

El Salidor

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Oradores pintan a un Bush compasivo y concienzudo

En la noche dedicada a la "compasión" del presidente George W. Bush, del Partido Republicano y de Estados Unidos, la Primera Dama, Laura Bush, y el gobernador de California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, promovieron las credenciales de líder

inteligencia sobre atentados posiblemente más devastadores", dijo Laura Bush en su discurso ante la Convención Nacional Republicana. "Fue entonces cuando mi marido tuvo que tomar una decisión".

El comentario sobre una decisión



compasivo y decidido que hacen del presidente la persona idónea para seguir dirigiendo a la nación.

La esposa afirmó que ningún presidente desea declarar la guerra, incluido su marido George W. Bush, quien, sin embargo, "sabía que la seguridad de Estados Unidos dependía de esa decisión".

"Recuerdo algunas noches muy silenciosas en la mesa, mientras cenábamos. George sopesaba hipótesis desoladoras y datos siniestros de

de política exterior fue algo inusitado para la esposa de un presidente que aspira a la reelección, cuyas principales acciones en la campaña suelen concentrarse en las escuelas y la atención a la niñez.

Laura Bush describió a su marido como un guerrero antiterrorista con don de liderazgo. "Estoy muy orgullosa por la forma en que George ha guiado a nuestro país con firmeza y convicción", dijo.

Historia del inmigrante

Antes de la Primera Dama, le tocó el turno en el podio al gobernador Schwarzenegger, un republicano moderado en asuntos sociales que puede apelar a indecisos, independientes y demócratas desafectos, quien también cuenta con una historia de triunfo como inmigrante (de Austria), que puede apelar a los recién naturalizados que votan por primera vez, o eso al menos es lo que esperan los estrategas republicanos.

La delegación republicana de California lució camisetas que decían "I'm with Arnold" y gafas como las que el actor usó en su serie de películas "Terminator".

"Yo creo en este presidente", dijo Schwarzenegger en el anticipado discurso al que le dedicó especial atención tomando en cuenta que sus aspiraciones políticas no se limitan a California. Y, sin duda, después de su alocución no faltarán quien diga que es tiempo de enmendar la Constitución para que ciudadanos naturalizados puedan contender por la presidencia de Estados Unidos.

Echando mano de su historia y de cómo logró el anhelado "Sueño Americano", Schwarzenegger habló directamente a los inmigrantes: "Quiero que sepan lo bienvenidos que son en este partido. Nosotros los republicanos admiramos su ambición, fomentamos sus sueños y creemos en su futuro".

"En este país no importa dónde usted nace. No importa quiénes fueron sus padres. No importa si, como yo, no podían hablar inglés hasta que estaban en sus veinte. Estados Unidos me concedió oportunidades y mis sueños de inmigrante se convirtieron en realidad. Quiero que otras personas tengan las mismas oportunidades que yo tuve. Y creo que pueden. Por eso es que creo en este país, por eso es que creo en este partido, y por eso es que creo en este Presidente", declaró Schwarzenegger entre los aplausos de la multitud.

Hace 36 años Schwarzenegger llegó a Estados Unidos, triunfó en el fisiculturismo, triunfó en Hollywood y se casó con María Shriver, hija del asesinado Robert Kennedy y sobrina del también asesinado John F. Kennedy y del veterano senador, Ted Kennedy, una dinastía política demócrata de este país.

Schwarzenegger está a favor del aborto y de los derechos para los homosexuales, temas que lo alejan de la plataforma del partido que defiende. (Continúa en la página 5)

Bush wants to exceed 35% of Latin vote in November

The Republican Party launched today a national offensive among the Hispanic community to try to exceed within next November's elections the 35% of Latin vote George W. Bush obtained during the 2000 elections.

The campaign was led by George Prescott Bush, the president's nephew, during a meeting with more than 250 republican delegates and civilian leaders of the Latino community present at the National Republican Convention taking place since yesterday.

"We want to exceed that 35%; this will be a tight election and we need all the possible support", young Bush, son to Florida's governor Jeb Bush, said surrounded by flags and propaganda supporting George Bush with the slogan "Viva Bush".

The slogan names the republican effort to capture electoral support within areas where Hispanics could mark the difference in voting. Some of these include Ohio, Illinois, New México and Florida.

George Prescott Bush, who is considered the heir of the Bush dynasty for the next generation, remarked what to his judgment unites republicans and Latinos: faith in the family, in God and the strength of their communities.

He also emphasized, as most speakers did, the political line followed by Bush within the White House, and how this line, from his point of view, has improved the quality of life of Hispanics.

Community leaders and other organizations such as La Raza have criticized in the past Bush's policies due to the pernicious impact, they say, on the Hispanic community. Some of them include his fiscal, security, social and education politics.

The Latino community in the U.S. has a long democratic tradition, but during the last elections something changed since a 35% of them voted for Bush, a historic mark for any Republicans.

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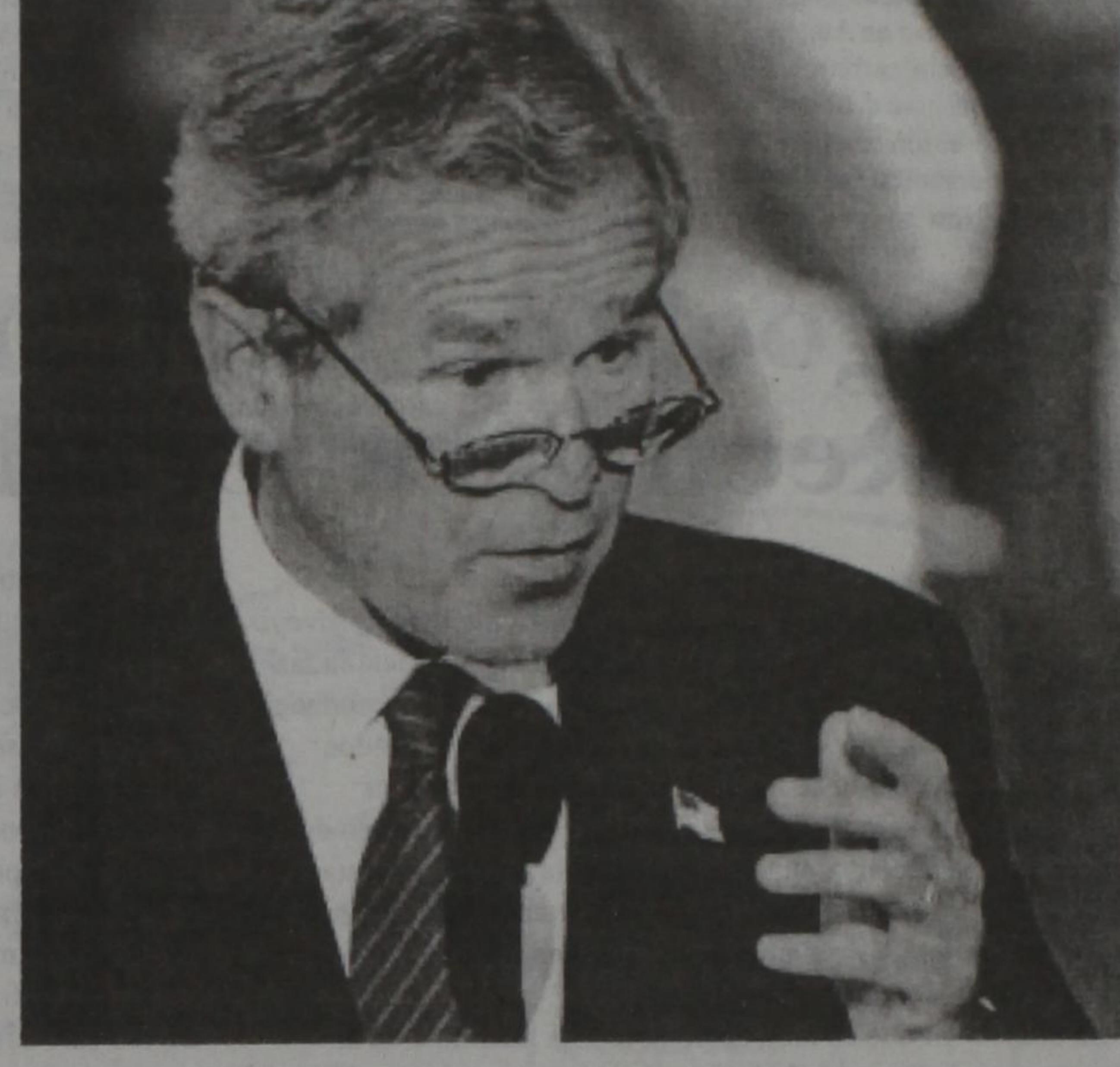
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can Party candidate.

"We hope we can reach a 40% or even more, and add more within the next years", said the ex-U.S. treasurer and current Congressional candidate Rosario Marín, whose mother is

faced with the figures that, according to the latest polls, state democratic candidate John Kerry is supported by a great majority (78%) of the Hispanic community of the country.

Young Bush was programmed to



Mexican, at the end of the event taking place at the Waldorf Astoria hotel.

Republicans' expectations are

participate in the night session of the Convention, where he is expected to profit from national attention to appeal once again for Hispanic votes.

Niños Activos. Familias Sanas. Motivates Hispanic Children Across The Nation To Get Active

The Niños Activos. Familias Sanas Campaign, the marketing extension to the highly successful VERB. It's what you do campaign, has launched a new Web site and 26-week mobile marketing tour to reach parents across the nation with messages about the importance of their children participating in physical activity.

Launched this summer, the campaign encourages Hispanic/Latino parents to get their tweens (kids aged 9 - 13) involved in physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day. Parents can find useful information, resources and tips on the Spanish-language Web site <http://www.NAFS.org> as well as profiles of families improving their health by being active, a downloadable calendar so that families can keep track of their physical activities, and more.

Parents and children also have an opportunity to visit the interactive Niños Activos. Familias Sanas. mobile marketing site, which will be touring in Los Angeles, Miami and Houston through December 2004. The site will be visiting fairs, festivals and retail outlets in each city with bilingual NAFS crew interacting with kids and parents demonstrating different kinds of physical activities and providing local resources and information for parents on how to get their kids more active. Children will also have fun participating in activities first hand.

About the Niños Activos. Familias Sanas. Campaign

The Niños Activos. Familias Sanas campaign encourages Hispanic/Latino parents to get their tweens (kids aged 9 - 13) involved in physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day. The campaign uses various communications channels to convey in-language and culturally relevant messages. In addition to TV, radio and print, there is also a 26-week event tour planned that will participate in various events across the country. Community and corporate partnerships help to ensure that these efforts are sustained and adopted by other organizations interested in affecting the future health and well-being of Hispanic children across the country.

This effort is a marketing extension to the highly successful VERB. It's what you do campaign. VERB, launched in June 2002 by CDC, is a national, multicultural campaign and is intended to create a movement to promote positive physical activity and displace unhealthy, risky behaviors among 9 to 13-year-olds.

the new laws on overtime would have a worse effect on the families of millions of workers," said Rodriguez to reporters.

Among Hispanics the average family income was 33 thousand 862 dollars last year, below the national average of 43 thousand 381, only surpassing the Black community, among whom the average was quoted at 24 thousand 300 dollars.

By contrast, the average income for whites was 47 thousand 777 dollars a slight decrease respecting 2003 figures, while for Asians the number was the greatest of all, averaging 55 thousand 262 dollars an increase respecting 2002's 53 thousand 832 dollars.

As to the poverty rates, the average among Hispanics in 2003 was 22.5 percent in spite of which the number of poor Hispanics grew from 8.6 million in 2002 to 9.1 last year.

The rate among Hispanics was only higher than that of Blacks, which reached 24.1 percent, although the same as for the former, as above the 12.1 per cent national average.

In both cases the average remained the same as in 2002 as for whites with an 8.2 per cent, the lowest of all, while among Asians it registered a increase from 10.1 percent to 11.8 percent last year.

The report pointed out that last year more than nine million Hispanics, about 22 percent of the 40.3 million that makeup the nation's population, lived below the poverty level.

As to the lack of medical insurance, Hispanics appeared at the head of every group, with an average of 32.7 percent well above the 2002 average of 32.2 percent.

**Léa El Editor
Primero!**

Census Bureau Still Hasn't Restored its Credibility

By Angelo Falcón and José A. García

The news that the U.S. Census Bureau recently provided the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with detailed tabulations at the zip code level on Arab-Americans is chilling and should be of concern to each of us. The Census Bureau relies on the confidence of all U.S. residents that when it conducts the population count every ten years as well as engages in various surveys as frequently as monthly, the information we are asked to reveal will be held in strict confidence and not used in harmful ways.

The manner in which this information was made available to Homeland Security, and the Census Bureau's bureaucratic response once this became public, was irresponsible. Its initial willingness to compromise its mission is troubling.

After much community pressure, Census Director Luis Kincannon issued in an Aug. 26 memo new guidelines for releasing "potentially sensitive data to requesting law enforcement agencies and organizations or individuals." Now any request for

special data tabulations will have to be reviewed by a senior Census official.

While this is a step in the right direction, the new directive doesn't provide any criteria for the Census to disapprove such a request.

Technically, the bureau did not break any laws or regulations when it provided sensitive information on Arab-Americans to Homeland Security.

In fact, the data were available to everyone in untabulated form.

And researcher can obtain and track it on the Census Bureau Web site. Homeland Security could have generated a geographic profile of Arab-Americans on its own.

The problem is that the bureau went the extra mile for Homeland Security to generate special tabulations. Any new policy should have clear language forbidding a repeat of this.

During the 2000 Census, organizations throughout the country such as ours, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund here in New York City, cooperated with the Census

Bureau to reach out to hard-to-enumerate populations like undocumented Latinos.

This required a major effort by the bureau to assure these communities that their information would be protected and that other federal agencies would not gain access to their personal data files in ways that could be used against them.

Our community-based organizations vouched for the Census

Bureau's integrity on this score.

And now this Arab-American data fiasco comes to light. The bureau's initial reaction was that technically it did nothing wrong. Now it admits that such an explanation is not adequate. Sadly, its new policy is a half-hearted effort to live up to its word.

As a Census Information Center and partner of the Census Bureau in reaching out to the Latino community, our organization has been assured in briefings many times that the information it collects will not be misused. Its mission clearly states that the bureau will "honor privacy, protect confidentiality, share our expertise globally, and conduct our work openly."

Without vacillation, it must assure potentially vulnerable sectors of the U.S. population that in 2010 the personal information they provide to enumerators will be kept in absolute, total confidence. It must establish clearer guidelines for the protection of such sensitive data.

The trust has been broken. It is up to the Census Bureau to make it whole again.

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Its action against the Arab-American community, in essence acting as a branch of Homeland Security, has undermined this pledge.

The repercussions are far reaching. What's to stop it from cooperating with Homeland Security's immigration enforcement arm in the collection of information on undocumented immigrants?

The bureau should recognize how damaging its collaboration will be viewed when it reaches out for help from Hispanic organizations in the next decennial census, just six years away.

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Hispanic vote could decide the 2004 General Election

By Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

With less than three months to go until the elections, Latino voters constitute one of the most coveted voting blocs in 2004. While polls show most voters have already decided who they will cast their votes for, Hispanics stand out as one of the few groups of voters that remain up for grabs. With so few undecided voters in America and so many of them Hispanic, it is safe to say that the outcome of the 2004 elections will hinge on each party's ability to attract Hispanic voters to their candidates and their causes and then mobilize them on November 2.

Long ignored as a critical voting bloc, the 2000 elections marked a quinceañera-style emergence for Hispanic voters. The unprecedented levels of spending on Spanish-language advertising and campaign materials, coupled with the Bush campaign's commitment to develop relations with the Spanish media and voters, demonstrated the importance of communicating with a constituency long taken for granted by Democrats. Suddenly, notable Spanish television personalities such as Sabado Gigante's Don Francisco, Univision anchor Jorge Ramos and Telemundo's Pedro Sevcec were included on the same list as Tim Russert and Larry King as must-do interviews for candidates.

Since becoming the first female Hispanic woman elected to Congress in 1989, I have seen the Republican Party commit itself to Hispanic outreach efforts that are now continuous in nature. President Bush and the Republican Congress have provided principled leadership and promoted a Republican agenda that is aligned with the Hispanic community's cultural and social values. By promoting job growth and the entrepreneurial spirit, improving education and health care, protecting our nation and promoting homeownership, Republicans are delivering on the issues important to Hispanics.

When reaching out to Hispanics, there is no substitute for bundling the names and faces of our candidates with the values they represent and the policies they advocate. Winning the Hispanic vote boils down to offering effective solutions to issues, listening, including them in the process and proving that you have their best interests at heart. The Republican Party has delivered on all counts.

President George W. Bush's historic 35 percent share of the Hispanic vote served as a watershed for the Hispanic community, signaling the Republican Party's commitment to reach out to the Hispanic community as no other party had done before. President Bush and the Republicans understood that reaching out to Hispanics could not be an occasional effort; it was about having a continuous dialogue with them. In the following election in 2002, the fourth Hispanic Republican was elected to Congress. A telling sign that the Republican Party is indeed making inroads with the Hispanic community is evident in a recent poll that found that approximately a third of all Latino Republicans say they were once Democrats, while few Republicans have switched allegiance. For Republicans, earning and maintaining the respect and confidence of the Hispanic community has always been important, not just during election time.

Hispanics are widely regarded as being independent-minded and are known to ignore party allegiances when choosing candidates. According to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), many Hispanic voters say they will vote for the candidate who best represents their interests, regardless of party, and are adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude. In an election year where so many Republicans and Democrats are strongly backing their candidates, the group that holds the key to the White House is Latinos. With less than three months to go until the election, many of them are still open to what both parties have to offer in their candidates and their messages.

While others will spend the next three months scrambling to remake themselves and altering their message, Republicans look forward to this as a time for reminding Hispanics what we have accomplished and why our vision for this country is a vision of a better future for Hispanics.

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was the first Hispanic woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989. She represents the Eighteenth District of Florida, which includes parts of Miami-Dade County and the entire Florida Keys.

Neogociado de Censo Auno no Recupera Credibilidad

Por Angelo Falcón y José A. García

La noticia que el Negociado del Censo recientemente proveyó al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional tabulaciones detalladas del nivel del código postal de los norteamericanos de ascendencia árabe es escalofriante y debe ser de preocupación para todos nosotros. El Negociado se fia de la confianza de todos los residentes de los Estados Unidos cuando realiza su conteo de la población cada decenio, en tanto que entabla varias encuestas con una frecuencia hasta mensual, que la información que nos pide revelar se guardará estrictamente en confidencialidad y que no será utilizada para el prejuicio de nadie.

La manera en que se hizo disponible esta información al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional y la respuesta burocrática del Censo una vez se hizo pública la revelación, fue irresponsable. Su voluntad inicial de poner en cuestión su misión resulta problemática.

Tras mucha presión de la comunidad, el director del Censo, Luis Kincannon emitió nuevas pautas en un memorándum del 26 de agosto en referencia a la revelación de "datos potencialmente sensibles a agencias del orden, organizaciones o individuos que los soliciten". Ahora cualquier solicitud de tabulaciones de datos especiales tendrá que pasar por la revisión de un funcionario principal del Censo.

Si bien éste es un paso hacia lo correcto, la nueva directiva no ofrece ningún criterio bajo el cual el Censo podrá negar tal solicitud.

Técnicamente, el Negociado no violó ninguna ley ni reglamento cuando suplió información sensible sobre los norteamericanos de ascendencia árabe al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

En realidad, los datos estaban a disposición de todos de manera sin tabulación. Un investigador puede obtener y rastrear tales datos en el sitio de web perteneciente al Censo. El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional podría haber generado un perfil geográfico de este grupo por su cuenta.

El problema es que el Negociado optó por hacer demás por el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional para generar las tabulaciones especiales. Cualquier política nueva que se implemente debe incluir claramente una prohibición de esto.

Durante el Censo 2000, las organizaciones por todo el país

como la nuestra, el Fondo Puertorriqueño para la Defensa Legal y la Educación aquí en Nueva York, cooperaron con el Negociado del Censo para llegar a las poblaciones difíciles de enumerar, como los latinos sin documentación.

Esto supuso un gran esfuerzo por parte del Negociado para asegurar a las comunidades que su información sería protegida y que otras agencias federales no tendrían acceso a sus archivos de información personal de manera que pudiera perjudicarlas.

Dieron su palabra por la integridad del Negociado del Censo nuestras organizaciones comunitarias de base en cuanto a lo último.

Y hoy, el fiasco de los datos de los descendientes de árabes en los EEUU sale a la luz. La primera reacción del Negociado fue que técnicamente no había errado. Ahora admite que este tipo de explicación no basta. Es triste, pero su nueva política es un esfuerzo a medias a cumplir con su promesa.

Como Centro de Información del Censo y un socio del Negociado del Censo estadounidense para llegar a la comunidad latina, a nuestra organización se nos ha asegurado en muchas reuniones que la información que recopila no será tergiversada. Su misión declara que el Negociado "honrará la privacidad, protegerá la confidencialidad, compartirá nuestro conocimiento globalmente, y conducirá nuestro trabajo abiertamente".

Su acción contra la comunidad árabe-americana, en esencia obrando como filial del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, ha socavado esta promesa.

Las repercusiones van lejos. ¿Qué lo detendrá de cooperar con la filial del Departamento para inmigración al recolectar información sobre los inmigrantes indocumentados?

El Negociado del Censo debe reconocer lo perjudicioso que ha resultado su colaboración cuando quiera que las organizaciones hispanas colaboren con él en el próximo censo, a sólo seis años de aquí.

Sin vacilar, el Negociado debe asegurar a los sectores potencialmente vulnerables de la población estadounidense que en el 2010 la información personal que revelen a los contadores se mantendrá en la más absoluta y total confidencialidad. Debe establecer pautas más claras en cuanto a la protección de tales datos sensibles.

Se ha quebrado una confianza. Faltará que el Negociado del Censo la repare.

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Edwards condemns 'hate' emanating from Republicans

Democratic vice presidential hopeful John Edwards slammed the "hate" spouted Wednesday at the Republican National Convention, where presidential candidate John Kerry was painted as fickle and indecisive.

"There was a lot of hate coming from that podium tonight," Edwards said in a statement. "What John Kerry and I offer to the American

people is hope -- hope for more good-paying jobs, hope for better health care and hope for our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"What the Bush administration just doesn't get is that a stronger America begins at home," Edwards said. "And John Kerry and I have the right plan to lead America in a new direction because we

know that we can do better."

Vice President Dick Cheney and other speakers have had particularly harsh words for Kerry at the Republican convention, which runs through Thursday in New York. Recent polls show US President George W. Bush enjoying a razor-thin lead over his Democratic opponent.

"His back-and-forth reflects a habit of indecision and sends a

message of confusion," Cheney said on the third night of the Republican National Convention.

"Senator Kerry denounces American action when other countries don't approve, as if the whole object of our foreign policy were to please a few persistent critics," he added.

Conservative Zell Miller of Georgia, one of Kerry's fellow Democratic senators, delivered a fiery speech that mocked Kerry's "bowl of mush" positions on defense, which he said confused American allies and encouraged US enemies.

"For more than 20 years, on every one of the great issues of freedom and security, John Kerry has been more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure," Miller said to thunderous cheers.

He also took aim at the Democratic Party, blasting it for a "manic obsession" with trying to oust Bush rather than coming to his side at a time of war.

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Cartas al Editor



Dear Bidal,

It seems that it has become necessary for me to explain what has happened to me in Congressman Charlie Stenholm's campaign. It is true that I no longer am on staff with the Congressman's campaign. But, I remain a fervent volunteer for him. The primary reason for my voluntary resignation, which went into effect nearly two weeks ago, is that I perceived a definite change in philosophy that limited the use of my experience in the campaign. I came to the conclusion that my area of strength was not being fully utilized by the campaign.

There being a wide and permanent space between our philosophies, I decided that bridging this gap was not probable. An analogy that might be useful here is this: I was hired to be the chef, in concerns of the Hispanic vote, and not the dishwasher (not that dishwashing is not an honorable job), but I wanted to do the cooking. Also, being offered a position as an Instructor of Spanish at Texas Tech University, had something to do with my resignation; because education and teaching is a passionate profession. Once a person is introduced to it's fruit, it is hard to stay away from the tree.

Bidal, you have always been a great friend and you know that I do not place my loyalties lightly. Working for Congressman Charlie Stenholm has been a great privilege and an honor. Honestly, I can say that Congressman Stenholm is a great man. His service and devotion to West Texas cannot be compared. Charlie will fight all day long tooth and nail for everyone's right to a better life. Charlie treats people from all walks of life with great respect and dignity. I still support Congressman Stenholm wholeheartedly and wish him victory on November 2, 2004.

Bidal, this election is of vital importance to West Texas y para nosotros. I have spent many and entire days with Congressman Stenholm, and I believe with all my heart that he will do the best job for us in Washington. There is no other person better qualified for this responsibility.

All the best,
Armando Gonzales

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Léa El Editor Primero

Latinos Contes Federal Guidelines 'Outing' Undocumented Patients

By Sonia Meléndez

Proposed guidelines that would require health care providers to question the immigration status of patients who cannot pay for their medical care are coming under attack by Latino leaders and emergency service suppliers.

For providers to qualify for federal reimbursement, the guidelines, due out as early as Sept. 1, call for medical personnel to record their patients' immigration status.

The regulations are being tacked onto a plan approved by Congress last year to provide \$1 billion over the next four years to hospitals nationwide. They were circulated for comment last month by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The federal monies are seen as welcome relief by state officials and hospital administrators who maintain that the federal government should share the cost of treating undocumented immigrants.

Under the guidelines, providers seeking federal reimbursement must ask such questions as "Are you a lawful permanent resident, an alien with a valid current employment authorization card or other qualified alien?" and "Are you a foreign citizen who has been admitted to the United States with a 72-hour border-crossing card?"

In addition, hospital personnel would have to sign documentation stating that the information submitted was true to the best of their knowledge, and be subject to civil and criminal penalties if it wasn't.

"The way Medicare and Medicaid are setting this proposal is very dangerous. It undermines the public health of the whole

nation," says Marcela Urrutia, senior health policy analyst for the National Council of *La Raza*.

She predicts the proposal will be hard to derail because it is being undertaken in an expedited manner.

"There are no protections that guarantee this information will not be used outside of the medical setting," Urrutia adds.

NCLR voiced its dissatisfaction at an open meeting sponsored by CMS earlier this month and in a letter to the department during its public comment period that ended Aug. 16. In addition, NCLR initiated an e-mail campaign urging people to write letters to media outlets voicing disapproval of the proposed regulation.

"What this proposal will be doing is increasing fear among undocumented patients and make doctors act like INS agents," Dr. Elena Ríos, president of the National Hispanic Medical Association, charges.

NHMA sent a written statement to CMS explaining its concerns with a reimbursement plan that "ties money to individual medical attention," Ríos says.

NHMA recommends a formula-based approach whereby funds would be allocated based on the size of a state's undocumented immigrant population, to be determined based on U.S. census data.

"To do more bureaucratic paperwork will take away from already limited doctor-patient time that needs to be protected," Ríos says.

California Healthcare Association spokesperson Jan Emerson predicts an impact on the community in general if undocumented immigrants who could carry communicable diseases such as tuberculosis do not seek treatment for fear of being deported.

However, Emerson sees the funding as a "symbolic good step" in taking some responsibility to alleviate an already overburdened system which is mandated by federal law to provide emergency treatment regardless of a person's legal status.

Says Emerson, "Some money is better than no money."

The Hospital Association of South California claims Los Angeles County alone spends \$1 billion treating undocumented persons. States that would see the largest annual reimbursements are California, \$72 million, followed by Texas, \$48 million and Arizona, \$42 million.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has joined with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to send a letter to the Bush Administration objecting to the proposed plan. They are asking that the criteria be re-examined, with the cost of patient care calculated without asking individuals their immigration status. This approach was initially rejected by the Bush Administration.

Jack Martin, special projects director for the Washington, D.C.-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, says the federal reimbursement proposal does not provide any real solutions that hold undocumented immigrants accountable for their medical treatment.

FAIR recommends a joint effort by the Department of Homeland Security and HHS to identify the status of uninsured patients, and if they are found to be undocumented, Immigration and Customs Enforcement should arrange for their detention and removal from this country after treatment.

CMS spokesperson Mary Kahn says under the proposed plan,

information given to the hospitals will not be transmitted to DHS.

The agency is reviewing comments, including how questions

will be framed, submitted by medical associations, labor unions and numerous other affected groups, she says.

At this point, she emphasizes,

"The proposed plan is not set in stone."

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The Latino Dilemma Over Gay Identity

By Carlos D. Conde

When New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey came out of the closet, it showed just how much U.S. society is still grappling with the gay issue.

Mr. McGreevey's departure from politics will soon pass but not the arguments about the acceptance of an alternative life style currently driven by the controversy over gay marriage.

The Catholic Church is against it. President Bush wants a constitutional amendment banning gay marriages. The California Supreme Court invalidated a slew of such marital vows sanctioned by the San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, while other state judiciaries are still trying to define what is moral and what is legal and if the two intertwine.

In the Latino world, or at least in the Mexican culture, fantasy is still wrestling reality, particularly among males. Ignoring its large gay population, nothing is more accepting in the Latino community than being known as "puro macho" and nothing is

more condemning than being tagged with the Mexican pejorative *joto*, or, elsewhere, as a *maricon*.

In the English speaking community, "gay" has become the acceptable term, but latter-day Latinos, weighed down with moral taboos, have never found a comfortable, descriptive word suitable for social conversation. So rather than going with a disparaging term, they use the more ameliorating English expression.

Being gay, or whatever, violates the basic tenets of our culture; conservatism, religion and sexism. From early on, Mexican parents (I speak of my own background) instilled the virtues of "being a man" and denigrated sissified behavior or sexual turpitude. Lesbianism wasn't even in our vocabulary.

That was yesterday's world. While some die-hard prejudices remain, Latinos, like most of U.S. society, are becoming more accepting of their gay community and there is the growing attitude of live and let live. More and

more Latino gays are coming to terms openly with their sexual orientation.

Many people think the Latino gay community prefers anonymity but it has had a lobby organization in Washington for the past 16 years. The National Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization (LLEGO) has 172 affiliates throughout the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico.

"*Llegó*" in Spanish means "arrived" and seems a fitting description for a group that feels it has arrived as a bona fide segment of society and deserves to be treated as one.

There is no accepted, accurate number of male and female Latino gays in the U.S. because, as Martin Ormeles-Quintero, LLEGO's executive director for nine years before he stepped down last month, says, more and more are coming out but there are a lot out there still, in denial and fearful of the discrimination

continued on page 6

Polemic Unleashed by Overtime Payment in US



President George W. Bush's proposal to modify overtime payment in the U.S. unleashed a new polemic in the framework of the pre-electoral times before November and an answer from democratic candidate John Kerry.

The regulations, to come into force for the American workforce of 115 million workers, have raised a debate between republicans and democrats who do not agree with the universe of people who will be negatively affected and the number of people who will profit from them.

According to the Bush administration, around 6.7 million workers will receive an additional income for a global amount of 375 million dollars each year, while some 107 thousand people could suffer a salary reduction.

Under the former regulations, workers with an income under eight thousand dollars per year or 155 dollars per week had the payment of overtime guaranteed and white-collar workers were not included in it.

With the new regulations, workers earning from 23 thousand 600 dollars a year or 455 dollars per week will be guaranteed the payment of overtime no matter the kind of job they have.

However, overtime pay will be reduced for the personnel earning more than 100 thousand dollars a year.

But democrats and liberal groups state these new regulations will, in fact, affect some six million workers, not only the 100 thousand republicans claim.

A study carried out by the progressive Economic Politics Institute (EPI) estimates those most affected by this are 1.4 million low-level supervisors, 900 thousand college graduate workers and 130 thousand cooks and assistant cooks.

Democrat Vice-Presidential candidate, John Edwards, upbraided the Bush administration for the new measures in times when the economy is considered a central issue for the next November 2 elections.

"Why would anyone want to suppress overtime payment for some six million Americans now that they need it more than ever?" Edwards questioned last Saturday in a democrat radio speech.

Although the unemployment rate is about 5.5%, more than 8.3 million people are unemployed.

Democrats state economic policies of the Bush administration have derived into a net loss of some 2 million jobs since 2001.

If the proposal is finalized, fear and confusion will spread throughout immigrant communities, and many people will avoid emergency medical treatment, leading to aggravated illness, the spread of communicable diseases, and death. Immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, will fear that disclosing identifying information will cause their deportation and separation from children and

spouse.

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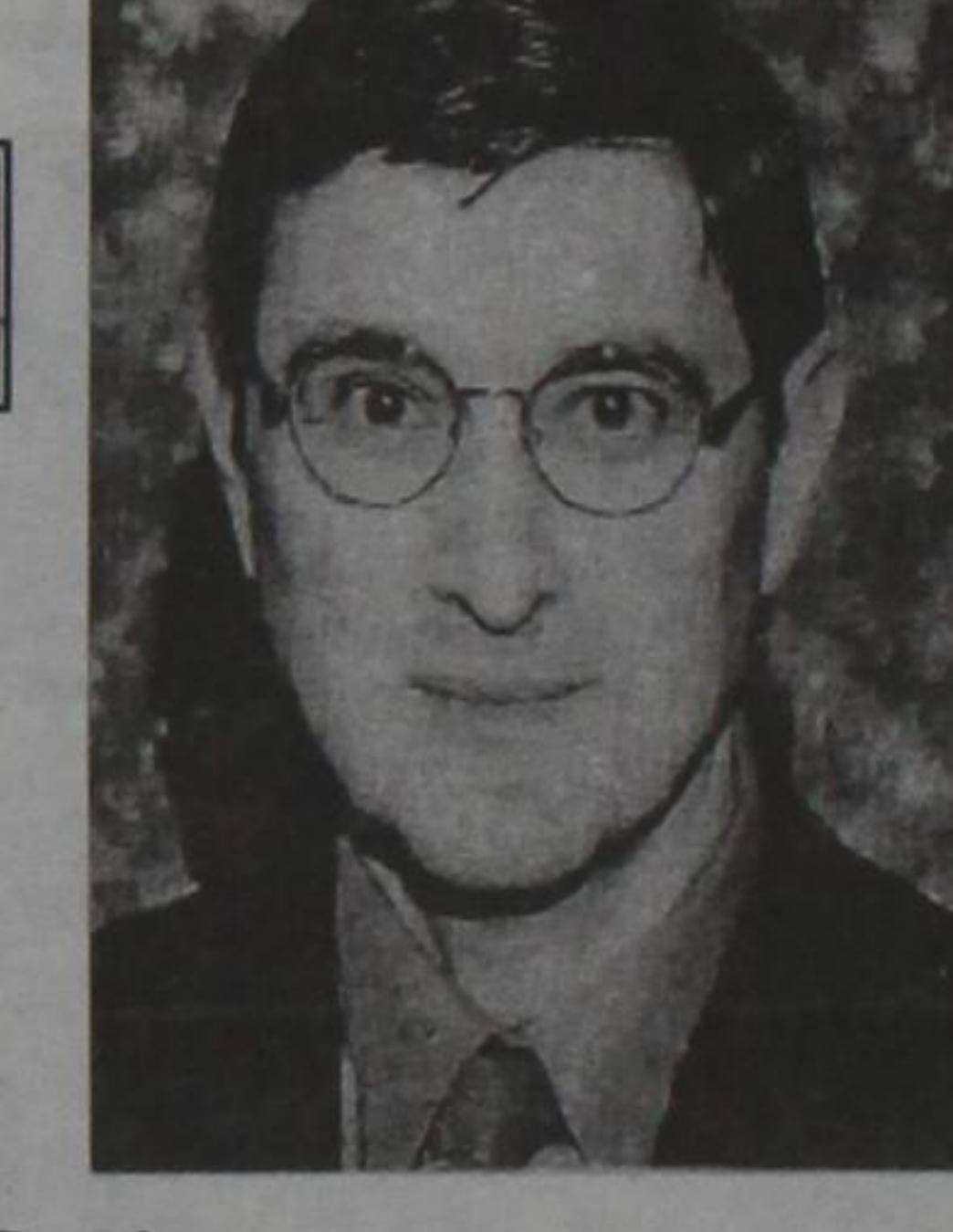
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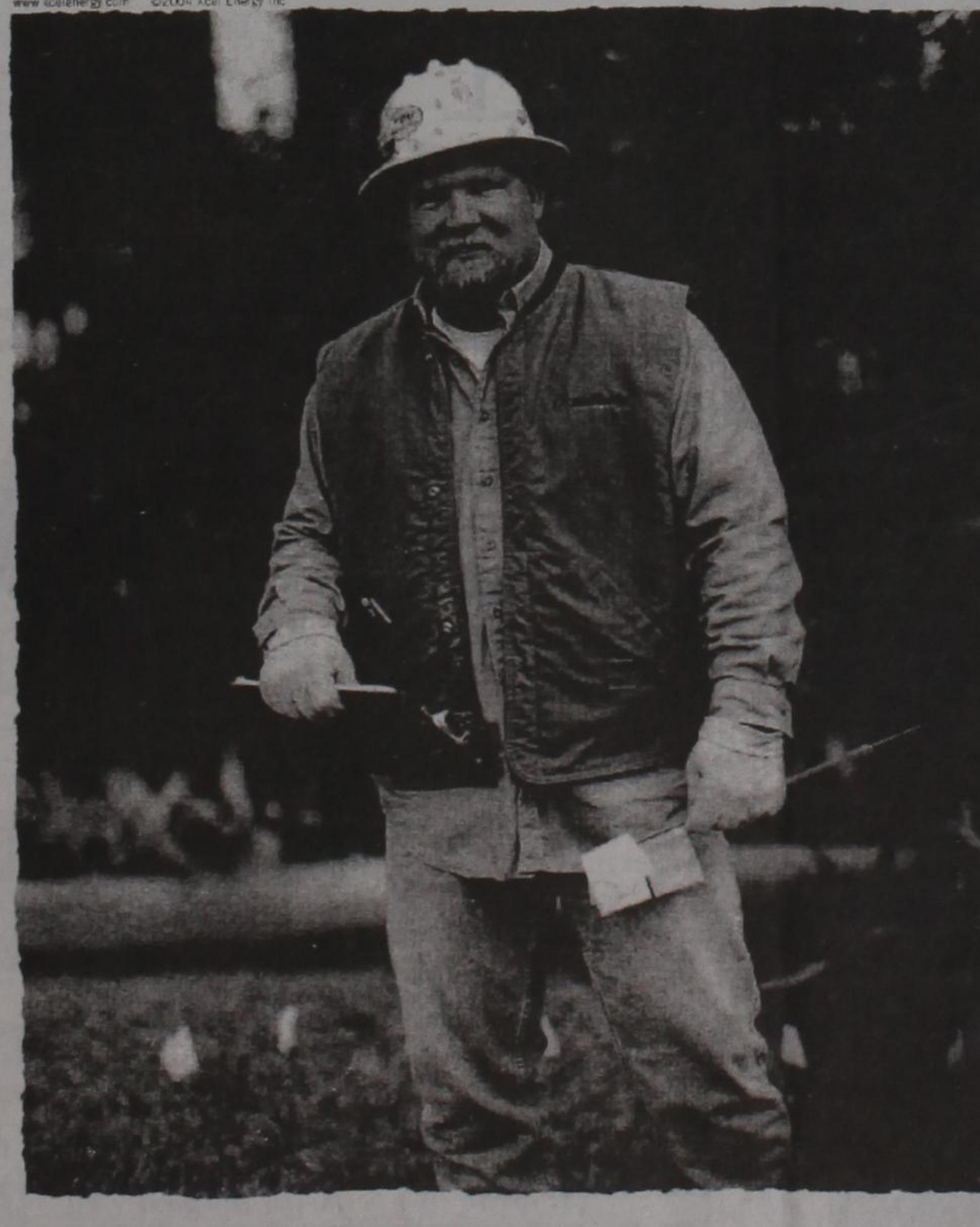
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Confirman re establecimiento del festival Latino de Washington

Con el lema "Devolverle a la comunidad su fiesta y al festival su casa", diversas organizaciones hispanas anunciaron hoy el re establecimiento del festival latino de Washington, cancelado tras los atentados del 11-S de 2001.

"Hace cinco meses nos propusimos rescatar una tradición que perduró durante tres décadas, y el resultado es que hoy anunciamos que la comunidad volverá a tener su fiesta", dijo Rodrigo Leiva, presidente de la junta de directores del nuevo festival.

"Con este esfuerzo no sólo rescatamos una tradición que puso a los latinos en el mapa geográfico y político de Washington, sino que también le devolvemos a la capital del país una tradición que formó parte de la agenda cultural y turística", dijo a su vez Eugenio Arene, director del Consejo de Agencias Latinas de Washington, que apoya este festival, llamado "Fiesta DC".

El gobierno del Distrito de Columbia, la Cámara Iberoamericana de Comercio, Teatro GALA y otros grupos culturales como Soul & Soul y ParaEsoLaPalabra forman parte de la larga lista de grupos que se suman a la naciente organización.

Fiesta DC se realizará el próximo 10 de octubre en el estadio de la Escuela Secundaria Cardozo (donde el 34% de sus estudiantes son de origen latino), muy cerca del llamado barrio latino, entre los vecindarios Mt. Pleasant y Adams Morgan.

Los dirigentes de la nueva organización hicieron énfasis en que se trataba de una fiesta pro-

cultura, orientada a toda la familia, libre de alcohol y tabaco y completamente gratis.

Aunque la programación definitiva será anunciada en las próximas semanas, los organizadores informaron de que el programa cultural incluirá la participación de unos veinte grupos folclóricos de Latinoamérica y España, la presentación de los tres teatros latinos en la capital, y unos doce grupos musicales.

"Tenemos tantos talentos locales que con ellos y ellas ya podríamos llenar una semana de programación", dijo Pedro Avilés, director del comité cultural.

"Es posible que tengamos un grupo invitado, pero nuestra prioridad son nuestros músicos, nuestros folcloristas, nuestros actores y actrices y ese otro gran mundo de nuestros pintores y artesanos, que también los tenemos en abundancia", agregó.

El festival latino de Washington surgió en 1971 como una protesta a los resultados del censo de población, cuyas cifras estimaban que en la capital apenadas había unos 5,000 latinos.

Dado que desde entonces ya se hablaba de una comunidad de al menos 50 mil personas, la dirección "sacó al pueblo a la calle" mediante un festival.

"En ese primer festival Washington y toda su población descubrieron que los latinos éramos miles y miles y que llegamos para quedarnos", recuerda Pedro Luján, pionero del grupo que inició la fiesta latina en el parque Kalorama de Adams Morgan.

Con el paso de los años el fes-

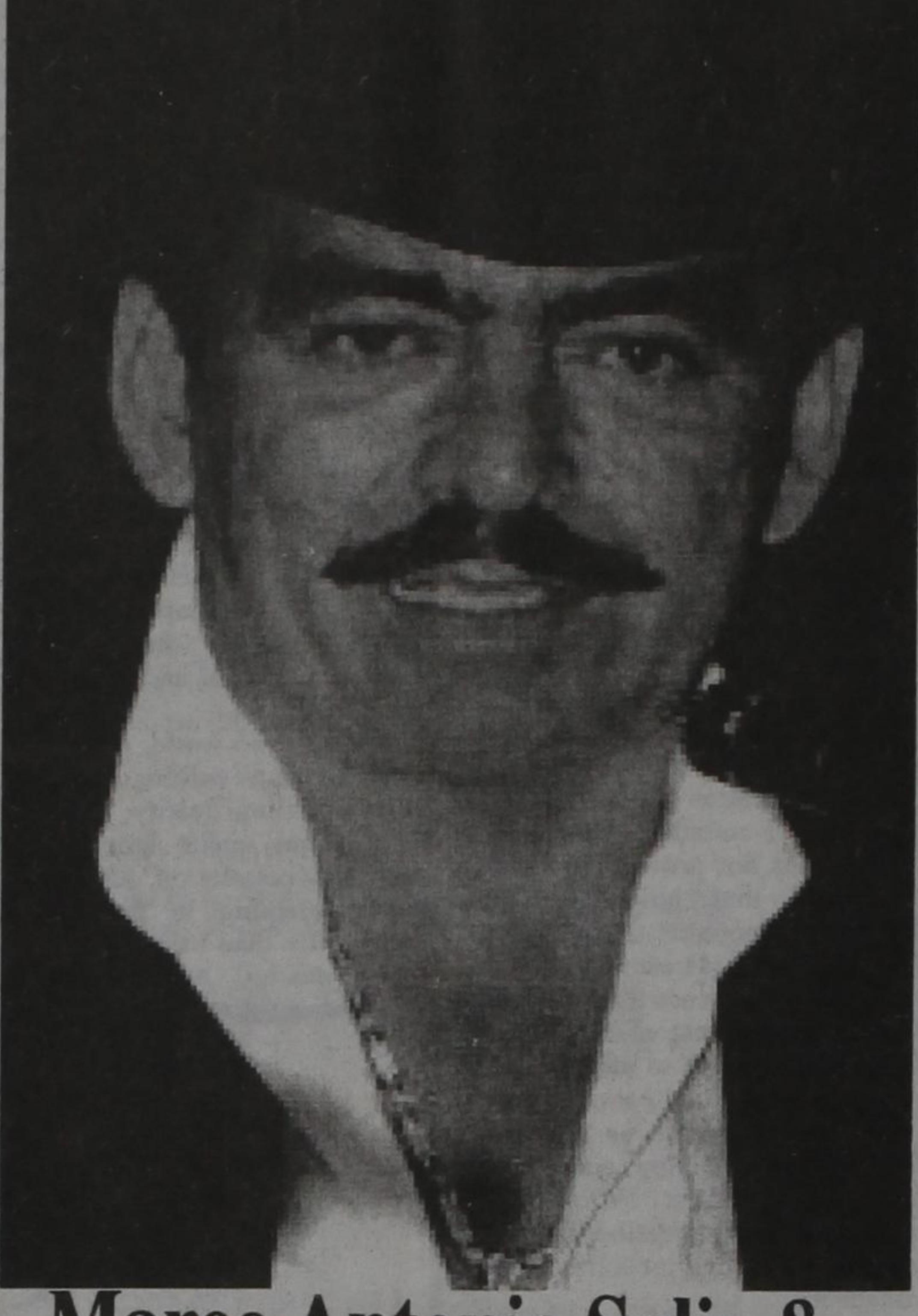
tival se extendió por todo el barrio y su programa de actividades incluía una semana completa, con el desfile como acto culminante el día domingo.

En sus mejores años el festival atrajo a más de 100,000 personas "y a todos los políticos que ya sabían qué éramos una fuerza importante", dice Luján.

A fines de los ochenta se le trasladó a la zona federal de Mall v

ahí se realizó, casi siempre a trompicones y frecuentes conflictos internos, hasta que los sucesos del 11 de septiembre obligaron su cancelación.

"Una tradición de tantos años y de tanta historia reclamaba a gritos su regreso, y ya está de regreso y esta vez para siempre", dijo Alfonso Aguilar, director ejecutivo del nuevo festival.



Marco Antonio Solis & Joan Sebastian Go Gold

Due to the high sales of their latest albums, over 50 thousand units only in Mexico, Los Temerarios, Marco Antonio Solis and Joan Sebastian will be granted shortly a gold record.

In a press release, Univision Communications Inc. stated Los Temerarios earned said award due to their album "Veintisiete". Meanwhile, the album "Dos Grandes: Marco Antonio Solis and Joan Sebastian" were also awarded with a gold record.

They said the album of Los Temerarios was just released last June 29th, and the first single is "Qué de raro tiene", a track topping the charts of Mexican and American radio stations. Univision stated Los Temerarios per-

formed last Friday at the Universal Studios Amphitheater with great success.

The moment was ideal to award them with a Platinum Record for their sales topping more than one million copies of the single "En la madrugada se fue".

The company remarked this is not the first time they have been awarded for their sales. A couple of years ago, the album "Como te recuerdo" also won them a Platinum Record.

As for Marco Antonio Solis and Joan Sebastian's album, it indicated it is a greatest hits compilation of both singers. This is also the first time that their hits are included in a single album. It includes tracks such as "Tu amor o tu desprecio", "O me voy o te vas", from Marco Antonio Solis and "Sé está volviendo loco" y "Llorar" from Joan Sebastian.

It also includes a DVD with the best videos of the two artists like "Si no te hubieras ido" and "Dónde estará mi primavera" (Marco Antonio Solis) and "Gracias por tanto amor" and "Me gustas" (Joan Sebastian).



La noche fue de Santana

En una gala que destacó tanto la creatividad artística como el sentido humanitario de Carlos Santana, la Academia Latina de la Grabación homenajeó la noche del lunes al músico mexicano como su Persona del Año.

La cena de homenaje a Carlos Santana en el hotel Century Plaza de Century City sirvió además como celebración de los nominados este año al Grammy Latino—docenas de ellos asistieron y un buen número de ellos participaron—y como evento de recaudación de fondos para MusiCares, un programa benéfico de la Academia.

Doce actores cómicos mexicamericanos, George López y Cheech Marin, compartieron los deberes de anfitriones del tributo, que fue presentado por la actriz mexicana Salma Hayek y por el productor musical Quincy Jones, quien tuvo a su cargo la dirección musical de la noche.

Hayek alabó el "increíble sonido de [su] guitarra" mientras que Jones exclamó que "nada iguala el sonido y el alma de Carlos Santana".

En un video se reconoció la trayectoria musical del guitarrista nacido en Autlán, Jalisco, que ha vendido más de 80 millones de discos alrededor del mundo y su trabajo caritativo mediante la Fundación Milagro que estableció con su esposa Deborah en 1998. Entre otros programas, Carlos y Deborah Santana apoyan esfuerzos para combatir el síndrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirida (sida) en África.

Cuando el homenajeado subió al escenario se tomó un momento para agradecer la labor de los meseros y lavaplatos del hotel—"el que sirve es rey y el que no sirve, no sirve", dijo—antes de dedicar la noche a sus padres y hermanos y a su esposa e hijos (Deborah y el hijo de la pareja, Salvador, le acompañaron en la gala).

Santana finalizó un corto discurso en el que pidió a todos los

presentes que buscaran la felicidad con la declaración: "Soy lo opuesto de George Bush".

Acto seguido, el grupo Ozomatli irrumpió en el salón de la gala, instrumentos en mano, dando inicio a la porción musical donde la mayoría de los músicos ofrecieron sus versiones de temas popularizados por Santana y su banda. Así, pasaron por el escenario artistas como el grupo Black Eyed Peas, ofreciendo su versión de You've Got to Change Your Evil Ways, Cabas interpretando No One to Depend On, Julieta Venegas en The Game of Love, Obie Bermúdez con Alejandro Lerner en Oye como va y La Ley con Black Magic Woman.

Santana mismo subió al escenario para interpretar una versión de Samba pa' ti en la que su guitarra fue acompañada solamente por el piano, interpretado por su hijo Salvador. Después finalizaría la noche con el acompañamiento estelar del pianista Herbie Hancock y el saxofonista Wayne Shorter.

Santana es la quinta persona en recibir el premio de Persona del Año de la Academia Latina, honor que ha recaído antes en Gilberto Gil, Vicente Fernández, Julio Iglesias y Emilio Estefan.

Una porción de las entradas de la noche serán dedicadas a la MusiCares Foundation, que ayuda a músicos con emergencias financieras o médicas.

From Page 3

family members, inability to become a US citizen, and failure to sponsor family members. At a time that our nation is trying to protect its residents from potential biological terrorism and contaminants, it simply does not make sense to hinder a significant portion of our population from seeking health care.

Aside from the looming public health crisis this proposal imposes, everyone should also be troubled that the CMS does not have the authority to protect this information. Exceptions in the Health Insurance

Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) make it easier for law-enforcement officials and government agencies to obtain sensitive medical records, even though such information is disclosed in "confidential" settings.

In addition to the patient disincentive and encroachment of privacy, health-care providers would face an enormous increase in their administrative burdens. New technology would have to be implemented in order to collect and maintain information, and health care professionals would need to undergo extensive training. The result is that health professionals would have to take time away from treating patients. My belief is that health care workers should dedicate their time to the treatment of sick and injured patients, not to onerous paperwork.

CMS needs to adopt an alternative proposal in which patients and public health come first. I urge all elected officials to do everything in their power to stop the implementation of this dangerous CMS proposal.

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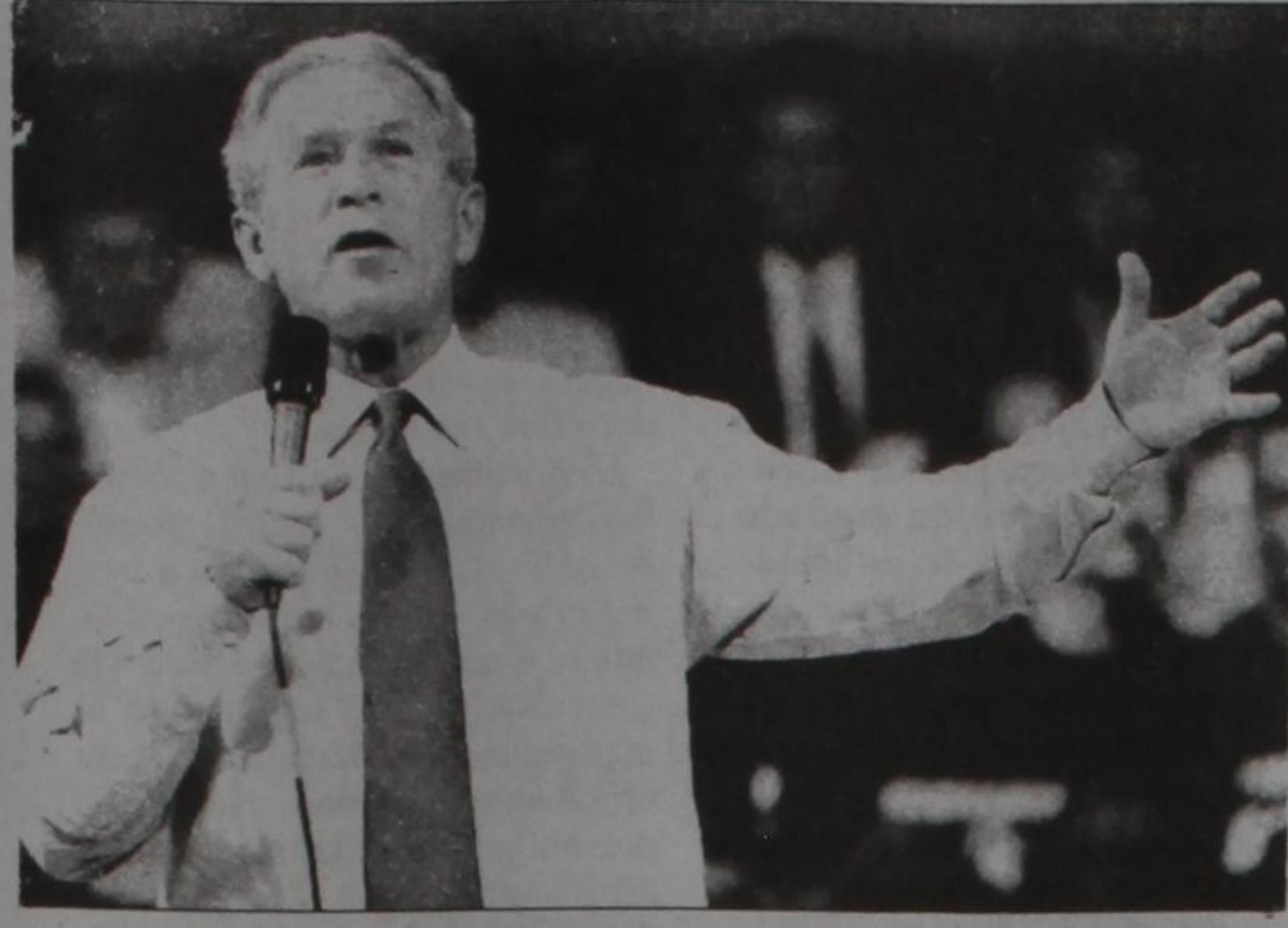
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EL EDITOR



Oradores Pintan

continued from page one

Y sus posturas han hecho que tengan altos índices de aceptación, hasta 65% en la demócrata California. Por eso el partido espera sacar ventaja de Schwarzenegger en su búsqueda de votos de indecisos en una elección que se pronostica será tan cerrada como en 2000. Nadie anticipa que Bush gane en California, pero los republicanos esperan que Schwarzenegger apele a los moderados sobre todo en los estados competidos.

Hasta el momento, Schwarzenegger no se ha comprometido a hacer campaña nacional con Bush, como está haciendo otro moderado, el senador republicano de Arizona, John McCain, quien tiene aspiraciones presidenciales y que sabe que para avanzar sus intereses necesita del apoyo de todos en su partido, aún de aquellos más conservadores. Por eso McCain no atacó abiertamente a los demócratas y por eso se esperaba que Schwarzenegger tampoco lo hiciera, para no aislar a los moderados a través del país.

Alabanzas al líder
Schwarzenegger, como la Primera Dama, también alabó el liderazgo de Bush. "Estados Unidos se ha recuperado de los ataques a nuestra nación, de los ataques a nuestra economía y de los ataques a nuestro estilo de vida. Y nos hemos recuperado por la perseverancia, el carácter y el liderazgo" del 43 presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush. "Compatriotas, quiero que sepan que con todo mi corazón creo que Estados Unidos sigue siendo 'la gran idea' que inspira al mundo".

El recinto encendió en aplausos cuando el presidente Bush hizo una aparición vía satélite desde Pensilvania, donde continuó con su gira de campaña que lo ha llevado a varios estados clave para la elección. Bush ayudó a sus hijas, las gemelas Jenna y Bárbara, a presentar a la Primera Dama cuyo discurso cerró la segunda noche de la convención.

El presidente presentó a la Primera Dama mediante un enlace por satélite, desde Pensilvania, donde realizó un acto proselitista. George W. Bush hablará en la convención la noche del jueves, cuando aceptará su postulación para un nuevo mandato.

El Partido Republicano oficializó ayer la designación de la candidatura de Bush para la presidencia. En la votación por estados, y tras los votos de Pensilvania, Bush obtenía ya 1,321 delegados, más de los 1,255 necesarios para asegurarle matemáticamente la candidatura, en un proceso puramente ceremonial.

El proceso de voto por estados aún no ha concluido, pero ya no cabe duda de que el actual presidente logrará la totalidad de los delegados que asisten a la convención.

Las gemelas de 22 años del matrimonio Bush, Jenna y Bárbara, hablaron a los delegados en el Madison Square Garden justo antes del discurso de su padre.

"Quiero explicar a la gente lo que he visto en momentos privados, porque yo tengo una perspectiva privilegiada", explicó la Primera Dama. "He visto cómo en los últimos cuatro años ha tomado decisiones muy, muy difíciles. Y quiero hacer saber a la gente cómo fue eso y cómo es él", añadió en una entrevista televisada.

En su alocución, Laura Bush agregó: "La generación de nuestros padres enfrentó a la tiranía y liberó a millones. En la realiza-

ción de la tarea difícil para enfrentar a la amenaza de hoy, podemos también estar orgullosos de que 50 millones más de hombres, mujeres y niños vivan en libertad gracias a Estados Unidos y a nuestros aliados".

En una noche en que el tema principal de la convención fue la compasión, Laura Bush eligió abordar "el asunto que considero más importante para mis hijas, para todas nuestras familias y para nuestro porvenir: El trabajo de George para proteger a nuestro país y derrotar al terrorismo, de modo que todos los niños puedan crecer en un mundo más pacífico".

"Estoy tan orgullosa de la manera en que George ha gobernado a nuestro país con fortaleza y convicción. Esta noche, deseo tratar de responder la pregunta que creo que muchas personas me harían si nos sentáramos a tomar una taza de café o nos encontráramos en una tienda: Usted lo conoce mejor que nadie. Usted ha visto cosas que nadie ha visto. ¿Por qué piensa que debemos volver a elegirlo Presidente?", dijo la Primera Dama.

Agregó que su esposo está dirigiendo "la más histórica lucha que mi generación haya conocido" porque hay demasiado en juego, y en el proceso ha demostrado su capacidad, su liderazgo y su compasión.

habla el sobrino

El sobrino del presidente, George P. Bush, también habló anoche en el intento de apelar no sólo a los votantes jóvenes, sino a los hispanos. El joven, hijo del gobernador de Florida, Jeb Bush con su esposa Columba, es el rostro que aparece en los comerciales que la campaña Bush-Cheney promueve en los estados competidos donde el voto hispano será crucial: Arizona, Nevada, Nuevo México, Colorado y Florida. En 2000 Bush obtuvo 35% del voto hispano y los republicanos esperan incrementar esa cifra.

Aunque los demócratas ganen el voto latino, si reducen sus porcentajes, que en 2000 fue de 62%, eso supondría malas noticias para las aspiraciones de elección del demócrata John Kerry.

El joven, que habló sobre lo que ha hecho el Presidente para promover el avance de las minorías y de los inmigrantes, hizo referencia a la Estatua de la Libertad que "levanta su lámpara junto a la puerta dorada" que representa Estados Unidos y el sueño americano para los inmigrantes. En español dijo que "juntos debemos abrir la puerta de las oportunidades con la reelección del presidente George W. Bush".

Mientras se conducía la Convención Nacional Republicana, en algunos puntos de Manhattan los manifestantes hicieron realidad su amenaza de conducir actos de desobediencia civil. Sólo ayer se produjeron más de 270 arrestos elevando la cifra de arrestos desde el pasado jueves a más de 800.

By Erika Robles

Our perceptions of people from different nationalities and races have often been formed by images from the media: films, music, newspapers, magazines - but mostly from TV news. The same way overseas media often portrays White-Americans as fat, ignorant about what's happening outside the US, naive, and loud, the US media portrays African-Americans as "criminals," Hispanic Americans as "illegal aliens," Arab Americans as "terrorists" and Native Americans as "lazy."

The News Media portrays national issues with an ethnic bias. Based on a study conducted by Professor Gilens of Yale University, he found out that even though most poor people in the U.S. are white, the news media generally show them as black. "By implicitly identifying poverty with race, the news media

perpetuate stereotypes that work against the interests of both poor people and African-American," Professor Gilens argues.

Most of the local coverage of the Arab and Muslim community has been limited to a terrorism theme, while showing images of Muslims on their knees at prayer. This creates the false assumption that Arabs and Muslims are irrelevant when it comes to anything other than terrorism.

The media are important sources of information that we use in forming our impressions of other people. For the 5th year, GRID (Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy) has conducted a study monitoring racial representation on the local TV news. The findings aren't surprising, as they hadn't changed significantly from previous years. The local TV news

keeps showing, disproportionately, minority faces as crime suspects. Unless the news is related to crime, where the percentages go way up -especially for Latinos, Blacks and Arabs- minority voices in the news are a small percentage of all voices in local TV news coverage. This can have a negative impact on public perception about who's committing the crime.

According to the NAHJ (National Association of Hispanic Journalists), the portrayals of Latinos in Network Television News in 2001 are, in its majority, related to migration. The U.S. networks place a great emphasis on the border "as a defining metaphor for Latinos, especially Mexican Americans. Many stories used images of Mexican immigrants trying to elude INS officials in their quest to cross 'the border'." The stereotypical use of cultural artifacts and forms -such as salsa or mariachi music, and food- were a key device of placing Latinos in context, even if these forms were irrelevant to the issues being discussed.

For instance, "In 2001, one story included commentary from an anchor about the increase of the Latino population while a Latina performer, who appeared pregnant, was shown rubbing her belly."

The language used by reporters was also extraordinary. Talking about the growth of the Latino population, one reporter said, "the population not only grows, it 'surges'." Another one said, "Mexicans immigrants don't come to the US, they 'flock' here." The images shown portrayed Latinos living in "ghettos" or inside the "barrio" stereotype.

Despite the fact that Latinos are the fastest growing ethnic and racial group in the US -one in

every eight US residents is now of Hispanic origin-, the lack of a Latino presence in news coverage is burdensome. The way the news are currently covering their stories, makes the assumption that minorities have nothing to say on non-race specific issues such as education, economy, the environment, gender and politics; and that most Hispanics are either criminals or illegal aliens.

Positive images of Hispanics are nearly vacant in the national consciousness due to the way images of Latinos have been constantly constructed on the news.

Why should we care about this? First of all, because the portrayal of minorities in the news is inaccurate. Not all Hispanics are illegal aliens who live in ghettos while dancing to salsa music; not all black people are poor people or criminals; and not all Arabs are involved in terrorism and there's definitely more that defines Muslims than the mere images of them praying. Furthermore, the public perception is crucial to the formation and implementation of public policy. These manufactured perceptions from the media often leads to societal support of excessive police force, harsh immigration policies and cultural narrowness.

If the media truly wants to promote democratic values, they must accurately portray communities and their racial diversity. They should stop using racial stereotypes when referring to these communities and they should start utilizing minority opinions for non-race issues. The consequence of not doing so would only divide the population even more and distort the public discourse so necessary for any democratic society.



Knight discussing sitcom Idea with CBS

LUBBOCK, Texas — The life and times of Bob Knight could soon be right inside America's living rooms.

The fiery Texas Tech coach met with television officials last month in Los Angeles and gave his approval for a sitcom deal. CBS and Paramount Television are exploring the development

Diferencias en Florida

Asimismo, mientras se conducía el segundo día de la convención, en Florida, un estado clave para Bush en 2000 y ahora en 2004, el ex Secretario de Vivienda, el republicano Mel Martinez, se enfrentaba en una primaria por el escaño senatorial que deja el demócrata Bob Graham.

Martinez fue el gran ausente de este evento precisamente porque coincidió con la primaria. Se había indicado que si Martinez gana, vendría a la Convención a dirigirse a los delegados. El problema es que la campaña de Martinez acusó a su principal contendiente, el ex congresista republicano de Florida, Bill McCollum, de apoyar los derechos de los homosexuales cuando en realidad se trataba de una medida en contra de los delitos de odio.

De hecho, en días pasados el ex senador y candidato presidencial republicano en 1996, Bob Dole, dijo que Kerry no había sangrado lo suficiente como para haber recibido tantas medallas.

Hoy, miércoles, se dirigen a la Convención el vicepresidente Dick Cheney, y el senador demócrata de Georgia, Zell Miller, quien apoya a Bush en esta elección.

of a half-hour comedy that could run by next year.

Knight, 63, would serve as a consultant and said he might make guest appearances.

"Right now it's still in an embryonic stage," Lindy DeKoven, who would serve as the show's executive producer, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal for Tuesday's editions. "Right now we don't have a writer yet, so we can't get into too much detail. But, it would be a half-hour comedy based on Bobby's character."

Knight was out of town Tuesday and couldn't be reached for comment.

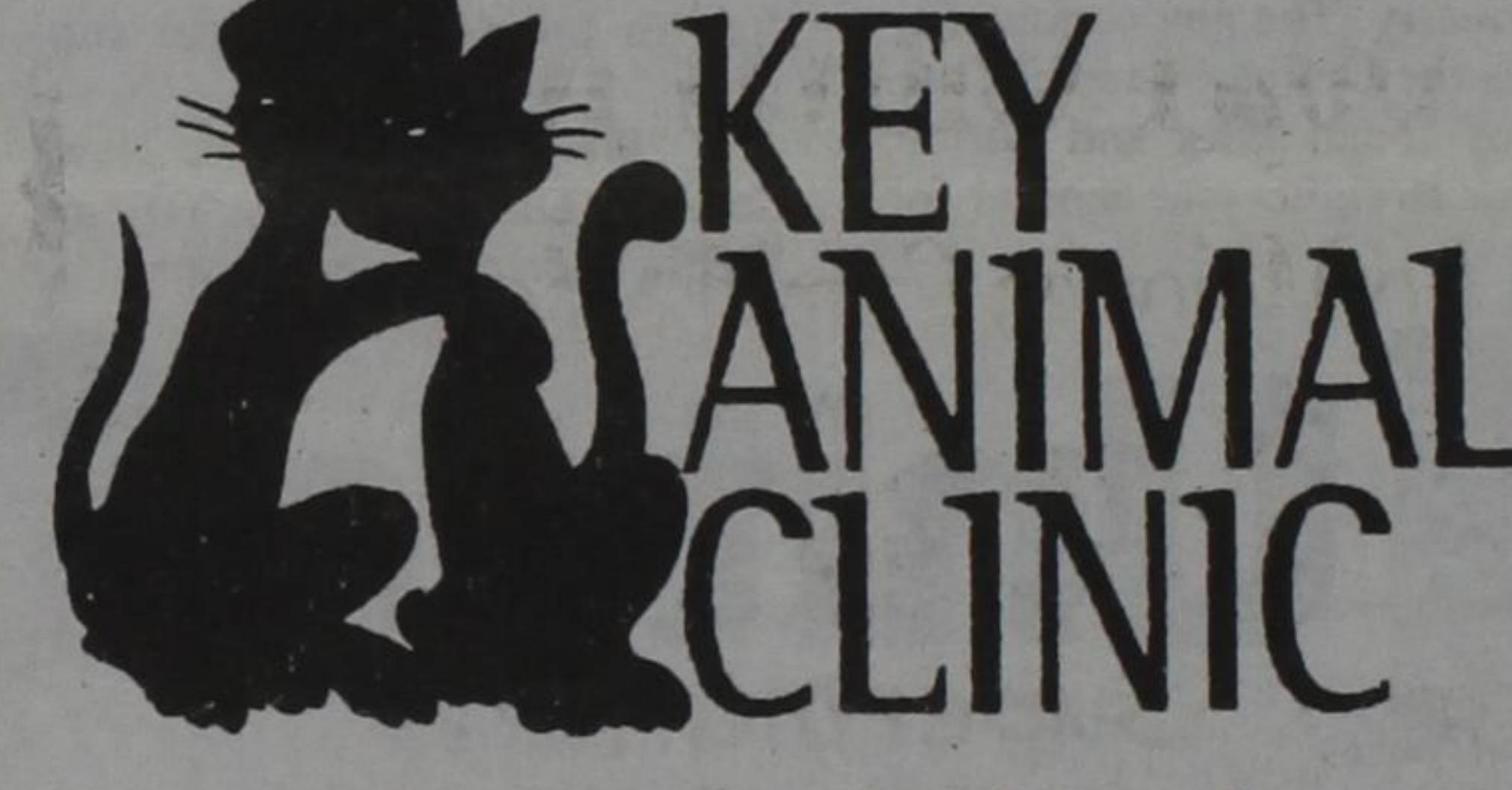
The next step is for a writer to come to Lubbock to spend time getting to know Knight at work and at home.

When the script is written, DeKoven will take it to CBS, which will decide whether to make it a pilot.

John Wentworth, executive vice president of marketing and media for Paramount Television, said the show would possibly be ready to run in September 2005.

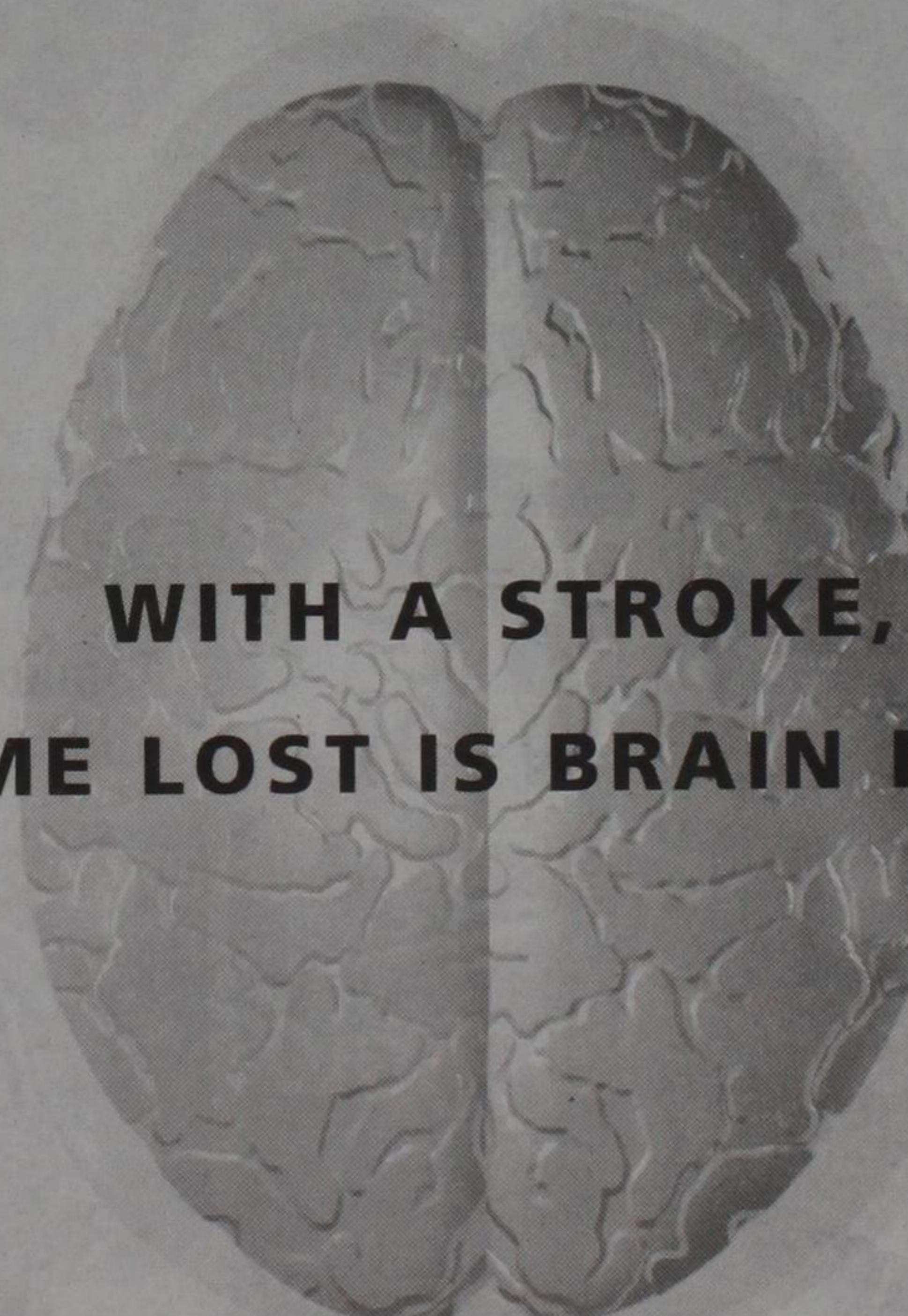
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Latino Dilemma Over Gay Identity From Page 3

that exposure might bring.

Extrapolating from census data, LLEGO estimates the U.S. Latino gay population as about 4 million, or 10 percent of the currently estimated Latino population. It sounds like an awful lot, but again, Ornelas-Quintero reminds that it could be more because very many Latino gays are still in the closet.

The 2000 U.S. Census reported more than 600,000 households were headed by same sex couples, of which 297,061 were lesbian. It identified 70,800 as Latino same sex households. The Census Bureau has said there may have been a substantial undercount.

What concerns the Latino gay community and has LLEGO's concentration is the AIDS threat to Latino gays. It says the HIV/AIDS epidemic has scourged the Latino gay community for the past 20 years and is getting worse.

LLEGO's data show Latinos account for 14 percent of the U.S. population but for 20 percent of those living with AIDS. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention disclosed a 26 percent increase in HIV diagnoses among Hispanics in 29 states from 1999-2002.

Health issues aside, Latino gays are currently involved with the same-sex-couple and gay-marriage issues that are roiling the country. The gay community argues the United States has two sets of social laws and policy, one for straights and another for gays.

Gay couples want to marry legally and raise a family. They want the same rights provided heterosexual marriages that include 1,138 federal rights and privileges such as tax advantages, social security benefits and inheritance rights.

President Bush opposes gay marriages and, at the risk of alienating the gay vote, wants a constitutional amendment that identifies marriage as strictly between man and woman. The Democrats' presumed presidential candidate, John Kerry, vacillates, saying he opposes gay marriage but supports civil unions.

On the president's proposed amendment, Ornelas-Quintero told an interviewer that "love is not a sin and the president should not distort spiritual beliefs to support inequality."

LLEGO is lobbying Latino politicians and organizations for support, but some key Latino groups run for cover when this issue comes up. The GOP Congressional Hispanic Conference, which two years ago broke away from the dominant Democratic Congressional Hispanic Caucus, supports President Bush's proposed measure.

The Latino Democrats, doing the bureaucratic shuffle of one step forward and two steps backward, says the caucus will not take a stand, but its members are free to provide individual support.

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El Dilema Latino Sobre La Identidad Sexual

Carlos D. Conde

Cuando el gobernador de Nueva Jersey, James E. McGreevey, se descubrió como homosexual, nos mostró hasta qué punto la sociedad estadounidense está todavía lidiando con el tema de la homosexualidad.

La partida del señor McGreevey de la política pronto pasará, pero no pasarán los argumentos sobre el aceptar o no un estilo de vida diferente que toma vuelo actualmente de la controversia sobre el matrimonio entre homosexuales.

La iglesia católica se opone a tal matrimonio. El presidente Bush quiere una enmienda a la Constitución que prohíba los matrimonios entre homosexuales. La Corte Suprema de California invalidó un pocotón de tales votos matrimoniales que sancionó el alcalde de San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, mientras que otras magistraturas están aún intentando definir lo que es moral y lo que es legal y si hay vínculo entre ambos conceptos.

En el mundo latino, al menos en la cultura mexicana, la fantasía brega todavía con la realidad, en particular entre los hombres. La comunidad hace caso omiso de su gran población homosexual, por lo que no hay nada de mayor aceptación que ser "puro macho" y nada de mayor rechazo que recibir la etiqueta peyorativa mexicana de "joto", o en otras partes, de "maricón".

Entre la comunidad de habla inglesa, "gay" se ha convertido en el término aceptado, pero los latinos de hoy en día, cargados de tabúes de moralidad, nunca han hallado una palabra cómoda, descriptiva, digna de una conversación social. Entonces, por no utilizar un término despectivo, se remiten al término menos ofensivo del inglés.

Sex gay, o lo que sea, es una violación de los preceptos básicos de nuestra cultura: el conservadurismo, la religión y el machismo. Desde muy temprano, los padres mexicanos (me refiero a mi propia historia) inculcan las virtudes de "ser un hombre" y denigran el comportamiento afeminado o la bajeza sexual. Ni siquiera aparecía el lesbianismo en nuestro léxico.

Ese fue el mundo de ayer. Si bien algunos prejuicios reacios quedan, los latinos, como la mayoría de la sociedad estadounidense, aceptan más a su comunidad gay y va creciendo la actitud de vivir y dejar vivir a los demás. Hay más y más latinos

homosexuales que asumen abiertamente su orientación sexual.

Muchas personas creen que la comunidad gay latina prefiere ser anónima, pero la realidad es que ha tenido una organización de cabildo en Washington desde hace dieciséis años. La National Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization (LLEGO por sus siglas en inglés) tiene 172 filiales por Estados Unidos continental y Puerto Rico.

"Llegó" parece ser una descripción apta para un grupo que siente que ha llegado como un verdadero participante en la sociedad y que merece recibir respeto por ello.

No hay una cifra aceptada, fiel, de latinos homosexuales, hombres y mujeres, en los EEUU por lo que, como dice director ejecutivo de LLEGO, Martín Ornelas-Quintero, hay más y más que se descubren, pero quedan muchos encubiertos aun, sin reconocer su orientación y con temor a la discriminación que podrá traer el ser expuestos.

Al extrapolar de los datos provenientes del censo de los Estados Unidos, LLEGO calcula que la población homosexual latina en los EEUU está en los 4 millones, o el 10 por ciento del cálculo actual de la población latina. Parece ser un número alto, pero de nuevo, Ornelas-Quintero nos recuerda que podrá ser aún mayor por lo que siguen encubiertos todavía muchísimos latinos homosexuales.

El Censo 2000 de los Estados Unidos reportó que más de 600,000 hogares los llevaban parejas homosexuales, de las cuales 297,061 eran lesbianas. Identificó a 70,800 como hogares homosexuales latinos. El Negociado del Censo ha indicado que es posible que haya dejado de contar por mucho la verdadera población.

Los datos de LLEGO muestran que los latinos son el 14 por ciento de la población estadounidense, pero que son el 20 por ciento de los que viven con SIDA. El Center for Disease Control & Prevention reveló un aumento de 26 por ciento en diagnósticos de VIH entre los hispanos en 29 estados entre 1999 y 2002.

Aparte de los temas de salud,

los homosexuales latinos se ven involucrados actualmente en los temas de parejas homosexuales y matrimonios entre homosexuales que arrasan el país. La comunidad gay argumenta que los Estados Unidos opera con dos tipos de leyes y política social, uno para los heterosexuales y el otro para los homosexuales.

Las parejas de homosexuales

querían casarse legalmente y tener una familia. Quieren gozar de los mismos derechos de los que disfrutan los matrimonios het-

erosexuales que incluyen 1,138 derechos y privilegios federales tales como ventajas impositivas, beneficios de seguro social, y derechos a la herencia.

El presidente Bush se opone a los matrimonios entre homosexuales y, arriesgándose a perder el voto de los homosexuales, quiere efectuar una enmienda a la Constitución que identifique al matrimonio estrictamente entre un hombre y una mujer. El presunto candidato de los demócratas, John Kerry, duda, diciendo que se opone al matrimonio entre homosexuales, pero que está a favor de las uniones civiles.

Sobre la enmienda propuesta por el presidente, Ornelas-Quintero le dijo a un entrevistador que "el amor no es pecado y el presidente no debería distorsionar las creencias espirituales para apoyar la desigualdad".

LLEGO cabildea a las organizaciones y a los políticos latinos en busca de apoyo, pero algunos grupos latinos claves corren a esconderse cuando surge el tema. La conferencia republicana de hispanos en el Congreso, que se desligó hace dos años del dominante Caucus Demócrata Hispano del Congreso, apoya la medida propuesta por Bush.

Los demócratas latinos, como buenos burócratas que dan un paso para adelante, dos pasos para atrás, dicen que no se definirá el Caucus, aunque tienen la libertad de prestar su apoyo a los miembros individuales.

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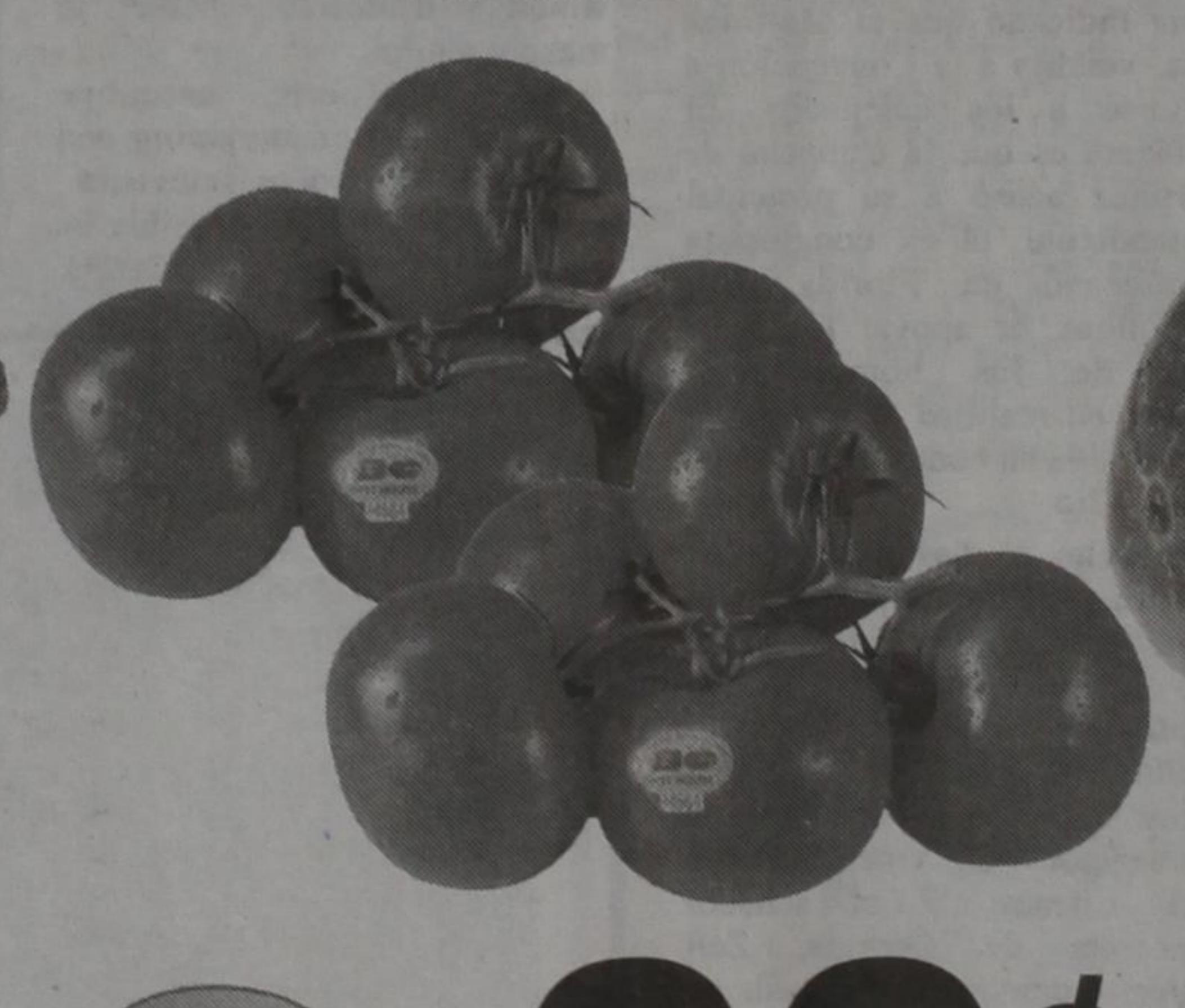
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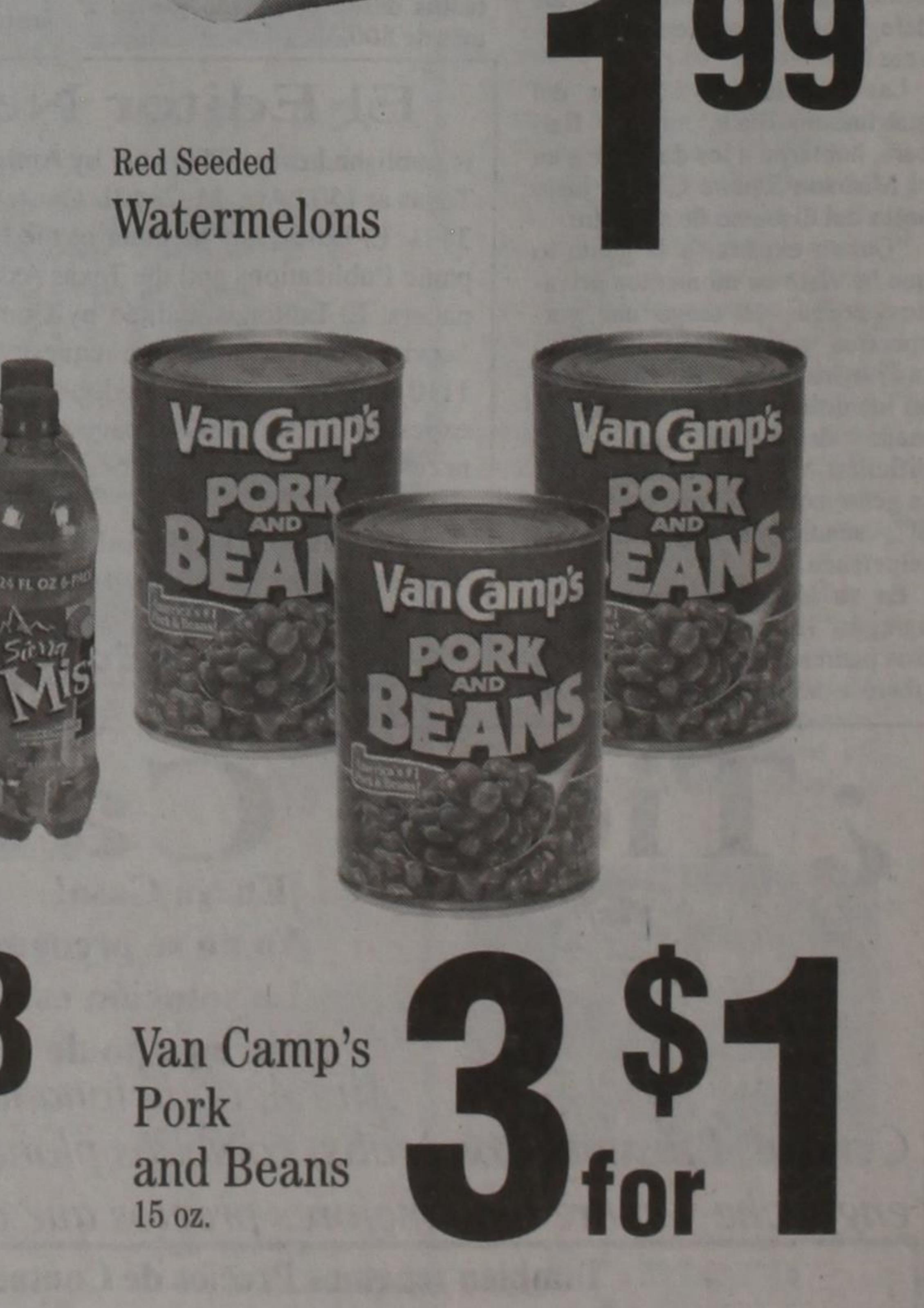


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