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Vol. XXV No. 42

Week of July 18 thru July 24, 2002

Lubbock, TX USA

Battle Emerges Over Latino Votes

By Juliet Eilperin

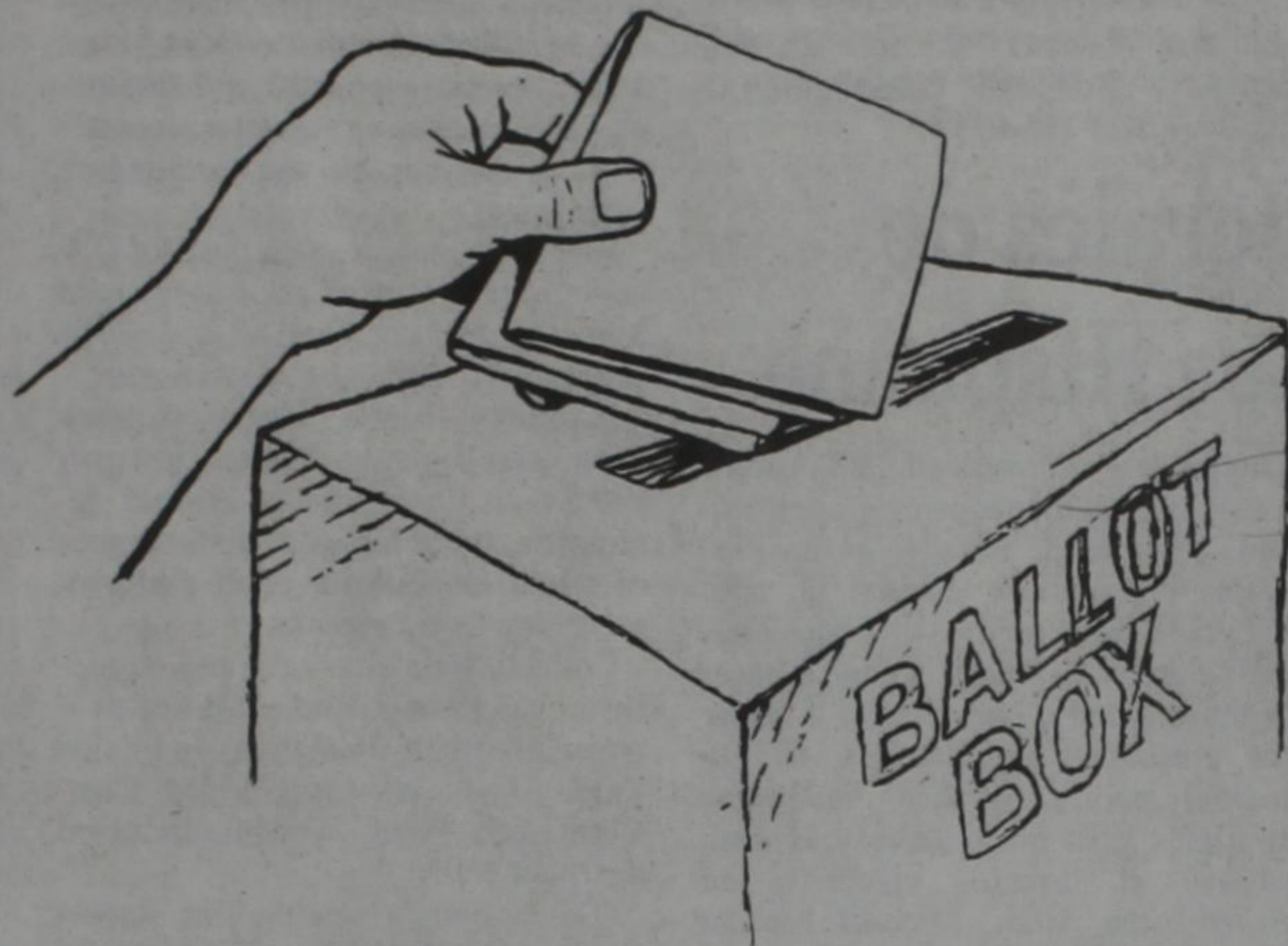
Myra Salguero had been a U.S. citizen for about five minutes when GOP volunteer Maxine Clark nabbed her. As Salguero made her way from the Lloyd D. George Federal Building in Las Vegas after taking her citizenship oath, Clark pulled her aside, deftly switched to Spanish and suggested she register to vote. Salguero, a Guatemala native who later told a reporter she had "never been involved in political stuff," promptly signed up as a Republican.

"We have a good example with the president now," said Salguero, who prepares a daily buffet for hungry gamblers at one of the city's major hotels. "He's doing a lot of things right."

Each Friday afternoon, the George Federal Building becomes a battleground for this city's Latino vote -- and a symbol of the broader nationwide fight for the booming Hispanic electorate. Volunteers from both parties man tables, jockeying for the newly minted citizens as they emerge from the weekly swearing-in ceremony. Latinos account for 12.5 percent of the nation's population, compared with 9 percent a decade ago. With control of the House and Senate up for grabs this fall, they compose a vital voting bloc in many competitive races.

Due in part to the anti-immigration rhetoric of former California governor Pete Wilson and several other Republicans in the 1990s, the Democratic Party has enjoyed solid majorities of Hispanic support in most areas outside Miami's Cuban community. Latino voters in 2000 backed Al Gore over George W. Bush, 62 percent to 35 percent.

But President Bush -- a former Texas governor who embraced Mexican immigrants in a manner sharply different from Wilson's approach -- gets high approval ratings from many Hispanics. That has prompted both parties to launch unprecedented efforts for Latino votes.



Some of these moves have attracted widespread attention, such as the Republican National Committee's recent decision to launch a million-dollar public affairs program on Spanish-language television, or the offer of free Spanish classes to any interested party leader. But most of the organizing takes place at the political grass roots, far from the national spotlight.

In January, the Democratic National Committee sent a full-time staffer to work with Latino politicians and voters in North Carolina, a state that hosts pivotal races in the House and Senate this fall -- and whose Latino population grew 400 percent over the past decade. DNC officials also dispatched an organizer to help set up the Arkansas legislature's first

Hispanic Caucus, and they sent two aides to promote Oregon's election of its

first statewide Latina officeholder. By this fall, Democrats plan to have

Latino-oriented programs in at least 15 states. Republicans, meanwhile, have pledged to register half a million new voters in California by Election Day, many of whom will be Hispanic. They have begun a broader "New Citizens Initiative," targeting naturalization ceremonies in Las Vegas and elsewhere.

The RNC is staging numerous Hispanic "Team Leader" events, two-hour sessions in which officials convey the GOP agenda to community leaders and ordinary citizens. Such events are planned for Miami this month and for 10 other cities -- stretching from Atlanta to Portland, Ore. -- by November. The party has retained GOP consultant Ada Diaz Kirby in Colorado to appeal to Hispanics, who make up nearly 18 percent of the state's population. Kirby helped run the party's booth at Denver's recent Cinco de Mayo celebration, handing out a thousand copies of a glossy photo of Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox.

"The picture was a real hit," said Kirby, who said she danced to mariachi music as she distributed GOP leaflets to the crowd. "That is the way we were able to attract attention."

The 2001-02 reapportionment process, in which state lawmakers have redrawn congressional lines to reflect new census figures, has underscored Latinos' importance in the battle for Congress. Their votes could be critical in at least nine competitive House seats in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina and Texas.

"The road to a Democratic

majority clearly comes through the Latino community," said Rep. Robert Menendez (N.J.), vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Democrats note that 92 percent of the nation's elected Latino officials belong to their party. They say their party's positions on immigration and education give them a natural advantage with most Hispanics.

House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.) has focused intensely on the Latino vote lately, studying Spanish in Mexico, appearing almost weekly on Spanish-language television and hiring a full-time aide to reach out to Hispanic journalists.

Gephardt issues a weekly column in Spanish, holds roundtables with Spanish-language reporters and editorial boards and, like the White House, now has a Spanish-language Web site.

But Democratic pollster Sergio Bendixen -- who recently conducted a survey of Latino voters for the centrist New Democrat Network and Menendez -- warns that Bush has developed a warm rapport with Hispanics similar to the bond that former president Bill Clinton enjoyed with African Americans. His poll showed that Bush is now almost even with Gore in popularity among Latinos.

And although congressional Republicans do not enjoy similar ratings, respondents said they were nearly 40 percent more likely to support a candidate endorsed by Bush.

"President Bush will be a very positive weapon for the Republicans, and a very dangerous weapon for the Democratic Party when it comes to the November elections," Bendixen said.

Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (Va.), chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, predicted Bush will campaign for several vulnerable

House members, providing them with a seal of approval among Latino voters.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico Sen. Kenneth D. McClintock,

a member of the Democratic National Committee, cautioned that his party has not done enough to woo recent immigrants, whom strategists call "opportunity Hispanics" because they are not yet partial to government programs or one of the major parties.

"Once a Hispanic votes for a Republican one time, you've lost your political virginity and become a swing voter," he said.

But Democratic officials say they have a multiyear, multimillion-dollar campaign to reinforce their existing ties with Latinos. The party is conducting Hispanic-only polls and focus groups for the first time. Hispanic Democrats in the House have launched a political action committee and fundraising blitz to steer hundreds of thousands of

dollars to several high-profile Latino candidates this year.

Clark County Commissioner Dario Herrera (D), who hopes Latinos will give him the edge in his closely contested race against state Sen. Jon Porter (R) in Nevada's new 3rd District, said Hispanics will "have a big impact on races across America."

"Fortunately I think Democrats are responding with public policy ideas, and Republicans are responding to them with symbolic gestures," Herrera said.

Latinos make up 15 percent of the district's population, and Porter has courted them as well. Last year he joined Herrera in pushing successfully for a permanent Mexican consulate in Las Vegas.

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Fox: Hay Otras Opciones Para Aeropuerto

El presidente de México, Vicente Fox, admitió que existen otras opciones para la ubicación del nuevo aeropuerto internacional de la capital mexicana, que ha sido violentamente rechazado por los ejidatarios de la pequeña comunidad de San Salvador Atenco, Estado de México, campesinos afectados por el proyecto.

Fox, en una entrevista con CNN en español, señaló: "No vamos a atropellar los derechos de nadie, hay opciones para este aeropuerto. Se consideraron desde el principio varias alternativas, están abiertas y por eso mucho depende de esta negociación que se realice este aeropuerto ahí o se mueva a otro lugar."

Fox se mostró convencido de que "por la vía de diálogo pronto vamos a tener buenas soluciones para el aeropuerto de la zona metropolitana."

El conflicto estalló el pasado día 11, cuando vecinos de San Salvador Atenco, a unos 30 kilómetros al norte de la capital, se atrincheraron en el poblado y tomaron 19 rehenes tras un enfrentamiento que dejó seis heridos y 14 detenidos.

Tras casi cuatro días de tensión y varios intentos frustrados de negociaciones con los campesinos, el gobierno accedió a liberar a los ejidatarios detenidos y se comprometió a revisar los decretos de expropiación de terrenos, que establecen el pago de

siete pesos (menos de un dólar) por metro cuadrado para los propietarios afectados.

En respuesta, los campesinos liberaron en la madrugada del lunes a los rehenes y anunciaron su disposición a negociar con representantes del gobierno en los próximos días.

No obstante, los líderes del movimiento campesino han insistido en que el problema no es el "precio ridículo" que el gobierno pretendía pagar por las expropiaciones, sino la propiedad de la tierra.

"La tierra no se vende", advirtió el lunes Ignacio del Valle, uno de los líderes campesinos que fue detenido en los incidentes de los últimos días y que, tras su liberación, aseguró que seguirá movilizándose contra el proyecto.

El lunes los ejidatarios bloquearon una de las salidas de la capital mexicana y continuaron con las protestas.

El aeropuerto, el proyecto de infraestructura más ambicioso de la Administración de Fox, prevé una inversión inicial de 2,800 millones de dólares.

Los planes originales de las autoridades preveían la entrada en funcionamiento de la terminal en 2006, con capacidad para movilizar a unos 60 millones de pasajeros y realizar casi un millón de operaciones al año.

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Bush Anuncia Estrategia Contra El Terrorismo

La Casa Blanca esbozó su anticipada primera estrategia nacional de protección contra el terrorismo, que incluye medidas ya conocidas y otras nuevas, como por ejemplo el establecimiento de un estándar nacional para la licencias de conducir --aunque no pide una tarjeta nacional de identificación-- y mayores poderes de extradición y de leyes que permitan la imposición de secretos de estado.

El plan solicita algo complicado en la presente economía: que los gobiernos locales y estatales y el sector privado asuman algunos de los millonarios costos de implementación del plan, cuyo núcleo es la creación del ya anunciado Departamento de Seguridad Interior que el Congreso debate. Se calcula que el combate al terrorismo costará 100 mil millones de dólares anuales.

"Coincidimos en que proteger a los ciudadanos de un ataque es nuestra más urgente prioridad nacional", dijo Bush tras su reunión con líderes del Congreso en la Casa Blanca para discutir la estrategia.

Al mismo tiempo, en el Congreso se ha intensificado el debate en torno al futuro del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) bajo el nuevo diagrama de seguridad nacional.

La Cámara Baja celebra esta semana audiencias de cierre sobre los cambios propuestos por los diversos

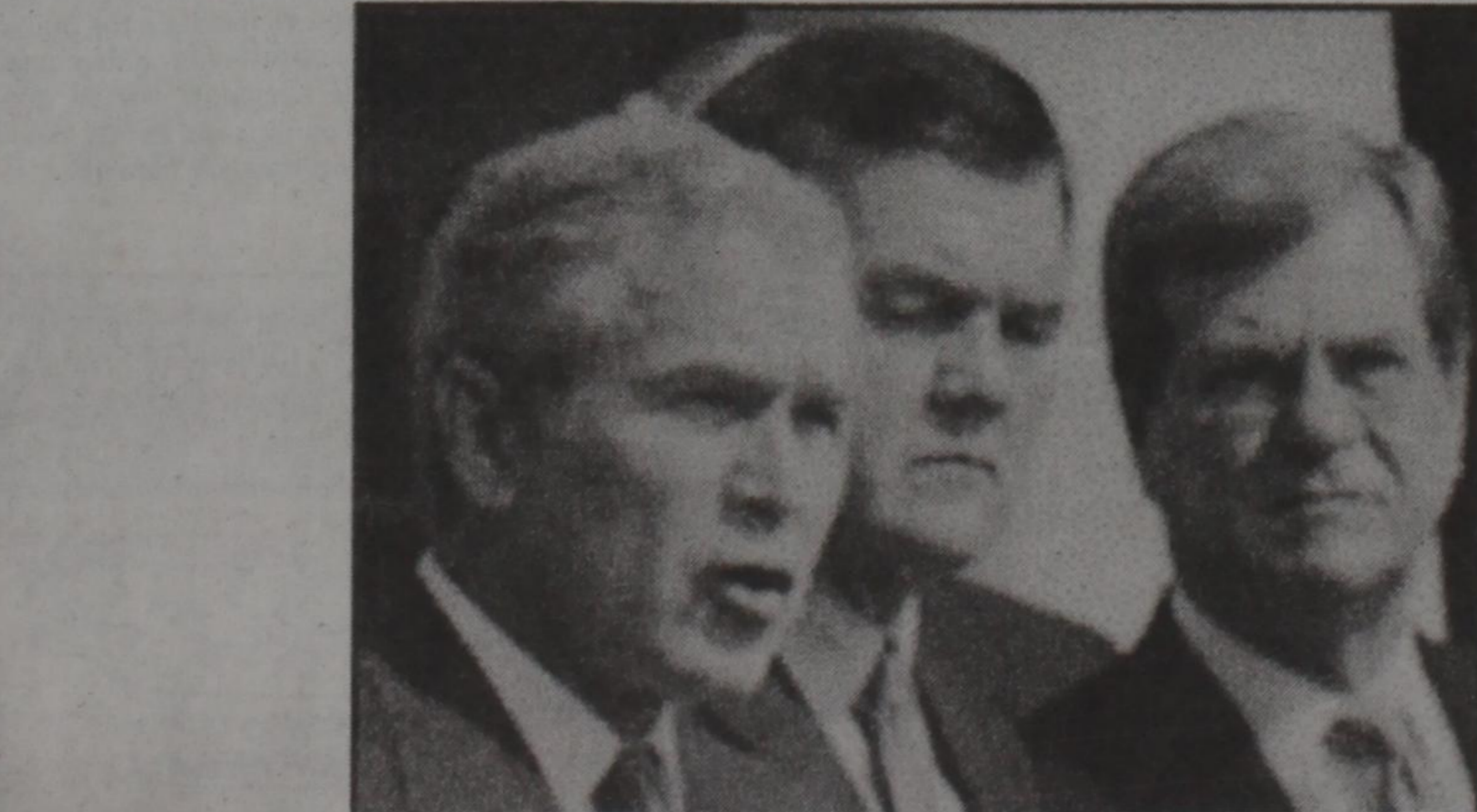
subcomités y comités al proyecto de la Casa Blanca que crea el nuevo Departamento de Seguridad Interior. Un comité selecto bipartidista de la Cámara deberá redactar el proyecto que llegará al pleno de las cámaras.

El grupo de legisladores latinos del Congreso ha sostenido reuniones de emergencia para ver qué postura tomar en torno al futuro del INS y sobre propuestas que garanticen la protección de los derechos civiles.

Cambio en el INS
En su reporte de ayer, la Casa Blanca reiteró su deseo de que el INS pase del Departamento de Justicia al nuevo Departamento de Seguridad Interior, manteniendo su promesa de dividir las funciones de la dependencia.

Sin embargo, el director de la Oficina de Seguridad Interior de la Casa Blanca, Tom Ridge, le dijo al comité selecto que la Administración no descarta considerar propuestas para que el rubro de servicios no caiga bajo la jurisdicción del nuevo departamento. Sin embargo, la preferencia oficial es que el INS permanezca en Seguridad Interior.

El Comité de Justicia de la Cámara Baja decidió la semana pasada que el rubro de servicios del INS permanezca en el Departamento de Justicia y que el rubro de aplicación de las leyes pase al nuevo departamento.



Del lado del Senado, Edward Kennedy, demócrata de Massachusetts, quien encabeza el Comité de Inmigración, también ha esbozado propuestas sobre la forma que tendría el INS bajo el nuevo departamento.

Grupos defensores de los inmigrantes y de los derechos civiles, por su parte, argumentan que el rubro de servicios no tiene por qué mezclarse con aspectos de aplicación de leyes bajo el nuevo departamento. Se corre el riesgo, dicen, de que la tradición inmigrante de la nación se vea desde

la perspectiva de la seguridad interna, lo cual podría prestarse a abusos y discriminación.

Una portavoz del demócrata de Texas Silvestre Reyes, presidente del grupo de legisladores latinos del Congreso, dijo que se está desarrollando una lista de todas las consideraciones de derechos civiles, de los inmigrantes y de protecciones a los trabajadores que desean que se tomen en cuenta en la legislación que crea el nuevo departamento.

Por otra parte, la estrategia nacional

fue solicitada por el Presidente días después de los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre. El documento esboza medidas y propuestas ya conocidas, la principal de ellas: la creación del nuevo Departamento de Seguridad Interior, que ambos partidos esperan tener lista para el primer aniversario de los siniestros del 11 de septiembre.

El comité selecto bipartidista de la Cámara Baja espera completar la redacción y consideración del proyecto la semana entrante. El Senado separó

dos semanas para deliberaciones acción, pero el asunto es más complicado de lo que parece.

"Queremos completarlo para el 11 de septiembre, pero no queremos que la prisa se interponga en el camino para obtener una buena pieza legislativa", declaró el presidente de la Cámara Baja, Dennis Hastert, republicano de Illinois.

La estrategia nacional recomienda, entre otras cosas, intensificar la seguridad en las fronteras y puertos de entrada, vigilar celosamente los embarques internacionales, aumentar las reservas de vacunas, mejorar la capacidad analítica del FBI y la seguridad de los sistemas de computación.

Pide también a los estados que faciliten a negocios y a dueños de propiedades el acceso a pólizas de seguro contra terrorismo.

Solicita además que las Fuerzas Armadas tengan un mayor papel, por ejemplo, para imponer cuarentena en caso de un ataque biológico.

Asimismo, la estrategia crea "equipos rojos" de agentes federales que en la práctica actuarían y pensarían como terroristas para poder detectar fallas en los sistemas de protección.

Solicita también mayores protecciones para la infraestructura de energía, oleoductos y sistemas de transporte.

Federal Internship Programs Underserve Hispanics, Study Finds

By Arlene Martinez

Internships with federal agencies offer a critical yet badly underutilized pipeline to funnel Hispanic students into government careers, says Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities president Antonio Flores.

At a July 10 National Press Club news conference, Flores pointed out that Hispanics are the only underrepresented ethnic or racial group in a federal work force that now totals 1.8 million. Just 6.7 percent of persons holding federal jobs are Hispanic, compared to 11.9 percent in the civilian work force, he said, citing figures from a report, "Tapping America's Potential: Expanding Student Employment and Internship Opportunities in the Federal Government," released at the event.

If the government employed Latinos and Latinas at national workforce parity, 93,600 more federal positions would be held by Hispanics today, its figures showed.

The report was compiled by The Partnership for Public Service, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization created to recruit and retain a diverse pool of talent in federal civil service. It detailed two programs established in 1994 as part of the "Reinventing Government" initiatives: the Student Career Employment Program and the

Student Temporary Employment Program.

The career employment program is highly structured. Students must work in areas specifically related to their major or career goals. It includes a non-competitive process that converts interns to employees after graduation if they meet several requirements, including a minimum of 640 hours of career-related work.

In the temporary employment program, internships do not have to be in the student's field of interest, and the work may be less focused.

In fiscal year 2001, 52,388 students interned through these programs. Of those, 4,404 (8.4 percent) were Hispanic.

The figure becomes more telling when gains since 1994 are taken into account. While the 2001 total rose by 18,302 overall from 1995, the number of Latinos participating in the two programs grew by only 116.

By 2010, 13.3 percent of the U.S. work force will be Latino, the report noted.

The Office of Personnel Management projects that with retirement, normal attrition rates and President Bush's 2003 budget request for additional employees, 250,000 new recruits over the next two years will be needed.

According to the report, about 13-

17 percent of government interns accept federal offers of employment, compared with 35 percent of students who complete internships with companies in the private sector.

Last year, HACU placed 635 Latinos in federal internships. In HACU's 2001 summer class of 430, 33 percent were offered permanent employment, post-program surveys found. In the 10-year history of the program, about 25 percent worked at one time for the federal government, estimates William Gil, executive director of the HACU National Internship Program.

Flores points to three key factors that bar many Latinos from participating in internships:

1. Hiring practices. The government precludes the hiring of anybody who is not a U.S. citizen, regardless of the level of security required for the job.

2. Program structure. Despite high levels of experience and outstanding qualifications, just one program -- SCEP -- provides core career-track experience that leads to hiring for high-performing students within six months on a non-competitive basis.

3. Lack of information. Many Hispanic youth have parents with no college education and do not even consider the possibility of a government internship.

AmeriCorps, a domestic version of the Peace Corps created in 1993, of-

fers Hispanic students another opportunity. After serving on a community program for a year, its graduates receive an education award of \$4,725 to help pay for college or, for graduates, to help pay off college loans. The government could offer similar benefits to federal interns, suggested AmeriCorps Alum executive director Michael Meneer at the news conference.

Partnership for Public Service president Max Stier added that the common concern that federal internships must build in more positive experiences that include meaningful work. "You can't be happy if you're not challenged," he said.

Among the report's recommendations to federal agencies:

Include student employment programs as part of strategic planning as a tool for future permanent hires, allocating the necessary resources to do so.

Increase the visibility and availability of quality internships.

Modify current regulations to make better use of this talent pool, such as increasing mechanisms for conversion or reducing the 640-hour requirement.

(The Partnership's 18-page is available free. Contact PPS at 1725 Eye Street NW, Suite 900, Washington DC 20006. (202) 775-9111.

Latino Health Prescription: Better Data

By Rosa Ramirez

Collecting and sharing data on racial and ethnic health care is vital to eliminating disparities that persist between Latinos and other groups, particularly children, the Commonwealth Fund and the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) conclude in separate new studies.

"The Health of Latino Children, Urgent Priorities, Unanswered Questions, and a Research Agenda," released July 3 by JAMA, reveals that Hispanic children fare worst in all areas of the health-care system, due in part to language and cultural barriers and their lack of health insurance.

The report finds that Hispanic children, especially migrants, have higher rates of infectious diseases and a greater risk of nutritional disorders, such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. Latinos with type 2 diabetes, for example, now account for 45 percent of newly diagnosed cases.

When deciding where to spend health research dollars, that's important to know.

The study, conducted by 13 experts from the Latino Consortium of the American Academy of Pediatrics Center for Child Health Research, cites many factors responsible for the disparities, including underrepresentation of Latinos in the health-care work force.

Hispanics make up 5 percent of U.S. pediatricians, 2 percent of nurses and 3 percent both of dentists and medical school faculty, the report notes.

In mental health, Latino children have significantly higher proportions than do blacks of morbid depression, phobias and disturbances of relationships with other children, according to the report.

Collecting data on race and ethnicity serves to help find solutions as it pinpoints such disparities, explains Karen Davis, president of the Commonwealth Fund, which conducted the other study.

"Developing a Health Plan Report Card on Quality of Care for Minority Populations," released July 9 by the Commonwealth Fund, evaluates eight managed health care plans that collected and analyzed data to identify disparities among ethnic and racial groups.

The project used medical and administrative records and a software

system that recognizes, for example, Hispanic surnames. Currently health care plans are not required by the federal government to collect such data.

Comparisons of 19 elements in health care plans found 14 instances in which white patients received better care, Dora Hughes, senior program officer of the Fund, says.

Although the trend in this report shows underrepresented groups generally receiving poorer care, on occasion non-whites fare better with certain plans. For example, the study finds that Hispanics are screened for breast cancer under the Medicaid plan 48.6 percent of the time, compared to 44.3 percent for whites.

"All health care plans in the report agreed that it is critical to identify the disparities and to monitor them to ensure they are eliminated," says Hughes.

The JAMA report shows that 20 percent of Latino children have considered suicide, compared to 15 percent of blacks and 18 percent of whites. Latinas have the highest suicide attempt rate among girls, 19 percent, compared with 9 percent of whites and 8 percent of blacks, the report documents.

Pediatrician Glenn Flores of the Boston Medical Center, chief author of the report, reiterates the importance of including Latinos, particularly the Spanish-speaking community, when conducting such studies.

Research is seldom done with Hispanic children in mind or with the consultation of Hispanic caregivers, so the findings in many studies are not suitable for them, nor are they representative of that population, Flores says.

Both reports are available to the public.

The 36-page Commonwealth Fund report, "Developing a Health Plan Report Card on Quality of Care for Minority Populations," is free. To obtain a copy, contact Commonwealth Fund, One East 75th St., New York, N.Y. 10021; or call (888) 777-2744.

The eight-page JAMA study, "Health of Latino Children, Urgent Priorities, Unanswered Questions, and a Research Agenda," can be purchased for \$9 by contacting JAMA, 515 N. State St., Chicago, IL 60610. Phone: (312) 464-4594.

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Un Informe Indica Que Los Programas Federales de Practicas Con Frecuencia No Seleccionan a Los Hispanos

Por Arlene Martinez

Los programas de prácticas profesionales en agencias federales ofrecen oportunidades críticas pero severamente limitadas a los estudiantes hispanos para obtener trabajos en el gobierno, afirma Antonio Flores, presidente de la Asociación Hispana de Institutos y Universidades (HACU por sus siglas en inglés).

En una conferencia de prensa de la Asociación Nacional de Prensa, realizada el diez de julio, Flores señaló que los hispanos son el único grupo étnico y racial que tiene poca representación en la fuerza laboral federal, cuyo total es de 1.8 millones. Sólo un 6.7 por ciento de trabajadores federales son hispanos, comparado con un 11.9 por ciento de la fuerza laboral civil, citó, utilizando las cifras del informe, "Tapping America's Potential: Expanding Student Employment and Internship Opportunities in the Federal Government", dado a conocer en el evento.

Según las cifras, si el gobierno empleara a latinos y a latinas en proporción a la fuerza laboral general, los hispanos tendrían 93,000 posiciones federales más.

The Partnership for the Public Service (la sociedad para el servicio público), una organización sin afiliaciones políticas y sin fines de lucro, creada para reclutar y mantener una reserva de talento diversa en el servicio federal civil, recopiló el informe. El mismo detalla dos programas establecidos en 1994 como parte de las iniciativas de la "Reorganización del Gobierno": el Programa de Empleo Profesional para Estudiantes y el Programa de Empleo Temporero para

Estudiantes.

El programa de empleo profesional está sumamente estructurado. Los estudiantes deben trabajar en áreas específicamente relacionadas con su concentración o metas profesionales. Incluye un proceso no competitivo que convierte a los estudiantes que están haciendo la práctica en empleados, después de graduarse, si cumplen con varios requisitos, como un mínimo de 640 horas en un trabajo relacionado con la carrera profesional.

En los programas de empleo temporero, las prácticas no tienen que estar relacionadas con el campo de interés de los estudiantes, y el trabajo puede estar menos enfocado.

En el año fiscal 2001, 52,388 estudiantes hicieron la práctica a través de estos programas. Entre estos, 4,404 (un 8.4 por ciento) eran hispanos.

Las cifras fueron más reveladoras cuando desde 1994 se tomó en cuenta las ganancias. Mientras que en el 2001 hubo un aumento de 18,302 en total desde 1995, el número de latinos que participaron en estos dos programas sólo tuvo un aumento de 116.

Según el informe, para el 2010, un 13.3 por ciento de la fuerza laboral será latino.

La Oficina para el Manejo del Personal pronostica que entre los jubilados, las bajas normales de los índices y el presupuesto para el 2003 del presidente Bush, el cual exige más empleados, se necesitarán 250,000 personas en los próximos años.

Según el informe, cerca de un 13-

un 17 por ciento de los internos aceptan ofertas federales de trabajo, comparado con el 35 por ciento de los estudiantes que completan la práctica en compañías del sector privado.

El año pasado, HACU colocó a 635 latinos en prácticas federales. En su grupo de verano de 2001 que contaba con 430 estudiantes, se le ofreció empleo permanente a un 33 por ciento, según encuestas llevadas a cabo después del programa.

En los diez años que éste lleva, cerca de un 25 por ciento de los estudiantes trabajó en alguna ocasión para el gobierno federal, calcula William Gil, director ejecutivo del Programa Nacional de Prácticas de HACU.

Flores señala tres factores principales que les impiden a los latinos participar en las prácticas:

1. Las prácticas de contratación. El gobierno no contrata a nadie que no sea ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, sin importar el nivel de seguridad que se exige para el trabajo.

2. La estructura del programa. A pesar de la vasta experiencia y de las aptitudes excepcionales, sólo un programa, SCEP, provee experiencia relacionada con la profesión, que resulta en la contratación, en un nivel no competitivo, de estudiantes con alto aprovechamiento en un periodo de seis meses.

3. La falta de información. Muchos jóvenes hispanos tienen padres que no cuentan con una educación universitaria y que ni siquiera consideran la posibilidad de un programa de prácticas en el gobierno.

AmeriCorps, una versión local del

Cuerpo de Paz creada en 1993, ofrece a estudiantes hispanos otra oportunidad. Después de trabajar en un programa comunitario durante un año, los graduados reciben una beca educativa de \$4,735 para ayudar a pagar la universidad o para ayudar a saldar los préstamos estudiantiles. El gobierno podría ofrecer beneficios similares a los practicantes federales, sugirió el director ejecutivo de AmeriCorps Alum, Michael Meneer en la conferencia de prensa.

El presidente de Partnership for Public Service, Max Stier añadió que los programas de prácticas federales deben incorporar más experiencias positivas que incluyan trabajo significativo. "No puedes estar feliz, si no te retan", afirmó.

Entre las recomendaciones del informe para las agencias federales figuran:

Incluir los programas de empleo para estudiantes como parte de un plan estratégico, que sirva de herramienta para futuras contrataciones permanentes, y que asigne los recursos necesarios para ello.

Incrementar la exposición y la disponibilidad de programas de prácticas de calidad.

Modificar los reglamentos actuales para que se utilice eficazmente esta reserva de talento; tales como aumentar los mecanismos para facilitar la contratación de los estudiantes, o reducir el requisito de las 640 horas.

(El estudio de 18 páginas del Partnership es gratuito. Contáctese con PPS al 1725 Eye Street NW, Suite 900, Washington DC 20006. (202) 775-9111.

Las Recomendaciones Sobre La Salud de Los Latinos:

Datos Mas Precisos

Por Rosa Ramirez

La recopilación y el intercambio de información sobre el cuidado de la salud a nivel racial y étnico es vital para eliminar las diferencias que persisten entre los latinos y otros grupos, en particular los niños, concluyó el Fondo Commonwealth y la Revista de la Asociación Médica Americana (JAMA por sus siglas en inglés), en nuevos estudios realizados por separado.

El estudio titulado: "The Health of Latino Children, Urgent Priorities, Unanswered Questions, and a Research Agenda", que JAMA dio a conocer el 3 de julio, revela que los niños hispanos reciben menos y peores servicios en todas las áreas del sistema de asistencia médica, en parte, debido al idioma, a las barreras culturales y a la falta de seguro médico.

El informe encontró que los niños hispanos, en especial los migrantes, tienen índices más altos de enfermedades infecciosas y corren un mayor riesgo de sufrir desórdenes nutricionales, tales como obesidad y diabetes del tipo 2. Por ejemplo, los latinos que tienen diabetes del tipo 2 suman un 45 por ciento de los nuevos casos diagnosticados.

Es importante conocer esto, a la hora de decidir cómo se invierte el dinero de las investigaciones sobre la salud.

El estudio, que llevaron a cabo 13 expertos del Consorcio Latino de la Academia Americana del Centro Pediátrico para Investigaciones sobre la Salud Infantil, citó varios factores responsables de las diferencias, incluido la poca representación de los latinos en la fuerza laboral relacionada con la asistencia médica.

Los hispanos constituyen un 5 por ciento de los pediatras, un 2 por ciento de las enfermeras, un 3 por ciento tanto de los dentistas como del profesorado de las escuelas de medicina en los Estados Unidos, señala el estudio.

En el campo de la salud mental, los niños latinos presentan índices significativamente más altos de sufrir depresión mórbida, fobias y proble-

mas para relacionarse con otros niños que los negros, según el estudio.

La recopilación de información sobre la raza y el origen étnico sirve para ayudar a encontrar soluciones para identificar con exactitud tales diferencias, explica Karen Davis, presidenta del Fondo Commonwealth, el cual condujo otro estudio.

Este estudio titulado: "Developing a Health Plan Report Card on Quality of Care for Minority Population", que dio a conocer el Fondo Commonwealth el 9 de julio, evaluó ocho planes de asistencia médica que recopilaban y analizaron información para identificar las diferencias entre grupos étnicos y raciales.

El proyecto utilizó archivos médicos y administrativos, y un sistema de computadora, el cual reconoce, por ejemplo, los apellidos hispanos. Actualmente, el gobierno federal no le exige a los planes de asistencia médica recopilar tal información.

Comparaciones de 19 factores en los planes de asistencia médica encontraron 14 casos en los cuales los pacientes blancos recibieron mejor cuidado, afirma Dora Hughes, directora del programa del Fondo.

Aunque las tendencias en este informe muestran que en general los grupos con poca representación reciben un cuidado inferior, en ocasiones las personas no blancas han salido mejor con algunos planes. Por ejemplo, el estudio encontró que los hispanos se examinan para detectar cáncer del seno con el plan del Medicaid un 48.6 por ciento de las veces, comparado con un 44.3 de los blancos.

"Todos los planes de asistencia médica en el informe están de acuerdo con que es sumamente importante identificar las diferencias y darles seguimiento para asegurar su eliminación", expresa Hughes.



El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Suscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.
 Editor/Publisher: Bidal Aguero
 Business Manager: Olga Riojas-Aguero
 Articles: Amalia Aguero
 Subscriptions: In House Crew
 Distribution: Gilbert Acuña & Joe Adam & Albert Riojas

Hispanic Group Hopes to Appeal to All Latinos

The National Council of La Raza, a group traditionally associated with Mexican-Americans, is hoping to expand the participation of other Hispanics by bringing its annual conference to Miami Beach.

By holding its convention in South Florida, home to a diverse group of Hispanics, La Raza President Raul Yzaguirre says the group wants to show that it is about representing the interests of all Latinos.

"We want to make a statement by being there," Yzaguirre said.

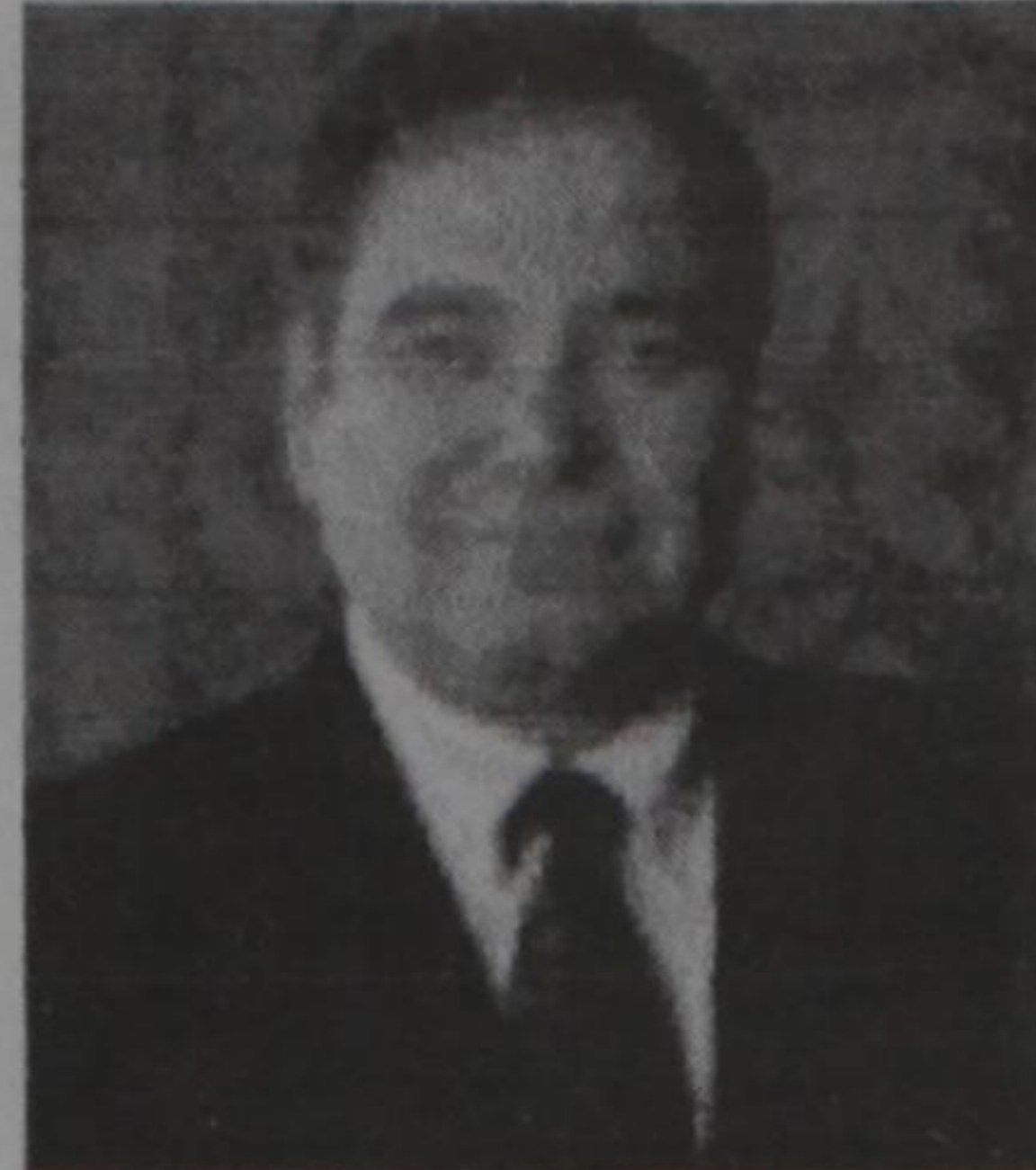
The conference will take place July 20-24 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, which was also the site of the group's 1994 conference.

La Raza's overtures to other Hispanic groups, such as Cuban-Ameri-

cans, is part of its efforts to strengthen its national agenda. The idea is to bring together those who agree with the group's broader positions on issues such as immigration and civil rights and will work with La Raza on issues of concern to specific Hispanic groups.

The move comes as the country's Hispanic population is becoming more and more diverse and the south-east United States, in particular, is experiencing explosive growth in its Hispanic population.

Although La Raza enjoys a national presence it lacks the power of an organization like the NAACP, according to political scientist Dario Moreno. In the case of reaching out to the Cuban-American community, the



**RAUL YZAGUIRRE
PRESIDENT, NCLR**

group would probably benefit from the Cuban community's political power and ability to raise money, Moreno said.

Billed as the largest national Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States, La Raza was founded in 1968 in Arizona and is considered by many to be the most prominent Hispanic organization in the United States. Calling itself a constituency-based organization, it has 270 affiliates in 40 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. Through those and a network of 30,000 other groups and individuals, La Raza says it reaches 3.5 million Hispanics a year.

The organization has been in the national spotlight on issues such as the presence of Hispanics on network television programs as well as through its nationally-broadcast ALMA Awards, which honor Latinos in television, film and music.

Yzaguirre said any national Latino organization like La Raza will be predominantly Mexican-American, since they make up about 70 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population.

"That doesn't mean we ignore the other 30 percent," Yzaguirre said. "We made that decision to be a pan-Hispanic organization 30 years ago, and I think we're living out that goal, in our staff, on our board."

La Raza is opening an office in Atlanta, to increase its presence in the Southeast, and already has affiliates in South Florida through which they carry out their programs, Yzaguirre said.

La Raza has primarily enjoyed support in the southwest among Mexican-Americans and Chicanos, said Moreno, political science professor at Florida International University. Throughout the years, Puerto Ricans have also been integrated into the organization, Moreno said.

"Cubans have barely integrated or been a part of it," Moreno said.

Holding its convention in Miami allows La Raza to reach out to Cubans and other Hispanics with large concentrations in South Florida, such as Colombians and Nicaraguans, Moreno said.

"Florida is one of the largest growing Hispanic states," he said. "The fact that they're coming to Miami is a good sign that they're reaching out more seriously toward Cubans and other Hispanic groups beyond their traditional base."

The last time La Raza held its convention in Miami Beach, there were concerns it would be a tense affair. The conference was held after some Cuban-Americans protested the Mexican government's decision to repatriate a group of Cuban refugees to Cuba by burning Mexican flags and stomping on sombreros.

"There was a great deal of trepidation about going to Miami," Yzaguirre recalls.

But after Cuban-American leaders assured La Raza that the group was welcome the event went off without a hitch, with President Clinton making an appearance to discuss health care. That experience led the group to

choose Miami Beach as its convention spot again this year. This time around, 15,000 people are expected, with 3,000 to 4,000 at the convention at any given time, Yzaguirre said.

Sessions will deal with such issues as health, education, culture, and community-based efforts. HUD Secretary Mel Martinez is among the speakers. Others expected to attend the convention include House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, Senator Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante and writer Sandra Cisneros.

Additionally, there will be a home-ownership fair, health fair and an employment fair that are open to the public at the convention center.

La Raza has taken up issues stemming from post-Sept. 11 immigration crackdowns that have led to increased restrictions on driver's licenses in some states and efforts to give local and state police agencies enforcement power over immigrants. La Raza is trying to make sure there's a balance between security and racial profiling in the country's anti-terrorism efforts, Yzaguirre said.

In doing that, La Raza has been using its age-old strategies of lobbying people and urging Latinos to write letters and visit their elected officials to make their views known, he said.

La Raza will have to find a way to tailor its national message to the different elements of the Hispanic community, Moreno said. Issues like immigration and the fight against Spanish language discrimination appeal to the broad Hispanic community, but beyond those issues there are a lot of differences in what particular Hispanic groups find important.

For example, South Florida Hispanics, particularly Cubans, tend to be more conservative than Hispanics in Los Angeles or New York. In South Florida, U.S.-Cuba relations has been the dominant issue for Cuban-Americans.

In contrast, La Raza focuses on national issues that affect Hispanics, said Joe Garcia, executive director of the Cuban American National Foundation. Cuban groups have been dealing with the external issue of Cuba and are now, after several decades in the United States, coming around to following La Raza's lead on focusing on internal issues, he said.

Moreno believes La Raza will move beyond making the Mexican-American agenda its Hispanic agenda.

"I think it's trying to move beyond that because it has to," Moreno said. "The Latino population in the United States is changing. Their challenge is how to come up with a general agenda that's meaningful while satisfying the interests of all the Latino groups that make up La Raza."



Greenspan, Optimista Por La Reactivación Económica

La economía de Estados Unidos crecerá este año entre un 3.5% y un 3.75% a pesar de los escándalos empresariales y la volatilidad de los mercados financieros, afirmó ayer el presidente de la Reserva Federal, Alan Greenspan.

En un testimonio ante el Comité de Banca del Senado, Greenspan describió un panorama optimista de la situación económica y dijo que la serie de reveses de los últimos meses "hubiera inducido una contracción grave en ciclos económicos anteriores".

El testimonio, que Greenspan completará hoy ante el Comité de Servicios Financieros de la Cámara de Representantes, coincide con un ambiente de incertidumbre en los mercados debido a las irregularidades contables en grandes empresas.

Los legisladores recibieron a Greenspan preocupados por la volatilidad de los mercados de valores, la

serie de escándalos por estafas empresariales, el debilitamiento del dólar frente a otras monedas, y un retorno a los déficit fiscales después de cuatro años de superávit.

En su sesión de anteaer, la Bolsa de Valores de Nueva York había bajado en más de 400 puntos antes de repuntar en los últimos minutos para caer en sólo 45 unidades. Sin embargo, ayer el índice industrial Dow Jones descendió en 166 puntos, a 8473.10, acentuando así una marcada tendencia de baja.

El presidente de la Reserva Federal vaticinó que el crecimiento del PIB llegará en el 2003 al 3.5 o 4%, y que la tasa de desempleo, que actualmente ronda el 6%, estará entre el 5.25 y 5.5% a fines del año próximo.

"Se espera que la inflación se mantenga muy moderada en todo este período y que los precios al consumo suban a una tasa de apenas entre el 2.5 y el 2.75%", dijo Greenspan.

Portraying Minorities on American TV

Two years ago, several civil rights organizations such as the NAACP criticized the major American television networks for their lack of programming diversity. Few shows featured members of minority groups cast in leading roles.

NAACP leader Kweisi Mfume described the network lineups as a "virtual whitewash in programming." With a few months before the start of the 2002-2003 fall TV season, Steven Bochco, a veteran series producer and a network executive, gave his views on racial diversity on television.

Steven Bochco is among the American television producers who have consistently cast minorities in drama series. Creator and producer of such acclaimed shows as Hill Street Blues, L.A. Law, and N.Y.P.D. Blue, Mr. Bochco and his co-executive producers confront racial issues frankly and realistically. Beginning its 10th season later this year, "N.Y.P.D. Blue" shows its Caucasian, African-American and Hispanic officers coping with racial tensions especially in the relationship between a white detective, Andy Sipowicz, and a black lieutenant, Arthur Fancey.

Mr. Bochco said he and series co-creator David Milch include racial issues and diverse casts as a way of adding to the authenticity of their portrayal of a New York City detective squad which in real life, is made up of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

"That conflict as dramatized in the relationship between Sipowicz and Fancey really was, day-in and day-out, written by Dave and he did it brilliantly, and unflinchingly," he said. "Much more unflinching than I would have... It came out of both of our fundamental beliefs that you can't do a realistic show about police work and the political realities of the police environment in New York City without dealing with race. It's there: there are racists in the department. Race is an issue. Sexism is an issue. If you don't tell those stories and just let the tension of that stuff just permeate the environment, then you're not being true to the environment."

Steven Bochco adds that unlike other drama series in which a conflict between characters resolves itself in one or two episodes, the racial tensions between the N.Y.P.D. Blue detectives continue over several years of the series. "That story line, which really played out over the years, had a wonderful incremental growth to it. These two characters really disliked each other and distrusted each other, but grudgingly came to know each other and finally had real respect for each other," he said.

Although Steven Bochco's portrayal of diverse ethnic groups in his series' casts is still relatively unusual, network television executives are making a conscious effort to include characters and plots centered on minority groups. Karey Burke, executive vice president for primetime series at NBC, said her network has high hopes for a new show centering on the Hispanic community.

"We have a show coming this mid-season on NBC called Kingpin," she said. "It's about a controversial subject matter. It's an epic of Shakespearean proportions that takes place in Mexico and America. It's about the fight against drugs in and out of America and looks at [the problem] through some American characters and Mexican-American characters. It's a very interesting portrayal of both sides of the issue: there are no clear good guys or bad guys; it's a very sophisticated treatment of the subject."

But aside from introducing new shows with racial minority casts, Ms. Burke said the networks are also trying to address a fundamental issue raised by the civil rights groups: some of the systemic issues, such as diversity among series writers.

"They were absolutely right, it was a terrible year we all looked around and said this is wrong. We have to do better. We can't just say we'll do better. We need to put our money where our mouth is. And put in programs and systems into place to make sure that we're doing better, not just next year and the year after but forever," Ms. Burke said.

A survey from a couple years ago found that of the more than 800 writers working on primetime television shows, racial minorities made up just seven percent of that group. NBC's Karey Burke and other American network executives are trying to change that statistic.

"I'm very proud of the work we've done since then, and it continues. The immediate thing we did was start a program here at NBC that is called the 'second year writers program.' We paid for an extra spot on the writing staff for every returning television show," she said. "So behind the camera where the creativity comes from [we have] the people creating the shows that get put on the air and are helping these people to break through those ranks, which are very hard to break through. This year, I'm proud to say, we expanded that to all our shows. On every single show on the schedule, NBC is paying for a minority writer's position, to make sure these people can break into the system and learn to become producers and developers and then go on to create their own television shows."

El Editor

no son representativos de esa población, afirma Flores.

Ambos informes están disponibles al público.

El informe de treinta y seis páginas del Fondo Commonwealth, "Developing a Health Plan Report Card on Quality of Care for Minority Populations", es gratuito. Para obtener un ejemplar contáctese con el Fondo Commonwealth a One East 75th St., New York, NY 10021. Teléfono: (888) 777-2744.

El estudio de ocho páginas de JAMA, "Health of Latino Children, Urgent Priorities, Unanswered Questions, and a Research Agenda", se puede adquirir por \$9, contactando a JAMA, al 515 N. State St., Chicago, IL 60610. (312) 464-4594.

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El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Suscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers. Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero

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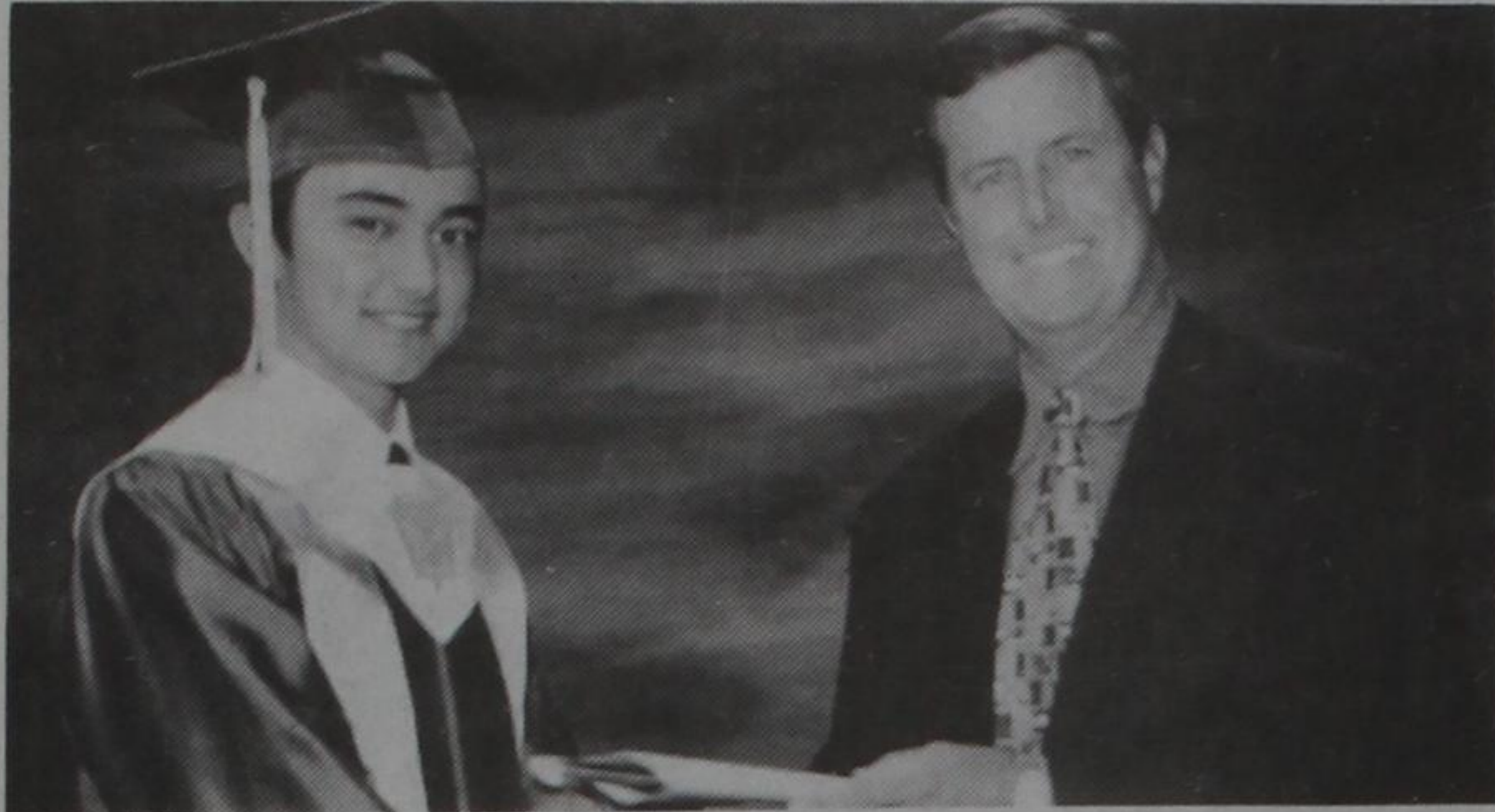


photo by John P. Cervantez

Patrick Shane Walker, son of Pat and Carlina Walker of Lubbock, Texas (formerly from Post, Texas). He graduated from Frenship High School, an exemplary district as valedictorian in his class of 2002 with 321 graduates.

Shane set a high standard of academics and community services. During his high school career, he was elected to all offices of the student

council and was active in speech and debate tournaments. He culminated his career by being elected President of the Student Council, senior class, and the Forensics Club.

Shane was for four years, a member of Who's Who in American High Schools, member of the National Honors Society, and during his career, became an outstanding public speaker and debater earning

hundreds of commendations, honors, scholarships, awards of excellence and trophies.

In addition to the classroom activities, Shane became involved in a multitude of extracurricular activities. He became a participant in the National Hispanic Institute Program and eventually became the highest achiever in NHI history. His accomplishments include being a state champion of Mock Trial in the Great Debate of the University of Southern Colorado, voted most outstanding Supreme Court Justice in the Texas Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session in Austin, Texas, and Hall of Fame and Top Gun Award recipient in the California Collegiate World Series. At present, he is the NHI Youth Council Administrator of the South Plains Youth Leadership Council. Shane also headed the NHI Coat Driver of 2001 and increased collections by 250%.

Shane became an accomplished poet with many published poems and wrote the class of 2002 graduation poem "Forever" that appeared in the FHS commencement program.

Shane's academic honors and awards: Academic Excellence Award by the State Gover of Texas; Superintendent's Academic Excellence; All-American Scholar; Who's Who Among American High School Students; Most Likely to Succeed; Principal's Leadership Award; All American Award by the National Forensic League; National Merit Commended Scholar; UIL Regional Champion in Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking; best Debater Award and Top Speaker Awards in UIL Extem/Debate and a number of other awards too numerous to list. Scholarships include: Stanford University scholarship, Southwestern University President's Scholar, Washington University 2002 Thames Eliot Scholar, West Texas A&M Guy Yates Debate Scholarship, and U.T. HONOR'S Program Scholarship.

Shane plans to attend Standord University as university scholar of class of 2006 majoring in political science.

From Page One

But Herrera -- whose popularity dipped this spring after he battled allegations that he improperly aided his wife's business and received a public relations contract from the city's housing authority -- sees Latino voters as essential to his victory this fall.

A 29-year-old Cuban American, Herrera was in the George Federal Building to chat with newly sworn-in citizens one Friday in June. The next morning he braved nearly 100-degree heat to launch a registration drive in one of his district's predominantly Latino neighborhoods. Chatting in Spanish as he went door to door with his wife and aides, he assured prospective voters it would take only "un momentico" to fill out the necessary forms.

Northeast Las Vegas proved fertile ground for Herrera, who spoke with gardener Ernesto Senda about his children and teased Ricardo Bravo's younger brother as he darted around the family's garage. Senda and Bravo signed on as Democrats, praising Bush but suggesting they preferred the Democrats' views on education and immigration.

"Democrats have been known to help out a lot of minorities, which I am a part of," said Bravo, a casino pay clerk. But even as he pledged his loyalty to the Democrats, Bravo indicated Herrera would have to fight for his vote.

"I'm still looking at both sides," he said. Bush's Popularity With Hispanics Could Affect November Elections

The Washington Post (7/10, A6, Eilperin) reports, "Each Friday afternoon, the George Federal Building" in Las Vegas "becomes a battleground for this city's Latino vote -- and a symbol of the broader nationwide fight for the booming Hispanic electorate. Volunteers from both parties man tables, jockeying for the newly minted citizens as they emerge from the weekly swearing-in ceremony." The Post adds, "Due in part to the anti-immigration rhetoric of former California governor Pete Wilson and several other Republicans in the 1990s, the Democratic Party has enjoyed solid majorities of Hispanic support in most areas outside Miami's Cuban community. Latino voters in 2000 backed Al Gore over George W. Bush, 62 percent to 35 percent."

However, "President Bush -- a former Texas governor who embraced Mexican immigrants in a manner sharply different from Wilson's approach -- gets high approval ratings from many Hispanics. That has prompted both parties to launch unprecedented efforts for Latino votes." The Post notes, "Democratic pollster Sergio Bendixen -- who recently conducted a survey of Latino voters for the centrist New

Democrat Network and [Rep. Robert] Menendez -- warns that Bush has developed a warm rapport with Hispanics similar to the bond that former president Bill Clinton enjoyed with African Americans. His poll showed that Bush is now almost even with Gore in popularity among Latinos.

And although congressional Republicans do not enjoy similar ratings, respondents said they were nearly 40 percent more likely to support a candidate endorsed by Bush." The Hill (7/10, Brand) reports that Bush's "popularity among Latinos has given

Republicans a new lifeline to the Latino community. Still, the GOP will have to work hard to court and retain Latino support." The Hill notes, "Fernando Oaxaca, a California-based businessman who worked in the Nixon and Ford administrations, said he welcomed GOPAC's plan as an important step in bolstering the Latino-Republican base."

But he cautioned, "We get bursts of enthusiasm [from the national GOP], but when you get down to the real party organizations, they don't really understand what's is going on."

Inquietud En California Por Videos de Al Qaida

Alertados por un video perteneciente a tres presuntos miembros de la red terrorista Al Qaida arrestados ayer en España, que enseñaban sitios conocidos de California, las autoridades estatales incrementaron la seguridad en el puente Golden Gate de San Francisco, Disneylandia en Anaheim y Estudios Universal en Los Angeles, entre otros lugares.

El video fue obtenido por la policia española cuando detuvo a tres supuestos miembros de la red terrorista, e incluía grabaciones de lugares emblemáticos de Estados Unidos.

El gobernador de California, Gray Davis, emitió ayer un comunicado en el que reacciona al hallazgo.

"En respuesta a estas amenazas potenciales", dijo Davis, "hemos coordinado con las autoridades federales y notificado a las fuerzas del orden locales. Son procedimientos que he puesto en su lugar precisamente para esta eventualidad".

"Además", concluyó el gobernador, "hemos estrechado la vigilancia en torno al puente Golden Gate y seguiremos de cerca los eventos".

El video incautado mostraba el famoso puente Golden Gate en San Francisco, y dedicaba especial atención al pilar central, una de sus partes más vulnerables. En consecuencia, las autoridades doblaron la seguridad en torno al famoso enclave.

George Vinson, consejero de seguridad del gobernador de California, dijo que su departamento había tomado las advertencias muy en serio debido a su procedencia (presumiblemente la red Al Qaida).

Los investigadores han encontrado en otras ocasiones videos y mapas similares a los confiscados ayer en España, pero no de lugares californianos, según dijo Vinson, quien sin embargo admitió que no es posible prever un ataque solamente a partir de la existencia de este material.

Los tres presuntos miembros de la red terrorista islámica fueron detenidos en el curso de un operativo ordenado por el juez Baltasar Garzón, anunció en Madrid el ministro del Interior español, Angel Acebes.

Los detenidos son los nacionalizados españoles de origen sirio Gasub Al Abrash Galyun, alias "Abu Musab"; Abdalrajman Alarmaot Abu Aljer, alias "Abu Obed", y el sirio Mohamed Jair Al Saq, alias "Abu Aldarda".

Según el ministro, uno de los detenidos está "implicado directamente" en la infraestructura financiera de Al Qaida.

Acebes precisó que el material in-

cautado es de "mucha importancia", haciendo especial hincapié en las cintas de video mencionadas.

Cinco de las cintas de video fueron grabadas por Al Abrash Galyun durante un viaje que efectuó en 1997 a Estados Unidos.

Dos de ellas están dedicadas a las Torres Gemelas de Nueva York, destruidas en los atentados del 11 de septiembre pasado. Otros "posibles objetivos terroristas" de acuerdo con las cintas serían la Estatua de la Libertad, el puente de Brooklyn en Nueva York, la torre Sears en Chicago y un aeropuerto neoyorquino filmado por dentro y por fuera.

Otros dos videos, cuyo contenido fue calificado de "muy violento" muestra escenas de combate en Chechenia y otra de "entrenamiento terrorista", según Acebes.

El segundo detenido, Abdalrajman Alarmaot, recibió entrenamiento en un campamento especializado en Zenica, Bosnia, según las mismas fuentes.

El tercero, Mohamed Jair, involucrado en las actividades financieras de la célula de Al Qaida desarticulada en España, debió abandonar Siria "por su pertenencia a la organización Hermanos Musulmanes", según el ministerio.

Las detenciones se produjeron en el marco de la Operación Dátil, lanzada en noviembre por el juez Garzón contra la célula española de la organización de Osama Ben Laden, precisó el ministro Acebes.

El titular de Interior dijo que la operación sigue adelante.

Hasta ahora, esa investigación permitió la detención en España de nueve militantes islámicos por su presunta pertenencia a una "célula terrorista de obediencia islámica fundamentalista, integrada a la estructura de Al Qaida".

Según el acta de acusación, esta célula "habría estado en directa relación con la preparación y el desarrollo de los atentados del 11 de septiembre" en Nueva York, Washington y Pennsylvania.

En junio pasado, el diario madrileño El País había afirmado que los pilotos suicidas del ataque contra World Trade Center habían ultimado los preparativos del atentado en España, durante una reunión que mantuvieron en julio de 2001 con otros cuatro militantes islámicos.

Ya en septiembre de 2001, la policia española había informado sobre el paso por España, hacia mediados de año, de uno de los pilotos suicidas, Mohamed Atta.

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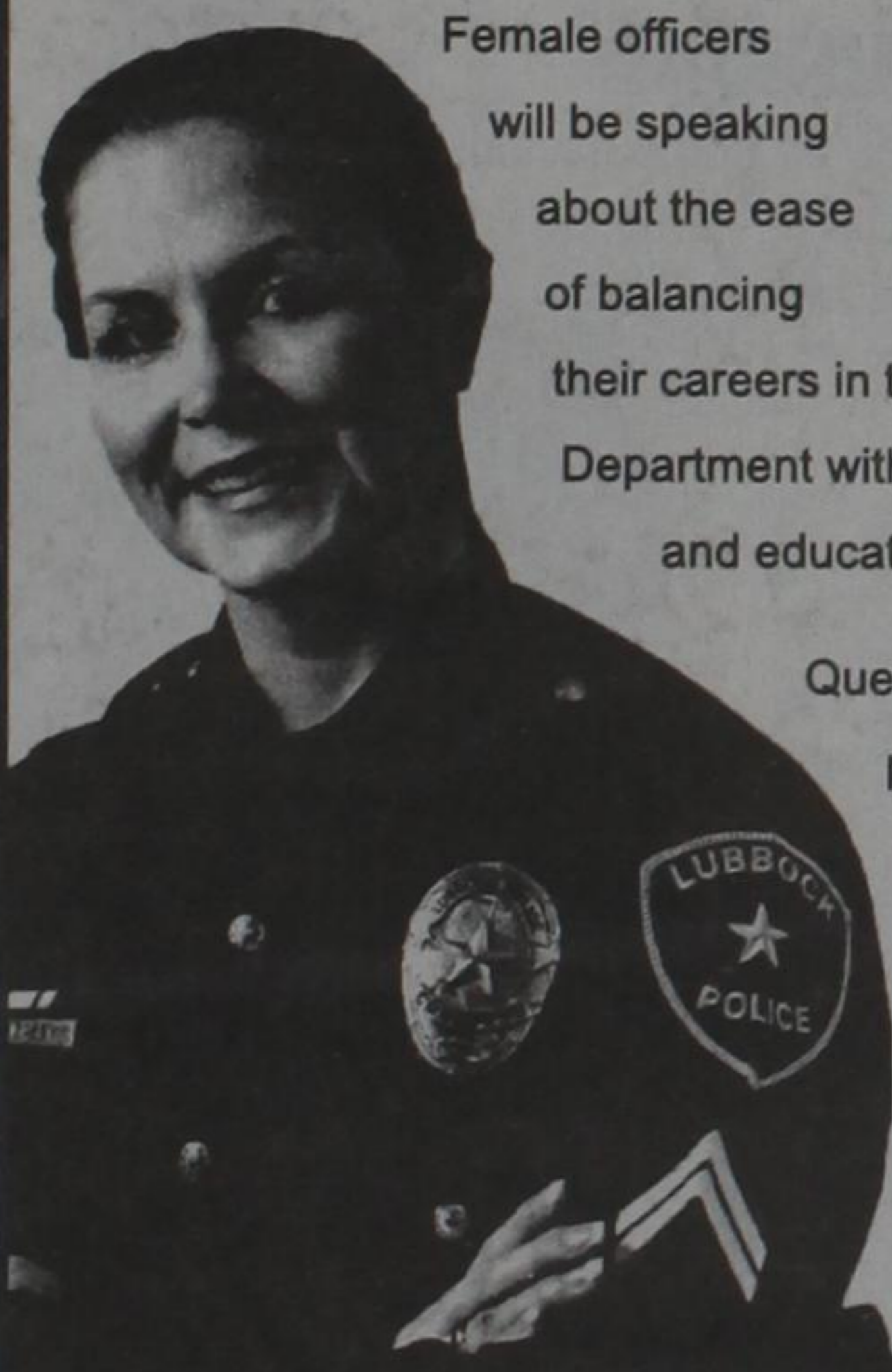
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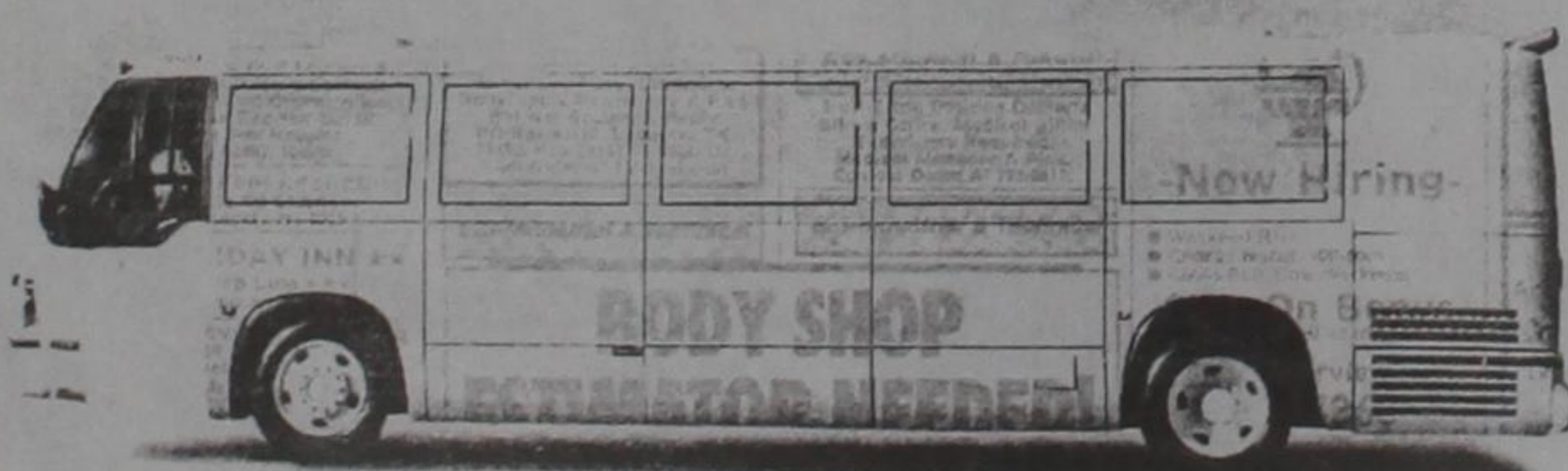
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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.- July 18, 2002

South Plains Earns Great Debate Championship

Cobos Awarded 1st Place Oratory; Parents Awarded "Best of Show"

Sitting at the edges of their seats with hearts racing, South Plains Area students were elated when their region was announced as Champions of the 2002 Southwest Great Debate held in Pueblo, Colorado on June 27-30. The debate competition, which is the finale of the Young Leader's Conference (YLC), a program of the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) was hosted by the University of Southern Colorado. The YLC is a leadership conference for high school aged youth. The goal of the conference is to increase communication skills between students and the leaders of their respective communities. This year's competition included more than 100 students from Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.

The South Plains Area Community Leadership Council (SPACLC), a local subsidiary of NHI, was represented by a strong, confident team this year. The team was comprised of twenty-five local and area high school students was competed in five different categories. The astute Mock Trial teams were Christopher Lucero (Frenship) & Zachary Tijerina (Frenship) - 2nd Place; Felicia Martinez (Atkins) & Cedric Wade (Levelland) - Elite 8; Clarissa Sanchez (Smylie Wilson) & Kristin Rodriguez (Cavazos) - Elite 8; and Rubyvel Aguirre (Smylie Wilson) & Crystal Ysasaga (Smylie Wilson). Extemporaneous Speaking contestants were Joshua Aguayo (Cavazos) - Elite 8; Joseph Garica (Cavazos); Sergio Canales (Cavazos); and Alexander Martinez (MacKenzie). The aggressive, quick thinking Cross Examination teams were Justin Garza (Dunbar) & Theresa Juarez (OL Slaton) - 2nd Place; Azian Bermea (Lubbock-Cooper) & Jess Cavazos (Levelland) - Elite 8; Diego Gonzales (Levelland) & Leigh Ann Rodriguez (OL Slaton) - Elite 8; and Jacob Gunn (Levelland) & Melissa Panuagua (OL Slaton) - Elite 8. The powerful speakers in the Oratory competition were Alex Cobos (Cavazos)-1st place; Jacob



Bottom (l to r) Clarissa Sanchez, Jacob Garza, Alexandra Lara, Alex Cobos, Melissa Paniagua, Mariessa Ybarra, Chris Lucero, Theresa Juarez, Lee Ann Rodriguez, Adrian Serna, Sergio Canales, Daniel Llanas & Edward Salas.

Center (l to r) Justin Garza, Javier Prado, Jacob Gunn, Diego Gonzales, Veronica Reynoso, Jess Cavazos, Melenie Robles, Adric Wade, David Flores, Azian Bermea, Alexander Martinez, Zachery Tijerina.

Top (l to r) Vicente Ybarra, Felicia Martinez, Kristin Rodriguez, Robert Lopez, Joshua Aguayo.

Not pictured: Joseph Garcia, Crystal Ysasaga, Rubyvel Aguirre, Vanessa Costilla, and Gabriel Bermea. Photos and article submitted by Edward Salas.



Left to right: Mrs. Elsa Cavazos; Mrs. Mary Butillos; and Mrs. Amelinda Sanchez.

Garza (Levelland) - 2nd Place; Alexandra Lara (Cavazos) - Elite 8; David Flores (JT Hutch) - Sweet 16; and Veronica Reyner (Brownfield) - Sweet 16. Additionally, All State honors were also received by Clarissa Sanchez in Mock Trial, and Jacob Gunn in Cross-X. The following students were also finalists in Impromptu Speaking: Sergio Canales, Joseph Garcia, and Alexander Martinez. Parents were also included in a Cultural/Historical Exhibit competition. This year's topic "Community Cookbook" was presented by Mrs. Mary Butillos (Lubbock), Mrs. Elsa Cavazos (Levelland), and Mrs. Amelinda Sanchez (Lubbock). Costumes for the event were made by Mrs. Olga Lara. Due to the authenticity and delicious samples provided, the

parent's were awarded "Best of Show." A title won the last four years consecutively.

Our teams were well trained, prepared, and disciplined by fellow students: Gabriel Bermea, Vanessa Costilla, Javier Prado, Adrian Serna, Jermy Cortez, Vicente Ybarra, Melenie Robles, Megan Zerrata, Raquel Gonzales, Robert Lopez, and Daniel Llanas. Our parent chaperones included Mr. Mario Ybarra-Project Administrator, Mrs. Norma Ybarra, Mrs. Mary Bustillos, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sanchez, Mrs. Elsa Cavazos, and Mr. Edward Salas - President and Head Coach. The council would like to congratulate the team for bringing home the Championship and the Gold Cup and wishes all the students much deserved success in the future.

Woods Fail To Get Grand Slam? Don't Count On It

One minute we're handing him this third leg of the Grand Slam. The next, we're trying to figure out ways to take it away.

Go figure.

The best player in the game is on the verge of something we have never seen and might never see again and all we can do is complain? Call Tiger Woods boring? Wonder when someone will step up to challenge him? Say he has turned into an uber robo-player who has forgotten how to win with style? Figure out ways for him to lose this 131st Open Championship? Quiz Nick Faldo on the evils of women -- we're not kidding here -- in particular, the role girlfriend Elin Nordegren could play in Tiger's downfall?

Pundits have to really stretch to find a reason Tiger Woods won't add to his legend this week (AP)

Getting a bit ridiculous, isn't it?

Over here, it's all about headlines. The splashier, the better. Which, of course, is why one columnist has decided Tiger is in danger of becoming a bloody bore. What? Winning by three isn't good enough? He has to win by a dozen and stick every shot?

Watch that happen a couple more times and the headlines will suddenly be about the 155 don't-care, can't-compete stiff in the field.

Can't we just take a deep breath here and watch this unfold?

Do we constantly have to look back to Lee Trevino in 1972? Or history, period? Or the waist-deep rough that conjures up the thought no one has ventured into in years?

Do we have to find a reason why not?

Tiger is, well, Tiger. He's the fifth player in history to win all four majors. He has won the Tiger Slam. And, since we refuse to call that first one Grand, he has turned his double-dare-you focus to what we -- not he -- considers the Grand Slam.

Doubt that he can do it? Just look into those eyes.

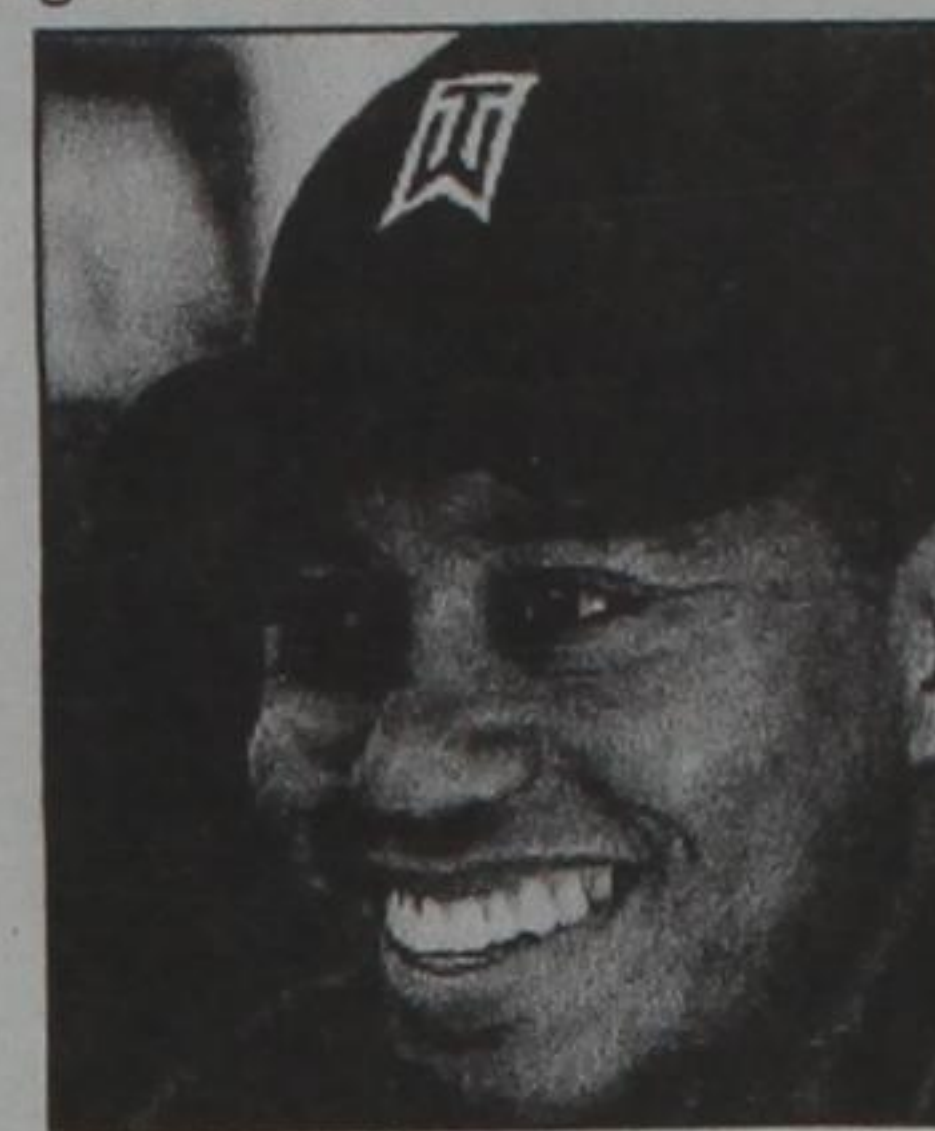
That look. Can't explain it. Just know it when we see it. And, yes, it's there.

Once again, this is his major to win. That he hasn't played competitively since winning Leg 2 of the Slam is irrelevant. He's here. He's focused. He's hitting the fool out of ball and he has found a new challenge -- Muirfield.

If we've heard it once, we've heard it a skillion times. He likes to be challenged. It's his way of keeping his mind sharp in a game that drives everyone else to distraction.

He sees pot bunkers with vertical faces and thinks, hmmm, stay away, but if I do land in one ... let's see what kind of shot I can create. He stands on a tee and pulls out a 2-iron. Doesn't care what people think. That's what keeps him in the fairway, that's what

he hits. And, if you haven't noticed, it'll likely scoot about 300 yards here if he can hit the right fairway hump and get the roll.



So, he's not hitting the ball as well as he was in 2000. Doesn't matter. Incredible, precise streaks like that one are so rare. But when Tiger does it, we think he's going to do it every year. Then we grump when he doesn't.

Has he done so many incredible things lately we tend to forget how damn hard this sport really is? He comes to the final hole with a two-shot lead and we want to know if he's worried about no challengers?

"I think," Tiger said, "if you were a golfer, you would probably answer the question by saying, what would you rather have? A one-shot lead or a 20-shot lead with two holes to go?"

That Jack Nicklaus always seemed to be battling someone down to the wire and Jack is, well, Jack, seems so ingrained in our thoughts that we can't deal with a guy who wins by two with no real challenge. Let alone one of those double-digit wins from 2000.

Who's better? Why try to compare? They're the best in their eras and they're different people, different players. Period.

Would it be nice to see a knock-down, drag-out battle down the stretch? Sure.

Pick your contenders. Phil Mickel-

son. Defending champ David Duval. Ernie Els. Sergio Garcia. Nick Faldo. Why stop there? Tiger's last big challenge (at the 2000 PGA) came from all-but-unknown Bob May, the man whose junior records Tiger broke growing up in California. It was also a glimpse of the best Tiger has to offer.

Just like at Bethpage, Tiger will set the tone. If he plays well in Thursday's opening round -- he tees off at 4:01 a.m. ET -- it might be shades of the U.S. Open where a birdie putt on the 18th hole of the tournament was all the separation he needed from the field. If he doesn't ... don't think it's over.

For us to count him out, he'll have to get lost in the hay, shoot 80 and, well ... if you believe that ...

Tiger isn't 7-4 in the betting houses for nothing. They're not trying to woo bettors with temporary 2-1 odds just for the fun of it. They need the business and you don't want to bite on a lousy return at 7-4.

His only tense moments this week were in the pressroom Tuesday morning when he squirmed over repeated questions about all-male clubs, notably Augusta National. Even then, he bobbed, weaved and emerged with a smile.

And about that goatee he had Sunday? Laziness, he said. What guy in the room likes to shave? He laughed.

Room win? This guy has won seven of the past 11 majors and is 8-for-8 in majors when he has led going into the final round. He's a shotmaker with the patience of Job. He loves links golf. He has won the first two. He's staring down the third.

So let's take a deep breath and see what he can do. Let's not obsess about what could happen, who could beat him or look for ways for him to fail. Let's just see if he can do it.

And if he does Slam us? What next? "Well," he said flashing that famous grin, "do it again."

Big Win For Mexican Diva Trevi In Extradition Fight

Disgraced Mexican pop queen Gloria Trevi could walk free from a Brazilian prison after a Mexican judge declared null and void a bid to extradite her on sexual abuse charges, her lawyers and court sources said Monday.

Freedom for Trevi, a pin-up turned pop star who topped the Latin charts in the 1990s, would end a 2-1/2-year stint in jail during which she had a baby and never strayed far from the media spotlight.

A judicial source in Mexico said federal Mexican Judge Juan Ramirez Diaz granted an injunction to Trevi's Mexican lawyers Friday, canceling her extradition on the grounds the extradition request had been incorrectly presented.

"This is an enormous victory for her lawyers in Mexico," Otavio Neves, Trevi's lawyer in Brazil, told Reuters. "Finally in Mexico they decided what we had been saying all along: that the extradition process was unconstitutional."

Mexico's Foreign Relations Ministry has until Friday to appeal the ruling, said the judicial source in Mexico City who asked not to be named.

Trevi, 32, could be released 48 hours after Brazilian authorities are informed of the ruling although Neves said the process could take five days. If the ruling were upheld, she would have the right to remain in Brazil, he said.

Trevi, dubbed Mexico's Madonna for her raunchy performances, was arrested in Rio de Janeiro in January 2000 along with her manager Sergio Andrade and backing singer Maria Raquel. She was accused in Mexico of luring aspiring young female singers into a sex-slave ring.

Trevi's release would end an apparently traumatic passage through Brazil's prison system, marked by allegations of mistreatment, sexual favors and rape. She has often cried in TV interviews.

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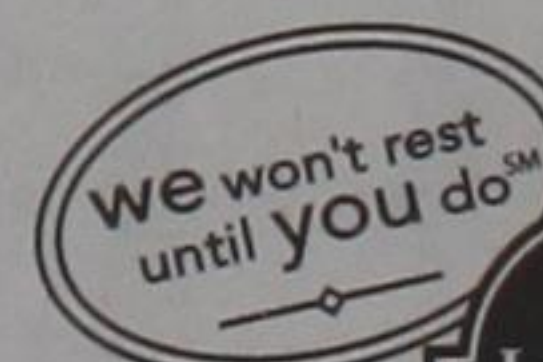
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