

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Searching for Answers; Part II

LPD and Lubbock County Racial Profiling Data Examined

By Abel Cruz

According to the Lubbock Police Department, 49,566 traffic stops occurred in the city of Lubbock in 2005. In Lubbock County, that number dropped considerably, with only 409 traffic stops taking place.

Both the LPD and county Sheriff's departments keep records detailing not only total number of stops, but data which includes race categories, the number of searches, consent searches, and total number of arrests.

LPD figures showed that whites

stopped in 2005, 45%, or 178, resulted in searches prompted for one reason or another. In these cases, officers have reason or probable cause to search a vehicle. But in the area, where a person is asked to consent to a search of their vehicle based on whatever criteria the officer decides to base his/her request on; other than probable cause, the number jumps to 50% of the city total.

Out of 151 consent search requests, Hispanic drivers were asked to submit to a search 75 times, or 50% of the total number. Anglos

accounted for 59% of total stops in the city, with Hispanics accounting for 30% and African Americans accounting for 10%. When compared with the latest census population figures for Lubbock, there are noticeable gaps between number of stops by racial group and the percentage of population that a particular group represents.



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For example, while Anglos make up 72.9% of the city's population, they only accounted for 59% of the stops. Hispanics represent 27.5% of the population yet represented 30% of the stops; African Americans accounted for 10% of stops while making up 8.7% of the total population. In the case of Lubbock's minority groups, the percentages of stops were higher, but reversed in the case of Anglo drivers.

When other data such as "Search", "Consent" and "Arrest" is examined closely, the gaps are even more noticeable; with the most glaring being in the areas of consent and arrest.

Out of the 14,665 Hispanics

were consent searched only in 36 cases, or 24%, twice less than Hispanics. African Americans were consent searched in 40 instances, or 26% of the total.

Equally disturbing, are the disparities in the number of arrests resulting from traffic stops which last year amounted to 491. Out of that number, Hispanics again represented the largest number, accounting for close to half, or 49% of all arrests. Anglos accounted for 26% and blacks for 25%.

In these 2 categories, it is clear that Hispanics in Lubbock represent twice the number than those of Anglos and African Americans. In this case, one could conclude that Hispanic drivers are twice as likely as Anglo motorists to be consent searched, as was confirmed in a recently released report by the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition.

In Lubbock County, where 409 traffic stops occurred, the gap between number of stops and popula-

tion percentage for Hispanics and blacks was considerably wider. In 2005, whites accounted for 49% of the total number, with Hispanics making up 43% of the total and blacks accounting for 7%.

One could reasonably expect the breakdown by race percentages to be in line with general population numbers. But in Lubbock County, that was not the case when comparing the Hispanic population to the number of Hispanic's stopped.

In Lubbock County, Hispanics account for 27.45% of the total population. But last year, Hispanics accounted for 43% of the total stops. This clearly shows a disparity between population percentages and stops. Black motorists on the other hand, represented 7% of the total stops; which is in line since that racial group makes up 7.67% of the city's population. But that trend was reversed when one looks at the number of white motorists who were stopped. While Anglos represent 74.30% of the county's population, whites accounted for only 49% of the total stops.

Undoubtedly a reverse situation exists when comparing the relationship between percent of population and number of stops for Hispanics and African Americans versus Anglos stopped.

When Lubbock County numbers are examined, one sees that the total number of stops or contacts which result in searches amounted to 51. Hispanics represent 37% of the total, while Anglos make up 55% of the total. Again, the numbers are not

reflective of the respective group's population percentages; with the Anglo number being lower and Hispanic number being higher.

In the area of consent searches, the number for Hispanics was almost identical to that of whites, even though Anglos represent over twice the number than that of Hispanics (74.30% Anglo vs. 27.45% Hispanic) in the county.

What is interesting to note, is that the number of searches of Hispanics in the category of "searches with probable cause" was zero. Contrary to common perception, Hispanics are more often asked to consent to a search of their vehicle without probable cause as opposed to one where an officer has probable cause to do so.

Conclusion

Whichever way one looks at these numbers, it is obvious that in both the city and the county, Hispanics and blacks are stopped at a much higher percentage than Anglos. In all categories, Hispanics and blacks represented a larger percentage of the total when compared to the percentage of population that each respective group represents.

Why is that?

As in most cases, that is just one of the questions, among many, that will go unanswered. In an effort to clear up the disparity, El Editor sent emails to both the LPD and Lubbock County Sheriff's office asking specific questions relating to the reports which they had provided to El Editor.

Our emails went unanswered.

	RACE	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER	TOTAL
ACTION:						
Total # of stops/contacts		200 (49%)	29 (7%)	173 (43%)	4 (1%)	406
Total # of stops/contacts with searches		28 (55%)	4 (8%)	19 (37%)	0	51
Total # of consent searches		20 (49%)	1 (7%)	18 (44%)	0	41
Total # of searches with probable cause		8 (80%)	2 (20%)	0	0	10
Total # of stops/contacts that ended with custodial arrest		2 (80%)	1 (6%)	8 (44%)	0	11

Source: Lubbock County Sheriff's Department
A closer look at the numbers:
Hispanics accounted for 43% of total stops
Hispanics were consent searched for 49% of total consent searches
Hispanics make up 27.5% of the total county population

LPD 2005 Racial Profiling Data

Race	Percent of Population	Traffic Stops	%	Searched	%	Consent Searched	%	Arrests	%
(M/F Combined)									
Anglo	72.90%	29,451	59	111	28	36	24	128	26
Hispanic	27.50%	14,665	30	178	45	75	50	240	49
African American	8.70%	4,850	10	108	27	40	28	122	25
Asian	1.50%	325	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Middle Eastern	Unknown	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native American	0.60%	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		48,566		397	0.8	151	0.3	491	1

Source: Lubbock Police Department
A look at the Hispanic Numbers
Hispanics make up 27.5% of total population and 30% of total traffic stops
Hispanics were searched at a higher rate (45%) than all other groups
Hispanics were consent searched twice as many times (50%) as whites and blacks
Hispanics accounted for almost 50% of total arrests; twice the number of whites and blacks

Chulo Congressional Choice

By José de la Isla

The same week President Bush delivered the State of the Union in January, the administration filed a Supreme Court brief supporting a Texas redistricting plan designed by then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

The idea was to put a Republican majority in the state's congressional delegation. It succeeded famously, adding five seats. But DeLay has since been indicted for money-laundering to finance the 2003 plan.

Texas' 28th congressional district is often used to showcase what's wrong with allowing incumbents to redraw their own district boundaries following each decennial Census. The 28th stretches along Interstate 35, northeast of San Antonio, through 11 counties and nearly 200 miles to the border with Mexico at Laredo. The gerrymandering was patently intended to deny liberal incumbents like Ciro Rodríguez of San Antonio safe seats. Rodríguez, who chaired the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, was completing his fourth term.

In 2003, a jubilant Tom DeLay told Republican National Hispanic Assembly members meeting in Houston, "They (Democrats) will lecture, but we will lead." He said white Democrats intended to keep Hispanic representation down - but that would change under the Republican plan.

When redistricting came up for a vote in the legislature, 11 Democratic state senators, including five Hispanics, fled to neighboring New Mexico. The "Texas Eleven" were on the lamb, with real Texas Rangers in pursuit for more than 30 days until one senator caved in and returned to create the necessary quorum to get the GOP redistricting bill passed.

After the Republican plan was approved, a court challenge followed, which now awaits a Supreme Court

decision.

In the first party primaries of 2004 under redistricting, Henry Cuéllar - beloved by the GOP for his maverick, often conservative positions - defeated the liberal Rodríguez in the Democratic primary. He won by only 58 votes after two recounts.

This January, when President Bush moved past well-wishers as he headed to the speaker's rostrum to deliver the State of the Union address at the Capitol, he approached Cuéllar and affectionately cupped the Democratic congressman's face with both hands.

The moment was captured by Associated Press photographer Rick Lipski, whose shot quickly traveled the Internet.

Rodríguez, trying for a comeback, and having fundraising problems, seized on the photo. He produced a leaflet saying, "Bush thinks Henry Cuéllar is 'chulo.'"

The word, widely interpreted as "pretty boy," also may infer sly and deceitful. "Chulo" leaves a lot to the imagination and may explain why it caused such a stir.

In one week, another \$80,000 in contributions rolled in for Rodríguez. Running against first-term incumbent Cuéllar, who was regularly being wooed by Republicans to switch his party allegiance, Rodríguez had gained endorsements by Sen. John Kerry (Mass.) and Reps. John Murtha (Pa.), Lloyd Doggett (Tex.) and Loretta Sánchez (Calif.). He received donations from 15 House Democrats - a rare practice for members of the same party to defeat one of their own.

Democrats have had it in for Cuéllar especially after he voted with Republicans in favor of the Central American Free Trade Agreement,

which passed 217 to 215. Cuéllar was also the first Democrat endorsed by the conservative Club for Growth.

Rumors persisted that Cuéllar would turn Republican after the general election.

Cuéllar won the March 7 Democratic primary, 53 percent to Rodríguez's 41 percent of the vote.

Local Civic Leader to Seek At-Large Seat for LISD Board

Christy Martinez, an active member of the Lubbock community, has thrown her hat into the ring for the Lubbock Independent School District board of trustee at-large seat.

Martinez, 38, has been a working member of PTA for ten years.

"The children are the main reason that I am seeking this office. We must do everything in our power to sustain public education and reassure our children the value of an education... and teachers their value being educators."

Martinez said that recent events around the closing of O.L. Slaton led her to decide that parents should play a more important role in decisions impacting public schools, as well as creating retention programs, and maintaining magnet school and gifted and talented programs.

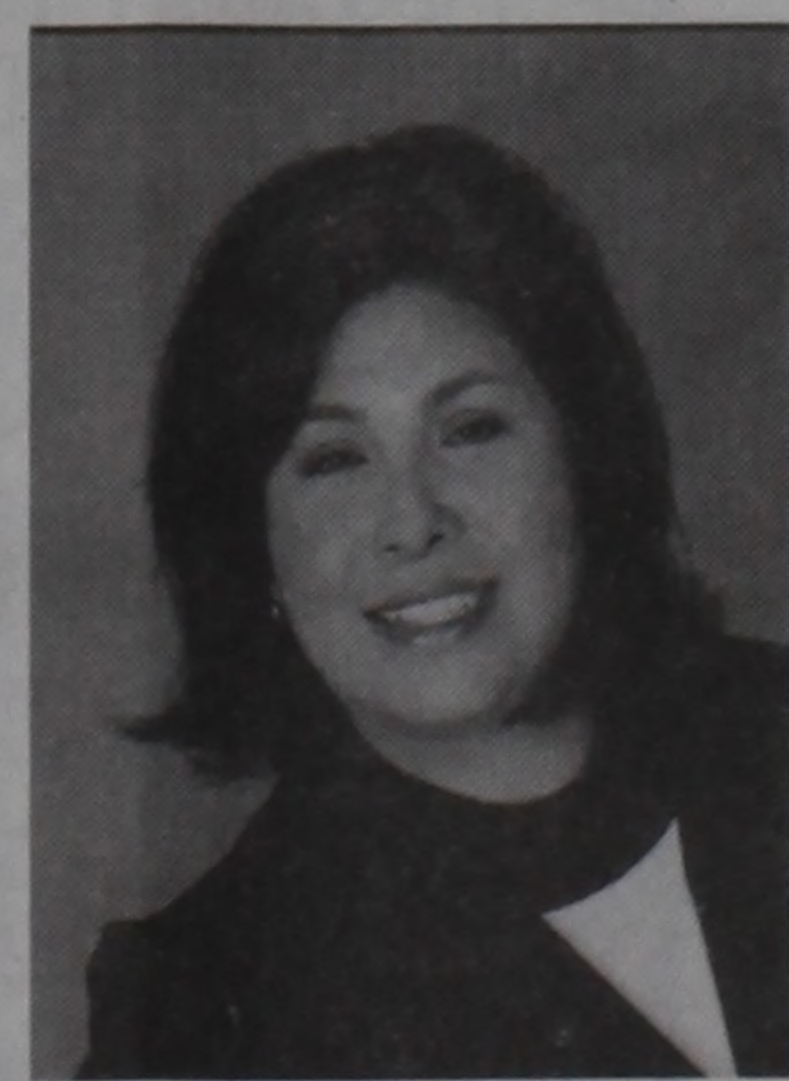
Martinez and her husband Frank Garcia have a daughter Amaris who attends junior high in LISD.

Martinez a Lubbock High School and Texas Tech graduate, is involved in numerous boards in the community and in her church.

Martinez, a part time free lance writer and consultant, says that her time is flexible and will allow her to dedicate necessary time to meet the needs of the school board.

Even the name of school teacher Victor Morales, who made an impressive challenge to then-U.S. Senator Phil Gramm in 1996 - on the ballot didn't siphon away enough votes to deny Cuéllar a majority.

St. Mary's University professor Andrew Hernández attributes Cuéllar's victory mainly to a strong voter turnout in Cuéllar's home base in Laredo



So for now, drivers will just have to assume that events such as consent searches and arrests resulting from traffic stops are not a result of one's skin color.

But that's a big assumption, one that shouldn't have to be made, and

one that surely cannot be substantiated by the data provided by those whose mission it is to "serve and protect".

EE Researcher Kathleen Nacozy contributed to this story Email: acruzsc@aol.com

COMMUNITY VOICES

Last week's story about racial profiling brought a couple of more responses from readers.

This week, readers were asked to share their views about the most important issues in either the upcoming Lubbock City Council or Lubbock Independent School District elections.

As usual, "Community Voices" provides an opportunity for readers to express their views on a variety of topics and issues. We invite you to submit your comments.

This is in reply to Mr. Perez's letter defending the disproportional consent searches for Hispanics. He makes the point that these searches should be in greater number than for non-Hispanics because "We [Hispanics] allow drug dealers and users to live in our neighborhoods and now we pay the price of our complicity."

I wish the drug problem was so easy to define. It has permeated all races and social classes. This appears to be a "which came first scenario". Are more minorities arrested for drug crimes because more are searched, or vice versa?

Johnnie Jones, Lubbock via Email

The Law I thought, was suppose to be out there "To protect and to Serve" Instead it has turned into an intimidation to the general public especially the Hispanic and Black community in my opinion. I can be driving down the road and if a police car drives up to me, behind me or beside me, instead of feeling at ease because he is the Law I'm sorry to say I feel completely the opposite because of the things I hear and see that the Law does completely illegal even to shoot a person while he is sitting down with a gun on National TV. If I we as a citizens are expected to follow laws and it's understood, the law themselves should follow the law too, especially if they are the law. Racial profiling and Consent to Search without Probable Cause is Illegal this has always been a problem it has been going on for years it's just now coming to the surface on a full scale and it's not going to correct itself. We as citizens have to step up if we want change. If this City thinks that the more cops we have the better off will be and that crime will be lower, then this City that claims to be the Giant Side of Texas has a problem.

Henry F. Martinez, Lubbock via email

Upcoming Election Issues

I still feel that the school districts need to get back to the basics of teaching what students need to learn. Now, the state has mandated SO many tests that children don't learn what they are supposed to learn. Remember when it was considered reading, writing and arithmetic as essential, plus a few other classes? Yes, we had our achievement tests, but teachers did not take the extra time to prepare us for those. It seems the government is not concerned with the children learning. They are more concerned with statistics.

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email

The major issue in the city political races is the Mayoral race. People are beginning to see Tom Martin retouch his image as he has begun his appeal to the masses to elect him as Mayor of Lubbock. What the masses may not be aware of is his record of bad and immoral decisions during his City Council term. Two Hispanic elderly people froze to death under Tom Martin's watch because they couldn't afford to heat their homes and utility pulled the plug on them. Alfredo and Adita Quiroz froze to death in their home because they were unable to pay their energy bill. If the Tom Martin cared, the power would have never been unplugged and the Quiroz's would still be alive, but Tom Martin commenting about his meddling with utility company budgets said "We cut the general fund budget by \$10 million" and "We had to quit spending money on things that weren't productive" (http://www.lubbockonline.com/special/leaders/martin.shtml).

No one is going to spend time in jail for this offense to the community. So now add unproductive old Hispanic people to Tom Martin's list of people he doesn't care for. Tom Martin voted to stop free speech by voting for a constitutionally questionable paranoid 7 day waiting period rule for meeting agenda items to control television broadcasted City Council morning meetings and to control the outraged citizens in the Lubbock Hispanic community who were angry about the behavior of City Council members toward Linda DeLeon; Lubbock's sole Hispanic representative on the council, the unequal funding the City Council has been providing south Lubbock, and denying equitable treatment for the predominantly minority populated north and east sides of town. I am surprised no lawyers here in town have taken the Council to court over disparate treatment violations. Oh, I forgot, our lawyers are too busy running for political offices for their own personal gain.

Ninety-three Lubbock families paid \$600,000 to have loved ones buried in a mausoleum at the city cemetery. The city under Tom Martin's watch still has not built the mausoleum. Now years later, the city of Lubbock is trying to fix its "broken promises" (http://kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=4549739); however Tom Martin has decided to vote against building the mausoleum. So not only does he have disrespect for the living he cares nothing for the dead of the Lubbock community.

Do we want him as a leader? One can only wonder what other city services Tom Martin wants to deny the public as Mayor of Lubbock? Finally, the question of Tom Martin's competence is a major issue.

In a report from (http://www.lubbockonline.com/special/leaders/martin.shtml) Tom Martin said, "We have also spent a considerable amount of time securing our (Lubbock's) 100 year water supply so we have the water to be able to grow in the future." However according to a K CBD News Channel 11 report (http://kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=4549739) Tom Martin said, "Quite frankly it's going to take four hurricanes passing over the Texas Panhandle to be able to fill up Lake Meredith." Ok, so do we have a 100 year water supply for Lubbock or do we have a few decades of usable water left? I am not convinced Tom "W" Martin knows how much water Lubbock has left.

I am convinced that Tom Martin is not who I want for Mayor of Lubbock. He is liable to avoid securing water for Lubbock just like he was directly responsible for not securing ample reserve funding for utility companies to provide heating for the poor of Lubbock. People died because of his poor leadership! Wake up Lubbock! This man has no love or respect for his fellow human beings, especially the Hispanic human beings. He loves money and values balanced budgets over human lives, especially Hispanic human lives. He acts of selfishness and greed are not the convolution of this writer, they are facts on public record. Follow the links in this article and connect the dots. Tom Martin is guilty of neglecting his responsibilities to the people of Lubbock and is not worthy of being the Mayor of this great City.

Jerry Perez, Lubbock via Email

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruzsc@aol.com

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Obstacle Course for Hispanics

How to Get a Job on Capitol Hill

By Marc Heller

What's the best route to a job on Capitol Hill?

Not through the classified ads, the most current congressional employment survey shows.

Word of mouth remains the top means to get hired in a lawmaker's office - and an obstacle to Latinos trying to break into that world.

Ninety-three percent of members' offices in the U.S. House of Representatives say they use word of mouth to recruit for staff openings, making networking by far the most common means to find a job, the Congressional Management Foundation reports.

Hill opportunities for Hispanics have improved over the years, but still have a distance to go. When Hispanic Link News Service conducted the first such survey 23 years ago, the figure was less than one percent. Most recent data available show that Hispanics, now 14 percent of the nation's population, held 5.7 percent of the nearly 11,000 jobs in Congress in 2004.

However, say current and former staffers, Hispanic hiring and advancement on the Hill remain hampered by history. Only a handful of Latinos have reached positions where they can significantly influence such

personnel decisions, says Adrian Saenz, press secretary for Rep. Charles González (D-Texas). Saenz is president of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association, which has a membership of about 100.

Without an inside track, Hispanics may be stuck in positions that look good to constituents - such as staff assistants or caseworkers in district offices - but have little influence on policy and offer no connections in Washington.

That was true 20 years ago, too, says A. Mario Castillo, staff director on the House Agriculture Committee under Rep. Enrique "Kika" de la Garza (D-Texas) in the 1980s. "They tended to give token jobs in district offices, for window dressing."

Several longtime congressional staff members claim that Hispanics with sufficient high-pressure Hill experience leave to accept better-paying positions with lobbying outfits or other private sector employers.

A third of House offices surveyed said their biggest recruiting problem is relatively low pay for the types of skills needed, the CMF notes.

"All you can do is cast as wide a net as you can," says Albert Jáquez, former chief of staff to Rep. Esteban Torres (D-Calif.) and now administrator of

the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., a federal agency that manages ship traffic on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Jáquez says many of the high-achieving Hispanic staffers he knew came from middle- and lower-income families and did not want to work forever at the salaries congressional offices pay.

In addition, equal employment opportunity laws which help open doors for Hispanics in other work venues do not apply to Congress, which exempts itself from the requirements. About one in ten respondents to CMF's survey mentioned limited diversity in the employment pool.

The nonprofit Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute reports no difficulty finding Latinos eager to work on Capitol Hill. Choosing from dozens of internship applicants annually, the CHCI enrolls about 50 college students and recent graduates into a fully paid fellowship program that includes up to nine-month placement in congressional offices. It has no trouble placing fellows in lawmakers' offices (at no cost to the House members), says spokeswoman Laura Téllez.

"Typically, they're doing special projects. They're not just answering the phones," Téllez

comments.

Advertisements are one of the least-used means of recruiting, the CMF found. Fewer than a quarter reported ever using advertising or non-congressional resume services, it said.

Even internships, a frequent route to Capitol Hill jobs, are often filled through word of mouth, congressional staffers say.

Party politics play a role, too, explains Chris Gallegos, press secretary to Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.). "I think there's some real recruitment," he says, adding that Republicans have to try harder because the Hispanic population has traditionally leaned Democratic.

Some Senate offices require legal degrees of applicants for the most senior policy positions. This limits the pool to groups most represented in law schools.

But as more Hispanics graduate with bachelor's and advanced degrees, and the Hispanic population across the country continues to grow, Latinos should gain numbers and influence on Capitol Hill, Gallegos maintains. "It's becoming more recognized that Hispanics are a population to be reckoned with."

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Recorrido de Obstáculos Para Hispanos

COMO CONSEGUIR UN EMPLEO EN EL CONGRESO

(Segundo de dos artículos) Marc Heller

¿Cuál es el mejor camino a un puesto en el Capitolio?

No es por medio de los avisos clasificados, según indica la encuesta más reciente de empleos en el Congreso.

A quién conoces sigue siendo la mejor manera de ser contratado por un legislador - y un obstáculo para los latinos que intentan entrar en el mundo.

El noventa y tres por ciento de oficinas de miembros de la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos indica que se valen de una red informal para reclutar cuando hay vacantes en planilla, cuando esta red la manera más utilizada para encontrar un puesto, reporta la Congressional Management Foundation (CMF por sus siglas en inglés).

Con el paso de los años se han abierto mayores oportunidades para hispanos en el Congreso, pero todavía falta mucho camino que recorrer. Cuando Hispanic Link News Service realizó la primera encuesta de esta información hace 23 años, la cifra no llegaba al uno por ciento. La información más reciente disponible indica que los hispanos, que son ahora el 14 por

ciento de la población nacional, contaban en el 2004 con el 5.7 por ciento de los 11,000 empleos del Congreso.

No obstante, empleados actuales y antiguos indican que la contratación y la promoción de hispanos en el Congreso siguen trabadas por la historia. Sólo un puñado de latinos ha llegado a posiciones de las que pueden influenciar de manera significativa tales decisiones de contratación, explica Adrian Saenz, secretaria de prensa del representante demócrata por Texas, Charles González. Saenz es presidente de la Congressional Hispanic Staff Association (asociación de empleados hispanos del Congreso), que cuenta con unos cien miembros.

Sin tener acceso a la red informal, los hispanos pueden quedarse estancados en puestos que a ojos de los electores se ven bien - como asistentes o trabajadores de casos en oficinas distritales - pero que surten poca influencia sobre la política y que no ofrecen ninguna conexión con Washington.

Así era hace 20 años, también, dice A. Mario Castillo, director de personal del Comité sobre Agricultura de la Cámara de Representantes, bajo representante demó-

crata por Texas, Enrique "Kika" de la Garza, durante la década de los ochenta. "Solían dar trabajos simbólicos en las oficinas distritales, para aparentar".

Varios empleados del Congreso con muchos años de servicio alegan que los hispanos con suficiente experiencia de alta presión en el Congreso dejan sus puestos para otros que pagan mejor en organizaciones de cabildero u otros del sector privado.

Un tercio de las oficinas encuestadas en la Cámara indicaron que su mayor problema en cuanto a reclutar es la paga relativamente baja para el tipo de destrezas que se necesita, nota la CMF.

"Todo lo que se puede hacer es arrojar la red lo más ampliamente posible", dice Albert Jáquez, anterior jefe de personal del representante demócrata por California, Esteban Torres, y actualmente gerente de la empresa St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., una agencia federal que maneja el tráfico de navíos de los Great Lakes y el río St. Lawrence.

Jáquez cuenta que muchos de los empleados hispanos altamente exitosos que conocía venían de familias de medianos o bajos ingresos, y que no querían trabajar

eternamente al nivel del salario que pagan las oficinas del Congreso.

Además, las leyes de igualdad de oportunidades, que ayudan a abrir puertas para los hispanos en otros ámbitos laborales, no aplican al Congreso, que se exenta de los requisitos. Aproximadamente una de cada diez personas encuestadas mencionó la diversidad limitada del grupo de reclutas.

La organización sin fines de lucro, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI por sus siglas en inglés), reporta que no tiene ninguna dificultad en encontrar a latinos ansiosos de trabajar en el Congreso. Al seleccionar de entre docenas de solicitantes, el CHCI matricula a unos 50 estudiantes universitarios y recién egresados al programa de internado cada año, en el que los internados reciben salario. El programa incluye empleo en oficinas del Congreso con duración de hasta nueve meses. No tiene problemas en colocar a los internados en oficinas de legisladores (sin costo alguno a los representantes de la Cámara), indica vocera Laura Téllez.

"Por lo general se dedican a proyectos especiales. No están simplemente contestando los teléfonos", comenta Téllez.

Los avisos publicitarios son uno de los medios menos utilizados para reclutar, encontró la CMF. Menos de un cuarto de los encuestados indicó no haber usado nunca avisos publicitarios o servicios de empleo que no pertenecieran al Congreso.

Hasta los puestos para internados, una ruta frecuente a empleos en el Congreso, se llenan con la red informal, dicen los empleados del Congreso.

La política de los partidos tiene un papel, también, explica Chris Gallegos, secretaria de prensa del senador republicano por Nuevo México, Pete Domenici. "Si creo que existe un programa verdadero para reclutar," dice, agregando que los republicanos tienen que poner más esfuerzo en reclutar por lo que la población hispana de tradición se ha orientado hacia los demócratas.

Algunas oficinas del Senado requieren que los solicitantes tengan títulos en derecho para las posiciones más altas de política pública, lo cual limita la candidatura a grupos de mayor representación en las escuelas de derecho.

No obstante, al graduarse más hispanos con títulos universitarios y títulos de estudios avanzados, y al crecer la población hispana por todo el país, los latinos ganarán mayor representación e influencia en el Capitolio, mantiene Gallegos. "Se reconoce más y más que los hispanos son una población con la que hay que ver".

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Take a Memo; Please!

By Abel Cruz

Memo: To Councilman Floyd Price:

Please explain how you can lead an effort to spend \$250,000 or so for a new entrance to the city cemetery because the city is going into the mausoleum selling business, but can only find \$35,000 in city funds to provide relief for those citizens who cannot afford to heat their homes.

Is it really necessary to build a new entrance just because the city is going into the burial arrangement business; which I hear is not a "repeat customer" type of industry anyway? Is it because you feel that people who can afford this type of burial arrangement won't buy if they have to go through the existing entrance because they might be scared to go through a "scary" part of the neighborhood?

Thank goodness we have had a mild winter; otherwise, the council may have had to scrounge around to find another couple of thousand bucks to keep the "living" warm.

Signed,

A cold and shivering Eastsider

Memo: To VP Cheney,

Shot anybody lately that you might have forgotten to tell us about?

Signed,

Cockeyed Joe

Memo: To U. S. District Judge Sam Cummings:

Let's see, former state board of education member Montie Hasie, along with 3 of his business associates are found guilty by a jury of their peers on criminal charges which include money laundering and conspiracy. Then, Hasie's attorney files a motion for acquittal and you deny the request.

Now, all of a sudden, you flip flop, reverse your decision and all of a sudden Montie Hasie is no longer packing his PJ's and getting ready for his vacation at La Tuna?

Please, explain how someone who has been found guilty by a jury is all of a sudden not guilty? Did the jury convict on phantom evidence? Was the jury that incompetent? If so, why did you not say something during the trial? If the possibility exists that a judge can so easily overturn a jury's verdict, and do so without explanation, why would any citizen want to, or bother to serve on a jury?

Signed,

An unhappy potential juror

Memo: To AJ reporter James Gallagher

In a story in the Saturday March 4 edition of the AJ about the District Attorney's race between Tommy Turner and Matt Powell, you refer to Rebecca Hernandez as an "unhappy crime victim". Question: When have you ever met, or heard of, a "happy" crime victim?

How happy do you think Ms. Hernandez should feel after she had her civil rights violated and was humiliated by someone who had sworn to uphold the law and protect this city's residents? And then had to watch helplessly as the former cop Blake Littlejohn walked away with a slap on the wrist, because the DA's office was so incompetent in this case?

Signed,

A former subscriber

Memo: To victims advocate Pam Alexander, with the Lubbock Victim's Assistance Service

In the same story referred to in the above memo, you are quoted as saying that your organization did not offer assistance to Ms. Hernandez "because her outstanding warrants qualified her as a criminal".

As someone who leads a non profit organization funded with federal tax dollars, do you get to decide who qualifies as a "victim" or is the criteria you applied in this case a federal guideline which your organization has to abide by?

Or, is it something that you just came up with so that you wouldn't have to bother with a case such as this?

If a person has an outstanding warrant for not paying a traffic ticket and happens to fall victim to a crime such as assault or even worse, rape, will your organization not help them because they have an outstanding warrant against them and you consider them a criminal? Do you check a victim's background before deciding to offer assistance or not?

Did you even bother to look into Ms. Hernandez's situation to see what the outstanding warrants were all about? Does it make the crime that took place in this case, any less disgusting just because the "victim" had outstanding warrants? Does it make the victim any less of a victim?

Signed,

A taxpayer who would rather not have his tax dollars fund an organization that seems to pick and choose which "crime victims" they help

Memo: To all city and county elected officials

Does it not bother any of you that Hispanics and African Americans in this city and county, who you represent, get stopped and searched in disproportionate numbers both in the city by the LPD and in Lubbock County?

Signed,

An anonymous Hispanic driver who promises to never forget to use his signal light when making a turn

Memo: To Christy Martinez Garcia, Candidate for LISD School Board-At Large

Congratulations on taking a leap of faith and deciding to take a stand for education! As you probably already know, there are many issues surrounding our education system that never get discussed; like high drop out rates, a high rate of high school teen pregnancies, equal education opportunities that lead to higher education opportunities, and, community school closings, among many others.

For stepping out and "walking the walk" I say "Congratulations and Buena Suerte!"

Signed,

A concerned citizen who has heard the false slogan, "no child left behind", one too many times

Memo: To Tom Martin, candidate for Lubbock Mayor

Otto von Bismarck, the first chancellor of the German empire in 1871; also known as the "Iron Chancellor", once said "People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election".

No reason for this memo; just thought you might enjoy a quote by von Bismarck.

Signed,

A city voter

Memo: To Mayor Marc McDougal

OK. We know that you are a "short timer" and also, have just a short time left in office. But can't you at least act interested during council meetings and not be in such a hurry to take care of city business so you can go to another property closing; or wherever it is you go? Just think, you only have a couple of months to break your own personal "recusal record".

Never mind, from what I hear, you'll never see this anyway. Apparently you don't read this "minority paper".

Signed,

You'll never know since you don't read this "minority paper"

Email: acruzsc@aol.com

EL EDITOR

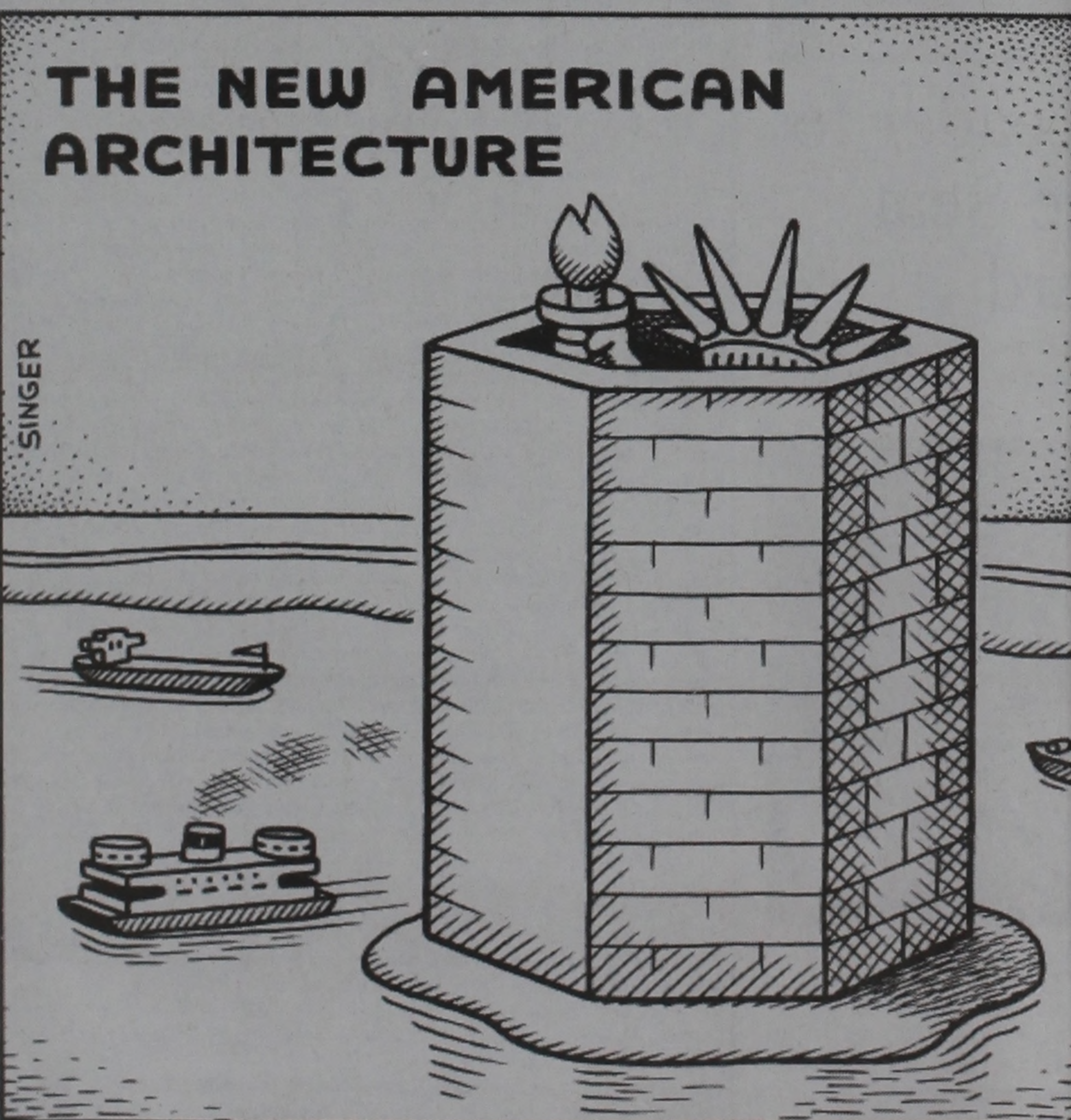
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Los comerciantes de Estados Unidos piden legalización de indocumentados

La Cámara de Comercio Americana (ACC) solicitó al Congreso estadounidense que apruebe una ley para la legalización de los indocumentados y la regularización del fenómeno migratorio lo antes posible, ante la inminente falta de trabajadores que Estados Unidos sufrirá a partir del 2010 debido a las jubilaciones laborales.

"Se debe dar una solución ya, porque en el 2010 tendremos un problema inminente con la falta de trabajadores norteamericanos", alertó Larry Rubin, director general de dicha asociación empresarial.

Calificó de prioritaria la adopción de una reforma migratoria por parte del Poder Legislativo en Washington, ya que en los próximos cuatro años "67 millones de norteamericanos se retirarán".

A nombre de las numerosas empresas norteamericanas que operan en México, de diversos rubros, el dirigente hizo ver que la población del país vecino del norte es, en promedio, de una edad más avanzada que la mexicana.

"La población norteamericana es una población adulta, en cuestión de edades, en gran porcentaje, y por el contrario, la población mexicana es joven", recalcó, en conferencia de prensa.

Por consiguiente, Rubin consideró que en la solución a este serio problema de tipo laboral, que representa la nula renovación generacional en Estados Unidos, con los indocumentados "hay unas sinergias que se pueden cumplir bastante bien".

Anticipó que, de no cubrirse las plazas de trabajo que dejarán vacantes millones de empleados en las industrias de bienes y servicios, la economía del vecino país del norte sufrirá un severo impacto.

La petición de la ACC, a favor de la regularización migratoria, se produjo durante la etapa en la que los senadores federales norteamericanos someten a debate toda

Siete muertos por fuegos en Texas y Nuevo México

Los bomberos combatían ayer incendios forestales que quemaron cientos de miles de hectáreas de las llanuras del sur y forzaron la evacuación de varias poblaciones pequeñas, además de matar a por lo menos siete personas.

Las llamaradas quemaron más de 267,100 hectáreas de Texas y 40,470 de Nuevo México.

Uno de los incendios más persistentes estaba a unos 16 kilómetros al norte de Pampa, en Texas, y el viento lo empujaba hacia la población ayer en la mañana, dijo Donny Hooper, portavoz del departamento de emergencias del condado Gray.

"Esa es la mayor preocupación en este momento", manifestó Hooper.

Los 11 incendios que aún ardían ayer representaban unas 214,488 hectáreas del total, dijo Rachael Novier, portavoz del gobernador Rick Perry. Eran parte de los 162 incendios por los que habían respondido las cuadrillas estatales en las 24 horas anteriores, dijo.

Las autoridades estatales habían evacuado a unas 1,900 personas en siete condados, agregó.

"Esta ha sido una temporada de incendios forestales muy letal, pero las comunidades de Texas han mostrado fortaleza, y continuaremos combatiendo estos incendios desde tierra y desde el aire", declaró Novier.

Un portavoz del servicio forestal de Texas, Warren Bielenberg, dijo que "este es probablemente uno de los peores días de incendios en la historia" del estado.

Desde el 26 de diciembre, se han incendiado cerca de 1.4 millones de hectáreas en Texas, según las autoridades.

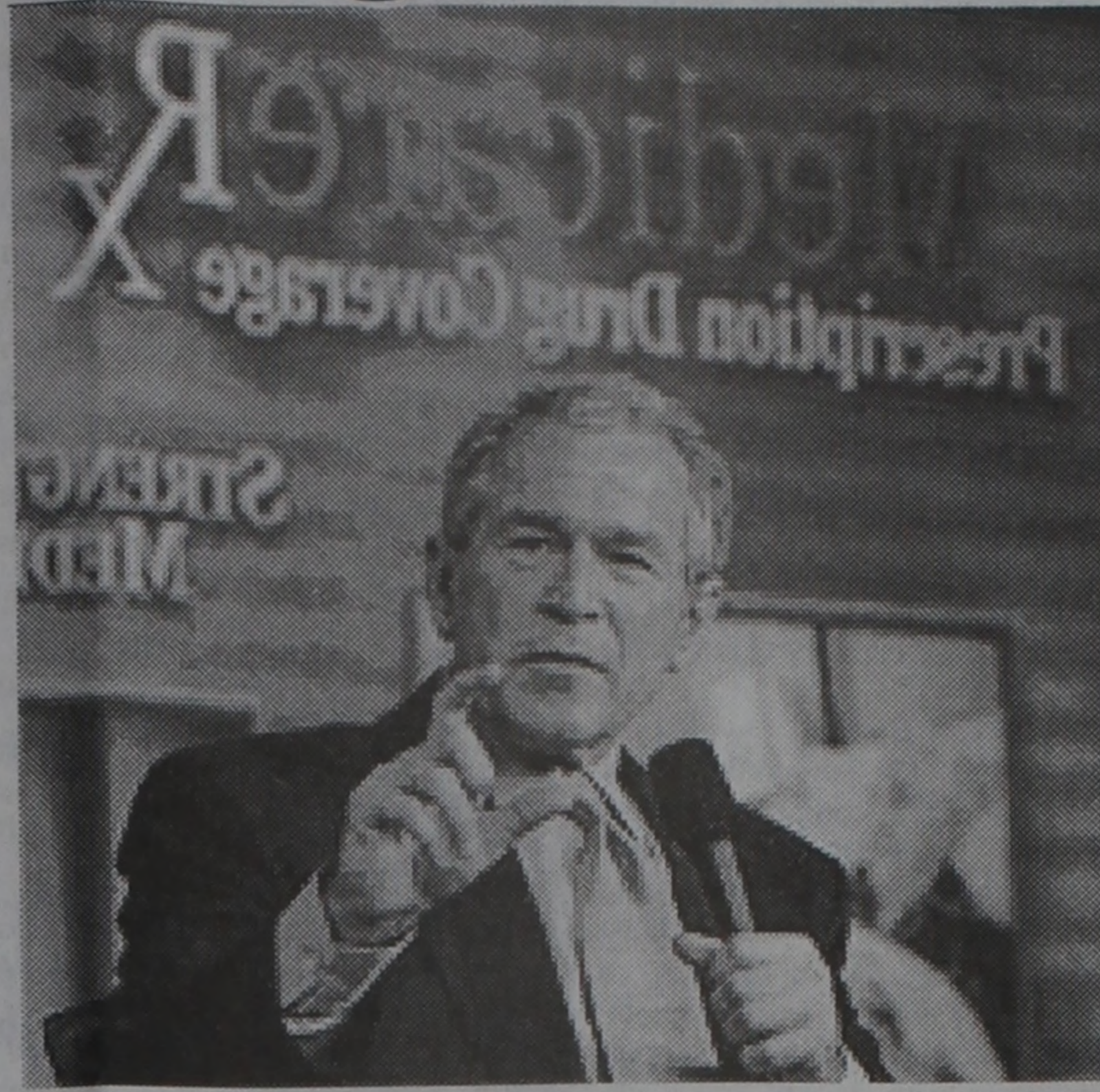
Bush faces more trouble over immigration bill

President George W. Bush, whose administration suffered a stinging setback over a Dubai company's deal to operate some U.S. port terminals, faces another brewing Republican revolt over immigration reform.

With the full Senate due to take up the issue before the end of March, Republicans are split over what to do about the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Whichever way they turn, some part of their governing coalition will be furious, analysts said.

The issue could also antagonize Hispanic voters -- a swing group Bush has targeted as a source of Republican growth -- before November elections in which Democrats are seeking to regain control of Congress.

"I have seen virtually no agreement on anything when it comes to this immigration bill. Emotions are running at an all-time high," said Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter (news, bio, voting record),



chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He spoke as debate began in his committee on an ambitious overhaul of U.S. immigration law.

Specter is pushing Bush's proposal to create a guest-worker program for jobs that Americans either cannot or will not do. The committee is also trying to agree on a provision for illegal aliens to gain legal status.

That has angered a sizable anti-immigration wing in the Republican Party. More than 90 House members, nearly all Republicans, have joined a caucus headed by Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo, who has vowed to derail Bush's guest-worker plan and any legislation that smacks of what he calls "amnesty" for illegal immigrants.

"There is a loud group of anti-immigration folks out there for whom this is the main issue they care about. They make a lot of noise, send e-mails and write and call their congressional representatives," said John Gay of the National Restaurant Association, which backs a guest-worker program and a way for illegal immigrants to become legal.

"This issue splits both parties but it splits the Republicans more," he said. In a debate roiled by charges of xenophobia and lax security, Republican lawmakers broke with Bush this month and forced a Dubai company pull back from its plans to acquire management of some terminal operations in six major U.S. ports.

On immigration, Massachusetts Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy (news, bio, voting record) has pushed for a guest-worker program and a path for legalization, but many Democrats have been content to watch the Republicans fight, said Steve Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies.

One Republican aide said the party needed a major accomplishment before the November election. But others doubt an immigration overhaul can pass this year because the issue is so divisive. The House of Representatives,

where anti-immigration sentiments are stronger than in the Senate, passed a bill last December to tighten border security and toughen enforcement against illegal immigrants.

700 MILES OF FENCE

It included money to build 700 miles of fencing along the Mexican border. But there was no guest-worker program and no mechanism for illegal aliens to become legal.

"The House bill electrified the Hispanic community. Tens of

thousands have showed up for rallies against it. This could really turn out the Latino vote in the November mid-term elections," said Michele Waslin of the National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization.

The House bill also included a clause stating that anyone who helps undocumented immigrants live or remain in the United States, or transports or harbors them knowingly, could face prosecution and even imprisonment.

Opponents said the provision could make criminals out of doctors, social workers, welfare agencies, teachers or priests who assist illegal immigrants. Supporters said the provision was aimed at alien smugglers and those who knowingly exploit illegal immigrants by giving them low-wage jobs.

Bush won 44 percent of the Latino vote in the 2004 presidential election. But he may have little influence on the immigration debate because of his low approval rating, said Tamar Jacoby, an immigration expert with the Manhattan Institute think-tank.

Polls show Americans are worried about the porous southern border. However, a Time Magazine poll in January found around three quarters favored allowing illegal immigrants to become legal if they learned English, had a job and paid taxes.

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Rep. Delwin and Rita Jones wish to thank our friends volunteers and supporters



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April 4th, 2006
College of Human Sciences Room 169
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Key Note Speaker
Louis Mendoza, Ph.D.

Author of *Historia: The Literary Making of Chicana and Chicano History*, Chair of the Department of Chicano Studies University of Minnesota

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Room 212
5:10 - 6:00 p.m.
Emilio Abeyta, J.D.
What is Affirmative Action, Really?
6:10 - 7:00 p.m.
Daniel U. Sánchez, Oral Historian
Incorporating Cultural Awareness Into Collection Practices



Room 216
5:10 - 6:00 p.m.
A Panel of Different Cultures
Moderator: Dr. Maria Bermudez
6:10 - 7:00 p.m.
Black Faculty/Staff Association
African Americans and Hispanics Working Together

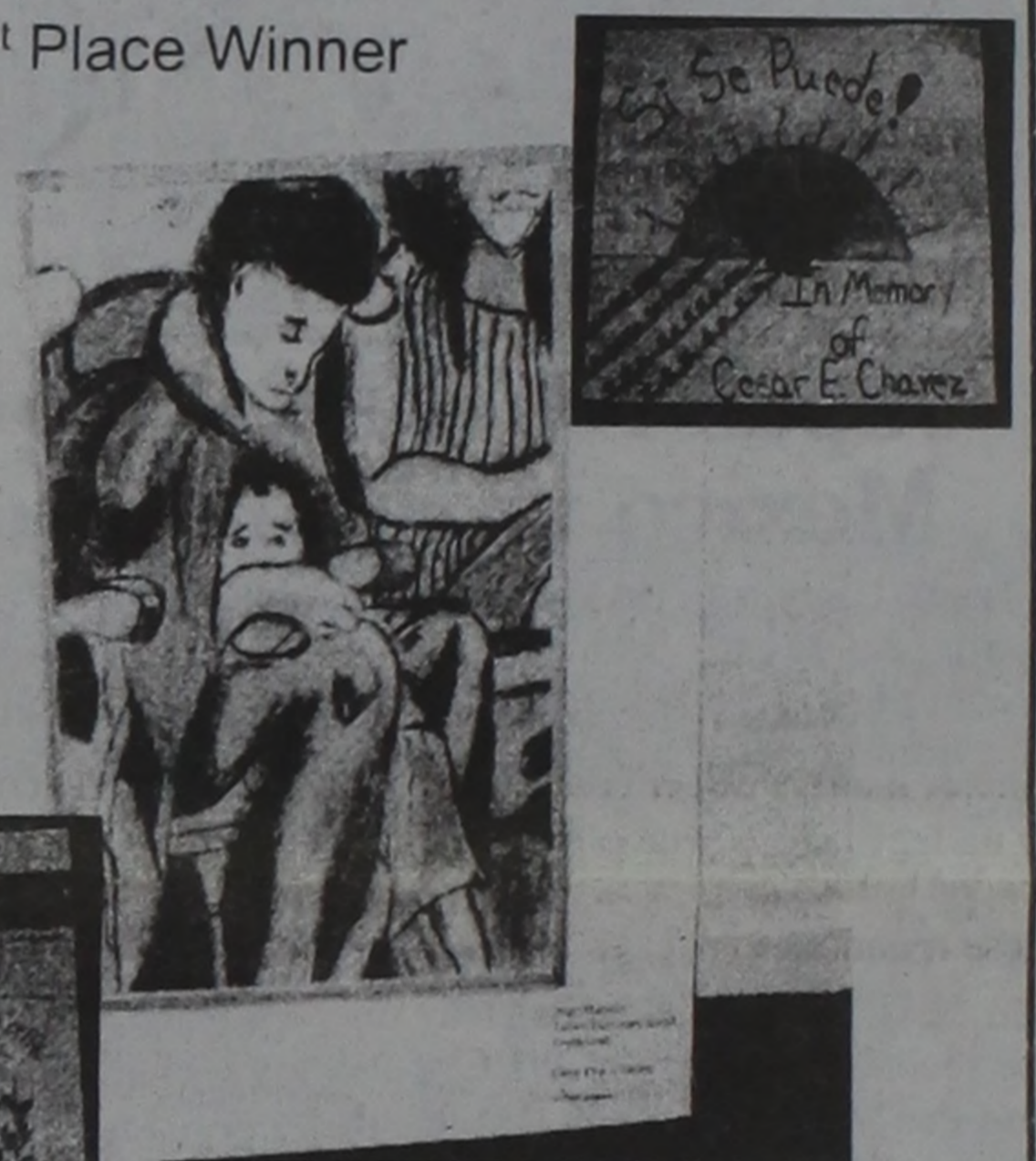
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2005 1st Place Winner



Requirements:

Student Age 9-18yrs
Art work size must be 8 x 10 or larger
No computer art submissions
Deadline: March 20, 2006



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Are you or a loved one affected by heart health issues? Covenant Heart Institute invites you to join us for our "Heart Matters" breakfast club. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences with others who are dealing with matters of the heart. The Heart Matters breakfast club is open to the public and free of charge. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

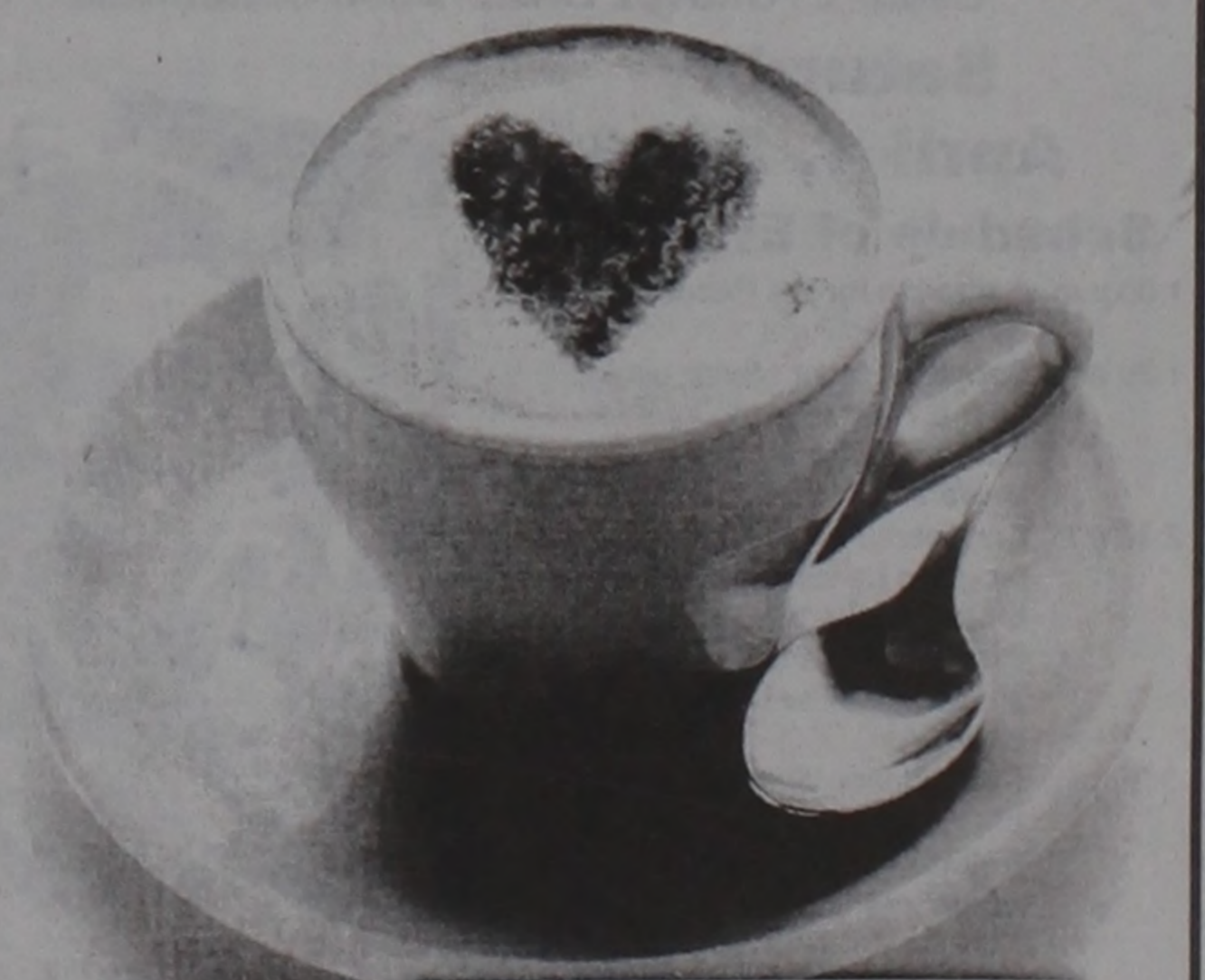
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Nominate Your Hispana of the Year for the following categories:

Education, Medical, Legal, Civic/Church, Media/Public Relations, Business/Professional & Youth

Hispana will be Recognized at the Hispanic Association of Women Annual Hispana & Scholarship Awards Banquet on April 8, 2006

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Call 793-3321 for application



Hispanic Association of Women Serving our Community for over 20 years!

Johnson Out to Best 82-game Mark for Coach in NBA History

On the night Avery Johnson moved into the NBA record book, the Dallas Mavericks made their defense-oriented coach proud with a little history of their own.

The injury-depleted Mavs erased a 19-point deficit by holding the Cleveland Cavaliers to only eight points in the third quarter -- the fewest they've ever allowed in any quarter -- and kept rallying for a 91-87 victory Tuesday night, giving Johnson his record 66th victory over his first 82 games in charge.

Johnson helped inspire the comeback by calmly telling his players at halftime that he wanted them "to play like they're on the playground, it's 7-7, 8 is game and if you lose you've got to wait an hour to get back on the court."

"Everyone responded," said Jerry Stackhouse, who started the second half and was on the court throughout the comeback. "We knew it was just a bad first half."

Dirk Nowitzki and Marquis Daniels combined for 20 points during Dallas' 29-4 run from the opening minutes of the third quarter to the start of the fourth. The streak took the Mavericks

from being down by 19 points to leading by six.

The Cavaliers never went back in front, although they were within 86-84 after a basket by LeBron James with 15 seconds left. The Mavs held on by making 5-of-6 foul shots and seeing Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas miss three straight tip-in attempts on one possession.

"The third quarter was a disaster," said James, who had 36 points and 12 rebounds. "They put pressure on us and we couldn't make shots. If we want to be an elite team, we can't let teams come back like that."

Nowitzki finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds, Jason Terry scored 20 points and Daniels had 17. Erick Dampier had seven points and 13 rebounds, plus made one of the biggest plays during the comeback, a clean block of a dunk attempt by Drew Gooden that left Dampier screaming with delight and teammates bumping chests.

"Any time you get a block like that, it sets a tone for the defense," Dampier said. "It seemed like we stepped it up from there."



Playing without starters Josh Howard and Adrian Griffin, and also missing key reserve Devin Harris, Dallas remained tied with San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference and hit 50 wins for the sixth straight season. The Mavs also swept East teams at home for the first time in team history, going 15-0.

Johnson was guaranteed of having the most coaching victories after the equivalent of a full season regardless of the result; the previous mark was 62 by Paul Westphal. Yet the way the Mavs played the first half, they seemed headed toward only his second two-game losing streak.

Dallas started undrafted rookie Rawle Marshall and even had him covering James. Fellow rookie Josh Powell joined Marshall on the court in the first quarter and the Mavs played like a ragtag bunch, missing not only shots but passes, too. They had a season-low 34 points at the break. Nowitzki missed 10 of his first 11 shots, while James and Ilgauskas were having their way.

The locker room could've been especially deflated at halftime be-

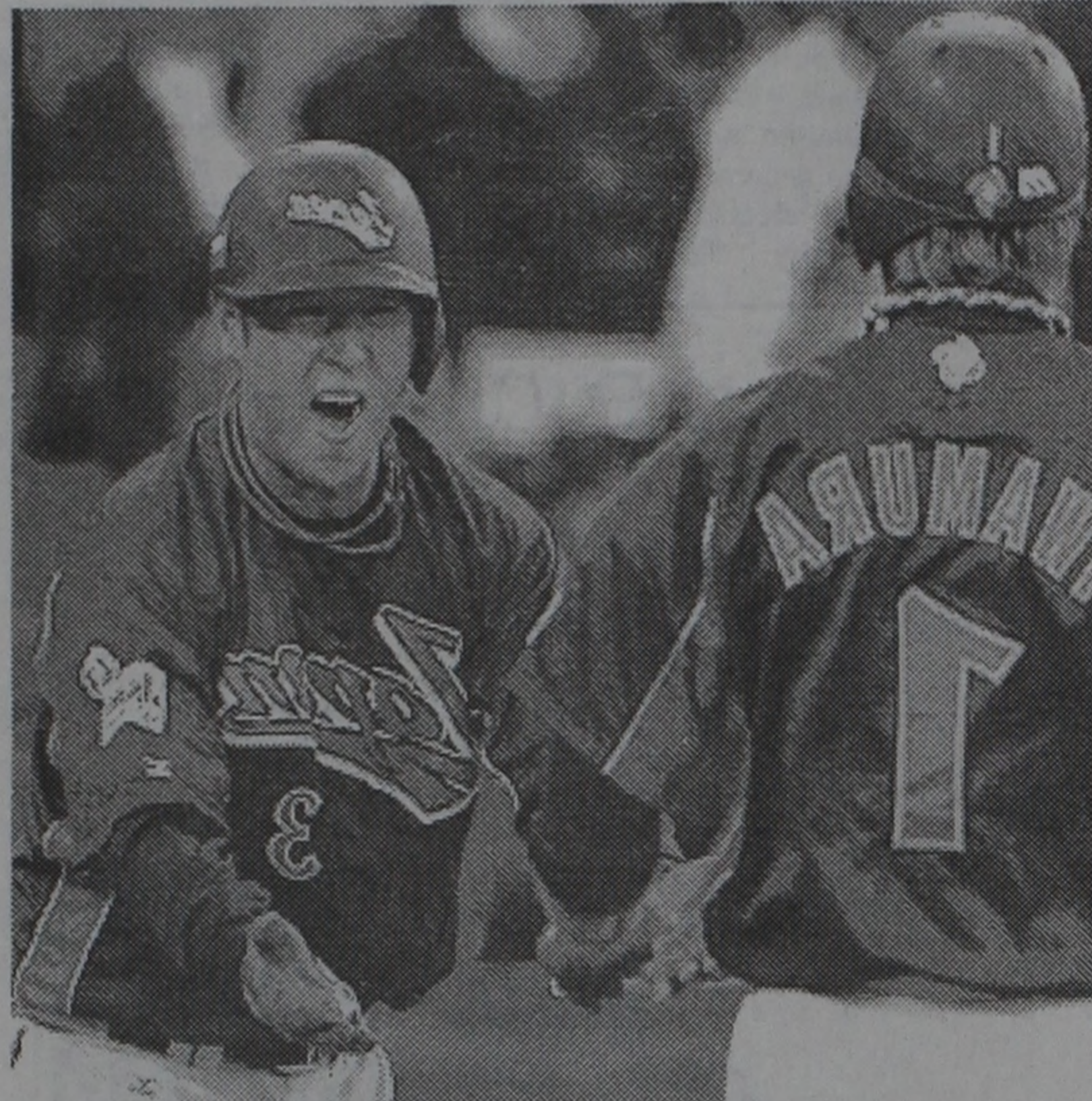
cause players know they're going to be missing some top players for a while. Johnson said before the game that Harris and Howard will be out most of the rest of the regular season, with Griffin and reserve Keith Van Horn likely missing several more games.

Then came 12 of the best minutes of Dallas' season. The Mavs outscored the Cavs 27-8, outrebounded them 17-8 and didn't have a turnover. James had six of Cleveland's points, but took only four shots.

"I thought we were a little more physical with them," Johnson said. "We seemed like we were apologizing for being on the court in the first half."

The Cavaliers lost their third straight game and sixth straight in Dallas. Their previous game, against Miami, followed a similar script -- a blown second-half lead, then a near-comeback that fell short.

"Two games in a row we've played a playoff opponent in their building, they stepped it up and we didn't know how to respond," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "The crowd was alive and it was too much for us to handle."



Japan rebounds, blows past Mexico in Round 2 of WBC

Team USA will be cheering for South Korea to beat Japan on Wednesday night. American hopes of winning the inaugural World Baseball Classic could disappear if the Japanese prevail.

Daisuke Matsuzaka allowed one hit in five shutout innings, and Japan beat Mexico 6-1 Tuesday in the second round of the WBC, putting the United States in danger of being eliminated before its next game.

South Korea (2-0) can earn a berth in the semifinals by beating Japan (1-1). If that happens, the United States (1-1) would also make it by beating Mexico (0-2) on Thursday.

But if Japan beats South Korea, the Americans could be eliminated from contention even before playing Mexico. That would happen if Japan wins in a nine-inning game and scores seven runs or less because of the complicated tiebreaker system being employed.

That kind of outcome is a distinct possibility, since Japan has allowed only 13 runs in five WBC games while South Korea has given up just seven.

"That's the way it is -- we created it ourselves," Team USA manager Buck Martinez said about his team's sticky situation. "That's the

unique aspect of this. Now, it's up to Korea and Japan."

The semis will be played Saturday and the finals Monday in San Diego.

Japanese manager Sadaharu Oh said he wouldn't gain any special satisfaction in eliminating the Americans in the wake of Team USA's controversial 4-3 victory over his team Sunday.

"If we can win, there won't be any problem, we'll be happy with that," Oh said through a translator. "What happened happened. It's already in the past. It's done. So it's over. So what we're looking at is in the future."

Japan appeared to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning against Team USA on a one-out, bases-loaded sacrifice fly, but umpire Bob Davidson ruled the runner left third base before the catch was made. A television replay indicated otherwise. The Americans scored the winning run in the ninth.

Matsuzaka walked two, struck out two, and threw 73 pitches in his second exceptional performance of the WBC. He allowed three hits and one run in four innings in a 13-3 first-round victory over Taiwan.

"His pitching was his best performance I've seen in the Classic," said Japanese catcher Tomoya Satozaki, who had three hits including a two-run homer. "He pitched very effortless. His fastball was very powerful. I told him to throw fastballs. I wasn't worried whether the Mexican team could hit them. I didn't think they could."

Matsuzaka said he began pre-season preparations early because of the Classic.

"This time of the year, usually we're not perfect yet," he said. "I tried to push it early a little bit, I tried to adjust. It's not really a psychological issue. I was expecting this. Tomorrow, we will try our best to succeed. We cannot lose anymore."

Satozaki homered off Esteban Loaiza to cap a four-run rally in the fourth that provided Japan with all the offense it would need.

Miguel Ojeda led off the eighth by hitting a solo homer off Yasuhiko Yabuta for Mexico's only run.

Ichiro Suzuki added an RBI single -- his second hit of the game -- in the ninth off Luis Ayala to complete the scoring.

The game was played before an announced crowd of 16,591 at Angel Stadium.

Because of the tiebreaker system, it would take a low-scoring extra-inning win against the United States for Mexico to possibly reach the semifinals. And that could only happen if South Korea beats Japan, leaving the possibility of three teams finishing Round 2 with 1-2 records.

"We still have one game to go and we're going to try very hard," Mexico manager Paquin Estrada said. "We're going to try and finish it like we should."

Loaiza, who signed as a free agent with the Oakland Athletics during the offseason, allowed seven hits and four runs in four innings. He threw 75 pitches.

"My pitching wasn't always in the strike zone. I never thought that would happen," Loaiza said. "It's too bad it couldn't have been like in Phoenix."

Loaiza allowed three hits and one run in a five-inning outing last week.

Jorge Cantu's first-inning single was the only hit off Matsuzaka. Juan Castro greeted Tsuyoshi Wada with a single to open the sixth, but Wada retired the next six batters.

Akinori Otsuka worked a scoreless ninth for Japan, with Luis Alfonso Garcia grounding into a game-ending double play. Mexico never sent more than four batters to the plate in an inning, and stranded only four baserunners.

Fat' is four-letter word as Toney chases better belt

By Bernard Fernandez

Anyone who has spent time around James "Lights Out" Toney understands that a certain F-word is going to be heard, and heard often.

Boxing's most expandable star liberally drops it into every conversation, as he might sprinkle salt into a bowl of under seasoned soup, and the gangsta rap anthems he blares during training sessions -- at a decibel level normally associated with jet aircraft -- would be virtually lyric-less without repeated use of the expletive.

But it is that other F-word, the one he frequently hears from boxing-writer inquisitors, which raises Toney's ire as if it were his caloric intake.

If there's one thing a pudgy fighter doesn't like is to be called "fat" by overweight word-processor jockeys who have never climbed inside the ropes or taken a hard shot to their own ample midsections. It's enough to make one of the most technically proficient, if least chiseled, pugilists in the world just scream out in frustration at the bleepers-bleepers.

The subject of Toney's ever-increasing poundage again was raised as the multi-division world champion moved closer to Saturday night's HBO-televised challenge of another frequently plump fighter, WBC heavyweight titlist Hasim Rahman (41-5-1, 33 KOs), at Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall.

Until further notice, though, Toney is keeping the chuckles to a minimum. He's too busy being hissed off at those who doubt him. Fuel for the fire, you know?

"After March 18, I want every boxing writer on their hands and knees to kiss my feet," he said. "Ain't nobody in history who's done what I've done."

"Give me my respect. And if you don't give it to me, I'm gonna take it. Then I'm going to spit it back in y'all's faces. I know some of y'all don't like me because I'm very outspoken. I don't kiss nobody's ass."

Maybe not, but you have to figure James Toney, again livin' large and loving it, just might sink his teeth into a good rump roast.



"UNA DE LAS MEJORES PELÍCULAS DEL AÑO!"
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 Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES • Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
 Jack Mathews, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS • Michael Phillips, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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The 7th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March

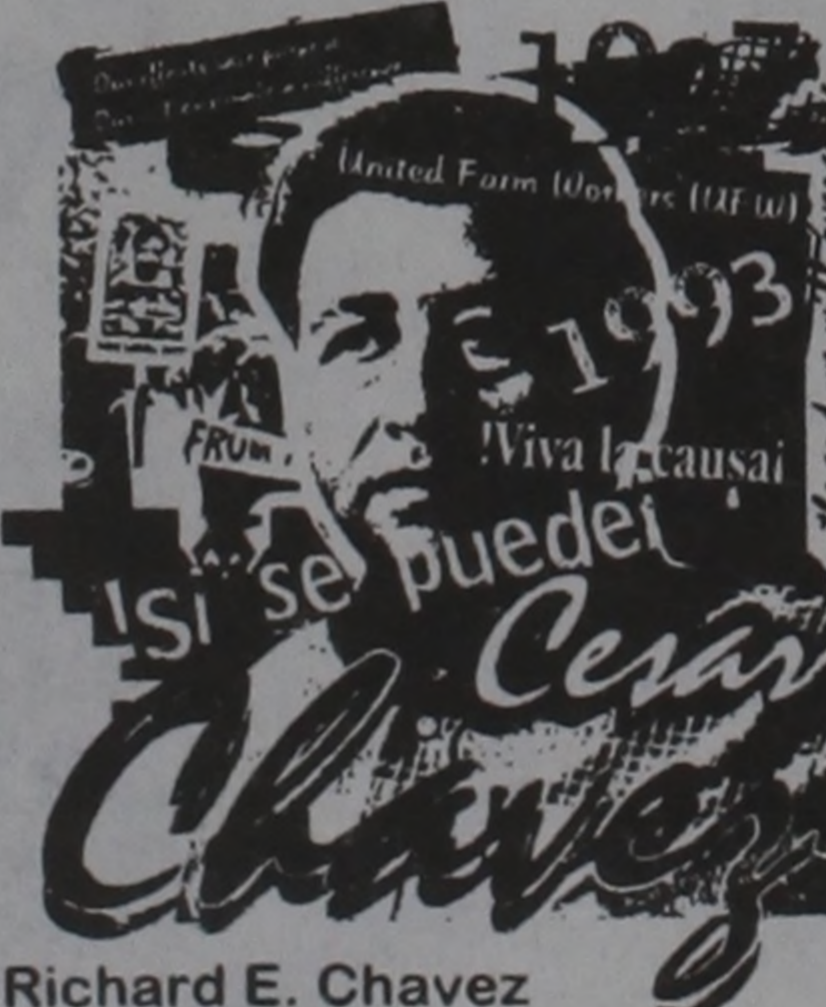
Presented by the Cesar E. Chavez Celebration Committee

Saturday April 1, 2006

Schedule of Events

- 1:00 p.m. Gathering for the People's Honor March
- 1:30 p.m. People's Honor March begins on the West Parking lot at Cavazos' Junior High at 210 N. University.
- 2:30 p.m. Commemoration featuring a program by Richard E. Chavez, brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez will be held at Northwest Little League Ballpark.
- 3:30 p.m. Presentation of the 2006 "Spirit of Cesar Chavez" Award Entertainment, followed by refreshments.

With Special Guest Richard E. Chavez
 A founding member of the United Farm Workers of America, and brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez.

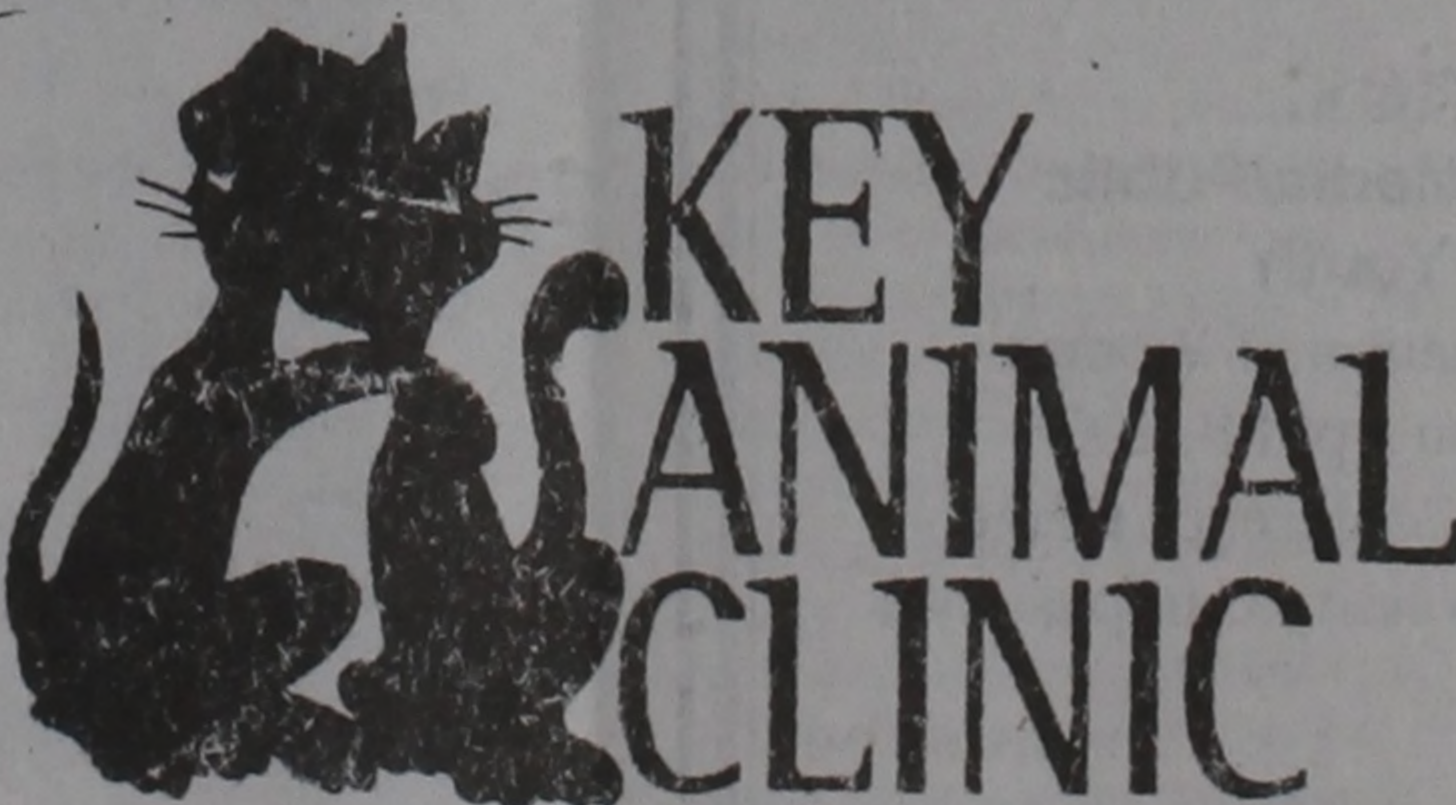


In case of inclement weather activities will be held in the Cavazos Junior High Auditorium. For additional information please call (806) 797-7233, or email to cesarchavezlubbock@cox.net

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Travolta & Jennifer Lopez may take Dallas into the Big Screen

Some media have stated that Jennifer Lopez and John Travolta are in talks to take the TV series "Dallas" into the big screen.

According to the TV show Access Hollywood, Jennifer Lopez may have the role of "Sue Ellen Ewing" and John Travolta "J.R. Ewing," which are two of the most popular characters from the 70s sitcom.

It was stated that among the actors that have been invited to this

project are Luke Wilson for the role of "Bobby Swing," and Shirley MacLaine for the role of "Miss Ellie Ewing."

Lopez has just finished shooting the movie "El Cantante" (The singer), along with her husband Marc Anthony. On the other hand, Travolta is about to begin shooting "Hairspray," which is expected to set his coming back to musicals.



Luis Miguel sentenced to pay fine for Argument in the US

Today, local media reported that an American judge sentenced singer Luis Miguel to pay a 200-dollar fine and a year on parole for his participation in an argument in an Aspen, Colorado hotel.

According to the TV show "El Escandalo," the judge found a "cause" to give his decision against the singer. This show re-

leased the news of the decision after the hearing in Aspen.

Luis Miguel had charges on assaulting Jason Randall Moan, a bartender at the Regis Hotel. The incident occurred last January 3 and it also had the participation of the singer's bodyguard, Julio Cesar Camera, and hotel guest William Hayward.

The annual Jamaica at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Lubbock will be held on July 29-30, 2006.

Any bands, conjuntos, Ballet Folklorico dancers, Mariachi groups, and any other type of entertainment that wish to donate their time, please call Robert Narvaiz at 792-5037 or 781-6277



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Viva Aztlan Festival 2006-Great Success!

Winners of Children Competition

Division A

Best Choreography-Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico I, Dallas, TX
Best Costume-Roswell Folklorico-Roswell, NM
Best Overall-Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico I, Dallas, TX

Division B

Best Choreography-Ballet Folklorico Aztlan, Lubbock, TX
Best Costume-Folklorico de Guadalupe-Snyder, TX
Best Overall-Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX

Division C

Best Choreography-Ballet Folklorico Paloma Libre-Lorenzo, TX
Best Costume-Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico III-Dallas, TX
Best Overall- Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico III-Dallas, TX

Best Overall Children Competition - Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX

Winners Adult Competition

Division A

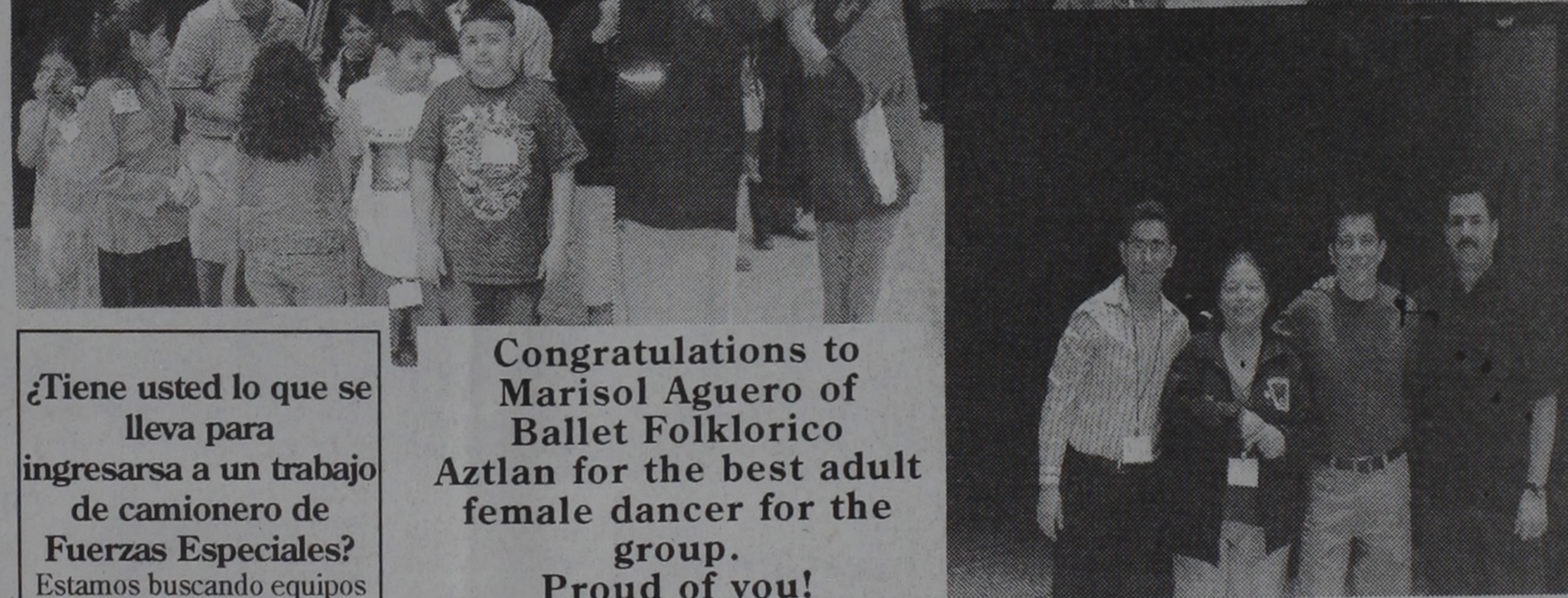
Best Traditional-Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico-Dallas, TX
Best Choreography- Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico-Dallas, TX
Best Technique & Form- Alma Folklorica de Oklahoma-Guymon, OK
Best Costume- Alma Folklorica de Oklahoma-Guymon, OK
Best Overall- Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico-Dallas, TX

Division B

Best Traditional- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX
Best Choreography- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX
Best Technique & Form- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX
Best Costume- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX
Best Overall- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan-Lubbock, TX

Division C

Best Traditional- Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico-Muleshoe, TX
Best Contemporary-Star Dance Academy-Hobbs, NM
Best Choreography- Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico-Muleshoe, TX
Best Technique & Form- Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico-Muleshoe, TX
Best Costume- Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico-Muleshoe, TX & Folklorico de Guadalupe-Snyder, TX
Best Overall- Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico-Muleshoe, TX & Folklorico de Guadalupe-Snyder, TX



Congratulations to Marisol Agüero of Ballet Folklorico Aztlan for the best adult female dancer for the group. Proud of you!

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Lubbock will hold a public hearing Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall, 1625 13th Street in the City Council Chambers. This hearing will allow for citizen comments on the following items:

- Streetscape beautification on a one-mile segment of Regis Street (FM2641) extending east from Interstate 27 to Martin Luther King, Blvd.
- Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts Pedestrian Facility Improvements and Mass Transit Plaza that would include improvements to the immediate campus (511 Avenue K), Mac Davis Lane from Avenue L to J, Avenue J from Fifth Street to Mac Davis Lane and Fifth Street from Avenue J to the parking lot of the U.S. Post Office on 4th Street and Avenue L.
- Visitor Information Center and Gateway on the east side of the Buddy Holly Center at 1801 Avenue G.

For further information, you may contact the Business Development Department at 775.2019. This hearing is open to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact 775.2019, or write to Business Development, PO Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457, at least 48 hours in advance.

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Estados Unidos reducirá número de exámenes de vaca loca

Pese a la confirmación del tercer caso de vaca loca el lunes, el gobierno planea disminuir el número de exámenes practicados al ganado nacional, tal como estaba previsto desde hace meses, informó ayer el jefe de veterinaria del Departamento de Agricultura, John Clifford.

Grupos de consumidores se oponen a la medida, argumentando que las pruebas deberían aumentar en vez de disminuir.

Los exámenes para detectar el mal cerebral en reses cuyo consumo es mortal, comenzaron a aplicarse en Estados Unidos tras el primer caso de un animal enfermo, reportado en diciembre de 2003. Entonces el número de análisis diarios aplicados subió de 55 a mil. Ahora la idea del gobierno es bajar la cifra a unos 110 exámenes diarios.

Ello cubriría sólo el 10% de los

animales sacrificados, destacó Jean Hallor, director de un grupo de consumidores organizados. "En nuestra opinión es muy poco. Se parece a una política de 'si no buscas, no encuentras problemas'".

El senador demócrata Tom Harkin coincidió en que la vigilancia debe continuar, pues "la confianza de los consumidores dentro y fuera de Estados Unidos está en riesgo".

"Seguimos confiados en la sanidad del ganado de Estados Unidos", había reiterado por su parte Clifford, quien se encuentra en encuentros comerciales en Varsovia.

El secretario de Agricultura, Mike Johanns, puntualizó que los exámenes no se hacen para medir si la calidad sanitaria del ganado es apta para el consumo, sino para establecer la frecuencia con que aparece la encefalopatía espongi-

forme bovina (BSE).

Según Gary Weber, líder nacional de una asociación ganadera, cumplir con los requerimientos de los consumidores de hacer pruebas en todas las reses del país, sería "innecesario" y poco rentable, pues para que los exámenes de tejido cerebral procedan el animal primero debe ser sacrificado.

Desde junio de 2004, el Departamento de Agricultura ha analizado 652,697 animales de una población nacional estimada en 95 millones de cabezas de ganado. La mayoría de los casos se trata de reses viejas que han mostrado síntomas de la enfermedad, como agresividad, falta de coordinación, posturas anormales o incapacidad de mantenerse en pie.

El consumo humano de ganado enfermo con el mal de la vaca loca ha causado más de 150 muertes en el mundo, especialmente en Reino

Unido, donde la anomalía fue detectada desde 1986, con un repunte particular en 1993. En total murieron 180 mil reses.

En Estados Unidos se han reportado tres casos de ganado afectado, el último el lunes en Alabama. Aquí en el país se ha registrado sólo una víctima humana, pero según las autoridades sanitarias, la persona se contaminó en el Reino Unido.

La noticia llega cuando el gobierno de Bush buscaba reactivar la confianza de los mercados extranjeros sobre la carne de Estados Unidos. El principal comprador, Japón, había parado las compras cuando se descubrió el primer caso de vaca loca en Estados Unidos, en diciembre de 2003, y recientemente se disponía a retomar sus pedidos.

Sahagún: persiste el machismo en México, incluso en Los Pinos

La primera dama de México, Marta Sahagún, dijo que en su país persiste el machismo, incluso en la casa presidencial de Los Pinos, y que la mujer mexicana debe seguir luchando por la equidad de los géneros.

Washington - "Existe el machismo en México, no es solamente una percepción es una realidad", dijo Sahagún al describir algunos de los problemas sociales que persisten en su país. "Si tú me preguntaras que es lo que yo he tenido que luchar a diario allí en Los Pinos te diría eso, una lucha contra el machismo todos los días aún dentro de la casa presidencial, excluyendo desde luego a mi marido porque él es un gran promotor de la equidad de género", subrayó.

La primera dama mexicana hizo esas declaraciones tras visitar hoy, junto con las primeras damas de EEUU, Laura Bush, y de Perú, Eliane Karp, la exposición "Divina y Humana: La mujer en el antiguo México y Perú", inaugurada en Washington el pasado día 3 y que concluirá el próximo 28 de marzo.

Las tres hicieron un recorrido por la muestra de 351 piezas arqueológicas de Mesoamérica y los Andes, que destacan el liderazgo de las mujeres en la era precolombina y en sus diversos papeles como madres, hijas, sacerdotisas, diosas o guerreras.

La muestra, que incluye esculturas, textiles, cerámica y alfarería, abarca desde aproximadamente 2.000 años AC hasta la caída de los imperios inca y azteca en 1500.

Sahagún señaló que la exposición da fe de que la mujer tiene que ser valorada "en toda su extensión, como pareja, como ama de casa, como proveedora de alimentos no sólo materiales sino también espirituales".

Agregó que la muestra precolombina tiene relevancia para las mujeres en el siglo XXI en México, porque "la mujer tiene que saberse valiosa y valiente, rescatar todos esos valores que a través de los años se pudieron haber perdido...para luchar siempre por la igualdad y la equidad".

El reto principal de las mujeres trabajadoras en un país donde predomina el machismo es, "empujar fuerte para que más oportunidades se abran a la mayor brevedad", continuó Sahagún.

La primera dama consideró que las mujeres -con sus visiones "complementarias" a las del sexo



opuesto- deben dejar de lado las actitudes de sumisión, y "tenemos que empezar desde hablar fuerte, romper el silencio y exigir lo que nos corresponde como seres humanos".

La igualdad salarial en todos los campos profesionales "todavía es un problema" por lo que "allí hay un campo largo de acción que tenemos que hacer" en todos los niveles de la sociedad en México, señaló Sahagún.

Asimismo, la esposa del presidente Vicente Fox elogió la "lección de gran valor" de los mexicanos en Estados Unidos porque "no debe ser nada fácil venir a vivir a otro país con diferentes costumbres".

"Creo que nos dan lección de valentía y (nuestro mensaje) es que les queremos y que trabajamos también por la comunidad mexicana más allá de las fronteras de nuestra patria", dijo.

Preguntada sobre qué hará después de las elecciones presidenciales este año, señaló: "desde luego nosotros no nos iremos al rancho a no hacer nada", ya que tiene planes de escribir sobre sus experiencias, compartirlas en distintos foros, y continuar un agenda social muy activa desde su fundación "Vamos México".

Léa El Editor en el Internet editor.com

Warning: no measure will stop avian flu pandemic

Russian expert Dimitri Lvov warned that an avian flu pandemic could not be stopped by any quarantine or vaccination campaign. This would mean that a third of the world's population would be infected by this disease.

Lvov, director of the Virology Investigation Institute from the Russian Sciences Academy, stated that a slight change in the virus' genome will be enough for the disease to be passed from human to human.

In a press conference, Lvov explained that due to the world experience, a quarantine would only delay the pandemic for a few days. However, it will not stop for the pandemic virus to be spread.

He also stated that the vaccines for avian flu will not prevent a pandemic either, because those are individual protection measures. "A good vaccine could save one person from death or the complications, but not from the disease



itself."

The expert added that an avian flu pandemic could happen in any minute. It would probably come from China, causing dozens of millions of human deaths -or a third from the world's population-.

He stated that an avian flu pandemic is irreversible as any other natural disaster.

Lvov considered that the H5N1 avian flu virus would soon affect Southern Russia, especially Astrakhan, Rostov-on-Don, and the Volgograd region.

The Russian Agriculture Ministry reported that the disease has reached 8 regions in the southern part of the country, which is an important stop for the migrating birds.

The H5N1 avian flu virus has reached some 30 countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa. However, only 7 have reported some 173 human cases, out of which 93 have been lethal.

Chulo-From Page 1

and his having cut into Rodríguez's territory with effective constituent services.

The progressive-politics blog Daily Kos excused the loss this way: "So we didn't kill off Cuéllar, but we gave him an a__-whopping where none was expected and made him sweat."

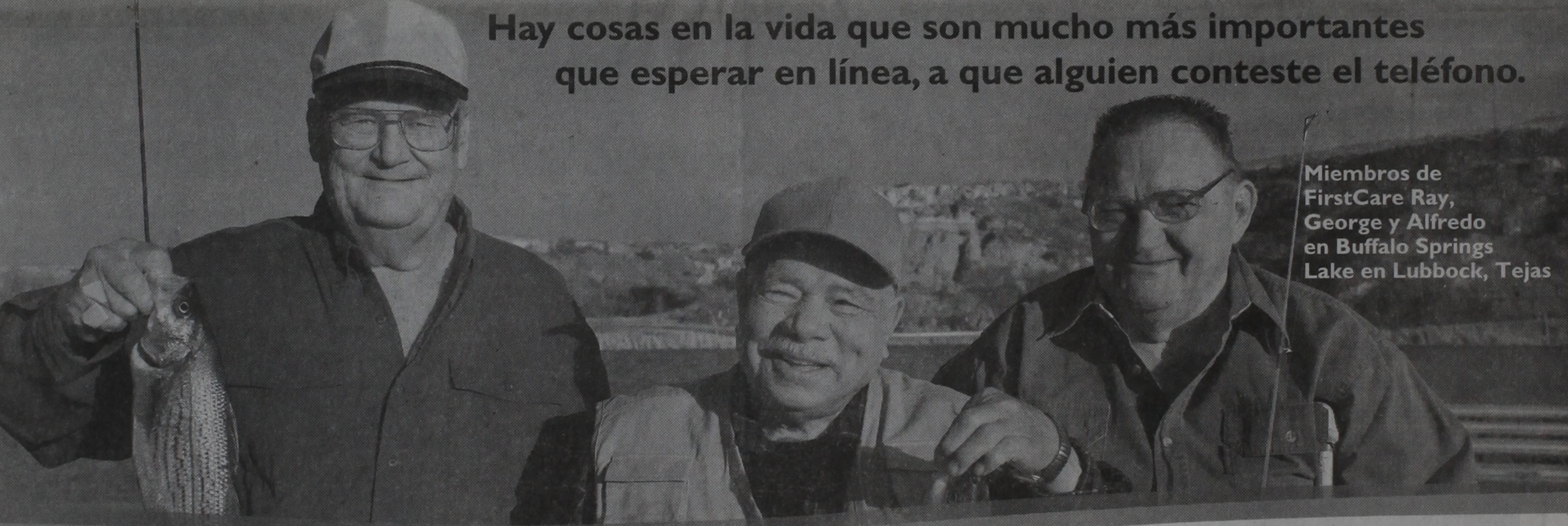
Henry Cuéllar has been given plenty of reasons to bolt the Democrats, something he continues to deny his intention to do even after being publicly castigated and repudiated by fellow Democratic Rep. Charles Rangel of New York after his victory. Texas isn't about to become more

Republican by way of his defection, certainly not while the GOP gerrymander is up before the U.S. Supreme Court and Tom DeLay is facing trial.

If Democrats gain control of the House by a hair after November, Cuéllar's dilemma may become theirs: how to keep a chulo colleague content.

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Hay cosas en la vida que son mucho más importantes que esperar en línea, a que alguien conteste el teléfono.

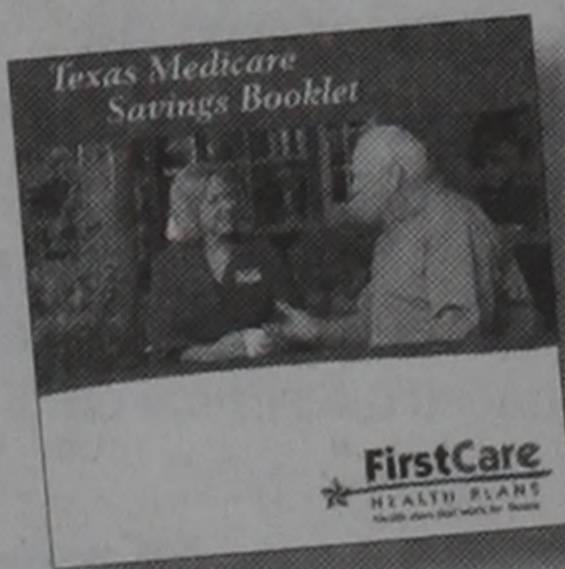
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- 22 de Marzo del 2006, 10 a.m., Shallowater Community Center, Shallowater
- 22 de Marzo del 2006, 10 a.m., Senior Citizen Community Center, Sudan
- 23 de Marzo del 2006, 10 a.m., Covenant Hospital Conference Room B, Plainview
- 23 de Marzo del 2006, 10 a.m., Senior Citizens Center, Lecture Room, 2001 19th Street, Lubbock



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