

el Espectador

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Week of April 1 thru 7, 2004

Lubbock, TX USA

Hispanic lawmakers leery of school funding proposals

Gary Scharrer

AUSTIN -- Mexican-American legislators will oppose efforts to increase state sales taxes and also will fight any school finance plan that dilutes equity between property-rich and property-poor schools, Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said Wednesday. Gallego is chairman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus. State leaders want to eliminate the Robin Hood funding plan, which now obligates more than 100 property-wealthy school districts to send more than \$1 billion a year in tax revenues to property-poor schools. Some lawmakers believe they can end the Robin Hood plan simply by replacing the money raised in rich districts with an equal amount of new state dollars.

districts a spending advantage of more than \$4,000 a student, or the ability to dramatically reduce tax rates, said Paul Colbert, a former lawmaker and now a school finance consultant.

Providing better education at far lower tax rates, he said, would give rich school districts "a considerable advantage in attracting new business."

Gallego said lawmakers couldn't allow that to happen. "You can't have a situation such as Ysleta in El Paso that is watching from afar as Alamo Heights (a rich district in San Antonio) or Highland Park (a wealthy Dallas district) create new opportunities for their kids, and at the same time, are able to tremendously lower the burden of their taxes," Gallego said.

The Mexican American Legislative Caucus includes nearly one-third of the

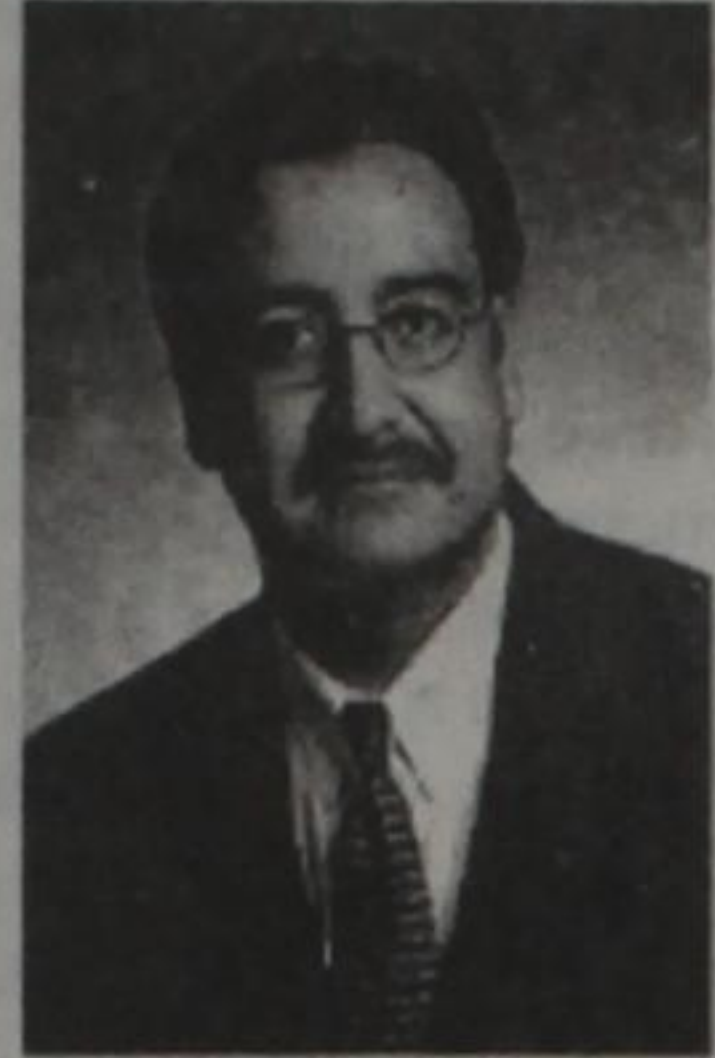
150-member Texas House of Representatives.

Gallego said minority members would oppose a sales tax increase because Texas already has the second-highest sales tax rate (6.25 percent) among the 15 most populous states. Texas already relies too heavily on the sales tax, which brings in nearly 58 percent of the state's total tax revenue, he said.

Sales taxes hurt lower-income families more than others. Sales taxes also are not deductible on federal tax returns, Gallego said, meaning that a shift from property taxes to higher sales taxes would result in tax increases for many middle-income Texans.

Gov. Rick Perry said he would call a special session on school finance this spring if legislative leaders reach a consensus on a solution. Perry has not yet discussed school finance with leaders of the Mexican-American caucus, Gallego said.

"If you want a consensus on education," Gallego said, "the only way to reach that consensus is to bring the members in and make them talk."



Pete Gallego

Education opportunities expanding for U.S. Hispanics

Washington, D.C., March 31, 2004 (Notimex) - Rod Paige, United States Secretary of Education, signed an agreement today with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) intended to expand education opportunities for Latino students.

"I am pleased to sign an agreement that will strengthen our alliance with HACU to comply with our shared objectives of raising the academic achievements of young Hispanics preparing them for the demands of the XXI Century," stated the public official.

"The historic alliance promises to open up new doors for academic success for our country's youngest and largest ethnic population," pointed out HACU president, Antonio R. Flores, during the annual HACU reunion in Washington.

The understanding that has been reached has the stated goal of coordinating activities that will promote work and educational opportunities by the Department of Education for students and educators in institutions affiliated to the HACU.

In addition it will channel funds that will reinforce education and research in those same organizations.

Included among the initiatives promoted by the project are to insert interns or apprentices at the Department of Education and to provide openings for representatives of the educational institutions that offer services to Hispanics to take part in counseling boards and commissions of that same federal entity.

It also seeks to broaden opportunities for graduate students and Hispanics professors, promoting research in subjects of interest to Hispanics, programs, and forums, special workshops designed to heighten academic performance among Latinos, are just a few of its objectives.

As part of the agreement, the Department of Education and HACU will establish a joint leadership group to coordinate combined activities.

HACU is a non-profit national organization representing 359 universities and centers for higher learning that have considerable Hispanic enrollment.

The great majority of these higher-learning centers can garner funds according to Title V of the Amendments to the Superior Education Act of 1998, whose goal is to improve academic quality, the level of the docents and the installations of those institutions.

The budget projected by president George W. Bush for fiscal 2005 requests 95.5 million dollars for the program, an increase of 40 per cent since Bush took over, according to information from the Department of Education. NOTIMEX



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

We get Letters:

I think all the majority of the people of District 3 appreciate what Gilbert Flores has done for his precinct in the past and it is time for a new "dreamer" such as he was 12 years ago to take over and try new ideas. The Word has always been to get people involved and now that someone is getting involved and want to try new "dreams" he should be given a chance. I am not a voter in District 3 but the same applies for T. J Patterson, which is my City Councilman. We appreciated all he has done and I'm sure he can continue his Christmas visitations and be a strong community worker for his district, city, state and nation. Janie Ramirez has been a very good example of a good community worker such as being involved with "Keep Lubbock Beautiful" "Back to School Fiesta" She has also been a book and play writer. Janie has been involved with "Raiders Rojos" and plenty more organizations that I am not aware of. Good luck to Victor Hernandez in his venture to become a judge. He made a bold choice to try to unseat a sitting judge. Tom Wells - delivered via email

Editor:

I want to comment on a story written by Bidal Agüero of on the week of March 25, 2004.

I want to thank you Mr. Agüero for saying that the flyer that I typed on Mr. Gilbert Flores was a "clever" way to get people to look at it twice. I might say it served its purpose well. Mr. Agüero, I'm sorry that you didn't know the answers to the questions on the flyer, but I want to thank you anyway because now everybody that reads your news paper will know the answers.

Gilbert Flores has done an excellent job as our County Commissioner these past 12 years and has nothing to be ashamed of.

Gilbert Flores is an honest person and uses the taxpayer money wisely.

If Mr. Ysidro Gutierrez feels that he is better than Mr. Gilbert Flores, where has he been hiding for the last 12 years?

It seems that the same people have kept running against Mr. Gilbert Flores for the past 12 years and Mr. Gutierrez is just another one of the same bunch.

And by the way Mr. Agüero we all know that Al Gore invented the Internet!

Elsa Hernandez - delivered via email
More Letters On Page 2

Early Voting Starts Monday

A race that has some times drawn heated discussions will begin the final leg to the conclusion this coming Monday as early voting begins to select Lubbock's next County Commissioner for precinct 3.

In the race, incumbent Gilbert Flores a twelve year veteran of the County Court faces challenger Ysidro Gutierrez who promises to bring new vision and ideas to the job.

"New vision and ideas are the thoughts of a dreamer," says Flores. "He is a dreamer when he says that he can build a mercado or pave roads."

Gutierrez has claimed that the present commissioner has an attitude of sustaining the job in "a maintenance mode. When all one does during a twelve years tenure is maintain roads in their present poor condition and do the everyday job of taking telephone calls, I don't think that that person is doing a good job," says Gutiérrez. "When I say that I will work toward building a Mercado the ultimate goal is to expand economic development in an area that must work to acquire improvements in order to benefit the entire county. A Mercado in the Arnett Benson area would help to bring that economic development to fruit."

"Why does he have to be a county commissioner to work toward a Mercado?" asked Flores during a recent debate. Gutiérrez answers that the power of a commission will

uniquely strengthen efforts that have actually been thought about since the 1970's. "The idea has been there but it needs a push from an elected official that can guide it through. If we just hide our head in the ground and say that it can't be done, as Gilbert is saying, it will never be done."

A second issue heavily debated during the campaign has been the party affiliation of each of the candi-

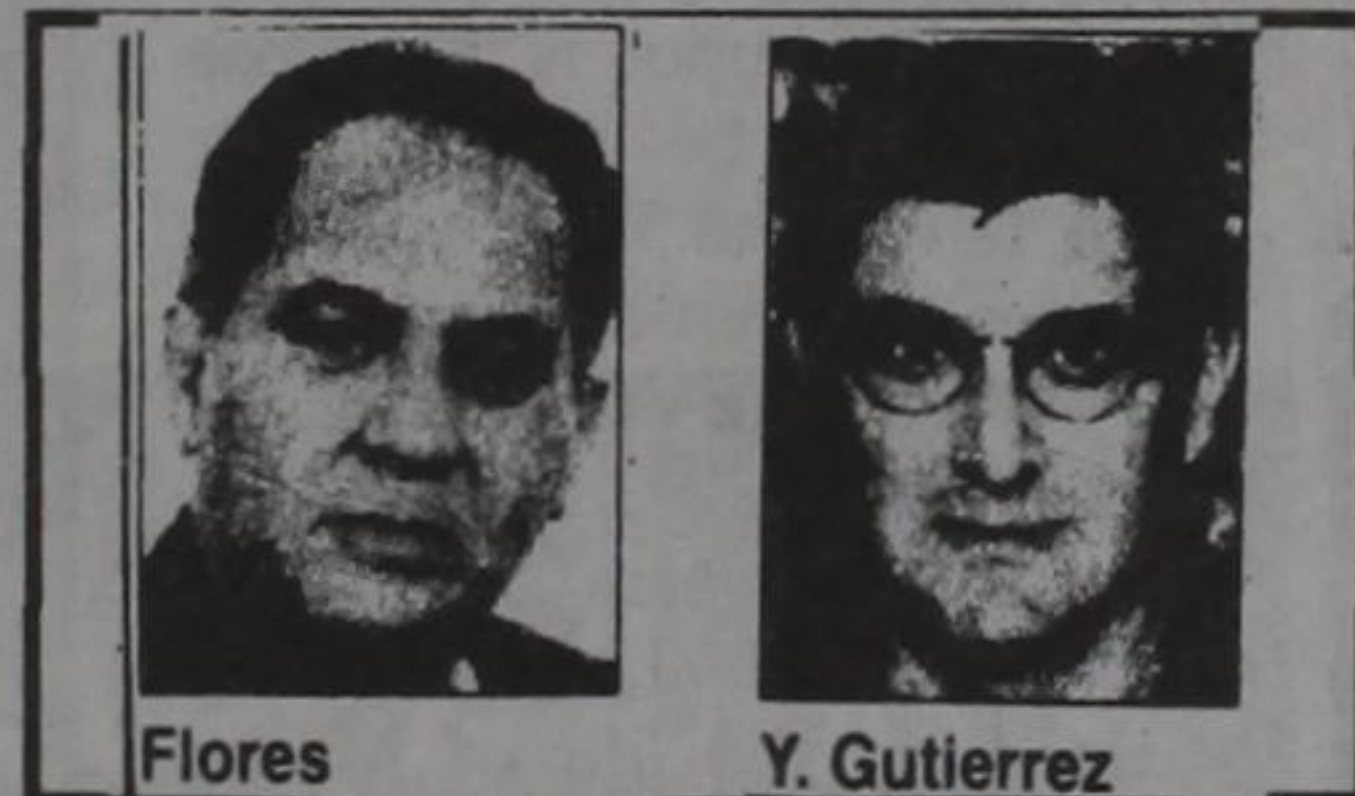
dates. Flores has openly accused Gutiérrez of being a republican. "Maybe Gilbert is confusing me with Frank Gutiérrez, my name is Ysidro.

I am not related to Frank nor am I a republican," says Gutiérrez. Frank Gutiérrez has run and has filed as a republican for several positions including county commissioner.

Ysidro Gutiérrez adds that the accusations are being made in a desperate attempt to call attention away from the issues. "It is a desperate act by a desperate politician who has no definite platform. Gilbert has resorted to name calling as a last resort."

Political observers have said that the race is "neck to neck." The runoff election was necessary after a nine-vote margin divided both candidates in a three man race. Ysabel Luna a third candidate in the race endorsed Gutiérrez for the position saying that "twelve years of Gilbert have been enough. He claims to have done all these things in East Lubbock when in reality, East Lubbock has just been ignored and the things that were done were done by leaders in our community."

Early voting will begins Monday at normal locations including United Supermarkets and the County Courthouse. Polls will be open at 8 am until 8 pm from Monday April 5 until Thursday April 9.



Flores

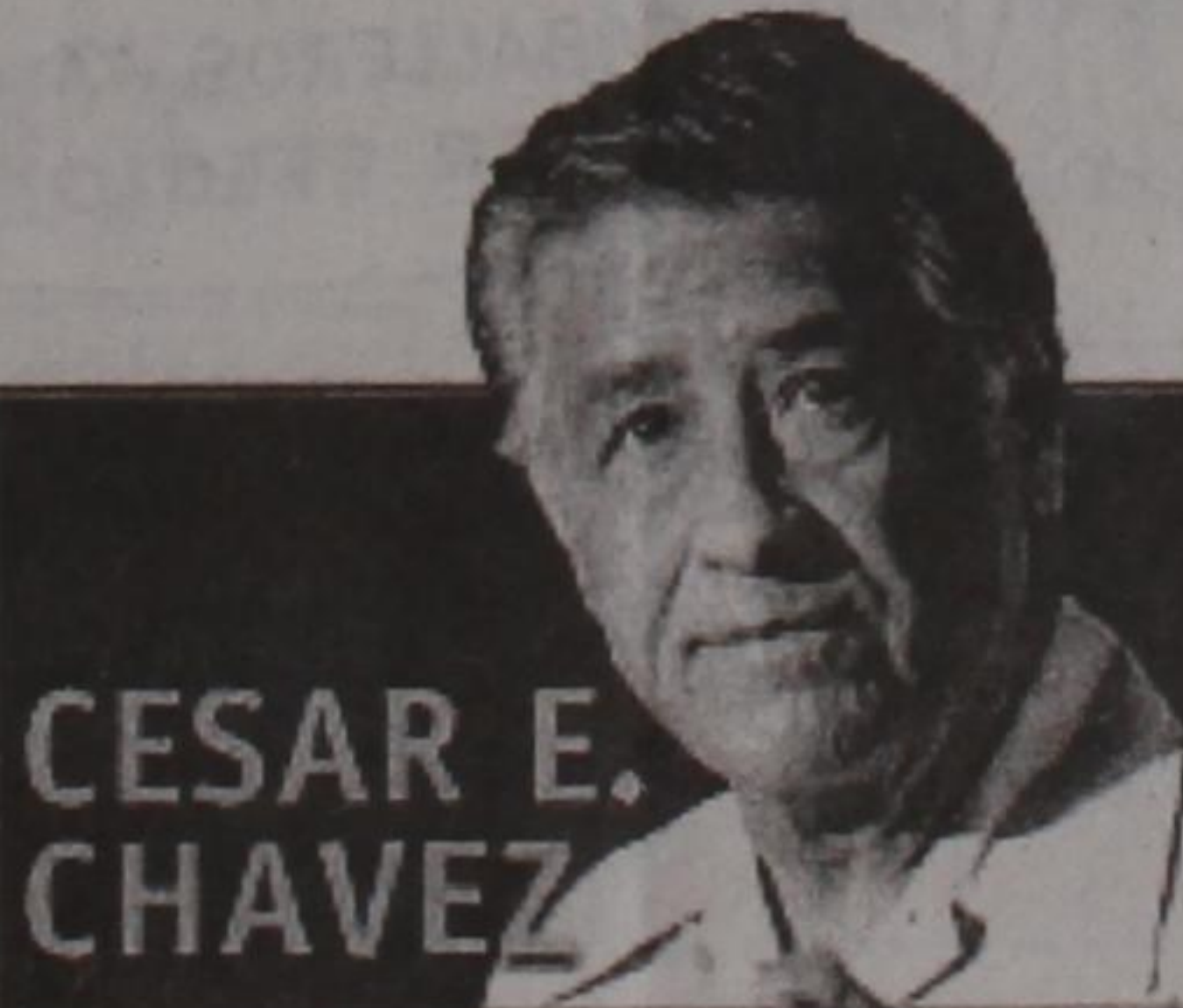
Y. Gutierrez

César Chávez to be Honored in Local March Saturday

The outstanding life of Cesar Chavez will be honored this coming Saturday in a march that is scheduled to start at 2:30 at Cavazos Junior High and will continue with activities at 3:45 at Buddy Holly park. The program at the park will include musical groups, skits and speakers. Father Curtis Halfmann and Dr. Sheryl Santos, dean of the college of Education of Tech are scheduled to speak. Around eight thousand people marched down the street of central San Antonio, Texas to honor farm worker's leader César Chávez, in one of the major demonstra-

tions held yearly in the United States in memory of the Hispanic torchbearer.

Chávez, founder of the United Farm Workers, the first farm worker's union in the United States, was born on March 31, 1927 on a farm near Yuma, Arizona. Due to his family's constant migrating he was forced to leave school after the sixth grade. At his death, in 1993, at the age of 66, the farm worker's figure as a leader had become an icon for the Hispanic sector in this country where many consider him a hero for having won better working conditions for millions of workers in the



CESAR E. CHAVEZ

fields, all through peaceful, non violent demonstrations.

Chávez served in the U.S. Marine during WWII, later he worked for a community organization, and in 1966 he began putting together the union of workers in the agricultural fields, first called the National Association of Agricultural Workers. During his life-long battle Chávez always followed the principles of non-violence and peaceful protest practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

In 1968, Chávez finally won national

recognition when he organized a boycott against California table-grape producers across the entire United States, demanding better salaries for their workers, which he stressed with a 25-day long fast.

Twenty years later, the farm workers' leader started a new protest and a fast with the intention of forcing grape producers to stop using pesticides that harm the health and lives of the workers in the fields.

Chávez, a recognized labor leader, continued his fight to improve the lives of millions of farm workers across the United States until his death in 1993.

Frustration Builds Over Federal Failure to Hire Latinos

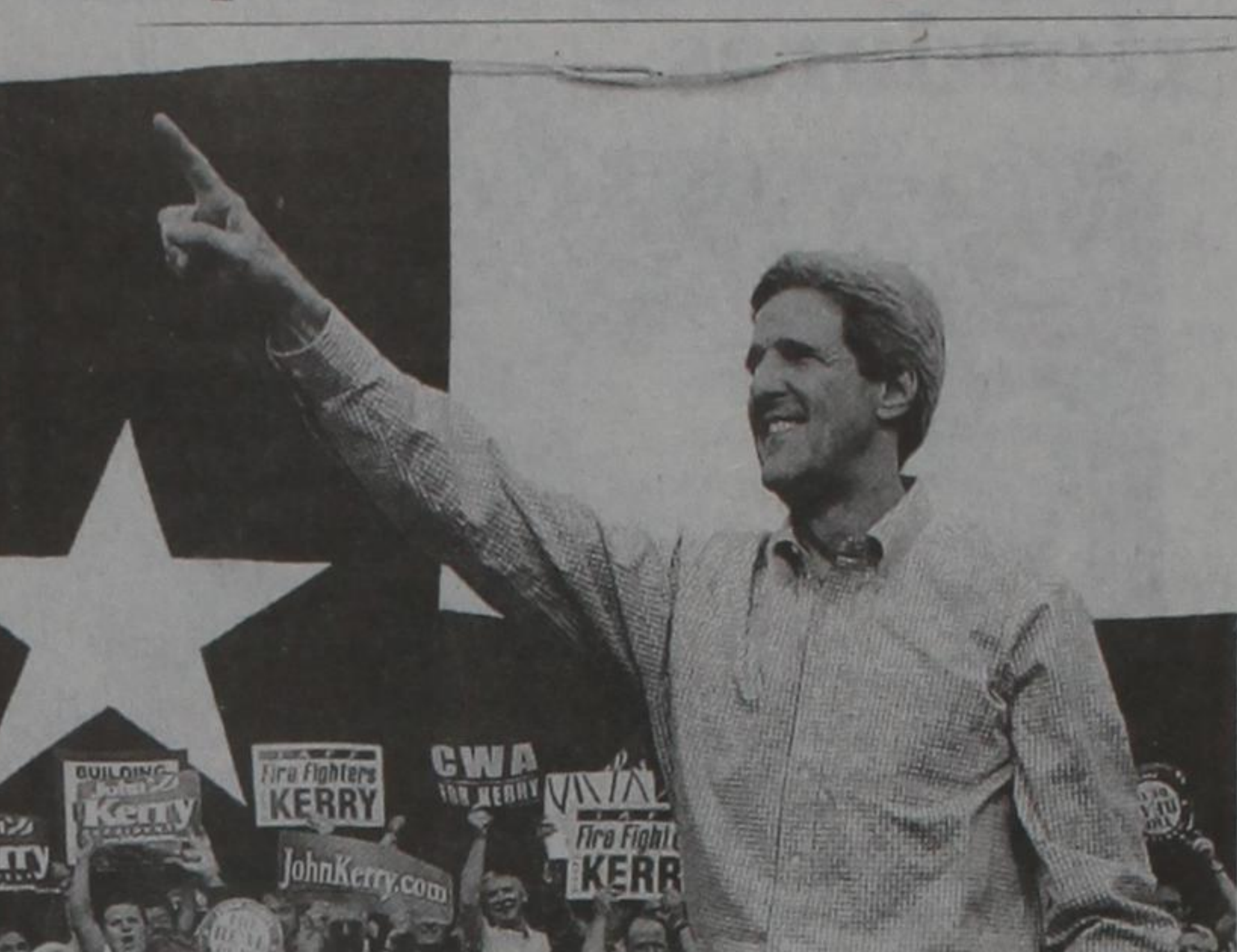
By Sonia Meléndez
 Latino frustration in Washington, D.C., and beyond is intensifying over the historical and increasing failure of the federal executive branch -- the nation's largest employer -- to bring qualified Latinos into its workforce of nearly 2 million. The executive branch employs about 98 percent of federal workers. They are spread throughout the country, with fewer than 20 percent holding jobs in the nation's capital. A diversity report prepared by the Office of Personnel Management for delivery to Congress this month shows that in spite of a succession of ballyhooed programs, the gap between Hispanics in the civilian and federal work forces is expanding. According to the 2003 Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program report obtained by Hispanic Link, as of Sept. 30, 2003, Hispanics represented 7.0 percent of the executive branch's workers while they constituted 13.1 percent of U.S. civilian workers. Just a year earlier, the gap, while wide, was close to a full percent point narrower: 6.9 percent vs. 12.2 percent. If Hispanics were hired at a rate equal to their civilian labor force presence, their number on the federal payroll would nearly double its current 105,921 figure, putting an estimated extra billion payroll dollars into Latino households. Since 2002, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic membership organization, has been expressing its concern. Drawing little interest from the media or the government, it has prepared and delivered major reports on the situation at its national conventions in Texas and Florida. It plans another one this summer. With Latino unemployment

shooting upward once again, other Latino organizations are beginning to give the federal failure higher priority as an issue. "We are seeing a disengagement of the Latino community with the federal government," claims Larry González, Washington, D.C., director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. He proposes that the federal government reach out not just by informing its Latino community contacts of potential jobs, but by following and guiding applicants through the rigorous application process. "It certainly cannot be said that progress has been made with this systemic problem," observes National Hispanic Leadership Agenda chairman Manuel Mirabal. "The change has to come from the top." NHLA, a coalition group that meets in Washington, includes the heads of 30 of the nation's most influential national Hispanic organizations. Echoes Gil Sandate, vice president of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, "Until federal officials are held accountable, the numbers are not going to change." The accountability, he stresses, must be reflected in annual performance evaluations and monetary bonuses. The lack of representation has been an issue that has frustrated Latino community leaders for more than 30 years. In 1970, President Richard Nixon made the first real attempt to address it with his "Sixteen-Point Program for the Spanish-Speaking." The effort went through several changes in name and emphasis. Since 1978, the government's minimally supported Hispanic Employment Program, which involves Latino employee representatives from most federal departments and agencies, has provided some

outreach and employment training to build Latino representation. "The technology is available to track applications in recruitment pools," explains Jeffrey Vargas, chair of the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. "But you have to have a commitment to building programs that integrate diversity workforce planning." Vargas mentions the Labor Department and Social Security Administration as having some success in hiring Hispanics because, according to him, they have had a focused commitment and have tracked their results. Nearly all federal jobs require U.S. citizenship, a policy that Latino leaders are also questioning. "If Latino non-citizens can defend this country in a war zone, why aren't they good enough for federal employment?" Sandate asks. He urges a "reassessment and update of the hiring policies." Most Hispanic federal employees are bunched in the lower and middle General Schedule ranks. They make up only 4.3 percent of those in the GS 13-15 grades, the highest on the GS scale, and just 3.4 percent in the best-paying Senior Pay positions. Vargas also points out that some federal agencies take as long as four to six months to respond to applicants. The report shows that Hispanic men are better represented (4.1 percent) among federal employees than Hispanic women (2.9 percent). Presence of Latino employees is greatest in the new Department of Homeland Security (22.8 percent), which absorbed the Border Patrol and Customs, where need for Spanish skills is high. Next come the Justice Department (8.5 percent) and Treasury (7.6 percent).

Ironically, the Department of Commerce (3.4 percent), Health and Human Services (3.5 percent) and Education (4.3 percent) have the lowest percentages of Hispanic employees in the federal bureaucracy. It is these areas -- education, health care and economic status -- that Gabriela Lemus, director of policy and legislation at LULAC, that frame LULAC's three principal program concerns. U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) suggests that the Bush Administration could do much more. The current shortage of Latinos at policy levels in key departments within the executive branch is having an effect on cutbacks in programs that promote diversity, she maintains. The FEORP report was established by Congress in 1978 to secure a more accurate picture of the government's progress in hiring and retaining workers of color. Hispanics continue to be the only underrepresented ethnic group in federal service. Blacks, FEORP figures show, make up 10.4 percent of the civilian labor force and comprise 17.6 percent of the permanent federal government workforce. The percentages for Asian Americans are 4.5 and 4.5, while Native Americans make up 0.6 percent of the civilian labor force while holding 2.0 percent of federal jobs. "The federal agencies are simply not doing enough" for Hispanics, concludes John Sepúlveda, former deputy director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The dearth of Latinos cannot be addressed with a short-term solution, according to Vargas. He recommends a long-term approach that identifies how to build a sustained relationship. 2004, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Tribune Media Services International.

Líderes demócratas culpan a Bush por aumento de la gasolina



Líderes demócratas lanzaron ayer una campaña coordinada de ataques contra la política energética del presidente George W. Bush, a quien culpan por el aumento de los precios de la gasolina en Estados Unidos. Encabezando esa campaña de ataques figura el virtual candidato presidencial demócrata, el senador John Kerry, quien hoy delineó sus políticas para promover el crecimiento económico de EU y su independencia del petróleo importado. Kerry aseguró que, si gana la presidencia en noviembre próximo, utilizará la vía diplomática para presionar a los miembros de la Organización de Países Exportadores de Petróleo (OPEP) para que suministren más petróleo. "Necesitamos un nuevo rumbo en la política energética", dijo Kerry durante un mitin en San Diego (California), donde el precio de la gasolina se mantiene a 2.13 dólares por galón, un nivel récord en EU. Por su parte, la Casa Blanca insiste en que esta subida de precios hace más urgente la aprobación en el Congreso de la

Ley de Energía, que otorga incentivos fiscales y de otro tipo de beneficios para la explotación de nuevos yacimientos en EU. Kerry indicó que en los últimos tres años, bajo la gestión de Bush, los más beneficiados de la política energética de EU han sido las empresas del sector petrolero que han contribuido a su campaña política. El senador demócrata de Massachusetts acusó a Bush de dejar que empeore el problema de los costos de la gasolina, lo que ha repercutido en el resto de la economía. En enero pasado, el precio promedio de la gasolina se ubicaba en 1.51 dólares por galón, y tres meses después el precio promedio es de 1.75 dólares, un incremento de 24 centavos. Según un análisis del diario The Wall Street Journal que citó la campaña de Kerry, cada aumento de sólo un centavo en los precios de la gasolina le cuesta a los consumidores estadounidenses mil millones de dólares anuales. Añadió que, sólo este año, los consumidores estadounidenses pagarán unos 24,000 millones de dólares más por la gasolina como consecuencia de la política energética de Bush.

Rice testificará bajo juramento en público

En respuesta a las tremendas presiones del país, entre las que se incluyeron las de algunos republicanos, la Casa Blanca dio un giro en su postura y anunció que la asesora de seguridad nacional, Condoleezza Rice, testificará públicamente y bajo juramento ante la comisión especial que investiga las medidas que se tomaron o dejaron de tomarse antes de los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre de 2001. El presidente George W. Bush y el vicepresidente Dick Cheney también testificarán conjuntamente ante los 10 integrantes del panel, pero en privado, sin estar bajo juramento. La Casa Blanca había indicado que Bush y Cheney testificarían en privado, pero sólo ante el presidente y el vicepresidente del panel especial. El Presidente Bush comparó ante la prensa en la Casa Blanca y, sin responder preguntas sobre por qué esperó hasta ahora para permitir que Rice comparezca ante el panel, habló de la importancia de la comisión y de por qué se tomó la decisión. "Hoy le informé a la comisión que mi consejera en seguridad nacional Condoleezza Rice prestará testimonio público", declaró Bush en una breve alocución pública. "Las circunstancias son excepcionales, porque los eventos del 11 de setiembre son excepcionales", subrayó Bush al justificar su decisión de cambiar de opinión y permitir que Rice comparezca ante la comisión.

obtener un panorama completo de los meses y años que precedieron al asesinato de nuestros conciudadanos el 11 de septiembre de 2001", dijo Bush. La Casa Blanca insistió en todo momento que Rice no tenía por qué comparecer ante el panel especial porque, al no ser confirmada por el Senado, no tenía la obligación de testificar públicamente y bajo juramento. Rice ya ha testificado en privado ante la comisión especial. Presión irresistible Pero la intensa presión obligó a la Administración a dar un giro en su postura. Diversos sondeos revelaron que el público empezó a cuestionar la insistencia de la Casa Blanca de no permitir que Rice testificara, si no tiene nada que ocultar. *continúa en la página 6*

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Engagement Announcement

Virginia Martinez and the late Natalio O. Martinez announce the engagement of their daughter Teresa to Emilio son of Guadalupe Martinez and the late Gonzalo Martinez. The couple will marry April 17 in Lubbock. The bride to be is employed by Interim Health Care and the groom is employed by Brazos Masonary Inc.

Hello, my name is Stephanie Pleasant and attend JT Hutchinson Jr. High School. I have the opportunity of attending the Junior National Young Leaders Conference but I need your help. I would appreciate any type of donation or contribution sent to: 1201 48th St.-Lubbock 79412. I will be having other fundraisers such as car washes, bake sales...look out for me. Thank You.



"A MOVIE FOR THE AGES!"
— Claudio Pina, USA TODAY

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Celebrating Cesar Chavez
 5th Annual recognition of his contributions, a public celebration honoring Cesar Chavez will be held on **Sunday, April 4, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.**

The event will begin with a Rally at Cavazos Jr. High (in front of school) 210 North University

The people's march will lead participants to Buddy Holly Park, at Canyon Lake Drive, for the Cesar Chavez Festival.

This year's theme is **"VOTE WITH HOPE"**
 Cesar Chavez believed strongly in voting and having your voice heard. We will have inspirational speakers, mariachi, a musical band, food, drinks and fun. Bring your blankets & lawn chairs.

We will also give a well deserved community member the **"Cesar Chavez Spirit Award"**

We encourage group, organizations, individuals to come out and celebrate the memory of Cesar Chavez and his contributions.

For more information contact Irma Guerrero at 791-3545 or Tavita Dorow at 741-1142

Lubbock County Commissioner Pct 3 Run-Off Election
APRIL 13
Early Vote Starting April 5 thru 9
¡Su Voto Es Su Voz!

Alejandro Fernández, sensuality & music for Honduras



Mexican singer Alejandro Fernández offered a concert in Honduras, where his fans observed scenes from his upcoming film "Zapata, el sueño del héroe", at an event that combined sensuality, music and feeling.

Fernández, known as "El potrillo", performed Sunday night at the Chochy Sosa Stadium in Tegucigalpa attired in a black charro outfit as two giant screens behind him showed scenes from the movie in which he plays revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata.

The recital projected the essence of Mexico when the singer interpreted "Nube viajera" along with songs by Agustín Lara and José Alfredo Jiménez, which all got ovations from the audience.

"Sugar, you're just what we like, we love you!" and "You're the biggest bom-bom!" read some of the signs held high by young girls who sang along with all of the tunes interpreted by the son of Mexican singer Vicente Fernández.

Alejandro Fernández ignored the amorous advances from the

young women present as they let out euphoric screams when he began to unbutton his vest and undo the first button of his shirt, making emotions rise even higher.

"Too much clothing", said the girls as Alejandro unbuttoned the next one, revealing dark skin to the lyrics of "Niña amada mía" with sensual moves that brought on more shouting and sighs.

In the audience was Lizzi Flores, the daughter of ex-president Carlos Flores Facussé (1998-2002); as well as the head coach of the National Soccer Team, Serbian Belibor "Bora" Milutinovic.

While the potrillo sang "Noche de ronda", "Solamente una vez", and "Granada", the giant screens showed an image of Agustín Lara at the piano.

"Mi viejo" was a song dedicated to his father Vicente Fernández and to his own son, the interpreter commented as screaming women surrounded him dancing on the lawn of the Chochy Sosa Stadium while bras hurled by teen-aged girls landed on the stage at his feet.

Olga Tañón: Orgullosa la merenguera



La estrella de la música Olga Tañón habló esta semana con los medios de su hijo Indiana Noa Denizard Tañón, quien nació el pasado miércoles 24 de marzo en Orlando.

"Estoy muy feliz y muy agradecida de Dios y de todas las oraciones que con tanto cariño hicieron para mí y para mi hijo. En estos momentos estoy recuperándome y disfrutándome a Indiana Noa y Gabriela junto a mi esposo Billy", comentó feliz la merenguera puertorriqueña, ganadora en 2003 de un Grammy Latino.

"Indiana tiene mucho cabello y dicen que se parece a mí", añadió la madre del bebé, que llegó al mundo mediante cesárea, pesó siete libras y midió 21 pulgadas.

Madre e hijo regresaron a su hogar de Orlando el pasado viernes, luego de determinar

que ambos se encontraban en perfecto estado de salud y podían ser dados de alta del hospital donde se produjo el alumbramiento.

Unas fotos que llevó Tañón a su encuentro con la prensa presentaban por primera vez a Indiana Noa junto a su hermanita Gabriela Marie, quien se encuentra eufórica con la llegada de su hermanito.

Gabriela Marie, de 8 años, es hija del fruto de la relación de la cantante con el jugador de beisbol puertorriqueño Juan 'Igor' González.

Durante los próximos meses "La Mujer de Fuego", como es conocida Tañón, continuará retirada de los escenarios, dedicada a su familia y trabajando en lo que será su nueva producción discográfica para el sello Warner Music que, según lo proyectado, debe estar en el mercado en agosto próximo.

An Art Form -- Or a Bird?

Some people might hear the word "Flamenco" and hear "Flamingo." The former is correct.

Flamenco is a form of music, song, and dance which has its origins in Spain. Gypsies, originally from Indian, traveled throughout Asia and Europe incorporating what pleased them musically in each various culture. They entered Spain through Morocco and again, united their own, as well as their adopted culture, with the Spanish folk dance and music. Flamenco was born! It produced a vehicle that was flamboyant, colorful, powerful and expressive.

Alician Laura is an international famous and talented dancer/instructor who is opening a Flamenco dance studio and introducing its study for the first time to Lubbock. She expresses how the art of Flamenco is anything but simple. Most of the time the guitar is used as accompaniment. "To my knowledge, Flamenco is the only dance form where the music follows the dancer," Laura explained. The dance is often accompanied by castanets. These are small sea-shelled shaped, percussion instruments held in each hand and played with the fingers. Elabo-

rate and colorful costumes are worn. Laura loves the Flamenco dance for its ability to express deep emotions. "Flamenco expresses the entire range of human emotions: joy, loneliness, love, hate - the list goes on." Laura believes that the age the dancer gets better, so it is not limited to the young. "As you get older, you get better, because you've seen and experienced so much more of life."

Laura has led a full and interesting life and is always excited to see what the future will bring. Her mother's family is from Barcelona and her father is

Polish/American. She grew up in New York City and is a graduate of the High School of Performing Arts where she majored in music. As the school had no PE facilities, modern dance was taught. It was here that she considered pursuing the dance arts and continued studies after graduation. When a friend took her to see José Greco, a famous Flamenco dancer, Laura knew what she wanted to do. With her first lesson she realized that the Spanish satisfied her needs through physical discipline and structured dance forms which allowed the individu-

al's expression. Since then she has devoted her life to mastering this dance form. She instructed in both New York City and Phoenix, Arizona and has produced 15 professional Flamenco dancers. She was principal dancer with the International Dance Theatre which performed at Carnegie and Town Halls in NYC; enjoyed performing internationally with Ballet Granada; toured the US twice with the marvelous dancer, Maria Alba and performed for Queen Farida of Egypt. Individually Sra Laura and the company she formed in Phoenix, were performing artists with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, a federally-sponsored organization, for six years.

Sra Laura studied primarily with Mariquita Flores who was the hub of Flamenco on the East Coast. They have been close friends for many years and Luara does not hesitate to mention that Mariquita, in her mid-80s, is presently teaching at her daughter's school in Virginia.

"I've lived my life fully - as people should," Laura said. She is recorded in the Texas Tech archives where students can learn more about her dancing career. Ms. Laura performed last September at the Fiestas del Llano in the Lubbock Civic Center and, for those who have never experienced Flamenco as well as those who would enjoy seeing it again, she will perform on April 9th at 12:50 pm during the Lubbock Arts Festival, also at the Civic Center.

More information about dance lessons and presentations can be obtained at 762-1274.



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Rice

testificará
viene de la pagina 3

El ex asesor de Bush en materia antiterrorista, Richard Clarke, abrió "la caja de Pandora" cuando publicó en su libro y luego testificó ante la comisión 9/11 que para la Casa Blanca la amenaza del terrorismo no fue un asunto "urgente" durante los primeros ocho meses de gobierno de Bush, los mismos previos al fatídico 11 de septiembre de 2001.

Por tratarse de año electoral, los propios republicanos, incluyendo a los cinco que integran la comisión 9/11, comenzaron a presionar a la Casa Blanca para que permitiera que Rice testificara públicamente ante el panel.

En una carta enviada al presidente y al vicepresidente del panel, el republicano Thomas H. Kean y el demócrata Lee H. Hamilton, respectivamente, el asesor legal del presidente Bush, Alberto Gonzales, señaló que la decisión responde a la función especial que está llevando a cabo la comisión, pero que no es la intención sentar un precedente que obligaría a otros funcionarios no confirmados por el Senado a testificar públicamente ante comisiones especiales.

En la misiva, la Casa Blanca puso como condición que el panel aceptara no sentar un



precedente que afecte la separación constitucional de los poderes Ejecutivo y Legislativo.

"El presidente [Bush] reconoce las circunstancias únicas y extraordinarias que subrayan la responsabilidad de la comisión en preparar un reporte detallado sobre los hechos y circunstancias de los horribles ataques del 11 de septiembre de 2001", indicó Gonzales en la carta.

La comisión accedió de inmediato a la petición de la Casa Blanca y posteriormente anunció que se fijará una fecha para la conducción de las dos sesiones, la pública de Rice y la privada de Bush y Cheney.

La próxima ronda de sesiones del panel se llevará a cabo a mediados de abril.

El cambio de postura denota las delicadas decisiones que en un año electoral se ha visto obligado a tomar un presidente que busca ser reelecto diciendo a los ciudadanos que es el único capaz de dirigir al país en momentos de crisis y de garantizar la seguridad nacional ante el flagelo del terrorismo.

Rice y la Casa Blanca se mostraron desafiantes durante las pasadas dos semanas, cuando el libro de Clarke y su posterior testimonio ante la comisión 9/11 ocuparon las primeras planas de los diarios y los espacios televisivos y que hicieron aparecer a Bush como un líder que no hizo caso a las señales previas al 9/11 y que sólo actuó cuando ya habían perecido casi cuatro mil personas en Nueva York,

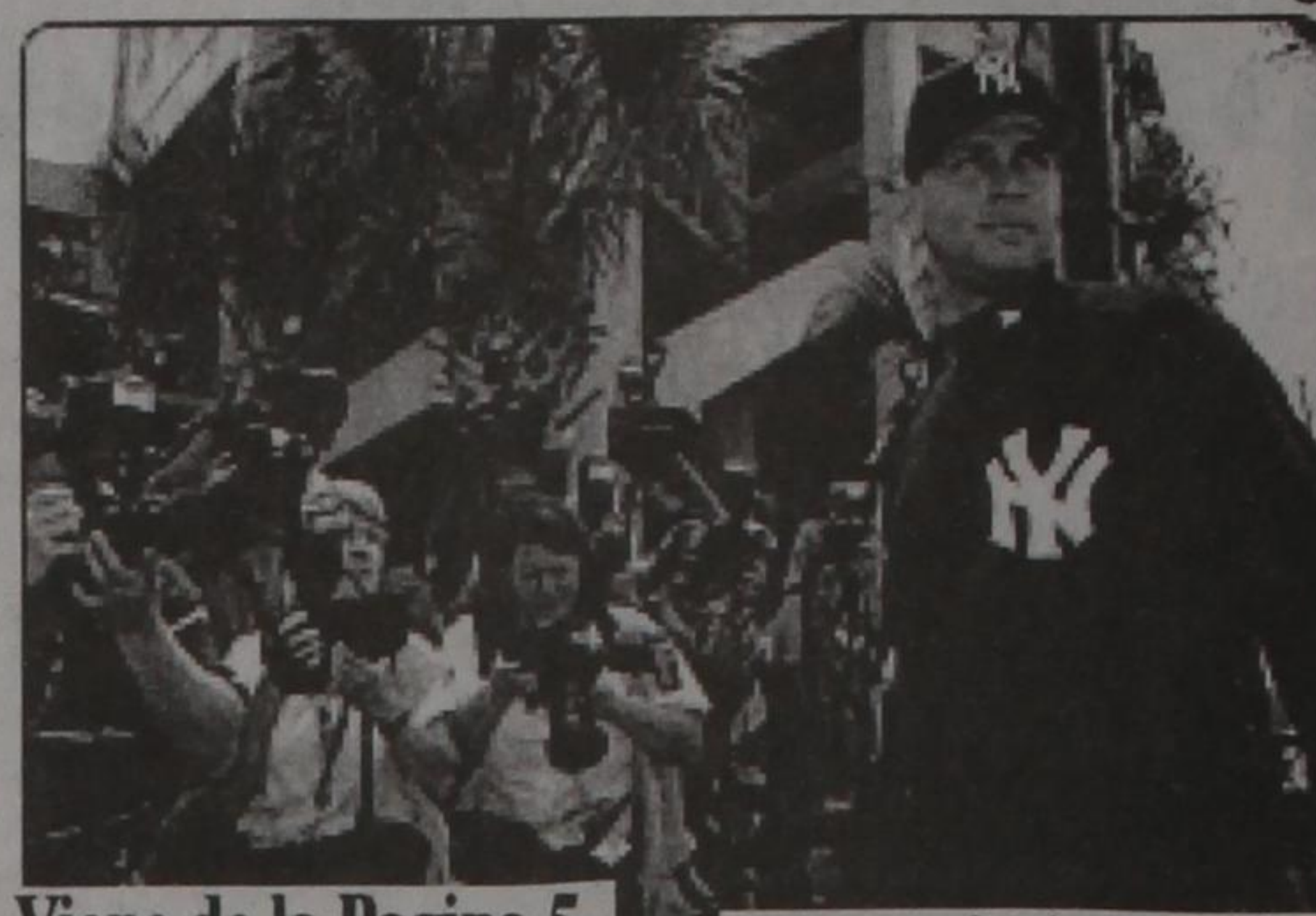
Washington y Pennsylvania en los siniestros por los cuales se responsabiliza a la red terrorista Al Qaida de Osama Ben Laden.

Rice incluso acusó a Clarke de difamación y de hablar con medias verdades y, el viernes pasado, el liderazgo republicano del Congreso anunció que buscaría hacer públicos los testimonios a puerta cerrada rendidos por Clarke ante el Congreso en julio de 2002 en los que presuntamente contradice lo que testificó la semana pasada ante la comisión 9/11.

Postura firme
Clarke, empero, se ha mantenido en su postura de que, en efecto, la Casa Blanca ignoró las señales previas al 9/11 y que pudo haber hecho algo para prevenir los ataques. También retó a la Casa Blanca a dar a la luz pública todos los correos electrónicos que intercambió con Rice y con otros funcionarios de la Casa Blanca, no sólo porciones de algunas de sus respuestas, como hizo la Casa Blanca la semana pasada.

La comisión especial aplaudió la decisión de la Casa Blanca y dijo que "representa una importante contribución del Presidente a la labor de este comité".

"Reconocemos el hecho de que es un suceso extraordinario", dijo Kean refiriéndose a la decisión de la Casa Blanca de dar luz verde al testimonio público de Rice. "Esto no sienta un precedente", afirmó Kean.



Viene de la Pagina 5

jugador era codiciado por su mayor rival, el Boston Red Sox De manera que, le arrebató al jugador más cotizado de las manos de Boston sólo porque así lo sintió (resentimiento). Gran equivocación, George.

No me malinterpreten, Alex Rodríguez es un jugador increíble y probablemente bateará sus 50 jonrones al año y jugará exitosamente en la tercera base para los Yankees. Es un ciudadano modelo, y será un líder en el club. Con él en la lista, los Yankees tienen la mejor alineación entre los equipos de béisbol.

El problema es que de todas maneras iban a contar con una alineación superior incluso sin Rodríguez, pero aún no se han dado cuenta de la debilidad que salta a la vista en el montículo de lanzamiento.

Alex Rodríguez es buen jugador, pero no tiene muchas habilidades como lanzador.

Por esta razón, los Yankees siguen teniendo grandes problemas. Su rotación inicial sólo cuenta con tres lanzadores estables. Su fogón únicamente tiene uno. Así como lo han probado otros equipos en el pasado, un equipo puede tener

una gran ofensiva, pero sin un buen lanzamiento, tiene las mismas posibilidades de ganar en la Serie Mundial que las que posee Dennis Kucinich de triunfar en las primarias.

Igualmente, la adición de Rodríguez empuja peligrosamente el pago de la nómina de Nueva York, de alrededor de 200 millones, cifra que incluye a su personal actual de lanzadores.

Steinbrenner, ha mostrado que no tiene ningún problema en meterse la mano al bolsillo cuando se trata de gastar dinero en su equipo, pero aflojar tal cantidad por año, puede hacer que hasta él mismo se estremezca. Francamente, los Yankees no pueden contratar otro picher sin decirle adiós a una de sus estrellas y tampoco podrán ganar sin otro lanzador.

Así que, dejemos que los Yankees tengan a la estrella y que continúen mostrándole al mundo del béisbol que la balanza económica en el juego es increíblemente desequilibrada. Permitamos que sean los favoritos para ganar la Serie Mundial y que sientan toda la presión del mundo en sus hombros...y dejemos que nos desilusionen una vez más.

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