

El Editor

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3005
as of Jan. 1,
2006

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Comentarios

de Bidal Aguero

Deaths in Iraq are now up to 3005 and according to the story on our front page of the 142 Texans killed in Iraq as of Feb. 19, 54 - or 38 percent - were Hispanic, although Hispanics account for only 32 percent of military age Texans. That figure very closely reflects the statistics in the Lubbock area that has a total of 6 Iraq casualties 4 of whom are Hispanics.

These numbers are very disturbing and it would behoove our Hispanic leaders to investigate and perhaps work toward keeping our boys home instead of sending them off to war. One good thing that happened as shown by the last election is that people are now realizing that the Iraq war is an immoral war that was started without reason. But do our kids realize it is the question.

Our congratulations to Christy Martinez on the publication of her new magazine Latino Lubbock.

Two articles in El Editor in the past few weeks and one in this week's edition have called for accountability of Lubbock minority community, the media and minority leaders. The issue at hand is the Lubbock Police Department's seemingly unaccountability for their actions. I understand that one topic of discussion at the last Hispanic Agenda meeting by a Citizen's Review Board. Perhaps it is to bring this discussion to the public.

As far as we have heard Chancellor Hance has not had any type of public meeting with Lubbock Hispanic community. We know that are needs are many and a meeting is certainly in order. Then again who are we to request any type of meeting!

Tejanos Dying Disproportionately in War

Hispanic Texans are dying in Iraq at a rate more than 60 percent higher than the rate for the nation's military-age population as a whole, according to a Texan's review of war fatalities.

In a separate study, a University of California professor has found that during the first six weeks of the war, 16.5 percent of troops killed were Latinos, although Latinos made up only 11.2 percent of the combat troops.

More than 3,000 troops have lost their lives since U.S. forces invaded Iraq.

With the invasion approaching its second anniversary next month, the uneven distribution of fatalities is forcing the military and the nation to confront questions about exactly who dies for their country when the United States goes to war.

The burden in Iraq is not being shared equally. Hispanic Texans and rural Americans, mostly white, have among the highest death rates.

The federal Government Accountability Office and academic researchers are studying the counts, looking for social factors that might help explain how race and class shape who joins the military.

Through a spokesman, the Department of Defense said it could not respond directly to the findings without conducting its own statistical analysis, but said the findings generally reflect "the fact that we are at war."

Extensive Department of Defense studies from as recently as 2002 have consistently found that poor young people with low grades and the least likelihood of going to college or getting jobs are more likely to enlist, many to get college financial aid. One department report prepared by a consultant in 2000, for example, recommended that recruiters "concentrate on C students."

An all-volunteer military makes under-

standing who is joining — and therefore dying — especially relevant, analysts say.

"I think in a democracy, given that the military is an agent not only of the state but also of society, you want a military that all sectors feel they have a stake in," said David Segal, a sociologist and director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland.

Texas is home to 19 percent of the nation's Latinos of military age. Yet 32 percent of the Hispanic service members killed in Iraq as of Feb. 19 came from Texas.

Put another way, Hispanic Texans have died at the rate of 15.6 for every million Hispanic men and women of military age in the state. The comparable rate for the nation is 9.7 deaths per million.

Of the 142 Texans killed in Iraq as of Feb. 19, 54 — or 38 percent — were Hispanic, although Hispanics account for only 32 percent of military age Texans.

Because most of the country's population lives in and around cities, in sheer numbers, most of those killed have come from metropolitan areas.

But a disproportionate share of troops killed has come from rural America, where whites make up more than 80 percent of the population.

Whites make up 65 percent of the nation's military and made up about 72 percent of all fatalities through Jan. 8, according to a study by Brian Gifford, a health policy researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

Best option

In his newly published study, "Combat Casualties and Race: What Can We Learn from the 2003-2004 Iraq Conflict?", Berkeley's Gifford examines what he calls the "war" and "occupation" phases and finds that "when U.S. tactics dictate a more active, aggressive role in finding and attack-

ing enemy targets, Hispanics incur casualties in excess of their participation in ground combat units."

The rate of Hispanic deaths lessened during the insurgency and occupation phases of the war, when attacks became more random, but Hispanic deaths remained slightly disproportionate to the number of Hispanic troops overall. Gifford has updated the study with data through Jan. 8.

The percentage of total Hispanic deaths during the war is below the Hispanic percentage of the country's military age population, Gifford found. Hispanics are underrepresented in the armed forces as a whole, analysts say, because education and language requirements render many Latinos ineligible for service.

African Americans also suffered high death rates during the war's earliest stages, compared with their presence in combat units and the military age population as a whole, he found.

Some of the imbalances might result because Hispanics and whites volunteer for combat units and dangerous specialties — particularly those in the Marine Corps — at higher rates, according to a Department of Defense study.

But if some Latinos seek out dangerous jobs, they also end up in them after faring poorly on military entrance exams, said Jorge Mariscal, a Chicano historian and part of the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, a California-based group of veterans and activists that tries to counter the influence of recruiters in public schools.

"I think there's a danger to think, 'Oh, Latinos want this,' said Mariscal, who heads the Chicano studies program at University of California, San Diego.

"That's a complete misreading of the social conditions that lead people there, the educational shortfalls that track people into

those jobs," Mariscal said.

Experts debate why many Hispanics enlist:

- Military recruiting is highly effective in the nation's poorest schools, where Latinos often make up a majority of students;
- The Marines have cemented a reputation as the toughest of the toughest, appealing to those who want to prove their mettle;
- The military appeals to a patriotic sense of duty among Latinos;
- Recent immigrants want to show they are grateful for being in America, or they are drawn by a U.S. policy that allows troops who serve during wartime to apply for citizenship.

Social class and educational aspirations are the most powerful predictors of whether Hispanics will enlist, a 2000 survey of young Hispanics prepared for the Department of Defense found.

"It's really a class issue, then an ethnicity or race issue," Mariscal said.

In general, Hispanics are significantly less likely to complete high school than whites. In 2002, only 57 percent of Latinos older than 25 had completed high school, compared with more than 88 percent of whites and 78 percent of blacks.

About half of enlistment-age Hispanics are immigrants, and they tend to have less formal education than their native-born counterparts, Gifford's research found.

Another theory is that Hispanics maintain a proud, patriotic military tradition that spans generations.

"If history teaches us anything, it is that the military is considered a respectable and even an honorable career for Latinos," said Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, whose U.S. Latino and Latina WWII Oral History Project at the University of Texas has interviewed hundreds of veterans and their families.

(continued on page 4)

Pioneer Latino Leader Reflects on Relationships with Seven Presidents

By Alex Meneses Miyashita
(First of a two-part series)

Raúl Yzaguirre, the Hispanic community's most influential and respected national advocate throughout the last quarter century, nurtured the growth of the National Council of La Raza into this country's most powerful Latino civil rights organization as its president for three decades. Following his retirement on Dec. 31, 2004, he joined

Arizona State University in Phoenix as presidential professor of practice in community development and civil rights.

Stepping out of the limelight for the past two years, he gave his successor, Janet Murguía, and the National Council of La Raza an opportunity to emerge from his shadow.

Recently he spoke out with Hispanic Link News Service editors on Latino political empowerment and its rapidly growing national role. Here, covering the first part of the interview, Yzaguirre offers a personal account of the relationships of seven U.S. presidents with the Latino community as it surged politically. The dialogue is edited for brevity.

QUESTION: Since you came to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the Hispanic community, how many presidents did you interact with?

ANSWER: I have met with every president since the Administration of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Q: How much did those presidents know about Hispanics, how much did they need to be educated and how much did they learn?

A: At some level, every president that I have met has needed an education on Latino issues.

Q: Let's start with Lyndon Baines Johnson.

A: LBJ knew our community and we made significant progress in his administration, principally through the Great Society programs, but the Vietnam war and the huge media focus on civil rights violations against African Americans, coupled with the riots, consumed most of LBJ's attention.

It was not until we had the little-known but very important Albuquerque walkout that we got some attention. After that event, LBJ set up the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People by executive order. The committee was subsequently authorized and funded by Congress.

Q: Next, President Richard Nixon.

A: In terms of responsiveness, the one that surprised me was Richard Nixon. I expected little from him; but in retrospect he accomplished some important gains for Hispanics. He was the first president to appoint Latinos to sub-Cabinet posts and as heads of important independent agencies such as the Small Business Administration. He also initiated a focused effort to recruit Hispanics into the federal government by mandating the so-called 16-point program.

Q: President Gerald Ford?

A: We had to educate him. He came from a Michigan district without many Latinos and he was not particularly well attuned to us. We enjoyed access, but access doesn't mean influence.

Reflexiones de un Dirigente Latino Pionero Sobre Su Relación con Siete Presidentes

Alex Meneses Miyashita
(Primera de una serie de dos)

Raúl Yzaguirre, el promotor nacional más visible de la comunidad hispana durante el pasado cuarto de siglo, fomentó el crecimiento del Concilio Nacional de La Raza como su presidente durante tres décadas, convirtiendo al Concilio en la organización latina pro derechos civiles de mayor influencia en este país. Al jubilarse el 31 de diciembre del 2004, se unió a la Arizona State University, en Phoenix, como profesor presidencial de desarrollo comunitario y derechos civiles.

El hacerse de un lado les otorgó a su sucesora, Janet Murguía, y al Concilio Nacional de La Raza, la oportunidad de surgir del cobijo de su sombra.

Hace poco conversó con los editores de Hispanic Link News Service en cuanto a la adquisición de poder político de los latinos, y del papel de rápido crecimiento de la comunidad a nivel nacional. Aquí, en la primera fase de la entrevista, Yzaguirre ofrece su historia personal de la relación de siete presidentes con la comunidad latina en lo que surgía en términos políticos. El diálogo ha sido resumido por razones de brevedad.

PREGUNTA: Desde que llegó a Washington, D.C., como promotor de los derechos de la comunidad hispana, ¿con cuántos presidentes dialogó?

RESPUESTA: Me he reunido con cada presidente desde la administración de Lyndon Baines Johnson.

P: ¿Cuánto conocían los presidentes sobre los hispanos, cuánto hubo que darles instrucción, y cuánto aprendieron?

R: De cierta manera, cada presidente con el que me he reunido ha requerido instrucción sobre temas referentes a los latinos.

P: Empecemos con Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ por sus siglas en inglés).

R: LBJ conocía nuestra comunidad, y pudimos progresar significativamente durante su administración, mayormente por medio de los programas de Great Society, aunque lo que consumió la mayoría de la atención de LBJ fue la guerra en Viet Nam, el enorme enfoque de los medios en violaciones de los derechos civiles de los negros, junto con los motines.

No fue sino hasta que tuvimos la poco conocida pero muy importante manifestación de huelga en Albuquerque que se nos prestó algo de atención. Después de aquel evento, LBJ estableció un comité de gabinete sobre oportunidades para la gente de habla hispana por orden ejecutiva. El comité recibió autorización subsiguiente y financiación del Congreso.

P: A continuación, hablemos del presidente Nixon.

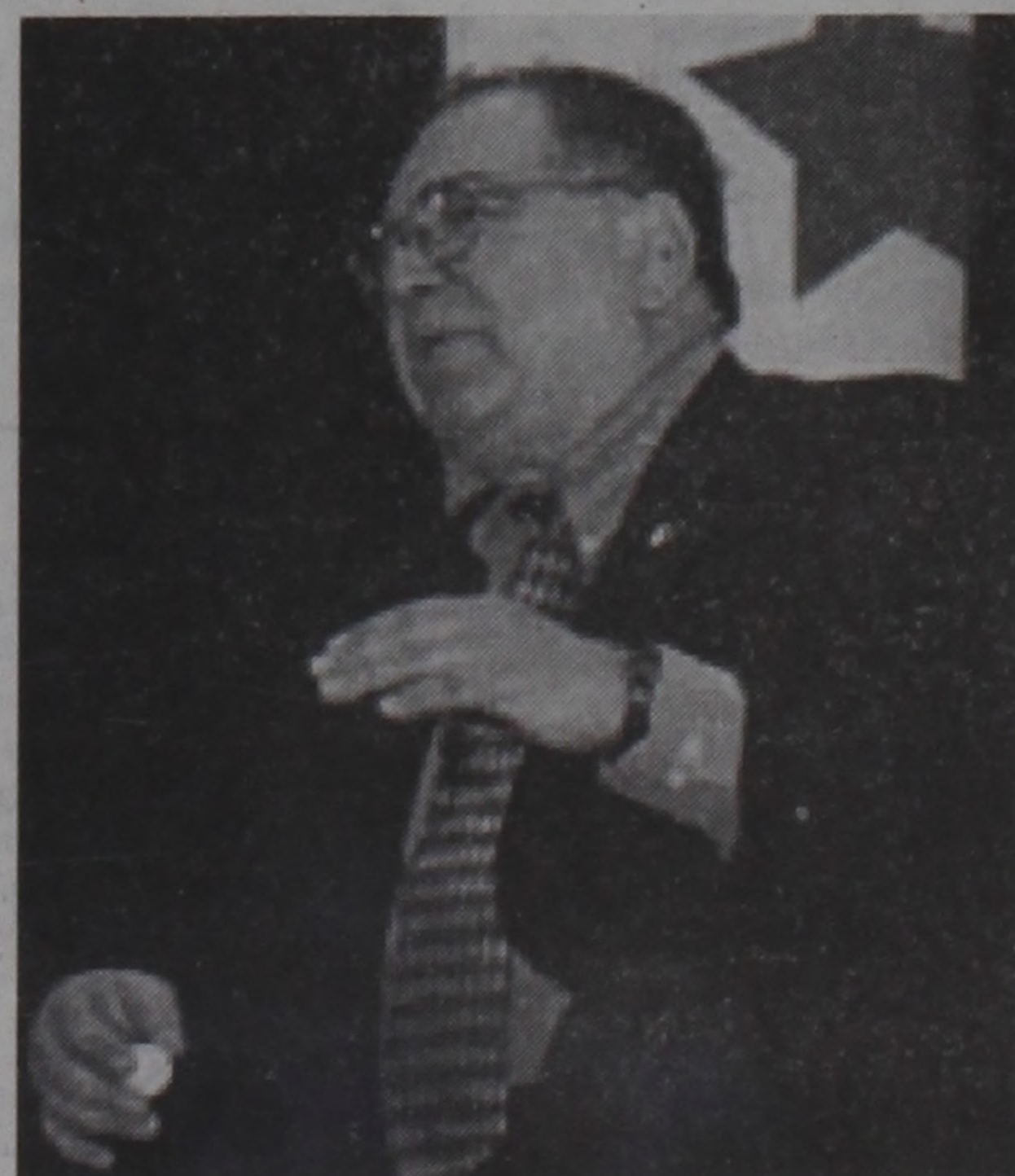
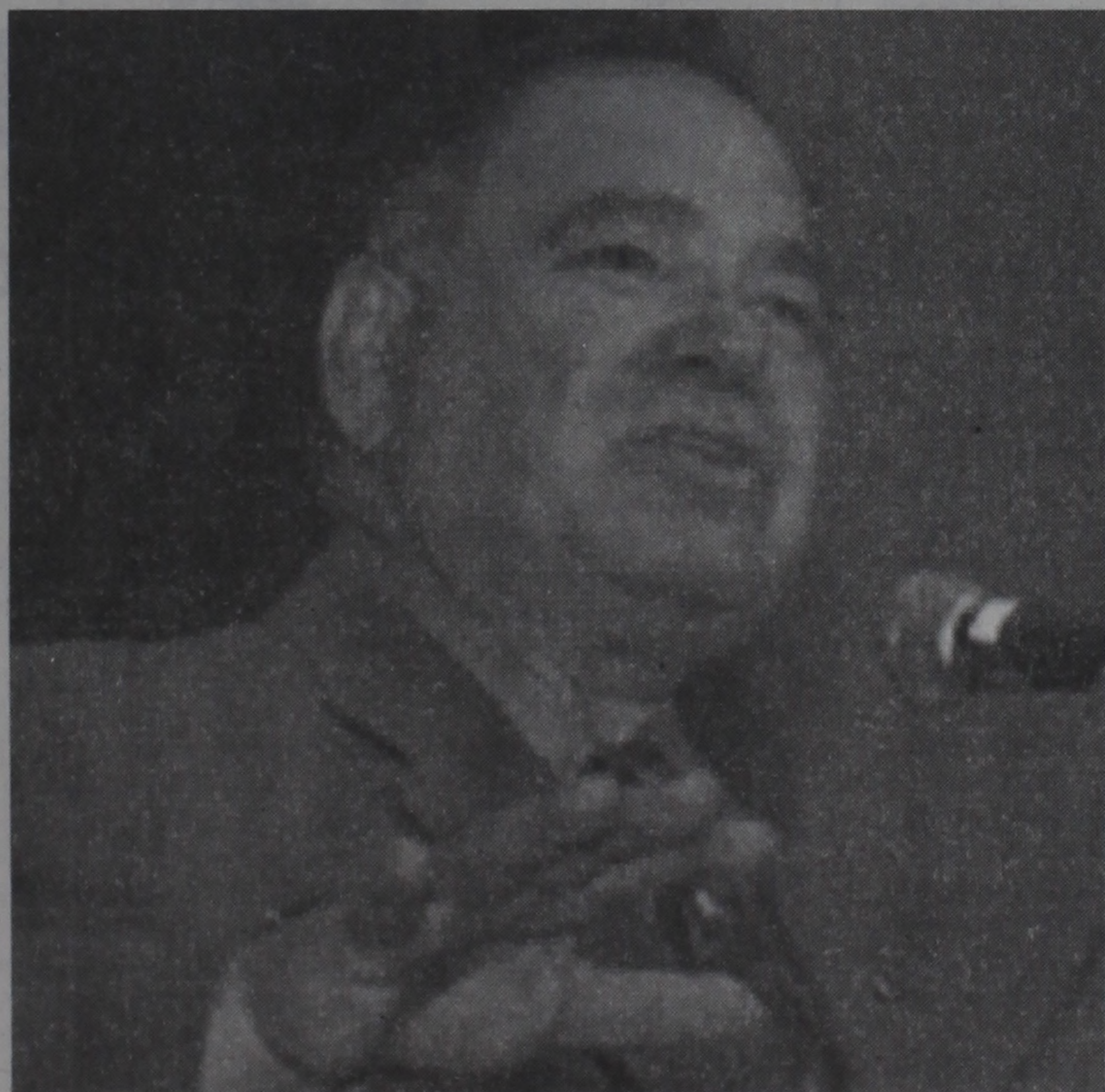
R: En términos de respuesta a nosotros, el

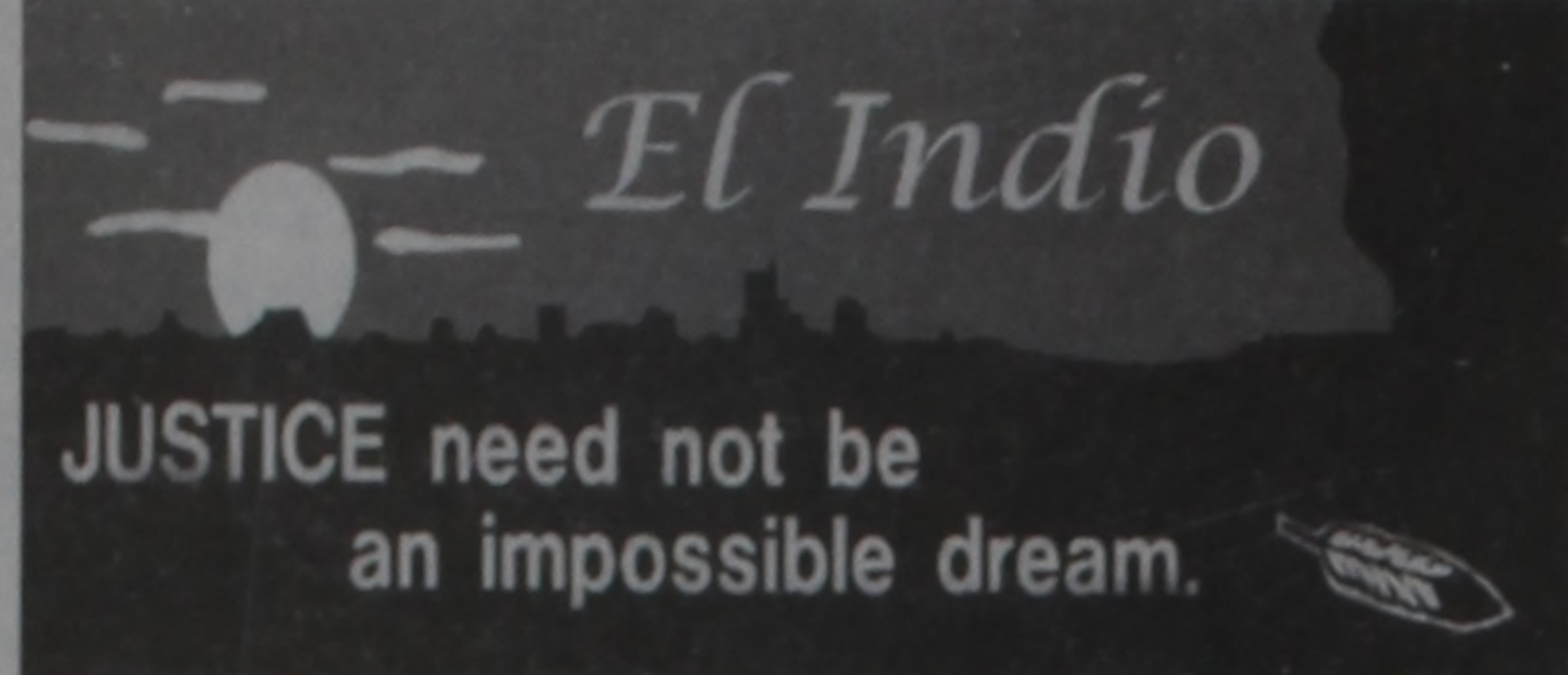
que me sorprendió fue Richard Nixon. No esperaba mucho de él, pero viéndolo en retrospectiva, él logró algunos avances importantes para los hispanos. Fue el primer presidente en nombrar a latinos a puestos de subgabinete y como directores de agencias importantes independientes como la Administración de Pequeñas Empresas. También inició un esfuerzo dirigido en el reclutamiento de hispanos al gobierno federal al mandar la ejecución del llamado programa de 16 puntos.

P: ¿Y el presidente Gerald Ford?

R: Tuvimos que darle instrucción. Venía de un distrito en Michigan que no tenía muchos latinos y no nos tenía muy en la mira. Disfrutamos de acceso, pero el acceso no implica la influencia.

P: ¿Y qué nos cuenta del presidente Jimmy Carter?





On the Internet -www. eleditor.com GERALD FORD HAD ROLE IN CREATING POLITICAL BASE FOR LATINOS

By José de la Isla
HOUSTON - Few of us, even Washington's political junkies, know about Gerald R. Ford's role in bringing the Hispanic constituency into play in national politics. Two important decisions made during his presidency are rarely brought up from the database of lingering memories that historians draw upon. But they had a special bearing on shaping our current national politics.

Ford, this nation's 38th president, passed away in Rancho Mirage, Calif., the day after Christmas. He was 93.

He became vice-president to President Richard Nixon following Spiro Agnew's resignation in October of 1973. Ten months later, after the Watergate hearings and facing impeachment, Nixon resigned, making Ford the only person ever to become vice-president and president without benefit of election to the positions.

In office barely a month, the new president invited Congress's Hispanic members to visit him for a chat. The agenda included the economy, bilingual education funding and worker training.

All the congressional members except one were Democrats: Herman Badillo (N.Y.), Eligio (Kika) de la Garza and Henry B. González of Texas, Edward Roybal (Calif.), and Senator Joseph Montoya (N.M.). The lone Republican was Manuel Luján, Jr. (N.M.), who later became Secretary of the Interior under Ronald Reagan.

Some community leaders were calling for abolishing the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People. The policymaking group was found by the Watergate hearings to have played along with Nixon operatives trying to influence the Hispanic vote in the 1972 election.

Instead, the delegation meeting with Ford seemed to favor placement of a high-level advocate in the White House. Coincidentally, Ford was considering appointing Fernando E.C. de Baca as White House special assistant. He had spearheaded the Sixteen Point Program, one of Nixon's few successful initiatives to place high-level Hispanic officials in the administration. However, once in the Ford White House, de Baca had to finesse a delicate matter.

The Voting Rights Act was due for reauthorization. It was originally passed in 1965 and renewed in 1970, mainly to cover the South, where black elected representation had grown dramatically. Most civil rights leaders wanted the law reauthorized without changes. But Hispanic leaders were pressing for the law to include language minorities and to

bring other states into the federal government's oversight.

A similar effort to expand the bill had lost in 1970 when Gerald Ford, as House minority leader, worked with Nixon to defeat the measure.

In 1975, the House passed the reform bill's Senate version, 346 to 56. To his credit, Ford signed it. The new law was a major national benchmark. But a critical mistake was not championing it through Congress. Eventually Republicans solidified their core middle-class Hispanic constituency to give us the tug and pull for that portion of the vote we have today. A forceful statement from the White House about ending Hispanic voter discrimination was attributed to Fernando de Baca, and not the president.

Ford, during his 18-month presidency, appointed 61 high-level government officials. He exceeded what Nixon did in six years. This was the other high watermark of Ford's presidency in relation to Latino interests.

Edward Aguirre was named Commissioner of Education. The post was the equivalent of a Cabinet position, although the Department of Education had not yet been established. Aguirre represented the highest-level Latino appointment by any U.S. president up to that time.

Aguirre recalls one meeting in particular in the Oval Office when President Ford was reviewing the education budget. The book Ford had before him contained countless small details. Aguirre remembers Ford specifically asking about one inner-city program axed by lower-level officials.

Ford was especially knowledgeable about budgets. He asked Aguirre one direct question, "What difference will this make for kids?" Then he turned to the budget director and said, "Put it in."

"To me that is the mark of the man," Aguirre told me.

Talk to Us!

El Editor@sbcglobal.net

Immigration is a key test for Democrats

By Ruben Navarrette Jr.

In the 1980s, San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros helped convene a gathering of Hispanic leaders to christen the time in which they were living: the Decade of the Hispanic.

What they were talking about was a decade when Hispanics in the United States would come into their own in everything from politics to pop culture.

That summit was ahead of its time. Yet, two decades later, it's clear we've embarked on something grander: the Century of the Hispanic.

Congressional Republicans obviously didn't get the memo. If they had, they may not be so eager to use the immigration debate to try to score points at the expense of the nation's largest minority.

That didn't work out so well. And it's just one reason why - when the new Congress convenes this week - Republicans will be in the smaller offices while Democrats bask in the power that comes from being in the majority.

In the last election, Hispanics lit into the Republican Party like a swarm of 7-year-olds tearing into a piñata.

Nearly 7 out of 10 Hispanic voters shunned the GOP and tossed their support across the aisle. Democrats earned 69 percent of the Hispanic vote, compared with 30 percent for the GOP.

Conservatives don't want to hear this, but some of the pummeling that Republicans got from Hispanics was payback for the immigration hard-line taken by House Republicans.

According to exit polls by the William C. Velasquez Institute, Hispanics found multiple reasons to be disenchanted with Republicans in Congress. Immigration was just one issue.

But, boy, what an issue! Polls taken before the election described immigration as a "motivator" for Hispanics and one reason many of them were enthusiastic about voting.

So once Democrats control both Houses, what's going to happen on immigration? The signals are mixed.

In the days after the election, there were newspaper articles in which sources in Congress said Democrats might want to put the immigration issue on the back burner and - certainly in the so-called 100-hour agenda to be kicked off this week - concentrate on easy victories such as raising the minimum wage, expanding stem cell research, lowering prescription drug prices and tightening congressional ethics rules.

But lately, there's been talk of a bipartisan coalition in Congress that could approve an immigration bill that gives illegal immigrants a path to legal residency and perhaps even defund 700 miles of border fencing approved in the last session.

Sources in Congress are saying that the process will begin in the Senate as early as this month. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, and Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, are expected to introduce legislation. It should pass.

Then all eyes will be on the House, which could take up the issue later in the year. What if House Democrats get cold feet and fail to deliver, and Latinos hold them accountable? Let's just say, they may not want to unpack those boxes just yet. In two years, they may have to find their way back to those smaller offices.

Attention All State Legislators! Craddick Must Go!!!

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Think the elections are over? Well, next week in Austin, Texas one of the most important elections of all is being held...but none that regular voters may participate in. When the Legislature convenes on 9 January, 150 State Representatives will caucus to select the next Speaker of the Texas House. The current Speaker is TOM CRADDICK, Republican of Midland, the longest-serving member of the chamber.

In 2002, the campaign began to unseat the popular and much-admired Speaker PETE LANEY of Hale Center, solely because Pete was a Democrat, albeit a non-partisan Democrat who worked with everyone equally and fairly. The TOM DeLay sickness, "the Culture of Corruption" had permeated Washington, D.C., and Texas had yet to fall to DeLay's brand of vicious partisanship and corrupt financial practices.

Read the Texas Observer article "Craddickism" which was published on 15 December 2006 ["...Tom Craddick met Chris Winkle on the night of October 21, 2002, for dinner at Anthony's, an upscale eatery near the Galleria in Houston...Winkle was there on behalf of the nation's largest nursing home trade group." Winkle passed a \$ 100,000 check to Craddick, which Craddick claims he never examined, but passed on to a GOP fund, Texans for a Republican Majority, or TRMPAC, the Tom DeLay-founded political action committee. Once Craddick was elected Speaker with the aid of this type of illegal corporate campaign contributions, the payback began, eight months later, with the passage of a "tort-reform" bill which capped malpractice nursing home damage awards at \$ 250,000. Amazing...but just "business as usual" in the Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas of Tom DeLay and Tom Craddick.

Once Craddick bullied and strong-armed his way into power, his very first legislative priority was...to de-regulate college tuition, which led to HUGE tuition increases at most Texas universities, with...guess what?...Texas Tech leading the way with the second-highest tuition increases, two of them. Suddenly, an explosion of campus construction occurred, with metal sculptures showing up all over campus...and the news that the horde of Assistant Chancellors were being paid Giant salaries [one aspect of the "Giant Side of Texas", I surmise..."Giant" salaries for City, County, LISD and Texas Tech administrators].

Craddick pushed through the Tom DeLay gerrymandering of Texas Congressional and Legislative Districts, which cost a fortune, while Texas schools and schoolchildren suffered in the meantime. Governor RICK PERRY managed to call multiple special sessions for Redistricting while ignoring the school finance issues until the courts forced Perry and Craddick to do something about it.

Now, Craddick bullies and intimidates legislators with threats of retaliation from any deviation from the party line. Thankfully, for those of us who vote in the Republican Primaries, it is Republican legislators who have led the charge to oust Craddick, along with long-time Democratic State Rep. SENFRONIA THOMPSON. First, State Rep. BRIAN McCALL announced as a Speaker candidate. He soon recruited a large number of Texas' Democratic legislators for his cause...and quite a few Republicans, 70 in number at last report. Then State Rep. JIM PITTS jumped in the race as a "consensus" candidate. Rep. Thompson threw her support to McCall, and at this writing, McCall appears ready to throw his support to Pitts. This is to take place at a joint news conference on Thursday, 4 January, and by the time El Editor is in print, we might know the full extent of the Pitts challenge to Craddick.

It is HIGH TIME that the high-handed Speaker TAINTED TOM CRADDICK gets his comeuppance...and that he should be sent packing. This writer is disgusted to hear that 12 Democrats...yes 12...are still backing Craddick at this date. Two of them, DAWNNA DUKES of Austin and PATRICIA ROSE of Dripping Springs near Austin, should know better...Dawnna called Craddick "fair" after the Delay-Craddick redistricting did its best to deny Austin its rightful Congressional seat, solely for partisan reasons. Dukes and Rose should be sent packing as well...by disgruntled Democrats who suffered during Redistricting.

I call on our local Representatives, DELWIN JONES, CARL ISETT and JOE HEFLIN to join the Pitts-McCall effort to unseat Craddick. Craddick has been no friend of the Panhandle-South Plains area. His advocacy of the DeLay redistricting cost West Texas one of our representatives in Congress, the esteemed CHARLIE STENHOLM. If Charlie were still in Congress, would be the new Chairman of the Agriculture Committee...instead, we have a developer, RANDY NEUGEBAUER, and an oilman, MIKE CONAWAY, representing West Texas in Congress...quite a deal!

If any of our Representatives support the corrupt and tainted candidacy of Tom Craddick for Speaker, they should be held to account in the next election, because they represent Tom Craddick and Tom DeLay, not us!!! "WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY?????"

This writer has always been a fan of Lubbock attorney CHARLIE DUNN's writing, but last week's "Where's the Accountability?" REALLY hit the nail on the head! Check it out: "Even more disturbing is the silence from our City Council. They were quick to raise our property taxes, quick to annex the strip which increased the tax on alcohol, and quick to install red light cameras to increase city revenue. Why aren't they just as quick to demand accountability when city property is being destroyed?" As I read this, I stood up and cheered. The SILENCE is finally being noticed...from ALL of our minority leaders.

Gone are the days when VICTOR HERNANDEZ spoke out against Eminent Domain and the McDougal abuses of tax appraisals...gone are the days when ELISEO SOLIS vigorously represented the minority communities on just about every issue. Instead, what do we have? Councilman FLOYD PRICE voted against annexing the Strip, but voted FOR tax increases, fee increases, red light cameras, and the salary hike for three overpaid Assistant City Managers. And Councilwoman LINDA DeLEON? She voted FOR all of the above...tax increases, fee increases, annexing the Strip, red light cameras, and the huge salary hike.

I am delighted that CHARLIE DUNN and ABEL CRUZ have both written about this SILENCE...now it is time for others to pick up the banners and cry out, "Why are you people silent when the minority communities are being taxed, fee-d, over-law-enforced and codes-administered-to-death?"

Heck, our two minority Council members, with LINDA leading the way, were the ones who pushed the Codes crackdown on North and East Lubbock...instead of speaking out against it. More than SILENCE this time...LINDA goes on camera to say, "If you don't break the law, you have nothing to fear from red light cameras" when she knows FULL WELL that the red light cameras will come down heavy on our brothers and sisters. "WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY?????"

EL EDITOR

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Survey says Hispanic is common choice

By TOM RAGAN
City Manager Carlos Palacios, recently named man of the year by the Chamber of Commerce, said he used to call himself a Hispanic when he was growing up in Albuquerque, N.M.

But since he moved to California more than a decade ago, he refers to himself as a Latino.

"It's a regional thing," said the 44-year-old who speaks Spanish, although not fluently. "For the most part, everybody calls themselves Latinos here, so I've gotten used to doing the same."

He's in the minority, however.

According to a recent survey conducted by several college professors around the greater Southwest, most people of Spanish origin prefer to be called Hispanic instead of Latino.

Hispanic is a term created by the federal government in the 1970s for census purposes and is still holding strong, although its popularity has plummeted over the years.

It has given way to terms such as Chicano, Mexican-American, "Tejano," even American to those immigrants who have recently become U.S. citizens and are proud of saying it.

"Perhaps our biggest conclusion is that people didn't really care or object to either labels," said John Garcia, a

University of Arizona political science professor who participated in the study.

The Latino National Survey of nearly 9,000 people was carried out in lengthy telephone interviews last year across the United States and released recently.

With a margin of error plus or minus 3 percent, the survey consisted of nearly 100 questions posed to those who either spoke Spanish or had Spanish surnames.

The first question was, "How do you identify yourself?"

In Watsonville, where 77 percent of the population is Latino, the terms are interchangeable, although a quick sampling Friday afternoon revealed just about any label runs the gamut, depending on the context.

"If I'm with a group of Mexican parents and I'm trying to help their children, then I'll call myself a Mexican," said Mayor Manuel Quintero Bersamin, 49, who speaks Spanish fluently. "But if I'm talking to the Brown Berets, then I'm a Chicano. And if I'm talking to people who are Mexican or Filipino, then I'm either a 'Mexipino' or a 'Filipicano.'"

But one thing Bersamin says he certainly is not is a Hispanic.

"Those who want to

subscribe to their Native American or Indian ancestry usually choose 'Latino' or 'Chicano,'" he said. "The Spanish weren't very nice when they colonized Mexico, Cuba or other parts of Central and South America."

And yet the term Hispanic is the most prevalent - perhaps out of habit of having to answer to the U.S. Census or filling out countless applications in which Hispanic is the only label listed.

Hispanic, however, is not a race, contrary to uninformed public opinion, notes Garcia, the political science professor.

The word itself comes from "España," or Spain - not exactly something Adolfo Garcia Jr., a Pajaro Valley high school sophomore, was familiar with.

Yet he certainly has an opinion on the matter.

"I'm a Mexican-American," he said. "My parents come from Mexico, but I'm from here. That makes me a citizen. That makes me an American - a Mexican-American."

It's a term among many bilingual children and adults who grew up here and whose parents come from Mexico. Not

only are they bilingual, but their bicultural. Some choose to retain the heritage, others shun it, adapting to mainstream society, notes Theresa Espinosa, a receptionist at the Santa Cruz County Immigration Project.

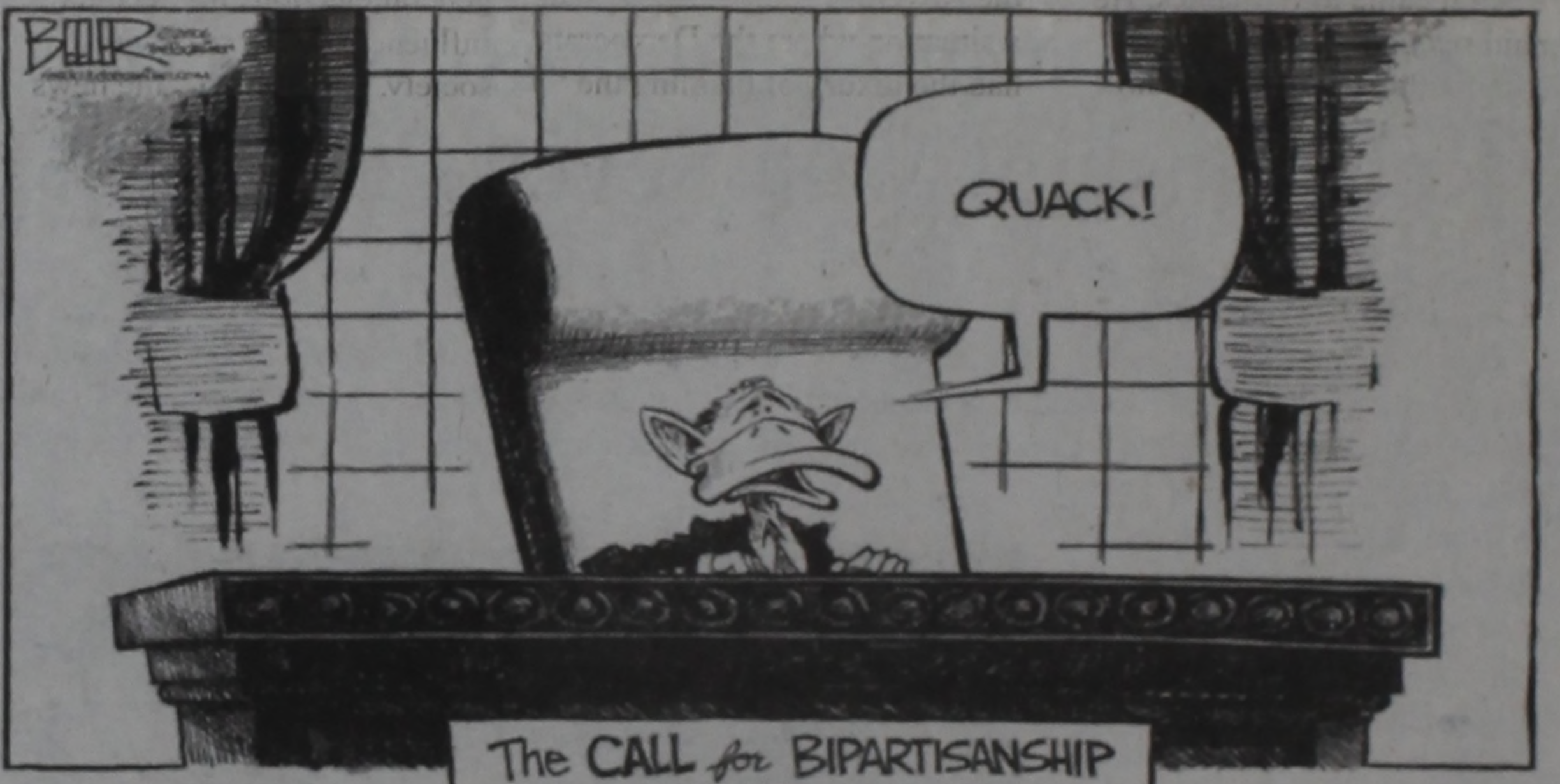
"I'm a Mexican," she said, "even though I was born here. I call myself Mexican, and I taught my children to speak Spanish first, and I taught them to be proud of their heritage."

Aida Figueroa echoed those same sentiments.

"I was born in Mexico, but I've lived here all my life," said the 38-year-old Watsonville resident, who was born in Mexico while her parents, both Mexicans, were vacationing there. "I'm in the process of getting my citizenship."

For others like Antonio Martinez, a 22-year-old from Santa Cruz who was born in Oaxaca and is bilingual, he doesn't care much about labels.

"It doesn't matter, and I don't get offended," he said. "The most important thing is that you never forget where you come from, and it's sad if you're ashamed of it and not proud."ey may have to find their way back to those smaller offices.



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Yzaguirre

(from page 1)

Q: What about President Jimmy Carter?

A: Jimmy Carter had very little personal interaction with Latinos. He was learning Spanish, so he used that to help him understand a little bit of our community. He just did not know our community very well. But once you presented a problem to him, he reacted positively to it. We had very high expectations for the Carter Administration. We were expecting a forceful Latino civil rights agenda and at least one Cabinet nomination. We got neither.

Q: President Bill Clinton?

A: The Bill Clinton era represents the high watermark for Latino influence in the White House and in the federal government. Bill Clinton does not have the personal visceral affinity for Hispanics as he has for African Americans, but he gets it. By that I mean that at a cerebral level, he understands the importance of Latinos in this nation.

Q: President George W. Bush?

A: George W. Bush had and perhaps still has a wealth of personal knowledge of our community. A significant number of Hispanics, including our Attorney General, have had long and deep friendships with the president. Unfortunately he turned out to be more "conservative" than "compassionate". The mainline Latino groups have neither access nor influence with this administration.

We thought that finally we were going to have a Hispanic named to the Supreme Court, and he had a couple opportunities to do that. But he showed he was more interested in pleasing the religious right than in responding to the Hispanic community.

Q: How about his father, President George H.W. Bush?

A: George H.W. Bush was, in my opinion, a benign president when it came to Hispanics. He paid scant attention to our community, but there was no meanness about him.

Q: In 2008 or soon thereafter, do you see a Hispanic finally being nominated as president or vice president?

A: I think New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has an excellent chance of being nominated for the presidency and certainly for the vice presidency.

In the second part of the interview, to be published (date), Yzaguirre shares his views on the maturation of the community and increasing influence of Latino organizations.

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The 2007 NCLR Annual Conference will be held at the (Miami Beach Convention Center, July 21-24.

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is thrilled to hold this year's Annual Conference in Miami, Florida! With the most recent U.S. Census polls reporting that more than 60% of Miami's two million residents are Hispanic, Miami is the perfect venue for NCLR's 2007 Annual Conference and Latino Expo USA.

This multicultural metropolis has it all - a thriving Latino community, a rich social and cultural life, a strong job market, top-notch universities, the highest Hispanic college enrollment in the nation, and a Hispanic political representation poised to put the interests of the American people first.

This "Magic City" is not only one of our community's true political and economic success stories, it is also one of the most exhilarating and vibrant cities in the world. NCLR is delighted to host this year's Annual Conference in this Latino mosaic of diversity, and culture.

See you in Miami!

About Annual Conference

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) - the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States - works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Through its network of nearly 300 affiliated community-based organizations (CBOs), NCLR reaches millions of Hispanics each year in 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. NCLR is recognized as the most effective, influential, and respected Hispanic organization in the country, serving as a voice in Washington, DC for Hispanic Americans.

CHANGING NATION: POPULATION GROWTH FEEDS LATINO INFLUENCE IN CONGRESS

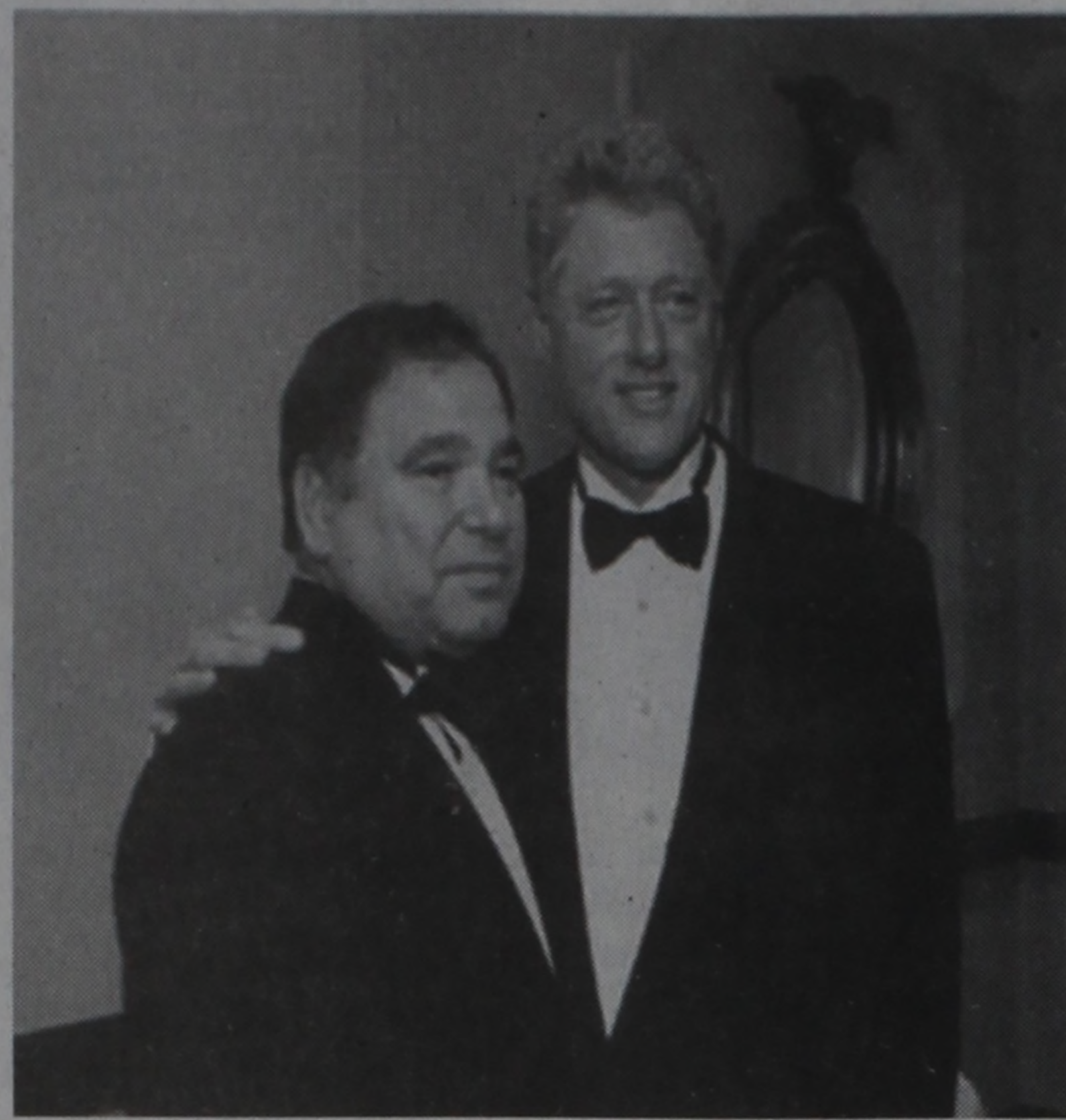
Question: What do you think of the Democratic strategy with its "first 100 hours" priorities for the 110th Congress, which do not include comprehensive immigration reform?

Answer: The Democratic Congressional Leadership strategy for the first 100 hours includes items such as an increase in the minimum wage,

lobbied to take positions by individual members of Congress in both houses and from both sides of the aisle.

Q: How satisfied are you now with the progress Hispanics have made?

A: Until we achieve parity, until our ethnicity is not a barrier to opportunity, we cannot be satisfied. Our biggest



which is very much a Latino issue as well as a national priority. Immigration reform in very different forms is on everybody's agenda. Comprehensive reform will happen because President Bush is more aligned with the Democrats than with members of his own party on this issue.

Q: Do you feel Congress will address comprehensive immigration reform in a timely fashion?

A: Not as timely as some of us would like. Immigration legislation, as emotional and complicated as it may be, will happen because the political dynamics have changed. Before the November elections, we had a situation where the Democrats had the luxury of blaming the Republicans both for passing draconian measures such as criminalizing acts of charity to undocumented aliens and alternatively, of doing nothing.

Q: How much influence do La Raza and other Latino organizations have in Washington?

A: We have made enormous progress. I remember a time in the '70s when we had to beg to testify in congressional committee hearings. By the time I left NCLR, we were being asked to testify on a variety of issues on a routine basis. We were in the unusual position of being

enemy is not Anglo racism, it is our own willingness to be satisfied with small gains. Our biggest challenge is to overcome apathy.

Q: To what do you attribute the progress to date?

A: Growth in numbers. Also, when I first came to Washington, there was very little connection between our few congressional representatives and Latino organizations. Now we work hand in glove. There's an expectation that we will be supportive of each other. But we have to participate more in the process. We have to contribute to candidates, to work the primaries, not just the general election. We need to influence all sectors of our society, labor unions, the news media, as well as both political parties.

Q: How much impact would you say the Congressional Hispanic Caucus or any Hispanics now have in Congress?

A: Twenty years ago, the few Hispanics that we had in Congress were marginal in terms of influence. Now we have three U.S. Senators, we will have committee and subcommittee chairs in both chambers. We are on an upward trajectory. The only thing that can hurt us is internal bickering, and we seem to be having some of that now. But I see that as part of the maturation process. We will get it together.

Q: A lot of times Hispanic Republicans in Congress speak very well on common issues with Hispanic Democrats. Is there a chance they can get together again?

A: It's very important that they work together. Republican Hispanic congressional members vote much more favorably on Latino priorities than other Republicans. The first step is to get them to rejoin the Congressional Hispanic Institute.

Q: How about collaboration between the black and Latino congressional caucuses?

A: There's been an atmosphere of willingness and I think there's recognition by the African-American members of Congress that they need to pay more attention to us. Number one, African-American members are representing districts that are increasingly Latino, so there's a pragmatic motive for them to become more interested in Latino issues. Number two, our interests by and large coincide with each other, legislatively speaking.

NEXT: In the third part of the interview, to be published (date), Yzaguirre addresses education issues and the often misunderstood Hispanic role in U.S. society.

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Yzaguirre

(viene de la Primera R: Jimmy Carter tuvo escasa participación con los latinos. Aprendía español, con lo cual podía entender algo sobre nuestra comunidad, pero en términos sencillos, no conocía muy bien nuestra comunidad. No obstante, una vez que se le presentara un problema, su reacción era positiva. Tuvimos expectativas muy altas de la administración Carter. Esperábamos una agenda poderosa de derechos civiles latinos y por lo menos un nombramiento de gabinete, pero no se nos concedió ninguno de los dos.

P: ¿Y el presidente Bill Clinton?

R: La era de Bill Clinton representa un hito importante para la influencia latina en la Casa Blanca y en el gobierno federal. Bill Clinton no tiene la afinidad visceral para los latinos como la tiene para los africano-americanos, pero sí entiende la problemática. Con esto quiero decir que a nivel intelectual, comprende la importancia de los latinos para esta nación.

P: ¿Y el presidente George W. Bush?

R: George W. Bush tuvo, y tal vez tenga aún, una riqueza de conocimiento personal de nuestra comunidad. Un número importante de hispanos, incluyendo a nuestro Fiscal de la Nación, han tenido relaciones de amistad largas y profundas con el presidente. Por desgracia, resultó ser más "conservador" que "de compasión". Los grupos corrientes latinos no han tenido ni acceso ni influencia en esta administración.

Pensamos que al fin tendríamos a un hispano nombrado al Tribunal Supremo, y tuvo la oportunidad un par de veces de hacerlo. No obstante, se mostró más interesado en complacer a los de la derecha religiosa que en responder a la comunidad hispana.

P: ¿Y qué dice de su padre, el presidente George H.W. Bush?

R: En mi opinión, George H.W. Bush fue un presidente benigno en cuanto a los hispanos. No nos prestó mucha atención como comunidad, pero no hubo ninguna maldad de su parte.

P: En el 2008, o poco después, ¿cree Ud. que se nombrará finalmente a un hispano a la presidencia o la vicepresidencia?

R: Me parece que el gobernador de Nuevo México, Bill Richardson, cuenta con una excelente posibilidad de ser nombrado a la presidencia, y ciertamente a la vicepresidencia.

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NUESTRA NACION CAMBIANTE: EL CRECIMIENTO DE LA POBLACION AUMENTA INFLUENCIA LATINA EN EL CONGRESO

Pregunta: ¿Qué opina Ud. de la estrategia de los demócratas con sus prioridades para "las primeras 100 horas" del Congreso 110, las cuales no incluyen la reforma comprensiva del sistema de inmigración?

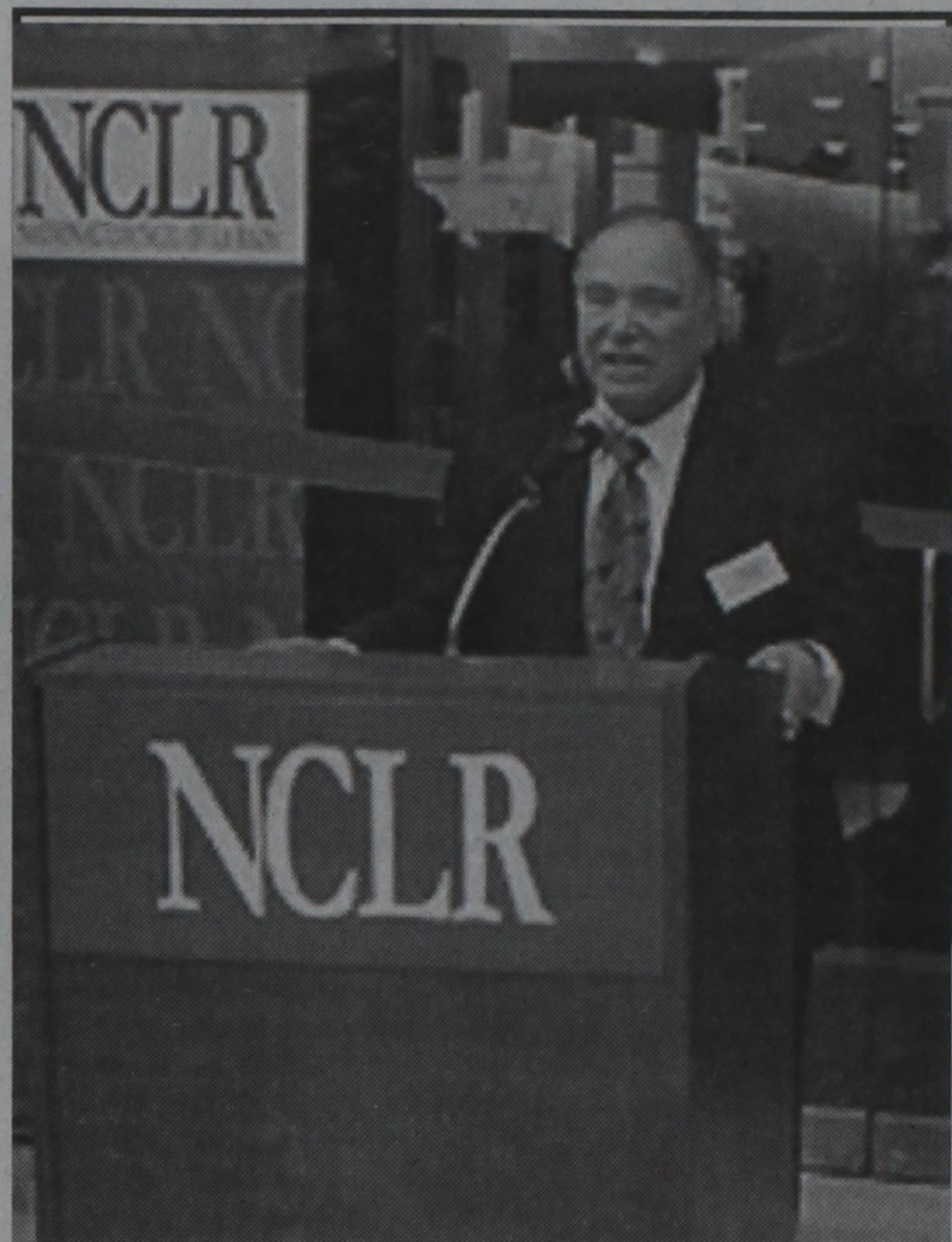
RESPUESTA: La estrategia de los dirigentes demócratas del Congreso para las primeras 100 horas incluye temas como el aumento del salario mínimo, el cual es un tema importante para los latinos, además de ser una prioridad nacional. De formas muy diversas se encuentra la reforma migratoria en la agenda de todos. Se realizará la reforma comprensiva porque se alinea más el presidente Bush con los demócratas que con los miembros de su propio partido en cuanto a este tema.

P: ¿Siente Ud. que el Congreso se dirigirá pronto a la reforma comprensiva del sistema de inmigración?

R: Al aumento de los números. También, cuando recién llegué a Washington, había muy poca conexión entre nuestros escasos representantes en el Congreso y las organizaciones latinas. Ahora colaboramos muy estrechamente. Se espera que nos apoyemos mutuamente. Sin embargo, tenemos que participar más en el proceso. Tenemos que contribuir con candidatos, que trabajar en las primarias, no sólo en las elecciones generales. Tenemos que surtir influencia sobre todos los sectores de nuestra sociedad, en los sindicatos laborales, los medios noticiosos, así como en ambos partidos políticos.

P: ¿Qué tanto impacto diría Ud. que tiene en el Congreso ahora el Caucus de Congresistas Hispanos o cualquier hispano?

R: Hace veinte años, los pocos hispanos que teníamos en el



R: No tan pronto como algunos quisiéramos. La legislación migratoria, por más emocional y complicada que sea, se realizará por lo que ha cambiado la dinámica política. Antes de las elecciones de noviembre, nos tocaba una situación en la que los demócratas tenían el lujo de culpar a los republicanos tanto por aprobar medidas draconianas, por ejemplo, hacer criminales los actos de caridad a los extranjeros indocumentados, como por no hacer nada.

P: ¿Cuánta influencia tienen La Raza y otras organizaciones latinas en Washington?

R: Hemos progresado enormemente. Recuerdo cuando, en los años setenta, teníamos que rogar para que nos permitieran testificar ante audiencias comitivas del Congreso. Para cuando dejé el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, se nos pedía testificar sobre una variedad de temas de manera rutinaria. Nos tocó la posición extraña de ser cabildados a que tomemos ciertas posiciones, por parte de miembros individuales del Congreso de ambas cámaras y de ambos partidos.

P: ¿Qué tan contento se siente hoy con el progreso que han hecho los hispanos?

R: Hasta que no logremos la paridad, hasta que nuestra etnicidad no sea una barrera a la oportunidad, no podemos estar contentos. Nuestro mayor enemigo no es el racismo de parte de los blancos, sino que es nuestra propia voluntad de contentarnos con pequeños avances. El mayor desafío que enfrentamos es sobreponernos a la apatía.

P: ¿A qué atribuye Ud. el progreso realizado hasta la fecha?

Congreso estaban al margen en términos de influencia. Ahora contamos con tres senadores, y tendremos en ambas Cámaras directores de comités y subcomités. Vamos en auge. Lo único que nos puede perjudicar es la riña interna, de la cual parece padecemos ahora. No obstante, lo veo como parte del proceso de madurar. Ya entraremos en colaboración.

P: Muchas veces los hispanos republicanos del Congreso coinciden mucho en temas que promueven los hispanos demócratas. ¿Qué posibilidad existe que se unan?

R: Es muy importante que colaboren. Los miembros republicanos hispanos del Congreso votan favorablemente sobre prioridades latinas mucho más que otros republicanos. El primer paso es lograr que se vuelvan a unir al Congressional Hispanic Institute.

P: ¿Qué opina de una colaboración entre los caucus de los africano-americanos y los latinos?

R: Existe un ambiente voluntarioso y pienso que los miembros africano-americanos del Congreso reconocen que nos deben prestar más atención. En primera instancia, los miembros africano-americanos representan distritos con poblaciones cada vez mayores latinas, por ende tienen un motivo pragmático por interesarse más en temas latinos. Segundo, en términos de legislación, nuestros intereses coinciden, en gran parte

A CONTINUACION: En la tercera fase de la entrevista, Yzaguirre se dirige a temas de educación y el papel, muchas veces malentendido, de los hispanos en la sociedad estadounidense).

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Hispanic Texans are dying in Iraq at Larger Rate

from front page
a rate more than 60 percent higher than the rate for the nation's military-age population as a whole, according to a Texan's review of war fatalities. In a separate study, a University of California professor has found that during the first six weeks of the war, 16.5 percent of troops killed were Latinos, although Latinos made up only 11.2 percent of the combat troops.

More than 1,470 troops have lost their lives since U.S. forces invaded Iraq. With the invasion approaching its second anniversary next month, the uneven distribution of fatalities is forcing the military and the nation to confront questions about exactly who dies for their country when the United States goes to war. The burden in Iraq is not being shared equally. Hispanic Texans and rural Americans, mostly white, have among the highest death rates.

The federal Government Accountability Office and academic researchers are studying the counts, looking for social factors that might help explain how race and class shape who joins the military.

Through a spokesman, the Department of Defense said it could not respond directly to the findings without conducting its own statistical analysis, but said the findings generally reflect "the fact that we are at war." Extensive Department of Defense studies from as recently as 2002 have consistently found that poor young people with low grades and the least likelihood of going to college or getting jobs are more likely to enlist, many to get college financial aid. One department report prepared by a consultant in 2000, for example, recommended that recruiters "concentrate on C students." An all-volunteer military makes

understanding who is joining - and therefore dying - especially relevant, analysts say.



"I think in a democracy, given that the military is an agent not only of the state but also of society, you want a military that all sectors feel they have a stake in," said David Segal, a sociologist and director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland.

Texas is home to 19 percent of the nation's Latinos of military age. Yet 32 percent of the Hispanic service members killed in Iraq as of Feb. 19 came from

up more than 80 percent of the population.

Whites make up 65 percent of the nation's military and made up about 72 percent of all fatalities through Jan. 8, according to a study by Brian Gifford, a health policy researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

Best option

In his newly published study, "Combat Casualties and Race: What Can We Learn from the 2003-2004 Iraq Conflict?", Berkeley's Gifford examines what he calls the "war" and "occupation" phases and finds that "when U.S. tactics dictate a more active, aggressive role in finding and attacking enemy targets, Hispanics incur casualties in

excess of their participation in ground combat units." The rate of Hispanic deaths lessened during the insurgency and occupation

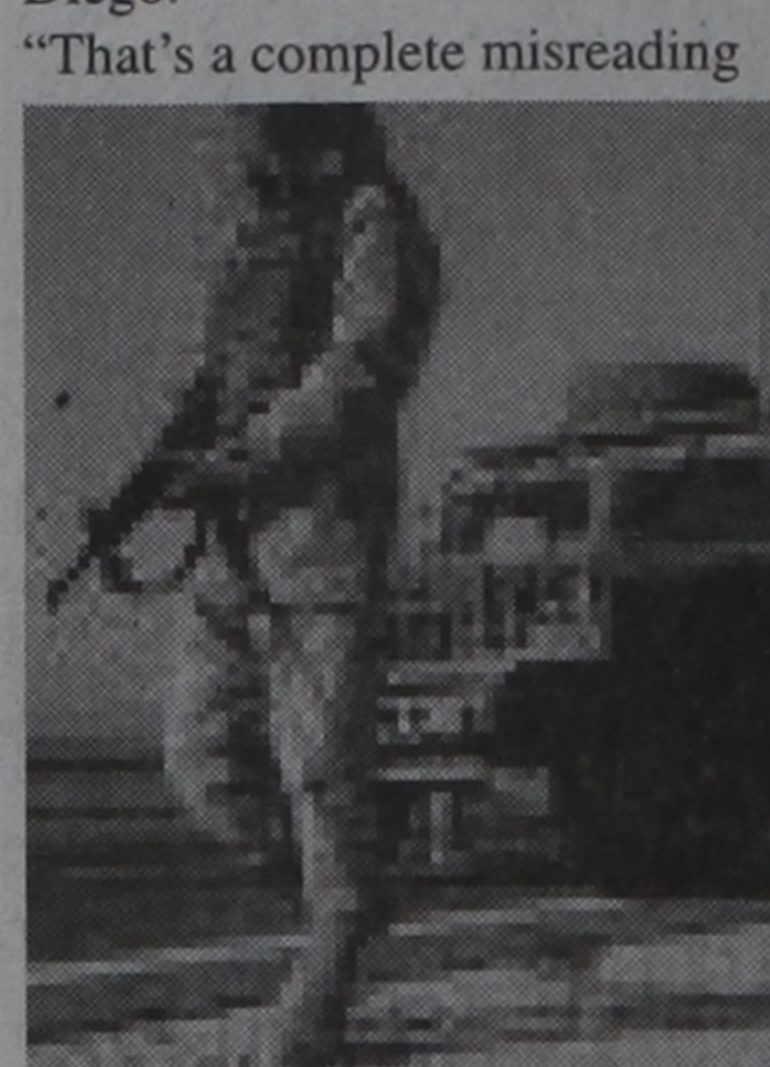
of the social conditions that lead people there, the educational shortfalls that track people into those jobs," Mariscal said. Experts debate why many Hispanics enlist:

- Military recruiting is highly effective in the nation's poorest schools, where Latinos often make up a majority of students;
- The Marines have cemented a reputation as the toughest of the toughest, appealing to those who want to prove their mettle;
- The military appeals to a patriotic sense of duty among Latinos;
- Recent immigrants want to show they are grateful for being in America, or they are drawn by a U.S. policy that allows troops who serve during wartime to apply for citizenship. Social class and educational aspirations are the most powerful predictors of whether Hispanics will enlist, a 2000 survey of young Hispanics prepared for the Department of Defense found.

"It's really a class issue, then an ethnicity or race issue," Mariscal said. In general, Hispanics are significantly less likely to complete high school than whites. In 2002, only 57 percent of Latinos older than 25 had completed high school, compared with more than 88 percent of whites and 78 percent of blacks. About half of enlistment-age Hispanics are immigrants, and they tend to have less formal education than their native-born counterparts, Gifford's research found. Another theory is that Hispanics maintain a proud, patriotic military tradition that spans generations. "If history teaches us anything, it is that the military is considered a respectable and even an honorable career for Latinos," said Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, whose U.S. Latino and Latina WWII Oral History Project at the University of Texas has interviewed hundreds of veterans and their families. For Latinos who had no aspirations for higher education, military service in World War

II provided job security, a good job and immediate acceptance within the family. "How many high-status jobs can you get with only a high school diploma?" Rivas-Rodriguez asked. But Mariscal questions the tradition theory, noting that many of the early deaths in Iraq were recent immigrants. It's estimated that 37,000 noncitizens served in the armed forces, one-third of them Latino. Of the 56 immigrant U.S. troops in Iraq who have received posthumous U.S. citizenship,

31 were from Spanish-speaking countries, including 18 from Mexico.



Honoring the flag

Juan Saldaña came to Texas from Mexico in 1900, at age 12. His son Moses remembers a boyhood trip to the state Capitol, when his immigrant father pointed to the U.S. flag whipping in the wind and said, "That's your flag. Honor the flag."

Moses, now 73, did so as a Marine. In turn, two of his sons - Moses Saldaña Jr., 42, and Mark Saldaña, 40 - also joined the Marines.

"For me, joining was a sense of pride," said Mark Saldaña of Manchaca, who served from 1981 to 1989. Understanding which segments of society pay the price of war makes assessing casualty counts important, Gifford said. "If, for example, people from historically disadvantaged groups are dying in larger numbers than their representation in society, then we'd say there is an unfair burden that's being borne and that our national security decisions are in fact having unfair effects on different kinds of communities," Gifford said.

Concerns about racial equity

How this study was done

The American-Statesman's statistical consultant, Robert Cushing, collected the official Department of Defense list of casualties from the department's Web site through February 19. (The address is: <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/mmid/casualty/ca-stop.htm>.) County populations were taken from the 2000 census. Deaths were compared with the population between the ages of 18 and 54. The Department of Defense does not identify the race or ethnicity of individual soldiers. For this study, Hispanics were determined by surname. Odds that findings of this study are the result of chance are less than one in a hundred.

"I worry about the fact that the top strata of our society don't send their sons and daughters into the military, because they're the people who decide when to go to war," Segal said.

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Texas. Put another way, Hispanic Texans have died at the rate of 15.6 for every million Hispanic men and women of military age in the state. The comparable rate for the nation is 9.7 deaths per million. Of the 142 Texans killed in Iraq as of Feb. 19, 54 - or 38 percent - were Hispanic, although Hispanics account for only 32 percent of military age Texans. Because most of the country's population lives in and around cities, in sheer numbers, most of those killed have come from metropolitan areas. But a disproportionate share of troops killed has come from rural America, where whites make

phases of the war, when attacks became more random, but Hispanic deaths remained slightly disproportionate to the number of Hispanic troops overall. Gifford has updated the study with data through Jan. 8. The percentage of total Hispanic deaths during the war is below the Hispanic percentage of the country's military age population, Gifford found. Hispanics are underrepresented in the armed forces as a whole, analysts say, because education and language requirements render many Latinos ineligible for service. African Americans also suffered high death rates during the war's earliest stages, compared with their presence in combat units and the military age population as a whole, he found. Some of the imbalances might result because Hispanics and whites volunteer for combat units and dangerous specialties - particularly those in the Marine Corps - at higher rates, according to a Department of Defense study. But if some Latinos seek out dangerous jobs, they also end up in them after faring poorly

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Lubbock Regional MHMR Center, serving in the capacity of HIV Services Administrative Agency for the Texas Department of State Health Services for Area 2, (PanWest), will host a PUBLIC PRESENTATION of the 2007 - 2009 Comprehensive Plan for HIV Services on January 10, 2007 at 10:00 AM, in Lubbock, Texas. The presentation will take place at Lubbock Regional MHMR Center, 1602 10th St., Boardroom, 1st Floor.

The Comprehensive Plan may be viewed in advance at the following website: <http://www.panwest.org>

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LA CASA

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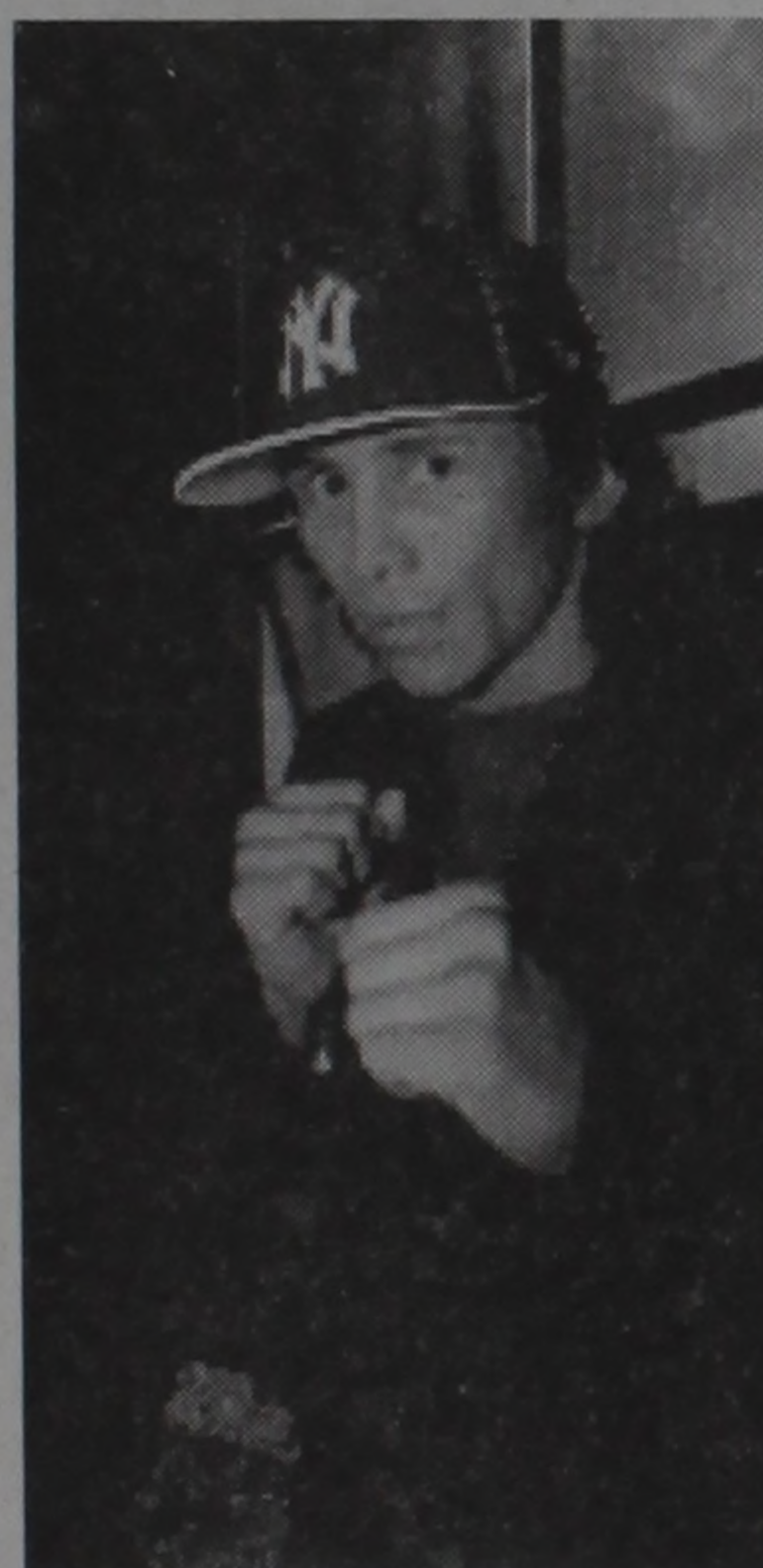
Tony Romo is struggling

Dallas, once the darling of the NFC, picked the worst time to fall into a slump. The Cowboys lost three of their last four and the division title in the process. Tony Romo is struggling. All of the losses came at Texas Stadium, including Sunday's setback against the lowly Lions. Perhaps it's a good thing, then, the Cowboys didn't get a home playoff game.

This isn't how Bill Parcells wanted the Cowboys to enter what he calls "the tournament." After an embarrassing Week 17 loss, the Cowboys have lost three of their last four and now visit defending NFC champion Seattle (Saturday, 8 ET) in the wild-card playoffs.

They can turn it all around with a win at fourth-seeded Seattle. Maybe the Cowboys will

Venezuela's Valero retains WBA super featherweight title



TOKYO -Defending champion Edwin Valero of Venezuela defeated Mexican challenger Michael Lozada on Wednesday to retain the WBA super featherweight title.

Valero, making the first defense of the title he won last Aug. 5, beat Lozada with a technical knockout in the first round of their bout at Ariake Coliseum.

Valero improved to 21-0, including 20 knockouts - with his first 18 bouts finished in the opening round. Lozada fell to 29-4-2 with 10 knockouts.

In a later bout, Cristian Mijares of Mexico defeated Japan's Katsushige Kawashima to defend his interim WBC super flyweight title.

Mijares beat the one-time super flyweight title holder with a technical knockout in the 10th round.

It was Mijares' second defense of the interim title he won on Sept. 18 in a split decision over Kawashima.

Mijares improved to 30-3-2, with 11 knockouts, while Kawashima's record fell to 30-6 with 20 knockouts.

Tony Romo Thinks a Little Too Highly of Himself

Those are the words of Bill Parcells, not me. A reporter asked Parcells today if part of Romo's recent struggles were due to inexperience. "No. Overconfidence," Parcells replied. It was not difficult to see this one coming.

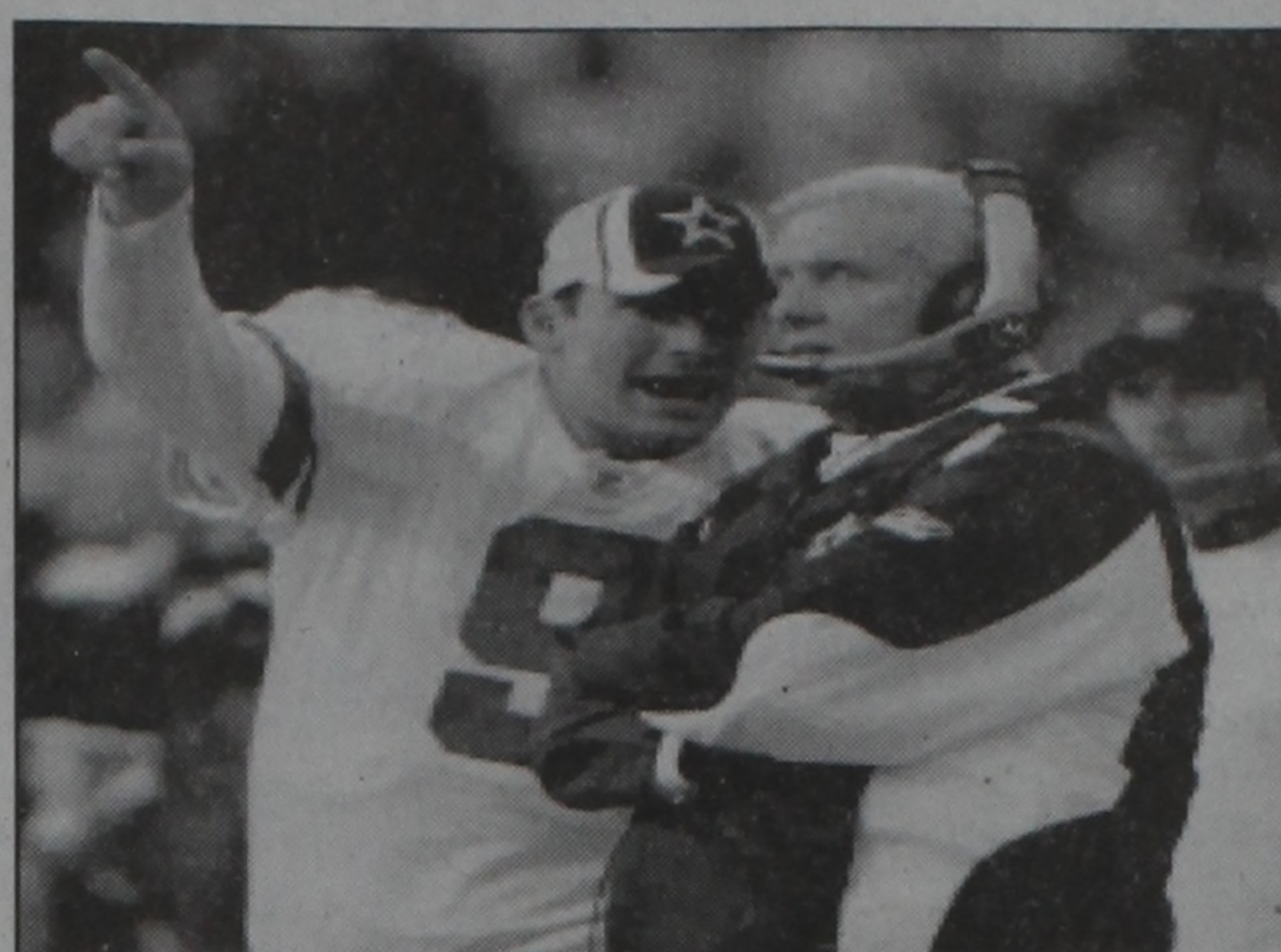
This happens with rookie quarterbacks. A lot of times, a young guy will come on, and start lighting it up immediately. It seems easy. Defenses don't know their tendencies, they don't know the best way to play them, they don't know how they react to certain coverages and blitzes, and it's the quarterback who dictates to the defense what will happen.

Things snowball. Fans fall in love with the new guy, they make lame signs like "ROMO-mentum," people start calling

themselves "Romosexuals," he's on every NFL talk show, he's linked to a couple of dif-

world.

It happens. It's not a knock on Romo, it's just human nature



ferent hot Hollywood bitties, and he thinks he's on top of the

to get caught up in that. The key is to learn to temper it, and for-

tunately, Bill Parcells is willing to help him with that.

After a while, a guy gets on film, defenses have time to experiment with different strategies, and things start to catch up. Teams develop a "book" on him. A quarterback starts to think more, and react less, a surefire way to get killed (ask Rex Grossman). That's where Tony Romo is right now, as evidenced by some of his shoddy work recently.

And that's why Parcells has been so stingy with the compliments. Even if Parcells felt like Romo was playing spectacularly well, Parcells knows that he was hearing enough compliments. A little balance was necessary, and perhaps an overhaul of the attitude, as well.

Bob Knight won 880 games

LUBBOCK, Texas -- Bob Knight won 880 games doing things his way. And he sure celebrated it his way.

Long appreciated for his

"I don't expect you people to have agreed with what I've done -- and, if I did (care), I would have asked your opinion. And I have never asked



strategy and long questioned for his methods, Knight added the crowning achievement to his Hall of Fame career by becoming the leader in Division I men's basketball victories when Texas Tech beat New Mexico 70-68 on Monday.

Having finally reached the pinnacle he's long insisted didn't matter, Knight proved otherwise by soaking in every moment of the party that followed -- especially the soundtrack.

"I've always thought that if there's ever an occasion for a song to be played on my behalf, I wanted it to be Frank Sinatra singing My Way," said Knight, whose usually glaring facade showed hints of cracking during the outpouring of emotions.

the opinions of very many. I've simply tried to do what I think is best in the way that I think you have to do it. I think I've put myself out on a limb at times, knowingly, simply because I thought what I was going to do or say was the best way to get this kid to be the best player or the best student."

Knight has been a college coach for 41 of his 66 years, having broken in at Army and made his mark by winning three national titles in 29 years at Indiana. Fired by Indiana after administrators could no longer tolerate his behavior, he resurfaced at this college basketball outpost in 2001 and has guided the Red Raiders to unprecedented heights.

Lady Raiders coach starts off the Big 12 opener

LUBBOCK, Texas -- Kristy Curry opened conference play against the same road opponent her first three years as coach at Purdue.

Now in her first year at Texas Tech and faced No. 9 Baylor on Wednesday, she hoped the same scheduling wouldn't await her in the Big 12 but the Lady Raiders got defeated by Baylor on a 54 to 61.

"I just hoped I wouldn't have to have gone to Waco three years in row," she said.

That much Curry can't control, so in her first year as the successor to Texas Tech legend Marsha Sharp, she's been trying to get a handle on the things she can manage. Curry has had her ups and downs. Best so far she is getting the Lady Raiders back in the Top 25 in November, marking the team's first national ranking since Texas Tech fell out of the Top 25 in 2005 for the first time in 248 weeks.

But no longer ranked, Texas Tech (9-5) has also had its struggles. The Lady Raiders have often shot poorly, started halves too slowly and not been as aggressive as Curry would like.

"It's really gotten us at times," Curry said. "This is a very nice group of people and they're very passive. You can't be passive."

Texas Tech's goal heading into the holidays was to be 10-4 by Christmas. Losing two of its last three prevented them from reaching that mark, including the Lady Raiders' first loss to SMU since 1989 in their last nonconference game.

Facing Baylor (13-1) on Wednesday, things didn't figure to get any easier -- though at least Curry will be coaching against a familiar face.

Baylor coach Kim Mulkey and Curry coached together at Louisiana Tech for three years in the late 1990s. Curry went on to Purdue in 1999, a year before Mulkey was hired at Baylor.

Both have taken their teams deep into the NCAA tournament. Curry took the Boilermakers to title game in her first year at Purdue, while Mulkey's Lady Bears (13-1) won the national championship in 2005.

Midway through her first season, Curry said she doesn't think about the pressure of following Sharp, who led the Lady Raiders to a national title and turned Texas Tech into one of the best teams in the country.

Instead, she's trying to turn a team picked to finish seventh in the Big 12 into a contender, even without the depth and athleticism Tech enjoyed in previous years.

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TELEVISION: BROKAW DOCUMENTS MIGRANTS' STORIES

As picturesque as its name, surrounded by the snowy peaks of the Colorado Rockies, Roaring Fork Valley seems like an unlikely place for a story about illegal immigration.

But in recent years, thousands of undocumented workers from Mexico have settled in this stretch of the West between Vail and Aspen, Colo.

A new NBC special, reported by veteran anchor Tom Brokaw, finds in this community a textbook example of one of the nation's most divisive domestic questions: Is the influx of illegal immigrants a burden or a blessing?

To one local businesswoman and mother, it's both.

The woman - who is white, like almost the entire population of the valley until a few years ago - sends her young kids to a public school that is now 80 percent Hispanic. With the burden of teaching English to new immigrants added to other chores, the school strains to meet its demands and finds it hard to attract good teachers.

"It frightens me a little bit, the fact that I'm becoming a minority, that my children are a minority in the school system," the woman tells Brokaw.

Yet, as a vice president of a construction company that relies more and more on Mexican immigrants, she sees the other side, too.

Her boss, Mark Gould, acknowledges that he's required to check immigration documents, but says it's impossible to catch all the fakes. And, he tells Brokaw, without new Mexican workers, his business would collapse.

Anglo workers, according to Gould, don't want to dig ditches, even at a starting rate of \$14 an hour plus benefits. The Mexicans "work their butts off," he says - and they stick around.

One Anglo who starts work for Gould at the beginning of the program simply stops showing up for work after just a few days. A young immigrant named Trino starts the same day and, after a few months, has done so well that Gould promotes him to bulldozer operator.

Trino lives with 17 members of his extended family in a four-bedroom house that overflows with adults, children and dogs. He doesn't have to be pressed very hard by Brokaw to admit sheepishly that, yes, he faked his immigration papers.

He takes home about \$600 a week and sends nearly half, he estimates, to family members in Mexico. He dreams of returning there before too long and starting his own business.

So why, asks U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), should Roaring Fork Valley welcome Trino and pay for the education of his nieces and nephews? If business owners like Gould claim they can't get American workers to do hard, dirty jobs, Tancredo adds, doesn't the law of supply and demand suggest they're not paying them enough?

But sometimes this hour-long special, even-handed and intelligent as it is, seems to be skirting the real question: How much longer can this country go on with a set of immigration laws so at odds with actual practice?

MARIO LOPEZ TO HOST MISS AMERICA PAGEANT

Mario Lopez will host this year's Miss America pageant in Las Vegas, event organizers said Wednesday.

"I'm honored. I think it's going to be great," Lopez told The Associated Press from Los Angeles prior to the announcement by Country Music Television Inc.'s officials in Nashville, Tenn. The pageant will air Jan. 29 from the Aladdin Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.



Having proved he can dance on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," the 33-year-old actor ("Saved by the Bell") said he didn't plan to sing the pageant's "There She Is, Miss America" theme made famous by longtime Miss America host Bert Parks.

"I really don't sing," Lopez said. "I like to sing, but I don't sing well."

Lopez replaces James Denton, a star from ABC's "Desperate Housewives," who hosted last year's 85th annual pageant in Las Vegas.

A recorded version of Parks singing the anthem played as Miss Oklahoma Jennifer Berry was crowned at last

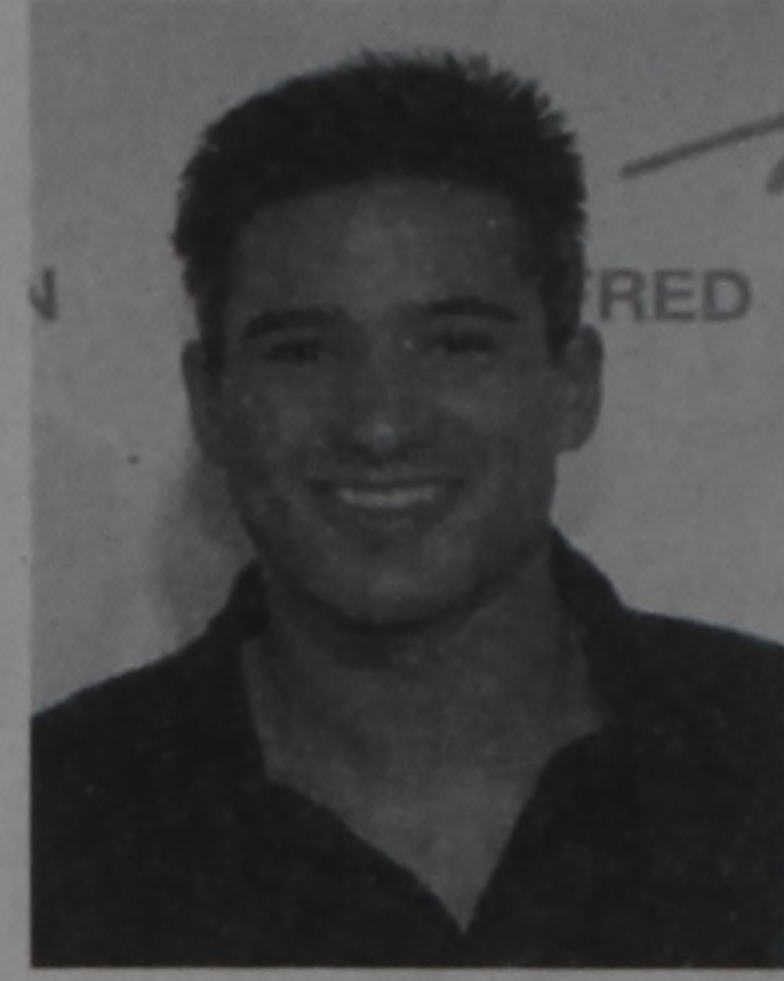
year's pageant, held for the first time outside Atlantic City, N.J.

Sarah Brock, CMT executive producer and vice president, said show producers were excited about Lopez's popularity, previous pageant hosting experience and "undeniable charm." Terms of his one-year deal weren't made public.

Lopez recalled hosting other pageants including a Miss Teen USA pageant in 2003 in Palm Springs, Calif. He attributed recent scandals involving beauty queens in other pageants to mistakes by a select few contestants.

He also downplayed reports that he was linked romantically with his "Dancing With the Stars" partner, professional dancer Karina Smirnoff. The couple placed second in the ABC program to former Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith and partner Cheryl Burke.

Lopez had a brief marriage to model and actress Ali Landry annulled in 2004.



GAEL GARCIA EMBRACES MEXICAN ROOTS

"Babel" actor Gael Garcia Bernal embraces his Mexican identity, say-



ing it has a liberating effect on his expanding career.

"I feel completely free to be whatever," he told the Los Angeles Times. "Actually, if I was an actor from the United States, it would be incredibly hard, because I would be pigeonholed immediately."

Garcia Bernal, 28, said in Mexico any perceived faux pas by a celebrity can draw criticism.

"That's something that in Mexico they pick up a lot on. 'Oh, he didn't give me an autograph, he's lost it.' And it's funny because it's so ephemeral and so trivial," he said.

His legions of fans can look forward to seeing him next year in Hector Babenco's "El Pasado" (The Past), which chronicles a married couple's difficult breakup. He is also set to star in a film by Carlos Cuaron.

The actor has directed his first film, "Deficit," which he describes as a "generational allegory" focusing on young, upper-class Mexicans coping with the country's ongoing socio-economic upheavals.

VEGETABLES AND BEANS: FRIJOLADA COSTEÑA

- 2 cans pinto beans
- 2 cans red beans
- 1 lb. ground meat
- 1 green banana
- 1 tomato
- 1 onion
- 2 grated carrots
- 4 garlic cloves
- 3 spoonful cumin
- 1 cube chicken bouillon
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil
- 4 cups warm water
- Salt
- Pepper

Servings: 6

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INSTRUCTIONS

Crush 2 garlic cloves, chop the onions and tomato. Fry the garlic, and onion in two tablespoons of cooking oil in a pan until golden brown (save 2 tablespoons of onion for the meat). Add the tomato and fry for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Add the cumin and salt. Open the 4 cans of beans and rinse with cold water. Then place the beans in a pan; add the 4 cups of warm water and the fried garlic and onions. Let it boil; add the carrot and the banana (previously cut into pieces). Taste it and add more salt if necessary. Cover the pan and lower the fire for 20 minutes until the bananas are well-cooked. Fry 2 garlic cloves and 2 tablespoons onion in the rest of the cooking oil until golden brown. Add the meat and the chicken bouillon cube and stir constantly. Don't let the meat dry (add a cup of water if necessary).

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