any information relating to mail theft in the City of Lubbock or has experienced theft of mail or some form of identity theft, related to mail theft, they are instructed to contact the Postal Inspection Service at 762-7821. A reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these crimes.

Hispanic Agenda

The organization of Hispanic Agenda will be having its monthly meeting on Monday, February 4 at the Mahon Library which is located at 1306 9th Street in the Community Room starting at 5:30 pm.

Agenda items include: Fiesta Plaza-Development plans funded by a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant; Community Affairs and etc. Everyone is welcome and bring/take a friend!

Golden Gloves Tournament

The Lubbock Warriors will host a Golden Gloves Tournament for West Texas Teams at the Lubbock Civic Center on Feb. 15th-16 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at all Select a Seat Locations. Admission is 5 general admission, \$8 reserved and \$12 ringside. Read El Editor for more information next week.



Joseph Rosendo will be one of the featured boxers at the Golden Gloves.

A Revolutionary Look at Castro's Rise

FIDELITY IS THE WORD that comes to mind when watching "Fidel," the ambitious Showtime miniseries about Castro that's asking for trouble from all sides. Is there faithfulness and accuracy here? His supporters should find the film too negative. Cuban exiles will say it's too fawning.

"We're not trying to make a judgmental film, and we're not trying to make a romantic film," director David Attwood said a year ago. "We're trying to present Fidel Castro, I suppose, from the inside, as we see it."

How Attwood sees it - after dramatizing Sarajevo's complex personal politics in HBO's acclaimed "Shot Through the Heart" - is intimate and sweeping, stirring and appalling. It's the story of a revolution seemingly gone right and a government seemingly gone wrong, both effects wrought by a charismatic leader whose 50-year evolution proves a provocatively human tale.

Breathing it life is Victor Hugo Martin, a Mexican actor ("Sex, Shame & Tears") making his English-language debut in the most stunning way. He's hardly off-screen for 3 1/2 hours after his entrance as a young 1940s lawyer standing up against the ignorance of the United States government and exploitation by its business interests in league with Cuba's corrupt Batista regime. Castro is a dashing figure at this point - young, handsome, passionate in more ways than one. He wants clean water, schools, hospitals for working people.

If only Attwood's early sequences were as clear about their motivation. "Fidel's" first half-hour plays disorientingly vague about both situations and characters. Its style feels cinema verite immediate, but its substance takes a while to catch up.

Then it's full-force forward. Castro's call for "armed insurrection" turns him into a guerrilla leader on the run, in the mountains, imprisoned, in exile in

Mexico (where most of "Fidel" was filmed). The story's core is here, and so is its most informative impression. The shoestring nature of Castro's threadbare "army" contrasts with his unwavering certainty that this "people's" revolution was "inevitable" to "every Cuban." The length of time spent here, in both the film and in Castro's life, will inform the leader he becomes after his revolution succeeds in 1959.

The man's politics and personality begin to shift. After insisting "the communists are fools" and "we will always go to the people first," Castro, of course, goes to the communists and loses sight of what the people really want. He starts framing his questions to get predetermined answers. Disillusion sets in. Castro ironically develops an antagonistic relationship with the United States that's no less symbiotic than the closeness of the Batista regime.

Taking the production out of America's politically charged climate no doubt contributes to its even-handed feel. Attwood is a British BBC veteran. Martin is Mexican, as are Gael Garcia Bernal



(as Che Guevara) and Cecilia Suarez (Celia Sanchez). Maurice Compte (Raul Castro) is an American of Cuban descent, while Cuban-born Tony Plana (Batista) remembers as a child seeing Castro speak.

Today's Cubans get their say in Showtime's valuable follow-up documentary, "Dreaming a New Cuba," Monday at 9:45 p.m. Both detractors and true believers -

doctors to rappers to santeros - offer their man-on-the-street views in filmmaker Ariel Semmel's unnarrated odyssey around a country still remaking itself, 40 years later. "Helping" it along are foreign investors "teaching" Cubans their way of business. Is a vicious cycle starting over? We'd better pay attention to programs like these. Or we won't see change coming next time, either.

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Clock Ticking On Patriots' Quarterback Decision

The New England Patriots will have a more definitive idea of who will be lining up behind center Damien Woody at the conclusion of Wednesday's practice at 4 p.m. CST.

Once again, will Tom Brady be healthy enough to resume his role as the Patriots' starting quarterback?

Will it be Drew Bledsoe (left) or Tom Brady (right)?

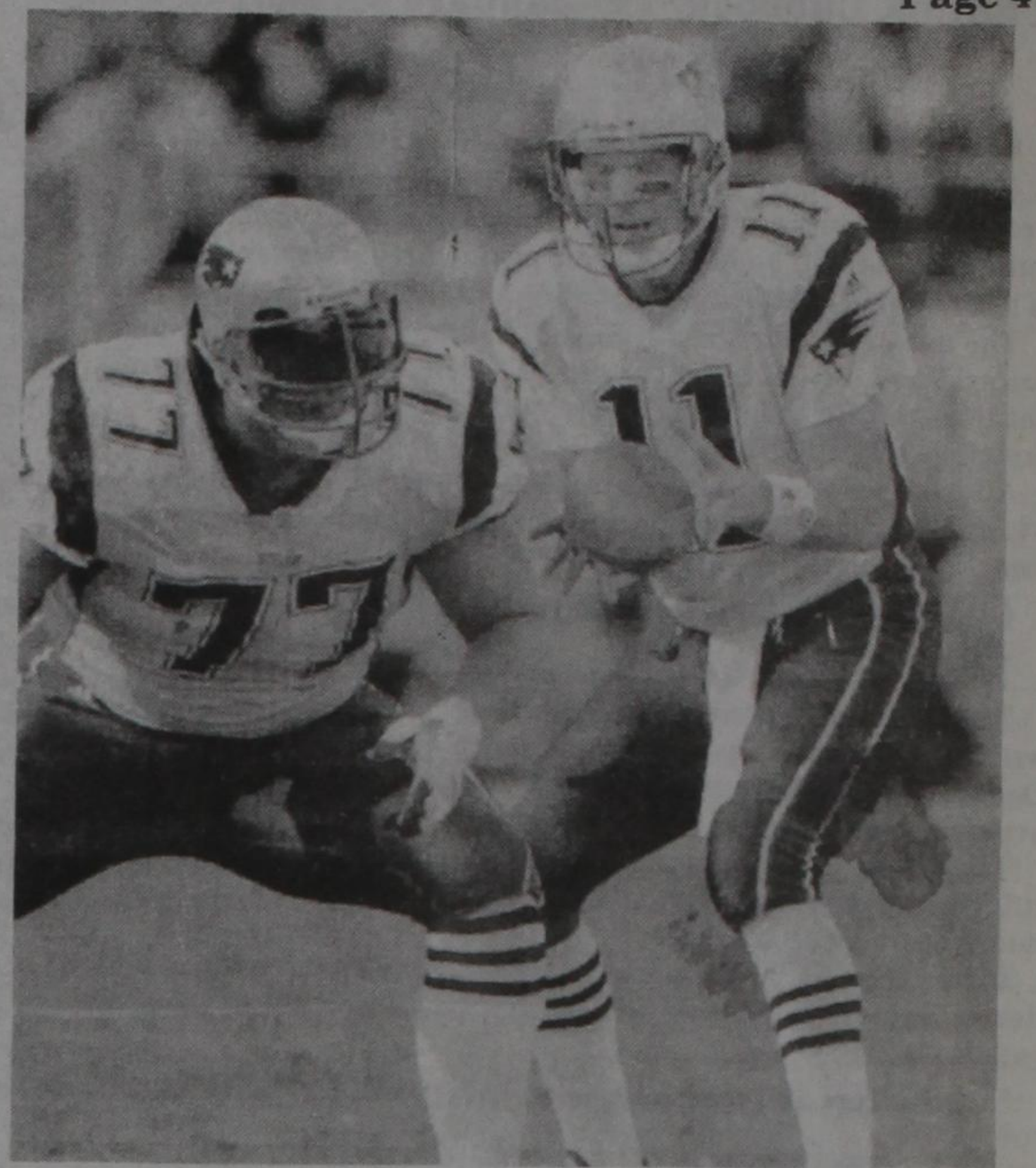
"I think today is a real important day for us preparation-wise," said head coach Bill Belichick. "It'll be a combination of things (that will go into my decision). I'll have to see how he looks to get a feel for it."

Brady declared Tuesday he will be ready to play Sunday on the biggest stage in the football world. But before the former Michigan Wolverine can be cleared, he needs to show head coach Belichick that he's able to drop back, shift and throw without pain.

Brady said Wednesday morning he plans to heavily tape his injured

left ankle and then use a brace for additional support and protection during the day's practice. In addition, he claims he is able to put all his weight on the ankle without problems.

"I ran down here, they told me I was late," Brady joked when asked if he had tested his ankle yet. "I'm ready to go out and practice. I'll



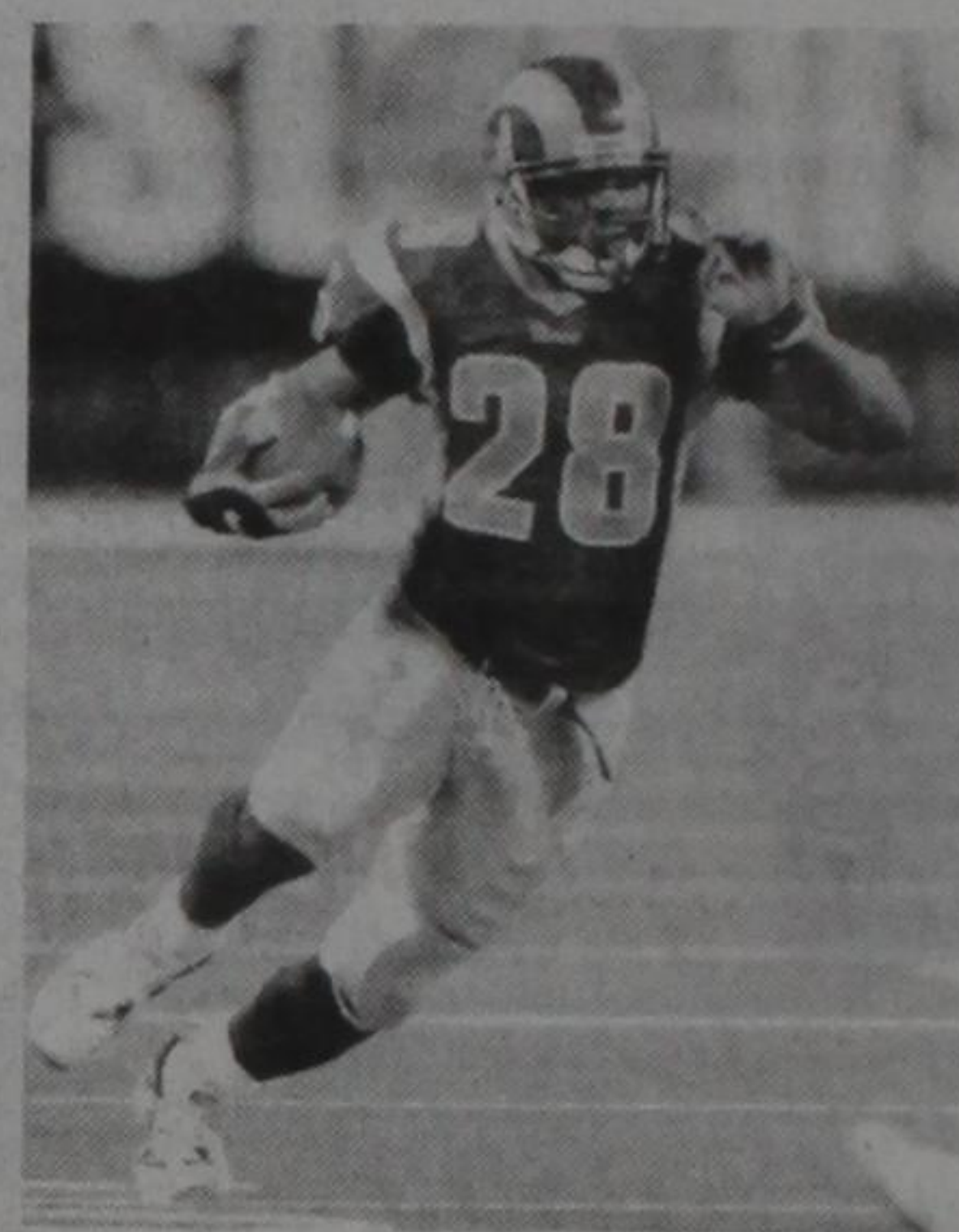
tape it up, put the ankle brace on and see how good it feels. We have the game plan in, and I'm pretty confident I can do it all."

If he cannot show his coach that he's healthy enough, then former

starter Drew Bledsoe would resume the role that he lost after getting knocked out against the Jets in the Patriots' second game of the season.

Bledsoe said that he wants to start, "more than anything I've ever wanted."

Rams' Scoop Of Vanilla Defense Is Perfect Recipe



that goes along with this style of defense. Passive is more like it.

But it can work. The St. Louis Rams, who have made major strides as a defense, are proof a basic low-risk defense, including a lot of two-deep zones in the secondary, can be successful if played and coached the proper way.

If the Rams' two sides of the ball could be broken down into ice-cream flavors, the offense would be a mixture of fruit-flavored ice cream with wild-berry swirls.

The defense would be as vanilla as vanilla can be. Somehow, it is the perfect combination.

Rams coach Mike Martz' explosive offense has found the perfect mate in Lovie Smith's conservative approach to defense.

"Our style may not be all that flashy, but we've proved it can work," safety Kim Herring said.

Herring knows defensive flash. He played with the Super Bowl-champion Baltimore Ravens when they won the Super Bowl last season. That defense was predicated on zone-blitzes and different coverages in the secondary.

It would be considered exotic. The Ravens used that attack style that led to a record for points allowed in a 16-game season and enabled them to win a Super Bowl, even though they didn't have much on the offensive side.

Playing that defensive style can be risky. It can lead to big plays, which the Ravens found out this season when the talent level dropped off.

It is not a system the Rams have to play -- or want to play. Their offense can score points in a hurry, so the idea with Smith's system is to make teams march long distances to get their points.

Smith brought the system with him from Tampa Bay, where he learned it as linebackers coach under Tony Dungy. The system's basic belief is to get to the passer with a four-man rush, playing a two-deep zone in the secondary.

There is little blitzing, little pizzazz. It takes patience by the offense that is attacking it, and no mistakes. The offense has to think small chunks of yardage to move down the field.

That can get frustrating. It also takes speed and disciplined players to make it work. Smith has that with the Rams. Unlike recent defenses in St. Louis, this defense can run -- and run well.

"It's a scheme that is suited for a guy like me," defensive tackle Brian Younig said. "I'm not a 300-

continued on page 5

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3	SANGRE DE REY	MICHAEL SALGADO
4	SUENO CONTIGO	RAM HERRERA
5	QUE METIDA DE PATA...	JAY PEREZ
6	LLUVIA	ELIDA Y AVANTE
7	QUIERO DECIRTE	COSTUMBRE
8	1,2,3,	IMAN
9	POR AMOR	GRUPO VIDA
10	DILE LA VERDAD	SOLIDO

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Latin Fire Spices Up Ballet

Ballet at its best says things that cannot be said in any other way. In San Francisco, even more than elsewhere around the world, much of it is said with a Hispanic accent.

There is a powerful new wave of dancers from Spain, Cuba and South America as well as of American-born dancers of Hispanic heritage who are setting new trends in ballet. Major companies as diverse as the American Ballet Theatre, London's Royal Ballet, Houston Ballet, Ballet San Jose and Smuin Ballets/SF all count Hispanic dancers in their principal ranks as well as teachers.

But it is San Francisco Ballet that is leading the pack. While Hispanics and other minorities often have been marginalized from the mainstream of American culture, they have been at the root of American ballet from its beginnings and are now in full flower with this country's oldest ballet company.

Ballet classes once peppered with Russian and French now have running commentaries in Spanish, which principal character dancer Jorge Esquivel calls "the unofficial language of the company." The world is paying attention to Hispanic dancers, and the place to catch a great number of them in action seems to be right here.

"I don't know why this is happening," says Helgi Tomasson, San Francisco Ballet's artistic director and the man who handpicked them all. "They are just wonderful dancers, and this seems to be the decade of the Hispanics."

"I can tell you this much," adds Tomasson, who routinely travels the globe in search of young talent. "They all have a passion in their dance, which I love. Passion and also respect. It is obvious that, when they dance, they do something they feel very proud of. That is not true everywhere; it is frankly difficult to find in male dancing in this country. And that pride, that incredible joy and passion, comes through."

The need for more careful coaching at San Francisco Ballet is something most of the dancers mentioned. "It is especially true for some of us who are young and maybe have not had much contact with tradition," says Ruben Martin.

"We need to be shown this is how you do this, this is who you are at this moment in, for example, 'L'Arlesienne' or 'Giselle.' How else

and this is 2002," he says. "We need to find new ways to dance to new music. That is how we can grow."



can we know?" Other comments reflect the eclectic nature of both the company and the dancers. Torrado, a born classicist, wishes San Francisco Ballet had more full-length classical ballets in the repertory. "That's because I want to dance now,

not when I am 35 and too old to do a double cabriole. And I think a new production of 'Don Quixote' or 'Coppelia' would be good not just for us but for the audience, better than three or four new little ballets."

Piantino, on the other hand, thrives in the balance of old and new works. "The classics are great, but they are products of the 1880s,

San Francisco's broad repertory is, in fact, the reason all of these dancers are here. True, some wish they could dance more classics while others wish for more new works. But, as Lacarra points out, "a dancer's biggest enemy is tedium," and there is little chance of that in Tomasson's company. Like ABT,

San Francisco Ballet is constantly building a style, a national dance sensibility from that of many countries. That is the way of the new world.

When San Francisco Ballet opens its 2002 season with a gala Wednesday at the War Memorial Opera House, the likely finale will be triumphant excerpts from George

Balanchine's "Stars and Stripes." That all-American ballet by an immigrant who helped create American ballet is a fitting patriotic tribute to the country's indomitable strength. It is also a celebration, a joyful reminder of the dazzling multicultural mosaic that is and always has been ballet in the United States.

National Donor Day

From Page 4

pound guy. Our defense is suited for speed."

The Rams have been able to generate a pass rush without blitzing, which Smith said is a must in this system.

"I always believe that you have to be able to get there with the four-man rush," said Smith. "That isn't to say we won't blitz. But there's always a risk when you do."

The linebackers have to be able to run, and the Rams have three who can all move. That allows them to be effective in coverage. The cornerbacks are also good in coverage, which allows Smith to perhaps play more man coverage than the Bucs did when he was

there. Cornerbacks Aeneas Williams and Dexter McCleon can both shut down receivers. Mostly, though, they play zone.

"This style is more about keeping everything in front of us, don't give up the big play and basically let the underneath guys help you out," Herring said.

What he's saying is it is a conservative approach, one that seems to match well with the offensive aggression. Is it the right match to win the Super Bowl on Sunday against the Patriots? Time will tell.

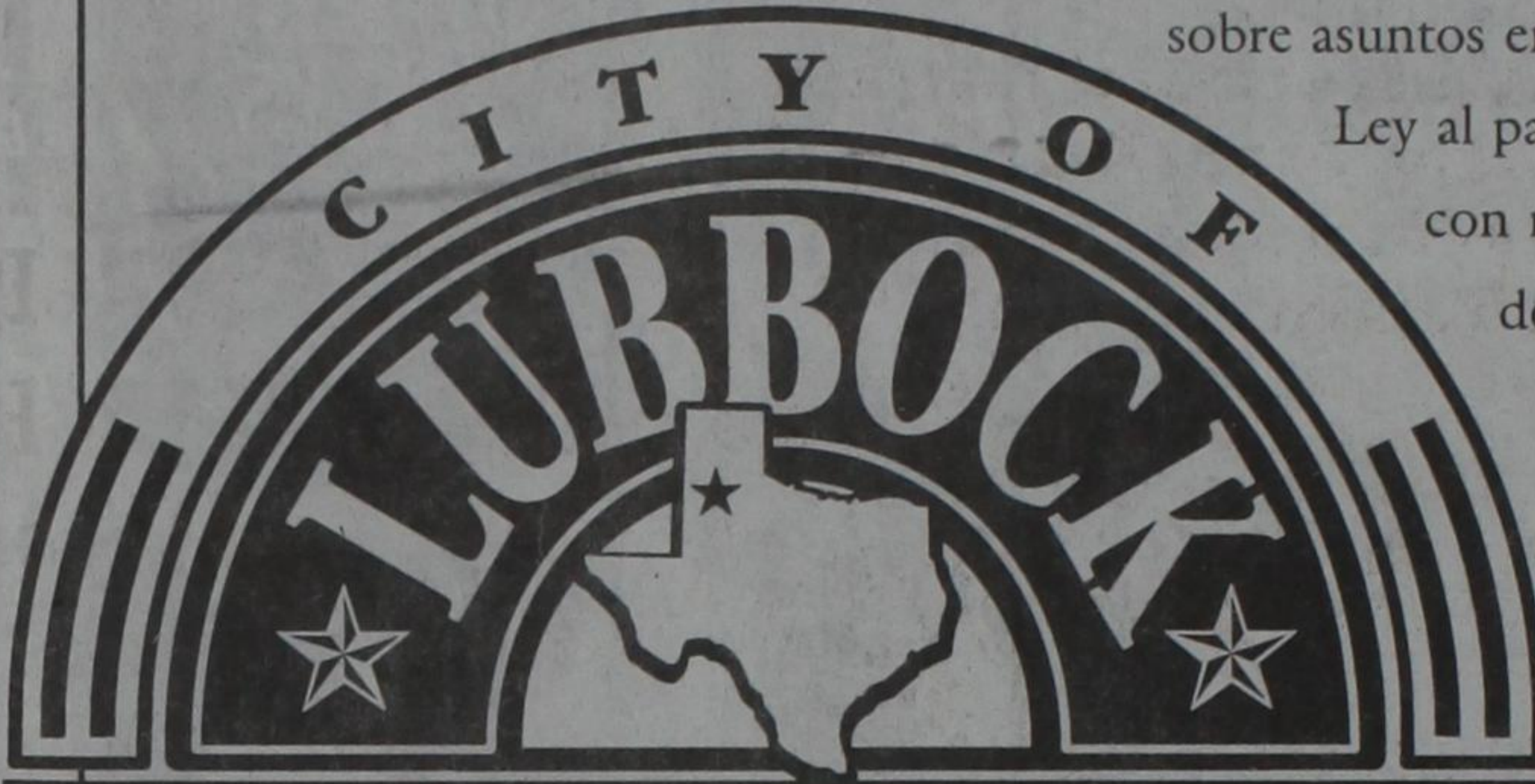
But it's been good enough to get the Rams this far and stop all those jokes about the defense. Vanilla anyone?

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La Comision de Relaciones Para la Comunidad

Si necesitas transportación para asistir al presente foro, por favor cómunicate con Erin Kasal al teléfono 775-3280. La transportación será proveida por Citibus.

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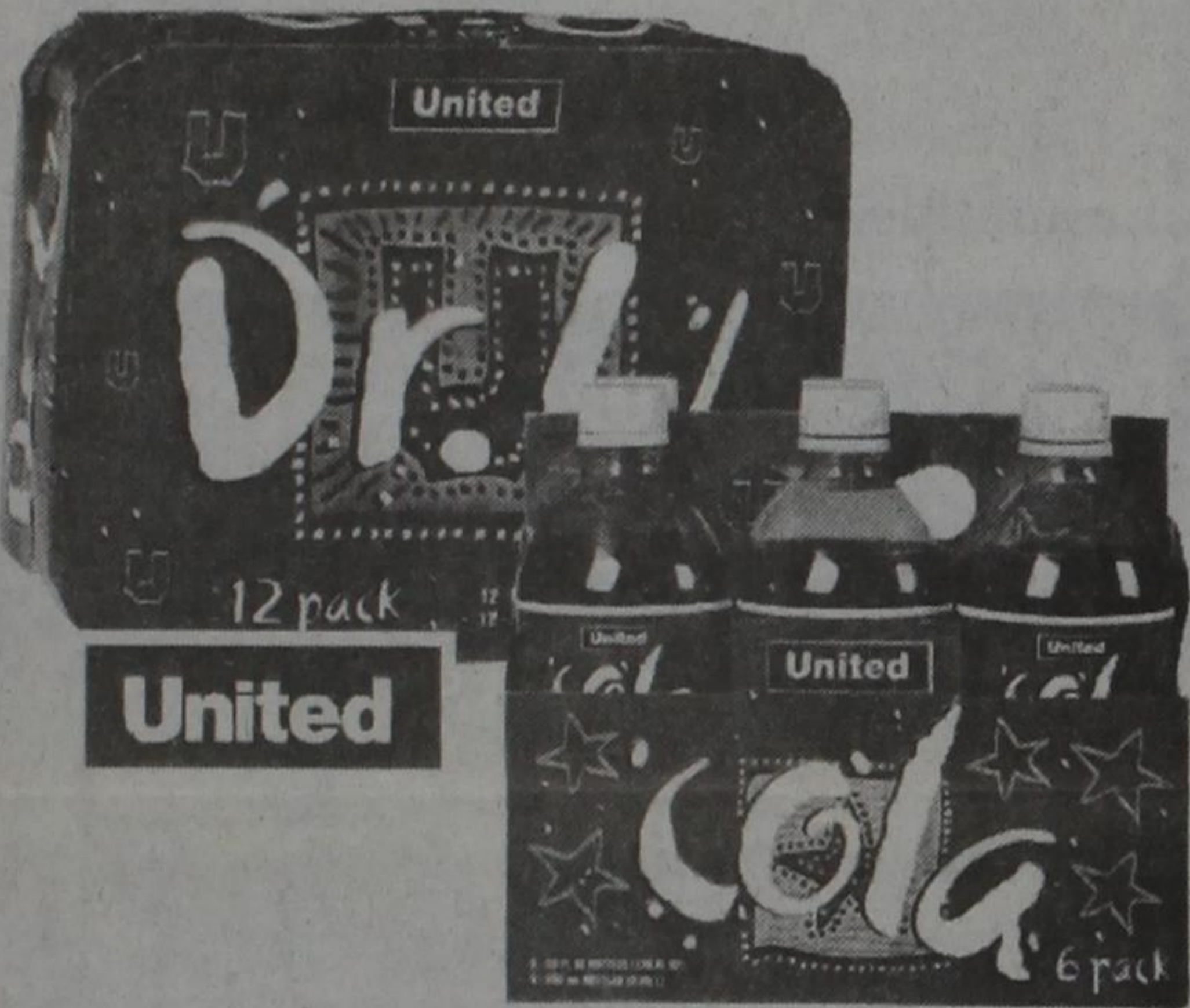
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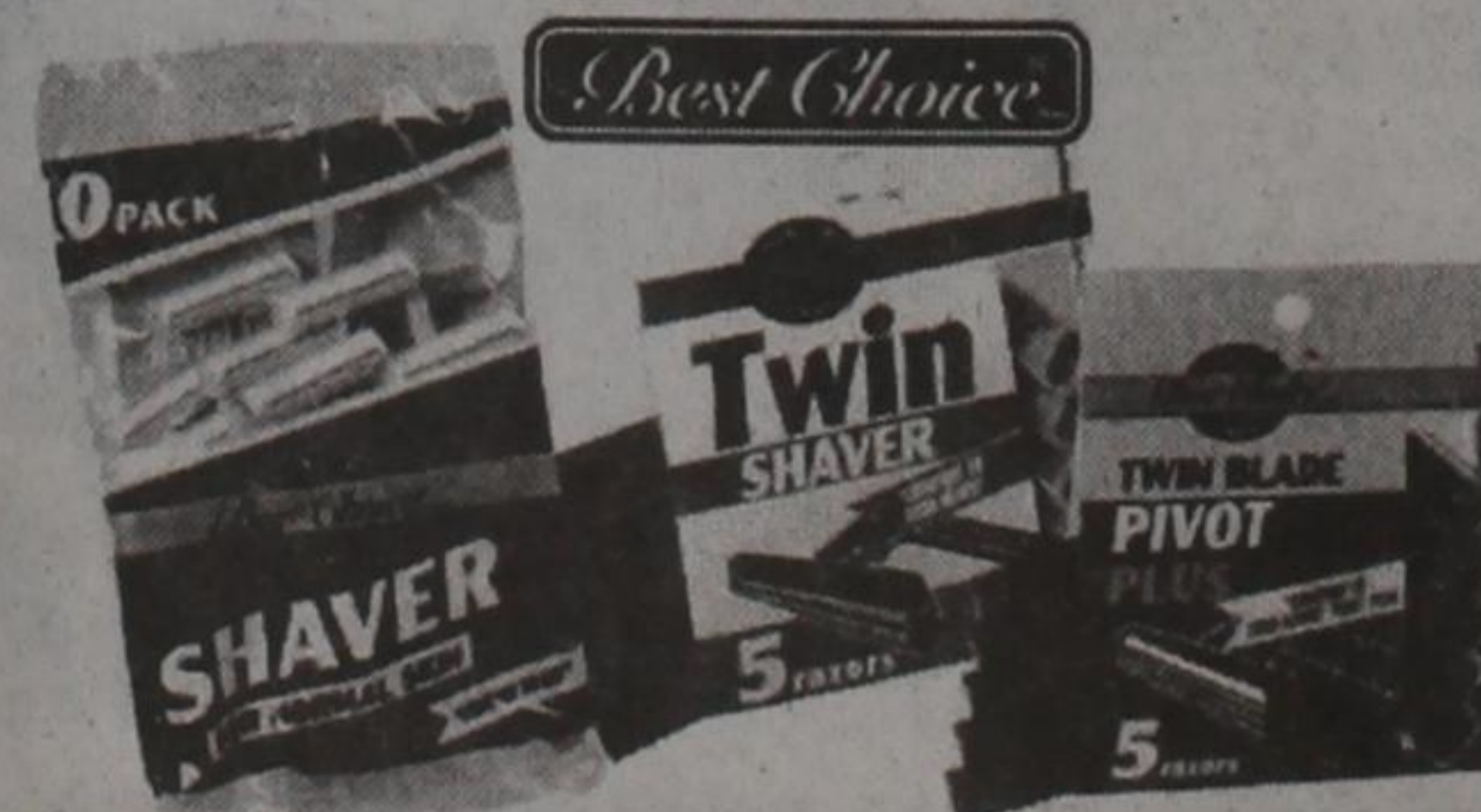
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