

El Editor

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Texas Tragedy Underscores Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

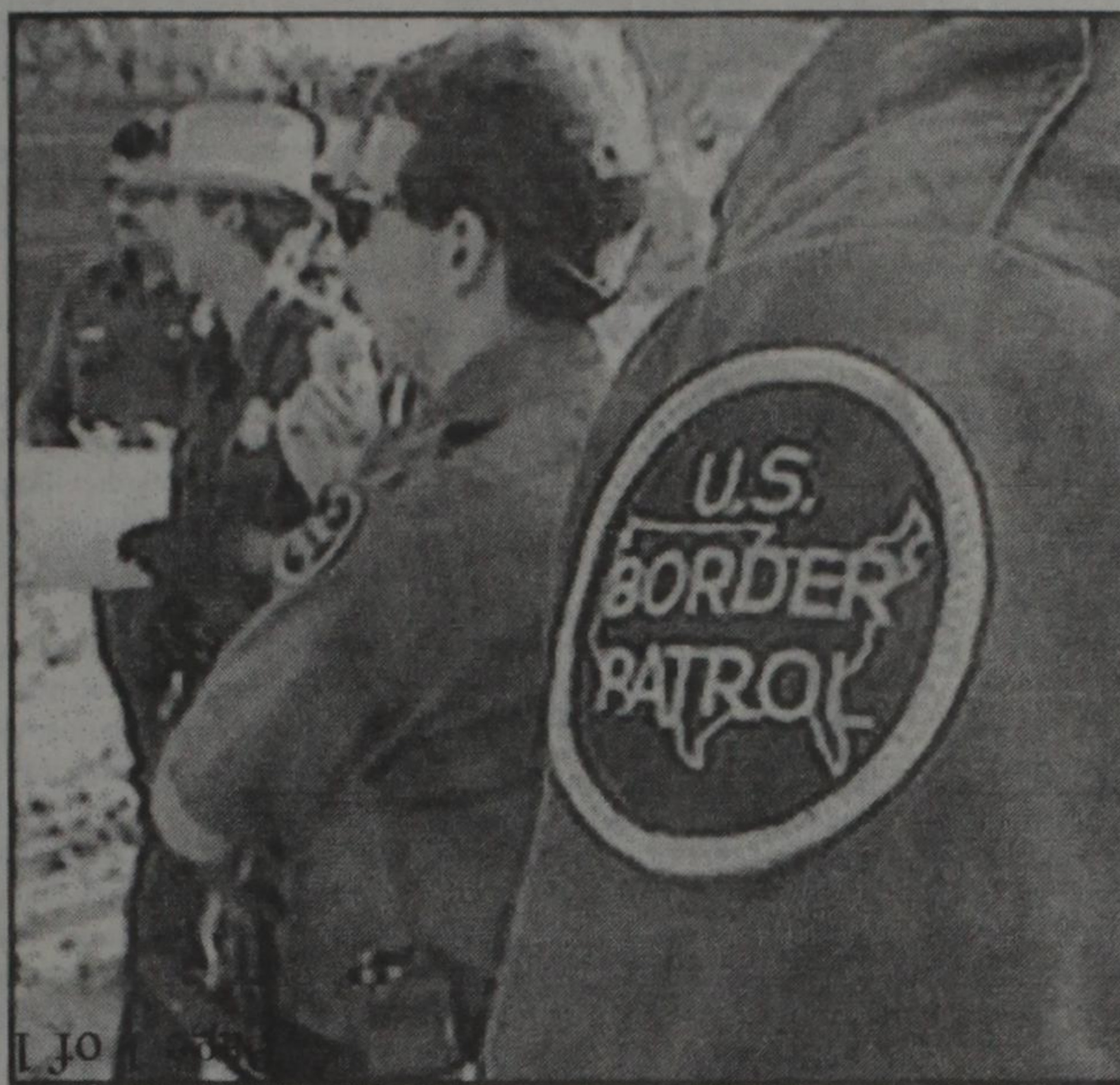
Washington, DC - The deaths of eighteen migrants in an 18-wheeler truck in Victoria, Texas has sparked renewed calls for comprehensive immigration reform from the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigrant advocacy organization in Washington.

As we head towards the summer season, the group predicts that many more will perish along the U.S.-Mexico border unless Washington acts.

"While this tragedy is horrific, we have seen similar deaths in ones and twos and dozens in the past," said Angela Kelley, Deputy Director of the National Immigration Forum.

"Unless and until we see comprehensive reform that allows migrants to come legally and with dignity, we will see more of these tragedies in the weeks and months ahead."

The Forum supports policies that would expand legal channels for immigrants to come to this country seeking work and a better life for their families. Years of law enforcement and technological build-ups at the border have proven no substitute for realistic, enforceable immigration laws. Our current policies to repress immigration have criminalized the process of matching willing workers with willing employers. Those who benefit are the smugglers who are reaping millions in profits at the cost



of hundreds of lives a year. "Last year, we saw one death on average per day along the border," Kelley said. "Our policies must be adjusted to reality so that we are no longer lining the pockets of smugglers, document forgers, and unscrupulous employers exploiting the black market for workers."

A smart-borders policy would allow people to come with visas and legal status, taking the profit out of smuggling and the danger out of seeking work. Expanded and continued

cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to bring order and safety to the border also must be a priority, Kelley argues. Combined with a policy to allow long-term, tax-paying undocumented immigrants already here to earn an opportunity for legal status, this would reduce the human black market and bring hard-working immigrants out of the shadows.

"Overhauling our immigration laws is an essential ingredient in improving national security, economic security, and reuniting American families



divided by borders and outdated laws," Kelley said. "Rather than repressing immigration ineffectively, we should be managing it efficiently. Not just to benefit the immigrants, but to benefit the country and the economy."

"Until we do something about our immigration laws - until they match the reality of people seeking opportunity and employers who want to hire them - we will see more of these senseless tragedies unfolding in the summer months ahead," Kelley concluded.

América Latina pasa la prueba de drogas de EU

WASHINGTON (ARB) - Estados Unidos aprobó el jueves la cooperación en la lucha contra el narcotráfico de los países de América Latina y el Caribe donde se produce o trafican drogas, con la excepción de Haití.

Colombia, donde Estados Unidos está gastando 1,300 millones de dólares en una campaña policiaco-militar contra cultivos de drogas en zonas controladas por la guerrilla, fue certificada pese al aumento de los cocales.

La certificación de México nunca estuvo en duda, pese a que los decomisos de drogas bajaron el año pasado.

Paraguay obtuvo la certificación plena, a diferencia del año pasado, dijo el Departamento de Estado, que elogió la labor del nuevo jefe de la Secretaría Nacional Anti-Drogas (SENAD), Hugo Ibarra, por el arresto de cuatro traficantes y la destrucción de aviones que transportaban droga a Brasil.

La pobreza, la corrupción y la falta de acción policial efectiva ha convertido a Haití en un conducto importante de drogas. Pero Washington prefirió no aplicar sanciones económicas contra Haití por razones de seguridad nacional, ya que agravaría la crisis y el éxodo de inmigrantes ilegales hacia Estados Unidos, explicó el subsecretario de Estado para asuntos de narcóticos, Rand Beers.

La lista de países de América certificados incluye a Bahamas, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, República Dominicana, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú y Venezuela.

En su informe anual sobre la cooperación en la guerra contra las drogas, Washington elogió al gobierno comunista de Cuba por aumentar el intercambio de información sobre el narcotráfico, que usa los cayos cubanos para transferir narcóticos a lanchas veloces.

DROGAS EN EL DESPEJE
Mientras las plantaciones de coca bajaron a niveles sin precedentes en Bolivia y Perú, en Colombia subieron un 11 por ciento a 136,200 hectáreas en el 2000, lo suficiente para producir 580 toneladas de cocaína, doblando el potencial de hace cinco años, dijo el informe.

Las cifras no toman en cuenta las 25,000 hectáreas de cocales destruidas con herbicidas lanzados desde comienzos de año por avionetas protegidas por helicópteros estadounidenses.

El informe advierte el peligro de que la represión de la alianza "narco-política" entre guerrilla y traficantes pueda agudizar los conflictos locales que amenazan la estabilidad de la región.

REPUBLICANS TELL STUDENTS TO TAKE A HIKE

Texas young Democrats told Chairman Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria) last week that the presented HB 3015, which relates to the tuition charged to students of institutions of higher education and to student financial assistance funded by tuition was unfair.

This bill allows the Board of Regents to set tuition and fees for universities and colleges in their system. The presidents of several university student government associations expressed their opposition to the bill. During the Higher Education Committee hearings, more than forty students testified against HB 3015. One person, representing himself, testified in favor for the bill.

Sean Bradley, president of Texas Young Democrats, stated that this is proof that the Republican Party is not listening to the youth of Texas. "First, they cut funding to the Children Health Insurance Program and to the Texas Department of Health, affecting children and senior citizens. They appropriated \$10 million tax dollars to pay for the genetic research of a cow. Now, they are trying to raise the tuition and fees for college students. This should be a wake up call for all Texans."

Young Democrats claimed that the Republican leadership was saying that just as families prioritize their needs versus wants, the Legislature must do so as well.

"According to the appropriations bill, the priorities of the House Republicans are: paying a lobbyist \$15,000 per month of taxpayer's money to lobby Congress, appropriating to the Governor \$295 million to be used at his discretion and cutting teachers' benefits and retirement. Contrary to what the Republicans believe, Texas family priorities lie with affordable health care and education.

By deregulating tuition, the door is open to charge high tuition and fees, consequently affecting enrollment. Low to middle income families will be the most negatively impacted with this bill.

Read El Editor - News that Matter

El infierno de los Indocumentados

Por DAVID SEDEÑO
The Dallas Morning News

Mientras los 100 inmigrantes indocumentados provenientes del sur de Texas se apresuraban a trepar en la parte trasera de un remolque blanco, el pequeño Marco Antonio Villaseñor, un niño de 5 años, cabello negro y ojos café, tomaba su lugar entre el grupo.

Había viajado hasta la frontera con su padre, José Antonio Villaseñor, de 31 años, residente de la ciudad de México. Era el martes por la noche y se encontraban en camino a Houston con docenas de inmigrantes ilegales más.

Durante las siguientes cuatro horas, el calor y el monóxido de carbono comenzaron a llenar el contenedor, llevándose el oxígeno. Algunos de los inmigrantes trataron de hacer agujeros a través de las paredes con aislante del trailer y un hombre intentó hacer una llamada desesperada al 911 pidiendo ayuda desde su teléfono celular. Otros intentaron llevar a Marco Antonio cerca de una abertura en las paredes del trailer para que recibiera aire fresco.

Cuando los equipos de rescate encontraron a Marco Antonio en el trailer sin ventilación cuatro horas después, el pequeño niño estaba sin camisa y recostado inerte en los brazos de un hombre también sin camisa.

Usaba pantalones café, y sus calcetines blancos, así como su cabello, estaban empapados de sudor. Marco Antonio, de poco más de un metro de estatura, con un peso de 21 kilos, tenía moretones por el peso de la gente que lo había aplastado y pisado.

Estaba muerto.
La muerte de Marco Antonio, la de su padre y de otras 17 personas en el trailer sin oxígeno al sur de Victoria, Texas, es un recordatorio de los riesgos a los que se enfrentan los inmigrantes indocumentados, y de los peligros a los que exponen a sus hijos pequeños por empleos y dinero.

"Estas pobres personas probablemente sabían que había algún riesgo pero seguro nunca pensaron que sería tan malo, tal como me pasó a mí", dice Guillermo Gallo, de 22 años, quien era vendedor de tacos en un puesto del Estado de México, y sufrió quemaduras de tercer grado por la puerta caliente de un trailer donde quedó atrapado en un viaje al norte de Texas, en julio pasado.

"Pero creo que la muerte de ese niño con su padre es la peor de las tragedias", afirma.
Sin embargo, a pesar del creciente número de agentes migratorios a lo largo de la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, los expertos en inmigración creen que cerca de 3 millones de personas cruzan ilegalmente la frontera desde México cada año.

Y a pesar de los terribles informes sobre las más recientes muertes de inmigrantes encerrados en trailers, muchos de estos, con sus cargas humanas, logran llegar a sus destinos sin problemas.

(Continúa Pagina 3)



Comentarios de Bidal Agüero

State Senator Robert Duncan is up to his old antics again. Now he is being accused of not being neutral when he acted as a self described facilitator between Texas and Farmers Insurance Group while both groups tried to come to a settlement when Farmers was accused of unfair pricing practices.

In a hearing being held in Houston before Judge Scott Jenkins, lawyers representing consumers who oppose the settlement are saying that Duncan's Lubbock law firm represented Farmers at least 20 times in the last few years.

The instance of Duncan also seemingly acting to the benefit of his own interests in the case of the building of Lubbock Heart Hospital is fresh on our minds. When Duncan opposed the new hospital, many questioned whether his opposition was spurred by the fact that he also represents Covenant Hospital. In that case the issue was dropped after the Hospitals apparently agreed to work together.

In our minds, Duncan needs to make a choice whether he elected to the State Senate to represent his clients or to represent the people of Texas. If he shows by his actions that he would rather represent his clients, it's time for voters to show him they disapprove.

I had an opportunity to attend the Si Se Puede Cinco de Mayo Banquet recently and want to commend the Fiestas del Llano committee for an excellent program. The event featured role models for our young people and provided an opportunity for the community to honor and give recognition to many public servants who tirelessly work for the betterment of the community. Our congratulation to all.

In last week's column I told you of an disagreement that my wife had with a Lubbock merchant. Mistakenly, I said that the business was Wilkinson Radiator Shop. It turns out that it was not Wilkinson management who my wife was complaining to but the management of another shop across the street. We offer our apologies to Wilkinson's. We have had opportunities to have work done with Wilkinson's and have been satisfied with their work.

Representation Without Voting

In an ironic twist to México's denial to allow the vote from abroad, the Democratic Revolution Party launched on May Day a new campaign in favor of Mexicans abroad. Ten migrants from Texas, California and Illinois became candidates for Congress in the mid-term July 6th election.

It is ironic because it reverses the old principle of "no taxation without representation." In this case, without voting, Mexican migrants could gain representation in the federal Chamber of Deputies. Their obvious first and more important task, should they get elected, would be to guarantee the right to vote from abroad and to elect representatives in the general election of 2006.

It's just a matter of imagination, they say. Members of the PRD (by its acronym in Spanish), discussed that the Mexican law sets either one of two conditions to be a candidate for congress: to have been born in the district for which representation is sought, or to have lived in the district for at least 6 months prior to the election. Obviously, the second requirement could not be fulfilled by any migrant, but the first one is a given one; everyone was born somewhere in México.

El infierno de los Indocumentados

Viene de la primera pagina

"Cada vez que veo por mi ventana en la carretera a un remolque de trailer, siempre pienso: "¿Qué habrá atrás en ese camión?", dice Becky Gregory de Plano, Texas, la subprocuradora estadounidense del Distrito Este de Texas, que se encarga de los casos de tráfico de personas más importantes en el estado. "Con el incremento del tráfico de camiones a través de la frontera se incrementa el problema ya que no podemos revisar todos los vehículos que pasan por el retén. Hasta que cese el atractivo de los empleos en Estados Unidos o hasta que la economía de México mejore, esto va a seguir ocurriendo", afirma David Ham, subdirector de la Patrulla Fronteriza en El Paso, Texas.

El año pasado, dos choferes en El Paso dejaron a más de 40 personas encerradas en un trailer sin ventilación. Cuando el viaje terminó 12 horas después, dos hombres habían muerto y otra decena tuvo que ser hospitalizada por deshidratación.

El jefe de una cadena de traficantes de ilegales de El Paso, quien organizó el viaje en el camión, Ruben Patrick Valdes, de 32 años, fue sentenciado a cadena perpetua el mes pasado por transporte de inmigrantes indocumentados resultante en asesinato de dos personas. También sus cómplices enfrentan sentencias que van de cinco años a cadena perpetua.

Cuando se le preguntó a Guillermo Gallo, quien ahora tiene un permiso provisional para trabajar en Estados Unidos y que pronto vencerá, si volvería a intentar ingresar a Estados Unidos en un trailer cerrado, lo pensó por un momento y luego dijo: "¡No! Ya supe lo que era el infierno!".

Besides the 300 congressmen elected in the same number of districts, México elects 200 other congressmen, based in the percentage of votes obtained by each party. It's a political math formula to avoid a supermajority by any one party in Congress. Those 200 congressmen do not belong to a particular electoral district, but rather to a region composed of six states. Migrant candidates did not have any problem qualifying for those candidacies, and their election will not depend on the non-permissible vote from abroad, but rather from people voting in México.

The bouncing vote Rather than "swinging votes," what the PRD is trying is to bounce an opinion that influences the vote, from non-voting immigrants in the United States to their voting families in México.

The campaign launched by the PRD is called "Vote For Me." It mainly consists in having U.S. Mexican migrants call their families in México and remind

them that voting from abroad is not possible, so those in México should vote for the PRD since it is the party that may get them representation in the Chamber of Deputies.

It's twice as difficult, since it is not possible to talk directly with the voters, but the strategy is not new. In the year 2000 then candidate Vicente Fox developed a network of "Friends of Fox" in the United States which paid and distributed, among other things, a long distance telephone card that before making the connection to México callers heard the candidate asking migrants to convince their families to "vote for change," which was his political slogan. As a less expensive campaign, the PRD in the USA is printing thousands of stickers to place on public phones reminding migrants to convince their families to vote for the PRD on July 6.

From the "Migrantgate" to the Dual Nationality

But it has not been easy for migrants to get the candidacies. Despite the ideological con-

sensus that migrants should vote and be represented in the Mexican congress, the Mexican parties are not ready to face the reality of such voting and representation.

When PRD delegates from New York, California, Illinois, Texas and Washington State showed up at the five electoral conventions held in five different states in México, their participation was challenged by the mainstream political expressions of the party. In a political convention where each vote and each delegate has been carefully counted, the sudden presence of dozens of new delegates threw all math to hell.

The participation of the "foreign legion", as some politicians dubbed the U.S. delegations, was compared to a "migrantgate". There were accusations of fraud and illegality, of lack of representation, of irregularity as party assemblies. One convention delegate went as far as stating that delegates from the U.S. should not be allowed to vote because they were "illegals" and people that were breaking the U.S. laws.

None of the negative arguments convinced the majority, and the delegations were allowed full participation and voting rights, but some political forces within the PRD had to rearrange their forces and votes in order not to lose candidacies to which

they thought there was already agreement.

As soon as the PRD announced its migrant candidacies, the Institutional Revolution Party, which governed México for 7 decades, started its own process not to be left behind. Initially the PRI sought the candidacies of two prominent Mexican businessmen residing in the United States, but a few days later recanted because of the status of dual nationality of its candidates.

Since 1998, in the wake of the Proposition 187, México has allowed dual nationality to its citizens, but the law is unclear in so many aspects. When dealing with the Constitution and migrant's candidacies, contradictions and legal loop-holes came into view. According to the Constitution, elected public offices should be reserved to those "Mexicans born in the territory and not holding other nationality," but according to the Nationality Law, those offices reserved for non-dual nationals should be expressly indicated. Migrants contend that the provision may be there, but there is no law that "expressly indicate" which offices are not opened for dual nationals.

Despite their efforts and closed meetings with the PRI National leadership and a support campaign from several migrants' organizations, the efforts did not

meet any success. In the middle of the debate, the PRI considered nominating the former Consul General in Los Angeles as a "migrant" candidate. In the end, it nominated no migrants.

The National Action Party (PAN) rejected outright any efforts from migrants to be nominated. It clearly established in its rules that Mexicans living abroad are to be considered only "sympathizers," not members of the party. Thus, pro-panista migrants had no chance to be nominated.

The sole exception to the rule is a former migrant who moved to México City after 20 years in the United States, and was nominated for a city's district. Nevertheless, his candidacy created an uproar at a PAN meeting when his campaign manager, also a former migrant student from Yale asked him something in English and he candidate answer also in English. For some panistas, this was a clear example of the "lack of loyalty" and proof that once someone became a migrant, he will lose connection with his motherland.

In the end, only the PRD is nominating migrants as candidates for congressmen. It will be a tough job to get them elected, but the party expects to advance in a strategy for the 2006 presidential election when, so they say, migrants will have finally conquered their right to cast ballots from abroad.

¿Que Pasa?

Attention Farmworkers!

Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation are currently assisting Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers. Proof of income and/or most recent tax return is required.

Contact Rosemary for more information at 744-4416 or go by to 1502 Erskine Street.

'Get out and vote'

Mayor Marc McDougal hosted a "Get Out and Vote" news conference on Wednesday and City Hall.

The Mayor challenged all Lubbock businesses to encourage employees to vote in the District 19 run off election on Tuesday, June 3.

Interim City Manager Tommy Gonzalez rolled out an announcement during the conference, which was for each city employee who voted could wearing casual clothing to work.

Upcoming Events at Library

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE PROGRAM AT GODEKE BRANCH LIBRARY

The Godeke Branch Library, 6601 Quaker, presents "Native American Culture" at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 27. Member(s) of the West Texas Native American Association will discuss the mythology, tribal beliefs and traditions of various Native American cultures. Native American pottery, weapons, beadwork, baskets, food and clothing will be on display. For more information call 792-6566.

Appreciation Event for Military Families

To show appreciation to the military families at home in the Lubbock area, we are having a special swimming party and "Getaway" afternoon for them at the swimming hole, Sunday afternoon, June 1.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Kim @ 239-0493 or Karan @ 828-3031.

Municipal Court to Change Hours of Operation

Effective June 3, the City of Lubbock Municipal Court will change its hours of operation for the court cashiers. The new hours will be 8:30 am - 5 pm. Cashiers currently work from 8 am to 5 pm.

The change of hours are to reduce the budget and will eliminate overtime for the cashiers.

Happy Birthday to my DAD! Joe Adam Riojas from your son Nicholas Ryan Riojas

Season Camp Staff For Summer Camp Needed
Summer employment with Girl Scouts at Camp Rio Blanco. Seasonal Staff needed June 1-July 28. Positions needed are Craft, and Waterfront directors, Lifeguard, Cook, Kitchen Assistants, Unit Leaders and Counselors. Contact Shannon Spencer at sspencer@girlscoutscaprock.com, or 806-745-2855 or 800-530-4957 for more information.

LUBBOCK HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Lubbock has approved the re-opening of the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program waiting list, you may schedule an appointment by calling (806) 762-8277. Beginning Monday, May 12, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. Applications will be taken by Appointment only. All interviews will take place at the Central Management Office located at 1708 Ave. G Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Houston, Texas - Las autoridades de Estados Unidos han arrestado a más personas presuntamente implicadas en la operación de contrabando humano en que 19 inmigrantes ilegales murieron sofocados en un camión-remolque la semana pasada en Texas, informaron el lunes fiscales federales.

Los funcionarios no dieron más detalles de inmediato, pero se esperaba una conferencia de prensa para la tarde del lunes. El conductor del camión, Tyrone Williams, fue arrestado el miércoles en Houston, horas después que 17 personas murieron, dentro y afuera del camión estacionado cerca de Victoria, mas de 160 kilómetros al sureste de Houston.

Dos personas más murieron después de ser hospitalizadas. El contenedor del vehículo llevaba entre 70 y 100 hombres, mujeres y niños originarios de México y América Central.

"Hemos tenido un notable éxito (en la investigación) con base en una buena labor policial e información proporcionada por los sobrevivientes", dijo el lunes Michael Shelby, fiscal estadounidense por el distrito sur de Texas, a la televisora de Houston KRIV.

Los investigadores creen que la operación de contrabando es parte de una mayor. Shelby agradeció al cónsul general mexicano Eduardo Ibarola por ayudarlo a convencer a los 49 sobrevivientes de que cooperaran proporcionando información sobre los muertos y sobre los que arreglaron el viaje. México impulsará investigación

Por su parte, el gobierno mexicano dijo el lunes que presionará por vías diplomáticas a Estados Unidos para esclarecer la muerte de 12 inmigrantes mexicanos en el estado de Texas, que fueron hallados la semana pasada en el vagón sellado de un camión de carga.

"Vamos a impulsar fuertemente a través de nuestros consulados el que se responda a la investigación adecuada y que esto quede bien esclarecido", dijo el canciller Luis Ernesto Derbez, tras la inauguración de un encuentro de ex presidentes latinoamericanos en la Ciudad de México.

"Lamentable es cualquier muerte de cualquier forma; esto

es todavía peor", agregó el funcionario.

"Ojalá las familias dieran un paso al frente y nos indicaran con claridad quiénes son los responsables de esto", dijo Derbez.

De acuerdo con cifras extraoficiales, las bandas de traficantes de seres humanos manejan más de 6.000 millones de dólares anuales, cifra equivalente a un 60 por ciento de las remesas que los inmigrantes mexicanos envían a sus familiares cada año.

Se calcula que decenas de mexicanos mueren anualmente en sus intentos por cruzar la inhóspita frontera entre México y Estados Unidos dentro de contenedores, vagones de ferrocarril o caminando por el desierto.

México busca legalizar a millones de mexicanos indocumentados en Estados Unidos. Los planes de concretar el ansiado acuerdo migratorio quedaron congelados después de los ataques del 11 de septiembre del 2001 en Estados Unidos, cuyo gobierno se concentró en reforzar sus fronteras y en la lucha contra el terrorismo.

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Foul mouths, not refs, to blame for Mavericks' loss to Spurs

Jim Cowlishaw

SAN ANTONIO — Three things we can usually be assured of with these Mavericks. They shoot threes like no one else, they shoot free throws like no one else and they shoot their mouths like no one else.

Few teams maintain such regular running dialogues with officiating crews. Like all of the good things in the Mavericks' organization (and there are many), everything starts at the top. And, occasionally, Mark Cuban's determination to question every blown whistle spills down into the team.

Even before things got silly and Don Nelson got himself tossed and Del Harris got himself tossed, the Mavs were on the officials. Steve Nash was holding up his arms in disbelief at three early foul calls, and he didn't even get into the technical foul column.

That separated him from Nelson (two and out), Harris (one and out), Nick Van Exel and Dirk Nowitzki (one each) in a 119-106 loss to the Spurs in Game 2 Wednesday night.

Nelson left early, and the Mavs followed his lead. They were down only 22-16 when Joey Crawford sent Nelson to the locker room but that lead grew to 26 before the midway mark of the second quarter.

"It took us a whole half to get our focus back," said Van Exel, who was off his game with 5-for-16 shooting. "By then, the game was already determined."

The Mavs grew frustrated immediately when they were getting called for reach-in fouls and for slapping at shooters, things they often do when they're playing poor fundamental defense. And the Mavs didn't like the lack of calls at the other end, Donnie Nelson said afterward.

His father's worst crime wasn't getting ejected from the game in the first quarter. It was leaving Nowitzki in the game after he picked up two early fouls. The fact that Foul No. 3 came on a bad call when Malik Rose actually lost the ball on the way up doesn't excuse anything.

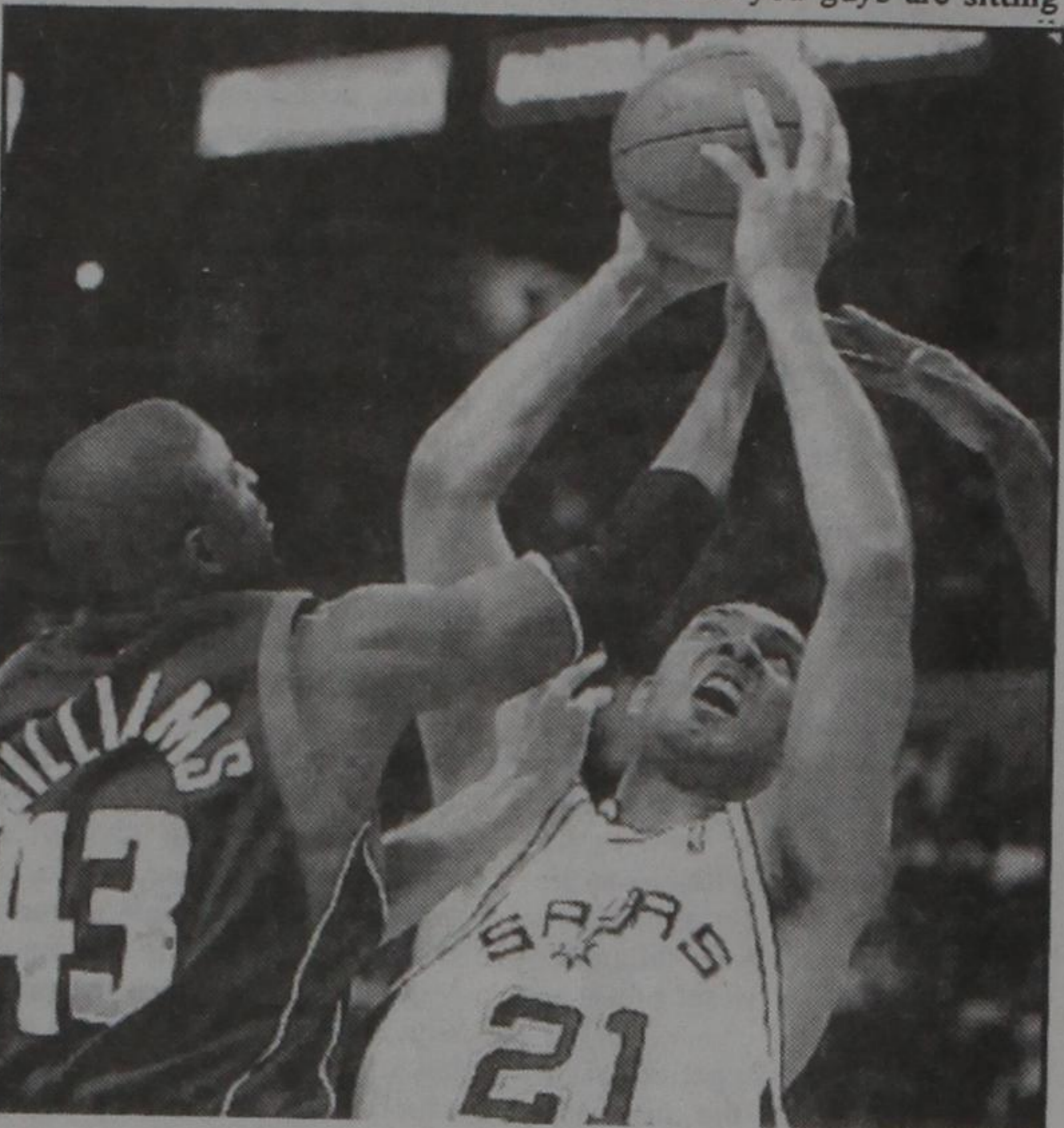
You always run the risk of losing a player early on a questionable call (ask Mr. Cuban about that), and that's exactly what happened.

It didn't turn out to be a costly mistake by Nelson because the Mavericks never really got back into the game, anyway. Nowitzki returned early in the second

quarter and actually played OK with three fouls after a bad start, but the Mavs were going, going gone with the Spurs holding a 25-point halftime lead.

rides them relentlessly during games but apparently has lost interest in drawing six-figure fines from the NBA office.

"The fact you guys are sitting



"In the first half, we complained about every call," Nowitzki said. "We have to just calm down and let our game speak for itself."

Cuban stayed diplomatic when asked about the refs. He still

here talking to me tells you all you need to know," Cuban said. "I don't have to say anything. What is obvious is obvious."

But the only obvious thing is that the Spurs are a more physical team, not to mention a more

Older Hispanics' Eyesight Suffers More

Older Hispanics suffer more visual impairments than their counterparts in other ethnic or racial groups.

So says the Los Angeles Latino Eye Study, the largest comprehensive study ever done to identify eye problems among Hispanics.

The five-year study included more than 6,200 Hispanic men and women over age 40 living in communities in and around the city of La Puente, Calif. Study volunteers were screened for eye disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

They were also interviewed about their eye disease risk factors such as weight, health-care access, family history of eye disease and alcohol use.

The study found Hispanics have the following rates of vi-

sion impairment: ages 65-69, more than 2 percent; ages 70-74, nearly 4 percent; ages 75-79, nearly 7 percent; ages 80-84, nearly 12 percent; 85 and older, nearly 18 percent.

"Latinos are expected to make up about 26 percent of the U.S. population by 2025. It's important to get an estimate of disease in Latinos, and we found that vision-related problems in this community that need to be addressed," study leader Dr. Rohit Varma, an associate professor of ophthalmology at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, says in a news release.

The study was presented recently at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Health Care is the issue among Democrats seeking Presidential Nomination

Health care coverage has been Topic 'A' among the Democrats seeking the party's nomination as they clash over the best way to help 41 million uninsured Americans. But what about their campaign employees?

Former Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, who championed universal health care in his 2000 campaign, was embarrassed when it was revealed that he hired temporary workers who didn't receive health benefits.

This time around, most of the Democratic campaigns say they are making sure that everyone is covered. Blue Cross-Blue Shield is the favorite plan of the would-be presidents, although they pay for their staffers' coverage varies.

All of the premium is covered by Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, each of whom announced proposals this week to expand government programs for the poor and allow others to buy into the health care plan that covers the president and Congress.

Kerry's campaign covers all its full-time employees, and part-time employees are allowed to buy in. Dean covers anyone who gets paid anything to work for him, according to his campaign.

Dean spokeswoman Tricia Enright couldn't resist making a plug for a position often taken on the campaign trail by her boss, who worked as an internist before entering politics.

"It's the kind of comprehensive plan that would not force employees into an HMO and have to leave the doctors they love," she said.

Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt has been championing a plan that would require companies to insure their workers, with 60 percent of the employer's cost paid by the government. Gephardt provides better for his aides — 75 percent of the premium is picked up by the campaign.

The campaign of Florida Sen. Bob Graham, the newest entry into the race, is still negotiating terms of coverage for its work-

ers. Graham spokesman Jamal Simmons said he couldn't reveal which company is providing the insurance until the details are worked out, but he said all staffers are offered coverage, including vision and mental health, and the campaign splits the cost 50-50 with the employees.

Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut covers 80 percent of the premium costs of medical coverage for all his paid campaign employees.

Kerry, Dean, Gephardt, Lieberman and Graham, who have pushed for a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, all include the benefit for their employees, their campaigns said.

North Carolina Sen. John Edwards' spokeswoman didn't respond to a request for the details of coverage offered by his campaign. But Edwards paid Blue Cross-Blue Shield more than \$14,000 during the first three months of the year, according to campaign finance reports.

Frank Watkins, campaign manager for Al Sharpton, said he's currently the only employee of the campaign. Watkins is taking a leave of absence from his job as press secretary for Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. and is maintaining the insurance provided for congressional employees through Blue Cross-Blue Shield. He said he hadn't determined his health care coverage plans for the staffers that he hires.

Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich and former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun are beginning to build their campaign staffs as well, but officials with their campaigns did not respond to inquiries about their coverage.

Corte de Texas Ratifica Pena Capital para "el asesino del ferrocarril"

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — La corte de apelaciones en lo criminal de Texas ratificó el miércoles la pena capital contra quien se diera a conocer como "el asesino del ferrocarril", un mexicano que admitió asesinar a más de 24 personas a lo largo de Estados Unidos.

Angel Maturino Reséndiz fue hallado culpable hace tres años de la violación y asesinato de la doctora Claudia Benton, de Houston, perpetrados el 17 de diciembre de 1998.

Reséndiz se había declarado inocente por su estado de demencia, y admitió haber perpetrado nueve homicidios a los que se le había vinculado entonces. Ahora la cantidad ha aumentado a 13, y él asegura haber asesinado a otras personas.

En una opinión disidente difundida el miércoles, los jueces Paul Womack y Cheryl Johnson dijeron que los abogados de Maturino Reséndiz debieron haber recibido autorización durante el juicio para exhibir fotos de otras víctimas de su cliente, para ilustrar una "prueba de locura", como querían argumentar.

La decisión de la corte 7-2, escrita por el magistrado Lawrence E. Meyers, dijo que el juez estatal de distrito William Harmon actuó debidamente cuando excluyó las fotos, alegando que distraerían a los miembros del jurado y causarían "retraso innecesario".

Maturino Reséndiz, un ciudadano mexicano, dijo que desea agilizar su ejecución.

Si Reséndiz opta por no apelar, Harmon dijo que convocará a una audiencia para determinar si es competente para tomar esa decisión, y en caso afirmativo fijará fecha para la ejecución.

En una entrevista reciente con la Associated Press, Maturino reiteró su pedido hecho en julio del 2001 de poner fin a sus apelaciones.

"Prefiero que se acabe todo", dijo. "Espero que acaben con esto".

El año pasado, Harmon falló que la primera apelación --que concluyó el miércoles-- es automática y debe realizarse independientemente de los deseos del reo.

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Final tuneup has encouraging signs for Sorenstam

It was just a practice round in a glad-handing pro-am Wednesday at the Colonial Country Club. Hit, giggle, joke, hit. Except there was a gallery of thousands, a driving rain and four amateur hackers to deal with -- merely happy to sail along in Annika Sorenstam's vapor trails.

Annika Sorenstam gets a high-five from a pro-am partner after her chip-in birdie on No. 4.

... and she still shot an impressive 1 over par here on before play was suspended after 10 holes. Had Sorenstam completed the round, it had the possibility of being her best round ever here. Better than the estimated 76 or 77 she shot here in March. Better than an informal practice round on Tuesday that could only be estimated -- from a 74 to an 82 according to observers.

So it was not a huge deal

Wednesday, but not to be dismissed either. Less than 24 hours before she teed off for real in competition against men, Sorenstam could not have been discouraged.

There was a fantastic chip-in for a birdie on the 246-yard par 3 No. 4. There were a pair of bogeys later before the horn blew suspending play -- and, perhaps, symbolically signaling the start of the rest of her career.

Will this just be a one-time attempt at the men's tour when play begins Thursday? Will Sorenstam be slapped right back to the women's tour after this novel try? Or will she open a door sealed tighter than any in American sports?

Not one that doesn't allow women to play, one that says women can't play the men's game.



Sorenstam has been a deer in the headlights -- outside the ropes. The media attention, the bigness of the whole thing has obviously intimidated her. But inside the ropes, she has been the metronome that has been consistently good enough to win 43 career tournaments. After two days of watching her bump around the course, there is a buzz here that she could do it.

Make the cut.

The implications are obvious. Egos would be bruised. History would be changed. The last time this happened, Babe Zaharias made the cut at the Los Angeles Open in 1945.

"When she goes back (to the

LPGA), I'm sure she's going to have a great experience here, having to deal with all of this that's going on is a big thing for her," defending champion Nick Price said. "I'm as interested as anyone to see how well she does."

So are thousands who ruined clothes and probably caught colds in the rain that struck for the second consecutive day.

"She's dynamic," said Johnson, who plays Colonial four or five times a year as a guest of a member. "I think she's got a chance to do very well. I think they have the odds 4-1 against her in Vegas making the cut. The target score is 77.5. I took the under."

De La Hoya's only focus is Mosley

Oscar De La Hoya doesn't want to be an actor or singer anymore. He just wants to box, and his entire focus is on his rematch with Shane Mosley.

"This is the big one. This is for all the marbles," De La Hoya said Wednesday. "I will definitely be hungrier than ever, more than what I was for (Fernando) Vargas, because the fact that Mosley beat me."

De La Hoya has sought rematches with Mosley and Felix Trinidad, the only fighters to beat him. But Trinidad says he's retired, so De La Hoya is going after Mosley.

Mosley defeated De La Hoya in a 12-round decision in June 2000 in Los Angeles.

"He never hurt me," Mosley said, smiling. "He hit me with a left hook and it didn't hurt."

Their rematch for the super welterweight title is Sept. 13 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I took the fight because I need to get myself back on top," said Mosley, who will receive \$4.5 million -- the amount he got three years ago.

"He's probably going to make close to \$20 (million)."

But outside the ring, there's no animosity between the two local fighters who have known each other for years. De La Hoya grew up in East Los Angeles, while Mosley is from suburban Pomona.

"I respect him and he's a good man," said Mosley, who knows his importance to De La Hoya now that Trinidad is out of the picture.

"I'm fortunate to get this opportunity. At the same token, Oscar is fortunate to be able to fight me again, so we're fortunate to have each other."

Neither fighter knocked the other at a news conference, although De La Hoya's trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., took a few shots at Mosley by reciting an expletive-laced poem.

"He doesn't do the talking for me, but he gets under the skin of my opponents," De La Hoya said of Mayweather, clad in a pale pink suit. "He might hurt his image, but not mine."

Mosley and his father-trainer, Jack, laughed at Mayweather's rhymes. But Mosley gave Mayweather little credit for improving De La Hoya's fighting style.

"He's still the same De La Hoya to me, but there's some things he added to his technique," he said. "I can do a lot of different things. I can attack, I can box, I can go side-to-side. I can really change my style up in the fight, whereas De La Hoya has to work on a certain style and implement that certain style. That's going to be the difference in the fight."

De La Hoya said he's analyzed tape of the first bout "forever and forever."

"I should have used more jabs," he said. "I wasn't in good shape. This time around it's a whole different story."

After watching the tape an estimated 50 times, De La Hoya scored the first half in his favor and the second half for Mosley.

"I felt like the loser that night," he said. "He didn't blow me away whatsoever. It was such a close fight. I thought it would have gone to me."

Mosley used his speed to beat De La Hoya, who is working on using his right hand more.

"What I have to do to counter that is use a lot of jabs, like there is no tomorrow," De La Hoya said. "Now I can put my punches together with my right hand."

Since beating De La Hoya, Mosley has lost twice to Vernon Forrest and in February his fight with Raul Marquez was declared a no contest because Marquez was cut in head butts.

"It's not like I've been winning and this is going to be another fight," he said. "I lost a couple of times and I'm hungry. I want to win and he wants to win, so it's going to be a terrific fight."

De La Hoya retained his 154-pound title by beating Yory Boy Campas two weeks ago. He sprained his left hand in the bout, and began rehabilitation Wednesday.

"I would think in three weeks it's behind us," said Tony Daly, De La Hoya's physician. "I don't anticipate any problems."

Promoter Bob Arum said less than 2,400 of the 15,000 tickets remain available at a cost of \$800 and \$1,200.

"She's the best lady golfer in the world," said Atlanta businessman Phil Johnson while watching Sorenstam tee off on the seventh hole. "I'd like to see

Viene de la Pagina Dos

Crispin Castellano del oeste de Nueva York dice que quiere saber sólo una cosa: "¿a cuántas personas tiene que matar Fidel para que el mundo se dé cuenta que es otro Saddam Hussein y que hay que derrocarlo?"

De hecho, la guerra en Irak ha sido caldo de cultivo para la discusión alrededor de las mesas de dominó. Ya que no se han encontrado armas de destrucción masiva, y por lo que la administración de Bush dice ahora que la guerra se justifica simplemente porque eliminó a un dictador abusivo y represivo, la pregunta que todos albergan es: "¿y qué de Fidel?"

Pérez, con el eco del pelotón en los oídos todavía, pide una explicación. "Simplemente quiero entender. ¿Por qué atraviesan medio mundo los americanos para eliminar a un dictador mientras que dejan a otro cometiendo crímenes contra la humanidad a sólo 90 millas de su costa?"

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her win to see what those old boys down in Augusta would do if they had to invite her."

Winning has hardly been mentioned. Competing, just staying in the hunt for this slight 32-year-old is the thing. The obstacles are many -- the Colonial is a tougher course than most anything she has played in competition. The media glare is intense. The pressure, well, only she knows how she will react when the golf counts for real.

When asked if she felt like she was making history, Sorenstam said: "It seems like it, yeah, it sure does."

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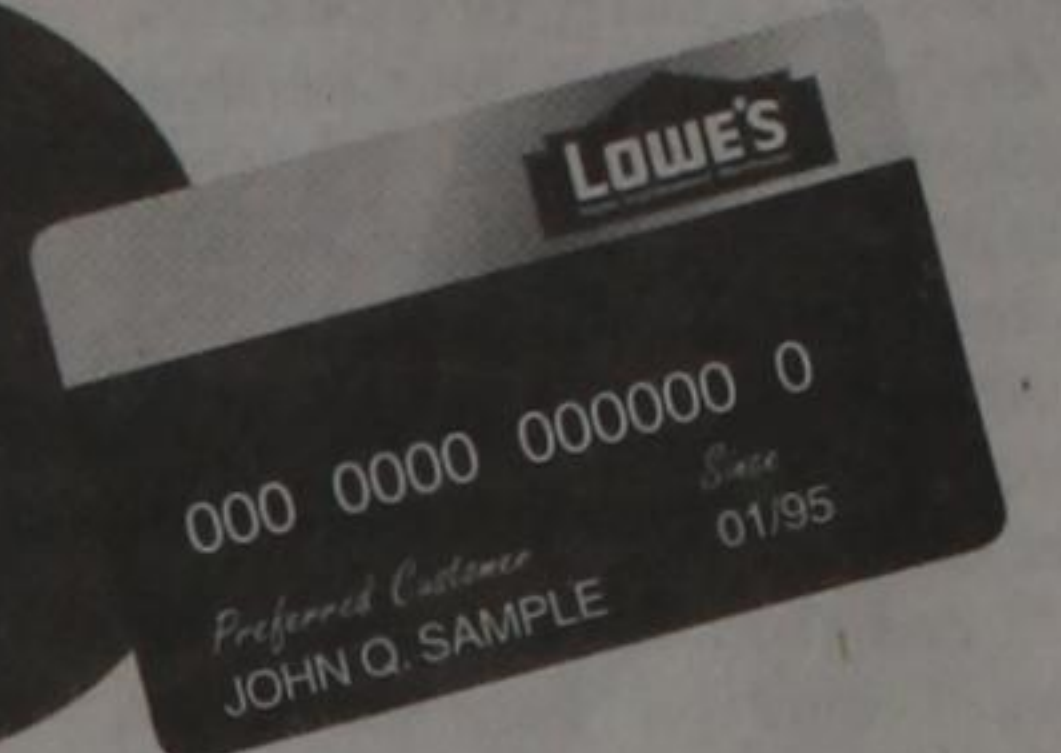
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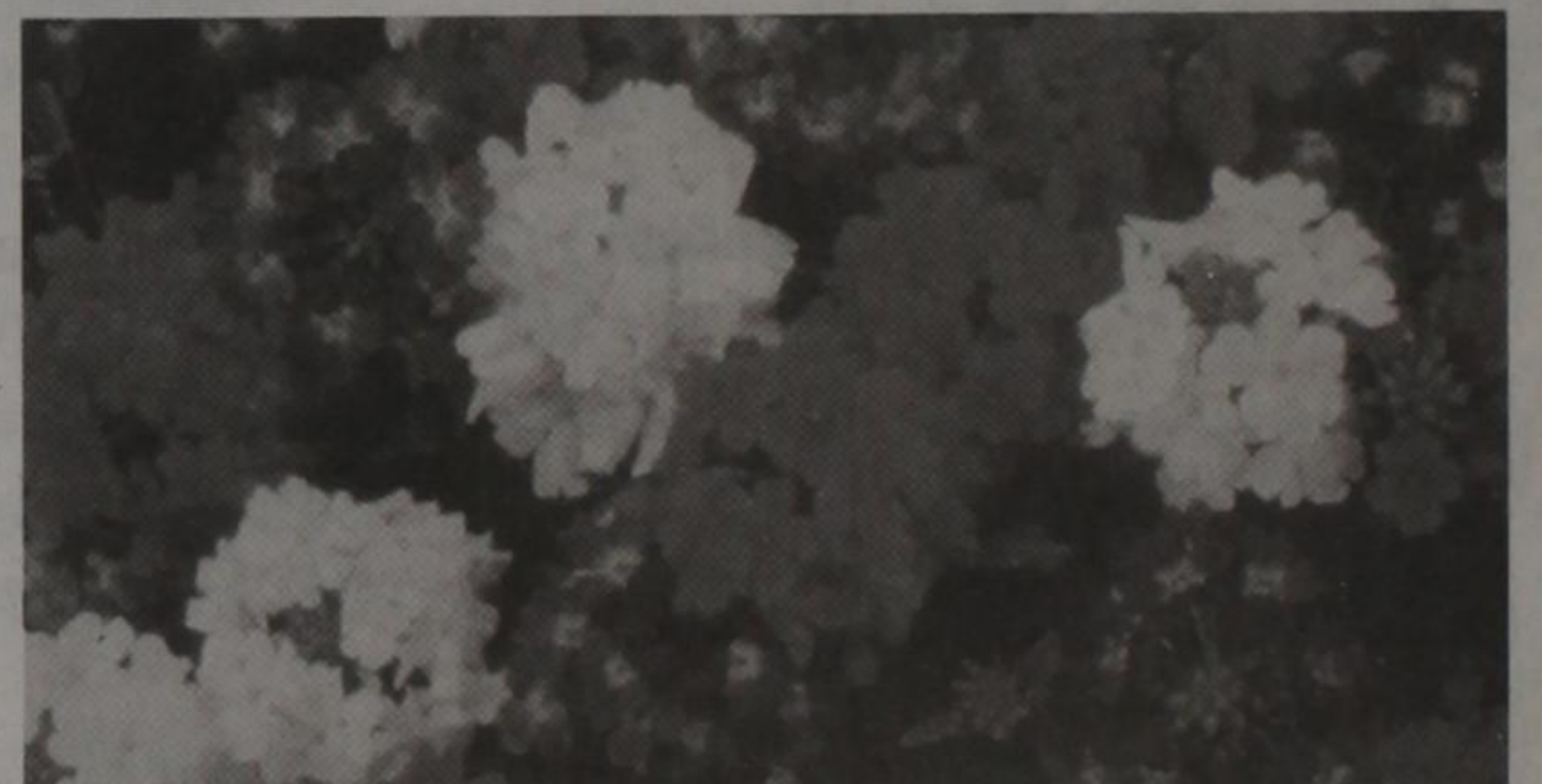
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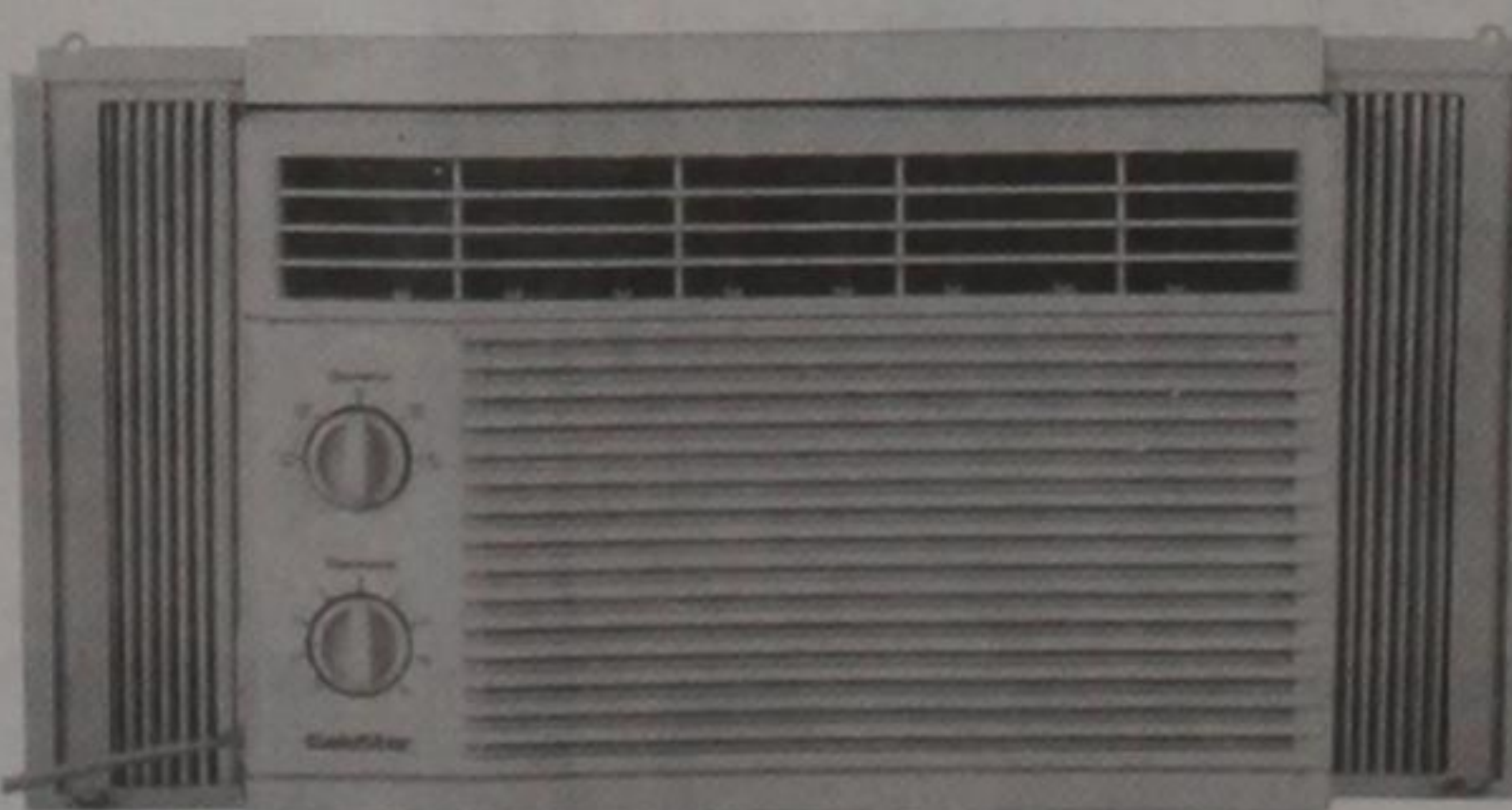
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