

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3019
as of Jan. 11,
2006

El Editor

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

VOL. XXX No. 14

Week of January 11-17, 2007

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

Comentarios

de Bidal Aguero



Our Congresspeople voted today on whether millions of people would get a raise from teminimum wage of \$5.25 to \$7.25 per hour. I am lucky not to have to live on \$5.25 per hou but a few of my friends do. One is a unlucky single mother head of household who works at a local restaurant. Beyond here minnum wage she is lucky to get a few tip that might add up to \$20 per day. Ahe works about 30 hours per week. Her employer is careful not to go over those 30 hours in order for her not to be classified as full time. Therefore there are no benefits. Her total income including tips is \$250 per week

Her bills include rent for \$300 per month. Her car and expenses amount to about \$250 per month Her utilities are about \$150 per month. This is a total of about \$750 per month. Her total income is about \$1,300 per month. This leaves about \$250 for her and her son to live on for the rest of the month. This includes food, medical and whatever else come up.

Our Congressman Neugebauer voted against the minimum wage law. Perhaps he thought she was making too much money.

Our friend tells us that there will be an anti-war rally at the war memorial in Lubbock today. It brought to mind the many anti-war rallies and demonstrations that I attended during the Viet-nam war. We brought our point across and those demonstrations proved to be effective in bringing our boys home and out of an un-just and immoral war. Perhaps they will again become effective. Join us.

Few Latinos Now Support the War in Iraq Hispanics Favor Troop Withdrawals Even More Strongly Than Does the General Public

Two out of every three Latinos now believe that U.S. troops should be brought home from Iraq as soon as possible and only one in four thinks the U.S. made the right decision in using military force, according to a new survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

Hispanics have generally expressed more negative views toward the war compared with the rest of the population. The latest survey, however, shows even stronger opposition on the part of Latinos, especially when it comes to keeping troops in Iraq.

Two-thirds of Hispanics (66%) now favor bringing troops home as soon as possible, up from 51% in January 2005. Conversely, Latinos who favored keeping troops in Iraq until the situation there has stabilized have declined from 37% to 19%.

Native-born Hispanics are generally more supportive of the war than are their foreign-born counterparts. But in the latest survey, the native born are almost as adamant about bringing troops home as the foreign born (62% vs. 68% respectively).

The general public also is more inclined to bring the troops home, but not to the same extent as



Hispanics. A survey of the general population by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in December found that one in two Americans (50%) favored bringing troops home as soon as possible, up from 41% in January 2005.

The changing attitude toward the war is also evident in the

answer to a basic question: Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq? Since 2004, a third or more of Latinos responded that using military force was the right decision. In the latest survey, only 24% of Latinos agreed with that assess-

ment. That is down from 39% in April/June 2004 and from 31% in August/October 2006.

By comparison, 42% of the general public believes the U.S. made the right decision in using military force, according to the survey by the Pew Research Center.

Hispanic leaders call for reform on immigration within 100 days

By Alexander Bolton
National Hispanic leaders are pressing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to make immigration reform a top priority within the first 100 days of the new Congress, citing the large numbers of Hispanics who turned out to vote for Democrats in November.

Several of the largest Hispanic advocacy groups in the country, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and the Hispanic Federation, plan to stage a massive grassroots campaign to pressure House lawmakers to move quickly on immigration. They will team with America Votes, one of the nation's largest liberal voter-mobilization groups, to push reform.

"As you prepare to lead the 110th Congress of the United States of America, we urge you to make immigration reform one of your top priorities during the first 100 days of the new Congress," the president of LULAC, Rosa Rosales, and the president of the Hispanic Federation, Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez, wrote in a letter delivered to Pelosi and Reid over the weekend.

LULAC describes itself as the country's largest and oldest Hispanic civil rights organization. The Hispanic Federation is a coalition of about 100 local groups, most based in the New York area.

Hispanic leaders expect the Senate to take up immigration this year, and Reid has included the issue among his top 10 legislative priorities. But the House is a different story, say advocates of reform.

Pelosi and other House Democrats have said little about what legislation they will take up after completing their 100-hour agenda, a collection of relatively uncontroversial bills over which Democrats have reached consensus.

Beyond the first 100 hours it's hard to speculate about what Democrats will focus on, Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said. Hammill said Pelosi has discussed immigration reform with President Bush and that both have agreed it should be a "priority."

Hammill said immigration reform proposals would undergo the regular order of the legislative process, a series of subcommittee and committee hearings and markups, which would affect the timing.

Hispanic leaders are making two clear statements: Reform should include a path to legal residency for the 12 million illegal immigrants now working in the U.S., and a guest-worker program supported by President Bush, which would require foreign workers to return home after several years, is inadequate. They also oppose the building of a fence along the Mexican border intended to stem the flow of immigration.

"Immigrants have dedicated themselves to this country through hard work and determination and America has benefited accordingly," Rosales and Rodriguez-Lopez wrote. "[T]hey deserve an orderly pathway to legalize their status in the U.S. so they can emerge from society's shadows into the light of day."

Hispanic support for Democrats shot up in November compared to 2004. Sixty-nine percent of self-identified Latino voters cast ballots for Democratic candidates, according to national exit-poll data. Only 30 percent voted for Republican candidates. Republican pollsters have said that GOP candidates must receive 40 percent of Hispanic votes to win future elections. Strategists have come to see these voters as crucial because the Hispanic population is the fastest-growing major racial demographic in the country.

But in recent months House Democrats have shied away from the issue for fear of angering conservative-leaning white voters, whom Republican strategists hoped to court in 2006 by pushing strict and punitive immigration proposals.

House Democrats did not mention immigration in "A New Direction for America," the broad agenda document they made public shortly before the election. The omission drew angry responses from congressional leaders such as Reps. Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, and Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.),

who heads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Immigration Task Force.

"I'm very sad and disappointed that comprehensive immigration reform is not a key and pivotal point for the Democrats," Gutierrez told The Hill in September.

Political strategists who have concentrated on Hispanic outreach say that Democrats have a golden opportunity to capitalize on the increased political attention of Hispanics because of last year's immigration debate, but that chance could soon pass.

"I think if Democrats want to take advantage of this great disenchantment of Latinos of Republicans, they're going to have to pass immigration reform this year," said Simon Rosenberg, president of the New Democrat Network, an advocacy group that spent \$2 million before the election to promote Democratic candidates to Hispanics.

"When Democrats got elected in 2006, they got elected to solve immigration," he said. "I think Hispanics were about 8 percent of the national electorate and there was an enormous swing in the number of Hispanics who turned out."

Immigration reform that creates a path to citizenship for illegal workers is seen as having strong support in the Senate. Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), two of the most influential lawmakers of their respective parties, teamed up to craft a popular bill last year. Lobbyists said they expect the Senate to take up and pass reform before the House, a reversal from the usual course of most bills that first pass the lower chamber.

Rosales said in an interview that LULAC's board of directors would meet Feb. 8 and 9 to discuss the upcoming lobbying campaign.

"What we'll decide there [at the meeting] is that comprehensive immigration reform is a top priority," she said. "I can assure you that our 115,000 members will reach out to their election officials."

Rosales said her organization would team with America Votes and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

NCLR Applauds Passage of Minimum Wage Legislation

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), today applauded the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of legislation to increase the federal minimum wage, the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007."

"Hispanics are among the hardest-working Americans. Unfortunately, Hispanic workers are three times as likely as their White counterparts to be working full-time yet still living in poverty," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.

"A minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour would improve the economic conditions of more than 1.3 million Latino workers and give them a better chance to provide for their families." Today there are nearly 21 million Latinos in the workforce. In addition, Hispanics maintain the highest labor force participation rate among their peers, with nearly seven in ten employable Latinos in the labor force. However, many Latino workers are unable to climb the economic ladder because of their low skill and education levels.

"Increasing the minimum wage is a good first step," continued Murguía. "But we must invest more in workers, including the nation's Latino workforce. Congress has the opportunity to do so by renewing the Workforce Investment Act." The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is the federal law providing funding for enhancing the skills of the American labor force. NCLR supports WIA proposals that increase access to job training services, focus on improving English literacy and skills of limited-English-proficient adults, and support the work of community-based organizations. "Now is the time to make smart investments in the nation's workforce," concluded Murguía. "We are certain that investing in Latino workers will pay enormous dividends for the nation's economy as a whole."



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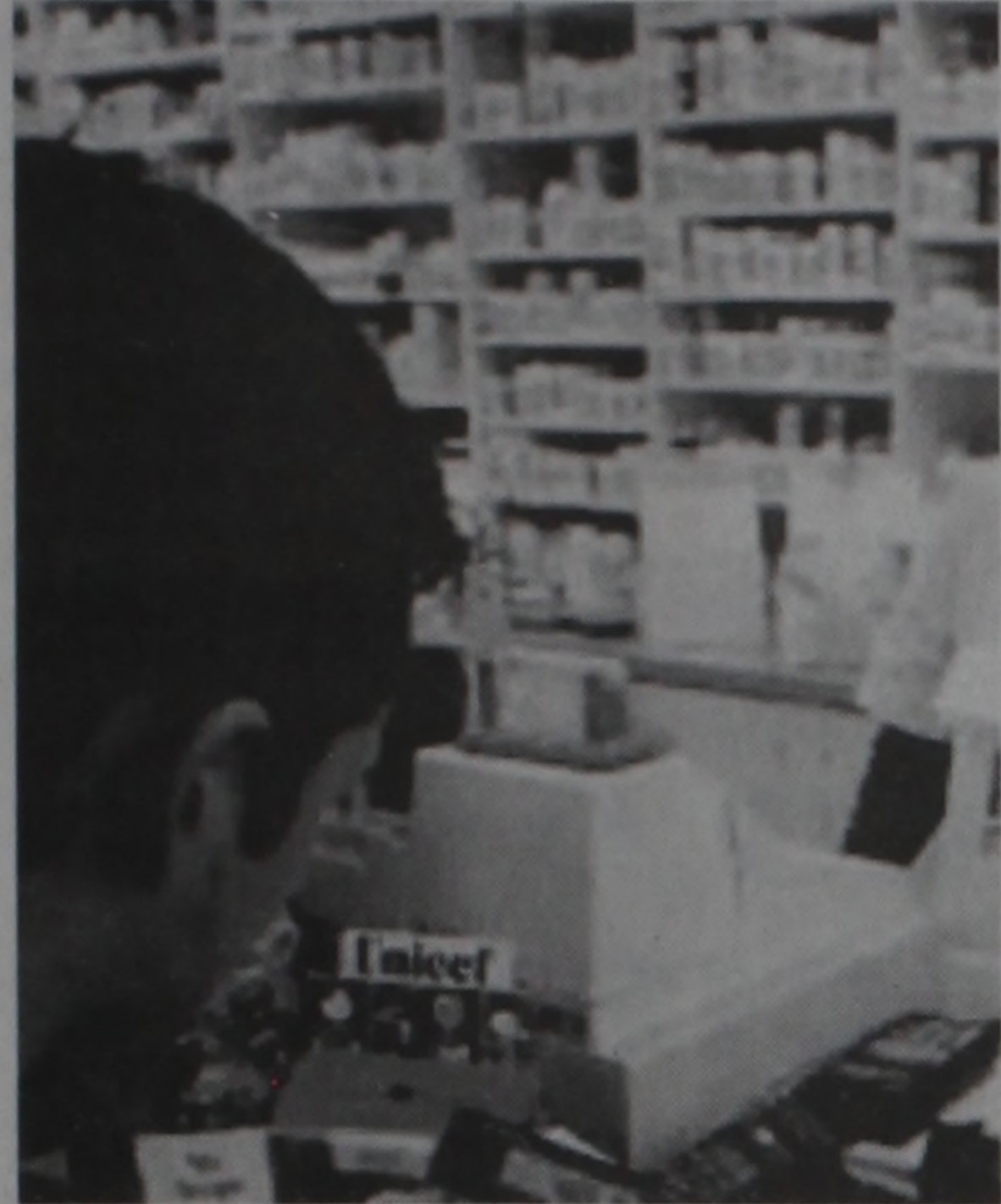
MILLIONS SAVE MONEY ON MEDICARE PROGRAM

At first, Ruth Goundry wasn't sure about participating in the new Medicare drug benefit. It was too confusing, she said. But in the end, she gave it a try. She's glad she did. As the program's first year draws to a close, Goundry estimates that she saved about \$150 a month on her five medicines, compared with what she was spending before Medicare Part D began.

"I would say I'm very impressed with the whole thing. I have no complaints," said Goundry, a resident of Chesapeake Beach, Md. "It's meant a tremendous savings. I know other people who are saved by it. I mean that. They don't hardly pay anything."

Goundry is like millions of seniors who say they are happy with the benefit, which cost the federal government about \$30 billion in 2006.

But the program affects seniors and the disabled differently, depending upon their income and health. There are many people who believe the program could be improved.



Just down the street, at the Chesapeake Care Pharmacy, Wesley Copeland is not so impressed.

In August, he began picking up all the cost of his medicine — about \$300 a month. Plus, he had to continue paying his monthly premium of \$38. That gap in coverage is called the doughnut hole.

"We've got a lot of people in my neighborhood who are seniors like me on retirement. We have to stretch pennies, so when it gets to that doughnut hole, we have to scramble like hell to keep going," Copeland said.

Goundry and Copeland represent the millions of stories surrounding the addition of a drug benefit to Medicare this past year. The drug coverage has often been described as the biggest change in Medicare in the program's 40 years.

Under the program, seniors and the disabled enroll in a private plan. They pay a monthly premium to the plan. The government also pays the plan.

The Bush administration estimates that the coverage saves the average beneficiary about \$1,200. But many in Washington, particularly Democratic lawmakers, say the savings could be greater if the government were allowed to negotiate with drug manufacturers concerning the cost of medicine rather than leaving that chore to the plans.

Overall, about 22.5 million people enrolled in private plans during the programs first year. Nearly 7 million more people get their medicine through their employer, and those employers get a tax credit for providing that coverage.

That total of nearly 30 million getting coverage through Part D is much less than was originally projected. However, analysts also didn't realize that so many seniors had insurance coverage for their medicine through other programs.

The Bush administration acknowledges the program got off to a rough start as hundreds of thousands of people showed up in pharmacy computers as not being enrolled in a plan.

Beverly Dillon, a pharmacy technician in Chesapeake Beach, said that in the program's early weeks, her store advanced about 75 to 100 patients medicine to help them get by.

"We would not let patients go without their medication," she said.

The state of Maryland also stepped in to pick up the cost of medicine for poor beneficiaries, she noted. Most other states did as well.

"January and February were absolutely crazy," she said. "I would say that around March, or late February, things started to calm down."

She said many seniors are still confused about the program. To prove her point, a customer came into the store to get a refill. Dillon noted that she was in a Part D plan, but the customer was insistent that she was not and that she had coverage through another program. Dillon relented, not wanting to upset her.

Dillon said most customers who did not have insurance coverage prior to the past year

STUDY DETAILS OBESITY IN 3-YEAR-OLDS

A national study released Thursday — touted by the authors as the first to examine obesity in 3-year-olds — found that Hispanic children are twice as likely to be overweight or obese as black or white children

The study focused on urban, low-income children and found that overall, 35 percent were overweight or obese. The researchers followed 1,976 children from birth in 20 U.S. cities, including Austin, Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Their work, funded by the non-profit Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was published online Thursday in the American Journal of Public Health. It will appear in the journal's print edition in February.

"I hope that people will take seriously the problem of childhood obesity," said Rachel Kimbro, the study's lead author and the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "I think it startles people to hear that 3-year-olds are obese . . . and the problem gets magnified as children age."



Obese children are more likely to develop medical problems, including type 2 diabetes, and become obese adults. In addition to diabetes, obese people are at higher risk for heart disease and stroke.

"I don't find this surprising," said Dr. Adolfo Valadez, medical director of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. "We've got to do everything we can to prevent overweight and obesity in children."

A 6-year-old who is overweight has a 25 percent chance of becoming an overweight adult, he said. If that child is still overweight at age 12, the odds increase to 75 percent, Valadez said.

The health department partners with 41 organizations to reduce diabetes, obesity and asthma in Travis County, including programs that encourage physical activities and good nutrition for children, such as Marathon Kids. That program encourages children to run or walk 26.2 miles, the distance of a marathon, in six months.

Childhood obesity is a growing public health worry, and the study published Thursday is significant because it is among the first that looks at the problem's origins, said Dr. Daniel Hale, a pediatric diabetes specialist and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He said the data is consistent with what he encounters as a pediatrician.

Texas has a bigger problem with obesity and diabetes than most other states. In 2005, Texas had the sixth-highest obesity rate in the country, with 64 percent of the adults overweight, according to the Department of State Health Services.



GET YOUR BUSINESS IN SHAPE: 2007

Exercising more and eating less are two of the most common New Year's resolutions that people make.

But if you own a small business, the new year is also a good time to get your company in shape by starting -- and sticking to -- a few good habits.

Begin by dusting off your business plan, said Bob Shephard, district director of the SCORE business-development group.

Update your plan to reflect any changes in your business or market over the past year, and make a pledge to use it in the coming 12 months, he said.

Shephard also recommends that entrepreneurs improve their record keeping, organize and implement a marketing plan, and focus on customer service to ensure that clients feel welcome, special and wanted.

"Hopefully, they will not be like most resolutions, forgotten in less than a month," Shephard said.

Jose David Alvarez of the Hispanic Business Investment Fund of Greater Orlando said he would like to see established businesses work on their marketing in the new year.

Business owners should look for promotional techniques that are both more aggressive and less expensive, he said.

"Advertising sometimes is not the best and most cost-effective promotional tool," he said. "Public relations or face-to-face promotion techniques are the most efficient selling tools."

Commit to writing a task list at the end of each business day that spells out what you will do first thing the following day. This will allow you to hit the ground run-

LA BUENA SALUD DEL CRÉDITO

Para tener buen historial se debe usar sólo el 30% del dinero total puesto a su disposición, aconsejan algunos expertos

Prestar más atención a su historial de crédito podría ser una de las resoluciones financieras más sabias de cara al nuevo año.

"Es algo que está ligado a todas las áreas de nuestra vida" asegura Denise Richardson, defensora de los derechos del consumidor.

Richardson subraya que aunque casi todo el mundo sabe que su historial es crucial —no sólo para conseguir un préstamo, sino también para rentar una casa y en muchos casos para ser seleccionado en un empleo— mucha gente no hace nada al respecto y consideran su crédito como un hecho del destino que sólo pueden aceptar pasivamente.

Sin duda, esta información sobre su balance de créditos y débitos tiene mucho que ver con las circunstancias económicas de la familia, pero hay un increíble alto número de personas con buen ingreso mensual cuyo historial de crédito deja mucho que desear. Por eso, no espere a tener una subida de salario o un empleo mejor para ocuparse del suyo.

Según un estudio de U.S. Public Interest Research Groups, una de cada cuatro personas sufre de errores en su historial de crédito. Corregir estos errores es gratis y pueden mejorar su puntuación casi instantáneamente.

"La gente tiene que saber el alto precio que está pagando por un sistema que funciona muy mal", dice Richardson, quien tras sufrir en primera per-

sona las consecuencias de anotaciones incorrectas en su historial decidió escribir el libro Give Me Back My Credit para evitar que lo mismo le ocurra a otras personas.

Los inmigrantes, por desconocimiento y por mantenerse en muchos casos al mar-



sistema financiero, son uno de los grupos que más sufre a causa del historial crediticio.

Philip Tirone, agente de préstamos hipotecarios, señala que aunque se habla mucho de los defectos del actual sistema y de su falta de sensibilidad cultural hacia grupos étnicos que no constituyen necesariamente un mayor riesgo financiero, lo cierto es que a estos grupos les van a aplicar las mismas normas que a los demás.

Por eso Tirone considera que lo mejor es conocer el sistema y sacarle el mayor partido posible.

"El historial de crédito es su reputación financiera", dice Tirone, y añade que "esos tres números pueden tener un impacto de seis dígitos en su vida" y que todo el mundo debe tener como objetivo prioritario conseguir una puntuación de al menos 720.

www.CovenantWomensHeart.org

Get Ready, Get Red and Go. Take time out for our 4th annual **Women's Heart Symposium** on **Saturday, January 20**. It's an important part of Covenant Health System's campaign for women's heart health leading up to National Wear Red Day™ on February 2. Join us at the **Lubbock Civic Center from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** for healthy heart demonstrations and FREE health screenings worth hundreds of dollars.

At 11:30, join us for lunch with heart disease survivor Mellanie True Hills and hear her keynote address, "Be Still My Heart: Surviving and Thriving in a Hyperbusy World." Get great food and gifts—like our cookbook, *Heart Healthy Eating with West Texas Flavor*—all for \$10. To pre-register for screenings, lunch and your chance to win valuable prizes, call 1.866.4COVENANT (1.866.426.8362).

Isn't it time to take care of the woman who takes care of everybody?

Pre-register for your **FREE** health screening at the **Women's Heart Symposium on January 20**.

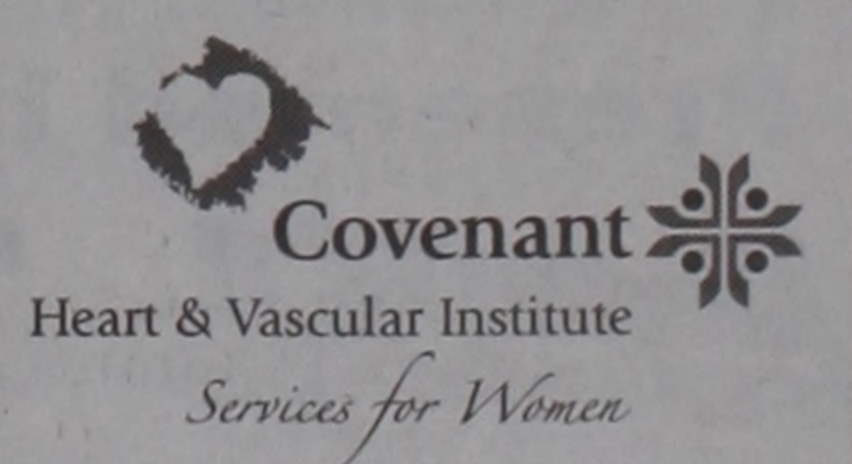
Find out if you have:

- High cholesterol*
- Elevated blood sugar*
- High blood pressure
- Increased risk of osteoporosis
- Adequate oxygen flow
- Healthy body mass ratio
- Good overall physical fitness

*Be sure to fast for 12 hours prior to your free health screening.



Pre-register today! Call 1.866.4COVENANT (1.866.426.8362).



DEPP LOOMS LARGE AT PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The audience at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles watches as Johnny Depp accepts his People's Choice Awards via satellite from London on Jan. 9, 2007. The event was broadcast live on CBS.

(CBS) Even though he wasn't there in person to accept his awards, Johnny Depp was the big winner at the 33rd Annual People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

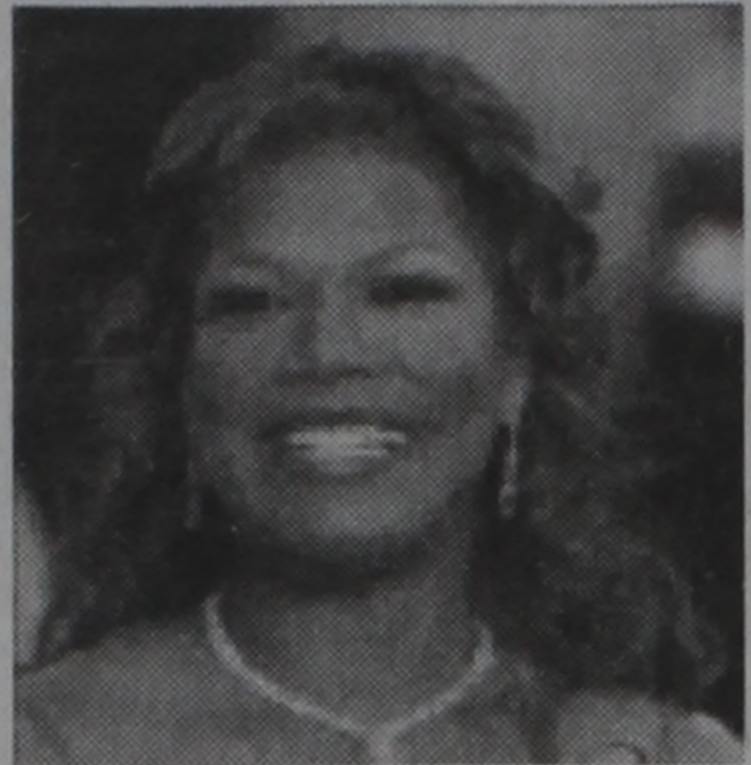
Based on votes from the public, Depp was named favorite male movie star, favorite action star and — with "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" co-star Keira Knightley — favorite on-screen match-up.

"I know that I've said this before. But the fact that this award comes from the people makes it all the more special," Depp said via satellite from London. "And thanks for keeping me employed, yeah? You're the boss."

"Pirates" also won honors for favorite movie and favorite movie drama.

Other multiple winners included Ellen Degeneres

who won for favorite funny female star and favorite talk show host; Carrie Underwood for favorite female singer and favorite country song ("Before He Cheats"); and Rasca Flatts who took home awards for favorite remake and favorite song in a movie, both for "Life Is A Highway."



Host Queen Latifah kicked off the awards show, broadcast live on CBS, by introducing celebrities in the audience at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

"I don't know about y'all, but my doctor don't look nothing like that!" said the rapper-turned-film star as she put the spotlight on

Patrick Dempsey, who plays Dr. "McDreamy" Shepherd on "Grey's Anatomy."

Latifah isn't the only McDreamy fan - Dempsey went on to win favorite male TV star.

Fans voted for their favorites in music, television, and movies at the People's Choice Award Web site.

Halle Berry handed out the evening's first award, for favorite funny male star, to Robin Williams. "I just want to thank God for having her wear that dress," he said, pointing to Berry who was wearing a skin-tight outfit. On a more serious note, he thanked his mother, his daughter Zelda, and his comedy idols George Carlin, Jonathan Winters and Richard Pryor.

Berry took home her own award, for favorite female action star.

"Thank God I did wear underwear tonight," she joked, referring to one of Williams' earlier wisecracks. She urged fans of her "X-Men" films to write to Fox Filmed Entertainment CEO Tom Rothman and petition for another sequel.

"I'll be there," she said,

promising she'd be ready to reprise her role as Storm.

Eva Longoria won favorite female TV star.

"I have a really big Mexican family and I think everybody voted, like, twice," Longoria said.

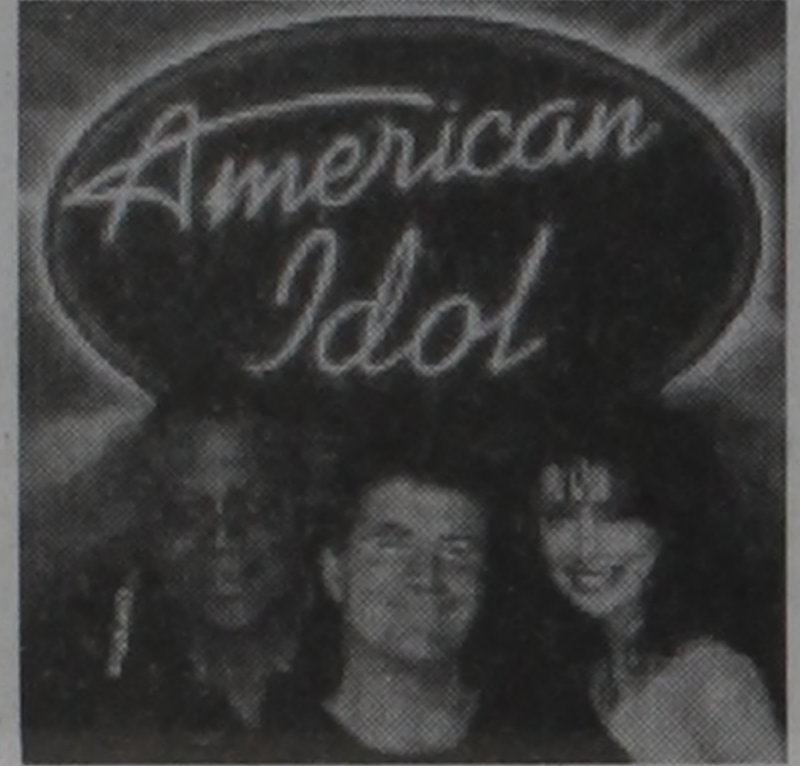


Latifah took a moment out before presenting the award for favorite R&B song to honor the memory of Godfather of Soul James Brown, who died on Dec. 25th.

"Let's give it up for the man who brought so much rhythm to our world," she said. "There might not be a Queen Latifah if there were no James Brown. Might not be any hip-hop. Soul wouldn't be the same, neither would pop."

"AMERICAN IDOL" REGRESA EN 6TA TEMPORADA CON GRANDES PLANES

El año pasado fue Prince. Este año, ¿podrían ser Paul McCartney y Mariah Carey?



Ante la inminencia del regreso de "American Idol" a las pantallas, los que tienen relación con el superéxito de la cadena Fox reconocen pocos límites cuando se trata de estrellas invitadas, índices de audiencia o productos derivados. O entusiasmo desorbitado.

"Este es el show de talento musical más grande de la historia", dijo el jurado Randy Jackson

en conferencia telefónica la semana pasada.

Su colega del jurado Paula Abdul dice que es un "fenómeno cultural": "Me entusiasma el hecho de que no pasa un día, una hora, sin que alguien hable sobre él, pregunte sobre él", dijo Abdul a The Associated Press.

Cecile Frot-Coutaz, supervisora del programa como presidenta de la productora FremantleMedia North America Inc., es más

moderada en sus expresiones, pero no menos optimista acerca de la sexta temporada y las siguientes.

"No veo nada que diga que está a punto de salir del aire", dijo. "No llegaremos a eso por bastante tiempo".

Es una posición fundada, por tratarse la serie número uno de la televisión estadounidense.

Contra las previsiones para una serie consolidada, "American Idol" ha mejorado su índice de audiencia, desde 2005 con el 14% (26,8 millones de espectadores) a 2006 (30,6 millones). La final con el ganador Taylor Hicks tuvo más de 36 millones, según la empresa medidora de audiencia Nielsen Media Research.

La cifra más impresionante viene precedida de un signo dólar: según trascendidos, "American Idol" recauda 500 millones de dólares anuales en publicidad. (Fox se negó a hacer declaraciones sobre el particular.)

La serie comenzará con un par de episodios de dos horas el martes y miércoles desde Minneapolis y Seattle.

"American Idol", producida por FremantleMedia and 19 Entertainment, regresa con más brillo que nunca. El final del año pasado tuvo como invitado sorpresa a Prince.

McCartney, un icono de la música popular, está recibiendo ofertas y, dicen los rumores, participaría de la nueva temporada. Carey también podría estar en la lista de invitados.

"No hay nada resuelto", dijo Frot-Coutaz con respecto al ex Beatle. "Hemos tenido conversaciones con él en los últimos años. Se trata de lograr un acuerdo".

TV SHOW "GREASES" BOX OFFICE TAKE

\$1.3 MILLION IN TICKETS SOLD IN TWO DAYS

The Broadway-bound production of "Grease," currently the focus of an NBC reality series, sold \$1.3 million worth of tickets during the first two days tickets were on sale.

The \$10 million revival starts preview performances July 24, most likely at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, after the Kevin Spacey revival of Eugene O'Neill's "A Moon for the Misbegotten" completes its limited engagement.

The 90-minute first episode of the TV series, called "Grease: You're the One That I Want," on Jan. 7 averaged some 11.6 million viewers. They tuned in to watch Los Angeles and Chicago auditions for the leading roles of Sandy Dumbrowski and Danny Zuko in the upcoming stage production.

The judges include "Grease" producer David Ian, "Grease" co-creator Jim Jacobs and Kathleen Marshall, who will direct the Broadway revival. This Sunday, Jan. 14, the three look at young performers in New York.



J.LO '¿QUÉ HICISTE?'



La gestación duró cerca de tres años pero al fin el nuevo bebé de la cantante, actriz, productora y empresaria de origen puertorriqueño, Jennifer López, comenzó a dar sus primeros pasos.

López eligió a una emisora de la adorada Isla del Encanto, Puerto Rico, para presentar ayer el primer sencillo de la nueva y única producción de la artista realizada completamente en español.

El primer tema de promoción, que se escuchará muy pronto en las emisoras hispanas en Nueva York y a nivel internacional, lleva por título Qué hiciste y es de la autoría de Julio Reyes.

La canción que se promociona surgió de un sueño que tuvo su esposo, el cantante y actor boricua Marc Anthony, con la cantante española Rocío Dúrcal, quien falleciera de cáncer en marzo del año pasado.

Marc Anthony figura como productor de este disco que tiene por título Como ama una mujer.

El álbum, que tuvo un período de gestación de casi tres años, está pauteado para su lanzamiento en las próximas semanas y contiene 11 temas, algunos de ellos fueron escritos y producidos por el cantautor colombiano Estéfano.

Los títulos del álbum son: Qué hiciste, Me haces falta, Como ama una mujer, Te voy a querer, Por qué te marchas, Por arriesgarnos, Tú, Amarte es todo, Apresúrate y Adiós.

Para la cantante, que recién acaba de figurar en

la portada de la revista People en Español, y que junto a su esposo fue seleccionada el año pasado como una de las parejas más importantes por la revista Time, grabar en español había sido "uno de los sueños más preciados de la artista" quien ha estrenado hasta el momento seis producciones musicales, indica un comunicado enviado a nuestra redacción por Blanca La Salle, directora de la agencia de relaciones públicas Creative Link.

Jennifer ha protagonizado varias películas entre ellas, Monster in Law y The Wedding Planner, que han sido éxito de taquilla. Por cierto, hasta la fecha López es la única artista en Estados Unidos que ha tenido una película y un tema musical en el primer lugar de ventas en la misma semana.

La cantante, nacida en El Bronx, ha recibido varios discos de platino por dos de sus producciones que hicieron su debut en la primera posición de la revista Billboard.

A la par con su carrera de cantante y actriz, López ha logrado tener un éxito sin precedentes en el campo de la moda con sus líneas de ropa y de perfumes.

En este año se espera que la figura de López regrese a la gran pantalla con los estrenos de las películas El cantante, un drama sobre la vida de la leyenda salsera, Héctor Lavoe, y Bordertown, sobre el asesinato de cientos de mujeres en Ciudad Juárez, México, y que protagoniza junto al actor español Antonio Banderas.

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NCLR Celebra la Aprobación de Legislación Sobre el Salario Mínimo

Washington, DC —El Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés)— la organización nacional más grande de apoyo y defensa de derechos civiles de hispanos en EE UU— elogió en el día de hoy la aprobación de la legislación a favor del aumento del salario mínimo federal por parte de la Cámara de Representantes. “Los hispanos se encuentran entre los estadounidenses más trabajadores.

Desafortunadamente, tienen una probabilidad tres veces mayor de estar trabajando a tiempo completo mientras continúan viviendo en la pobreza”, declaró Janet Murguía, presidenta de NCLR.

“Un aumento en el salario mínimo a \$7.25 la hora mejoraría la condición económica de más de 1.3 millones de trabajadores latinos al tiempo que les daría la oportunidad de proveer mejor para sus familias”. Hoy día, hay casi 21 millones de latinos en la fuerza laboral. Además, los hispanos mantienen la tasa de participación más alta en la fuerza laboral en comparación con sus semejantes. De hecho, casi siete de cada diez latinos aptos para trabajar participan en la fuerza laboral. Sin embargo, muchos trabaja-

dores latinos no pueden subir su nivel económico debido a niveles bajos de educación y destrezas.

“Aumentar el salario mínimo es un buen primer paso”, continuó Murguía. “No obstante, tenemos que invertir más en los trabajadores y en la fuerza laboral latina.

El Congreso tiene además la oportunidad de hacer esa inversión y puede reaprobar la Workforce Investment Act”. El Workforce Investment Act (en español, la Ley de Inversión en la Fuerza Laboral o WIA, por sus siglas en inglés) es una ley federal que dispone fondos para enriquecer las destrezas de la fuerza laboral estadounidense.

NCLR apoya las propuestas de la WIA que aumentan los accesos a servicios de entrenamiento vocacional y profesional; que se concentran en mejorar las destrezas lingüísticas y habilidades de adultos con dominio limitado del idioma; y que apoyan el trabajo de organizaciones comunitarias. “Este es el momento de realizar buenas inversiones en la fuerza laboral del país”, Murguía concluyó. “Estamos seguros de que invertir en los trabajadores latinos resultará en grandes dividendos para la economía nacional en general”. ###

Hispanics swing to the Democrats, but for how long?

WASHINGTON - Democrats recaptured a big part of the Hispanic vote in the November midterm election, support that Latino activists caution won't necessarily be there in the next contest.

Nearly seven in 10 Hispanic voters supported Democrats in the congressional elections, according to exit polls. But that's not the whole story. Republican candidates in several key states did well among Hispanics, suggesting that Latinos could be important swing voters in the 2008 presidential election.

“Part of the defection had to do with dissatisfaction with the president, not necessarily satisfaction with the Democrats,” said Clarissa Martinez de Castro, state policy director for the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights group. “The Democrats will have to make sure they address the concerns of Latinos to keep that support.”

Democrats have long counted on Hispanic voters as a core constituency, so they were concerned after President Bush captured about 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004. That was the most ever for a GOP presidential candidate.

“I think there was an assumption that Latinos were becoming more Republican,” said Lionel Sosa, an adviser on Hispanic outreach for Bush's campaigns. “But the fact is the Latino is becoming more of a swing voter no longer voting the Democratic Party line, but not calling themselves Republican, either.”

Hispanics are the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the country. But they don't have proportionate political power in part because many are non-citizens, making them ineligible to vote.

In some states, though, Hispanics make up a significant part of the electorate, including Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada fast-growing places that could be important battlegrounds in 2008. All four states voted for Bush in 2004, but Democrats have had recent success in each state.

“That is where both parties need to focus for the future,” Sosa said. Republicans in Arizona and Nevada received significant support from Hispanic voters in November. Sen. Jon Kyl carried 41 percent of the Arizona Hispanic vote in his re-election victory, according to exit polls. In Nevada, Republican Jim Gibbons won the governor's race with 37 percent of the Hispanic vote.

Analysts say it's unlikely that a majority of U.S. Hispanics would back a Republican for president in 2008. Rather, national GOP candidates can expect to receive somewhere between 30 percent and 45 percent of the Hispanic vote, said Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, a research organization in Washington. But in a close presidential race, the difference between those percentages could be decisive.

Hispanics “are not swing voters in the way that white middle-class men have been for the past 20 years, like the Reagan Democrats,” Suro said.

Suro said it would take a “seismic shift” for a Republican to garner 50 percent of the Hispanic vote nationwide. However, he added, Republicans would be disappointed to get only 30 percent.

Many Hispanics were angered by the hard line some Republicans took on the illegal immigration debate, and it showed at the polls.

“Latinos are no different than anybody else; they don't want to be used,” said Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., outgoing chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

The outgoing Republican National Committee Chairman, Ken Mehlman, said there isn't unanimity on the immigration issue within his party. He noted that Bush supported an immigration bill that would have provided an eventual path to citizenship for many illegal immigrants.

Mehlman worked hard to reach out to Hispanic and black voters during his tenure as party chairman. His successor, Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida, was born in Cuba and is expected to continue the effort.

Immigration is a big issue among Hispanics in the United States, but it's not the only one of importance. When Latinos were asked in a recent survey to name the most important problem facing the country, more said the war in Iraq and the economy than illegal immigration.

However, when asked about the most important problem facing the Latino community, far more said illegal immigration than any other issue. The survey, called the 2006 National Latino Survey, was conducted over nine months by a team of university professors from across the country.

“To a degree, Latinos understand the challenges in American society in ways very consistent with the way the majority of Americans understand them,” said Luis R. Fraga, a political scientist at Stanford University who worked on the survey. “At the same time they understand the unique position they hold and the unique challenges they face.”

Latinos tend to be more conservative than most Democrats on social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage, according to the survey. Education and economic issues are also important as they are for most voters. But they can carry extra weight for Hispanics because they tend to have lower incomes and lower education levels than non-Hispanic whites.

Educating English Language Learners - Everyone's Crisis

By Bob Wise

Today, more than five million English language learners, or ELLs, are enrolled in this nation's public schools. That's up from just two million a decade ago.

The first language of the vast majority of these students is Spanish. In fact, the 2000 U.S. Census reported that 76 percent of all ELLs in pre-kindergarten to fifth grade and 72 percent in sixth to 12th grade are native Spanish-speakers.

In coming decades, these students and those who follow them will have an enormous impact on the fortunes of the country as a whole.

Right now they are struggling. While only about a third of all eighth-grade students comprehend the vocabulary and content of their grade-level materials, according to the U.S. Department of Education, the figure drops to 4 percent for ELLs.

In other words, just one in 25 enter high school reading well enough to handle a rigorous course of study designed to prepare them for college or a good job.

To provide help for these students, the Alliance for Excellent Education joined Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Center for Applied Linguistics to convene some of the country's leading experts in English language and literacy instruction for secondary school students. Their recommendations, published in the Alliance report Double the Work, were unanimous and urgent.

For starters, states need to define more clearly who is or is not an ELL. Currently, the same student could be put in regular classes in one school, enrolled

in an English language program in another, and determined to have reached English proficiency in a third.

Such inconsistency makes it impossible to track student progress. It excludes many students from special services they should receive and leaves others stuck indefinitely in dead-end programs.

Second, because ELLs have diverse educational backgrounds, schools must take special care to assess all students' academic skills when they enter the system.

For instance, some arrive here with a solid record of academic achievement in their native language but limited English; others come with little to no formal schooling and weak literacy skills in their native language; and others enroll in a new school having been in the U.S. system for years without

learning much of anything.

It doesn't make sense to lump them in the same program. Their teachers should be given ways to find out what they already know and can do - both in English and in their native languages.

Finally, states must do much more to prepare middle and high school teachers to work with ELLs. Presently, just three states - Arizona, California and Florida - require every teacher to complete some pre-service training in English language instruction.

That's a good start, but, particularly in schools and districts that enroll large numbers of ELLs, teachers also need ongoing, high-quality professional development to gain true expertise in teaching all students.

The country's ELL population is growing more rapidly in

secondary schools (64 percent in the 1990s) than in elementary schools (46 percent). Yet most of education policymakers' attention and available financial resources have flowed to the elementary school level.

We must provide better, targeted support to address their needs in the older grades, redesigning and refocusing our schools to deliver the quality, individualized instruction these students deserve as they do “double the work” of their native English-speaking peers, simultaneously developing English language and subject area competence.

For the sake of the students, their communities and the nation as a whole, the U.S. educational system has no option but to improve the academic outcomes of our five million ELL students if we are to remain globally competitive.

La Educación de los Que Aprenden Ingles es Una Crisis

Bob Wise

Actualmente están matriculados en las escuelas públicas de los EE.UU., más de cinco millones de estudiantes que aprenden inglés. Hace una década, la cifra era apenas de dos millones.

El idioma materno de la gran mayoría de estos estudiantes es el español. De hecho, el Censo 2000 de los Estados Unidos indicó que el 76 por ciento de todo el grupo en cuestión que cursa estudios pre-kinder hasta quinto grado habla español como primer idioma, al igual que el 72 por ciento de los que están en el sexto hasta el doceavo grado.

En las próximas décadas, estos estudiantes y los que vendrán después surtirán enorme impacto sobre la fortuna de todo el país.

En este momento están luchando. A modo de ejemplo, si bien aproximadamente un tercio de todos los estudiantes de octavo grado comprende el vocabulario y el contenido de los materiales de estudio del grado, el Departamento de Educación de los EE.UU. indica que esta cifra cae al 4 por ciento de los estudiantes que aprenden inglés.

En otras palabras, sólo uno de 25 estudiantes que entran a la escuela secundaria sabe leer lo suficiente para dominar el curso riguroso de estudios secundarios diseñado para prepararlos para pasar a la universidad o conseguir un buen empleo.

Con el fin de ayudar a los estudiantes que aprenden inglés, la Alliance for Excellent Educa-

tion con la Carnegie Corporation de Nueva York y el Center for Applied Linguistics reunieron a algunos de los más destacados expertos en la instrucción de inglés para estudiantes de secundaria del país. Sus recomendaciones, unánimes y urgentes, salieron en el informe que publicó la Alliance for Excellent Education titulado, Double the Work.

Para empezar, los estados deben definir con mayor claridad quién es y quién no es un estudiante con necesidad de aprender inglés. Por el momento, un mismo estudiante podría estar colocado en cursos corrientes en inglés en una escuela, mientras que en otra lo matricularían en un programa de aprendizaje del inglés, y en la tercera, lo considerarían haber alcanzado fluidez en el inglés.

Este tipo de inconsistencia hace imposible el rastreo del progreso de los estudiantes. Excluye a muchos estudiantes de servicios especiales que deberían recibir, mientras que deja a otros estancados indefinidamente en programas sin posibilidad de avanzar.

En segundo lugar, ya que los estudiantes que aprenden inglés cuentan con diferentes niveles de educación, las escuelas se ven obligadas a prestar particular atención a la evaluación de todas las destrezas académicas del estudiante, cuando entran al sistema.

Por ejemplo, algunos llegan aquí con un expediente sólido de progreso académico en su idioma nativo, aunque no hablen bien inglés; otros llegan sin contar con mucha instrucción formal y poca destreza en la lectura y redacción en su idioma nativo; y otros más se matriculan en una escuela nueva después de haber estado en el sistema estadounidense durante años sin haber logrado aprender mucho.

No tiene sentido amontonarlos a todos en un mismo programa. A sus maestros habría que darles la oportunidad de determinar lo que ya saben y lo que pueden hacer - tanto en inglés como en su lengua materna.

Por último, los estados deben hacer mucho más por preparar a

los maestros de escuela intermedia y escuela secundaria en temas de instrucción para los estudiantes que aprenden inglés. Actualmente son sólo tres los estados que requieren que todo maestro complete capacitación en la instrucción del inglés como idioma antes de comenzar a ejercer - Arizona, California y la Florida.

Por allí es bueno empezar, pero con particular urgencia en las escuelas y distritos que tienen grandes poblaciones de estudiantes que aprenden inglés, los maestros también necesitan desarrollo profesional continuo de alta calidad para ser verdaderos expertos en la instrucción de todos los estudiantes.

A pesar de que la población de estudiantes que aprenden inglés aumenta más rápidamente en las escuelas secundarias (64 por ciento en la década de los noventa) que en las escuelas primarias (46 por ciento), las autoridades en la educación prestan mayor atención y derivan mayores recursos a las escuelas de primaria.

Debemos ofrecer mejor apoyo y más enfoque en las necesidades de los de grados más altos, volviendo a diseñar y volviendo a orientar a nuestras escuelas para que la instrucción que impartan sea de calidad y con enfoque individualizado. Nada menos que esto es lo que estos estudiantes merecen al realizar el “doble de trabajo” de sus compañeros nativohablantes del inglés, porque van adquiriendo competencia no sólo en la lengua sino también en el material de estudio de su grado.

Por el bien de los estudiantes, de sus comunidades y de la nación entera, el sistema de educación en los EE. UU. no tiene sino una opción. Si queremos seguir competitivos a nivel global tenemos que lograr mejores resultados en la educación de los cinco millones de estudiantes que aprenden inglés de nuestras escuelas.

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A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

Panda Muleshoe Ethanol, LLC ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) la emisión del Permiso de Calidad de Aire Núm. 80315 que autoriza la construcción de una planta de etanol a ubicarse en el Condado de Bailey, Texas a aproximadamente ocho millas al noroeste de la Ciudad de Muleshoe partiendo de la intersección las Carreteras Estales 70 y 84, y adyacente a y al norte de la Carretera Estatal 84. En la sección de avisos PÚBLICOS de este periódico se encuentra información adicional sobre esta solicitud.

AVISOS-NOTICES

AVISO DE RECIBO DE SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER PERMISO DE CALIDAD DE AIRE

PERMISO PROPUESTO DE CALIDAD DE AIRE NÚM. 80315

SOLICITUD: Panda Muleshoe Ethanol, LLC, ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ por sus siglas en inglés) que emita el Permiso de Calidad de Aire Num. 80315, el cual autoriza la construcción de una planta de etanol en el Condado de Bailey, Texas. La planta propuesta emitirá los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: partículas de un diámetro menor de 10 micras, óxidos de nitrógeno, bióxido de azufre, monóxido de carbono y compuestos orgánicos inclusive de (pero no limitados ha) contaminantes atmosféricos peligrosos.

Esta solicitud se le presentó a TCEQ el 6 de noviembre de 2006. La solicitud está disponible en la oficina central de TCEQ para la vista y sacarle copia, en la oficina regional de TCEQ en Lubbock y en la Alcaldía de Muleshoe ubicada en el 215 de la Calle Uno Sur, Muleshoe, Condado de Bailey, Texas. El expediente de cumplimiento de la planta, si existe alguno, esta disponible para la vista en la oficina regional de TCEQ en Lubbock.

El director ejecutivo de TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y llevará a cabo una revisión técnica.

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS/VISTA PUBLICA Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos, una petición para una vista pública o solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe al domicilio abajo indicada. TCEQ tomará en cuenta todos los comentarios públicos en la decisión final de la solicitud. La fecha límite para presentar comentarios públicos es 30 días después de que se publique el aviso en el periódico.

El propósito de la reunión pública es proporcionar la oportunidad de hacer comentarios o preguntas acerca de la solicitud. Si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un importante grado de interés público con respecto a la solicitud o si lo solicita un legislador local, se llevará a cabo una vista pública. Una vista pública no es una audiencia de caso impugnado.

Si solamente se reciben comentarios con respecto a la solicitud, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con el aviso de la acción del director ejecutivo con respecto a la solicitud será enviada por correo a cualquier persona que presente comentarios o si se encuentra en la lista de correos para esta solicitud.

Si se presenta oportunamente una petición para audiencia, el director ejecutivo terminará la revisión técnica, expedirá una decisión preliminar con respecto a la solicitud, y se publicará y enviará por correo un Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar a aquellas personas que se encuentren en la lista de correos para esta solicitud. El aviso incluirá el plazo final para presentar comentarios públicos.

Después del plazo final para comentarios públicos y después de cualquier Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar que se requiera, el director ejecutivo tomará en cuenta los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todo comentario público pertinentes y material, o significativo. Si se recibe algún comentario, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo con respecto a la solicitud se enviará por correo a toda persona que haya presentado un comentario público o que se encuentre en la lista de correos de esta solicitud.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO Usted puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado. Una audiencia de caso impugnado es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado. A menos que se presente una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado dentro de 30 días de esta notificación, el director ejecutivo podrá autorizar la solicitud. Si no se recibe una solicitud para audiencia dentro del período de 30 días, no se dará otra oportunidad para audiencia. Una audiencia de caso impugnado solo se concederá con base a cuestiones debatibles de hechos que son pertinentes y materiales para las decisiones de la Comisión con respecto a la solicitud. Además, la Comisión solo concederá una audiencia sobre cuestiones que se presenten durante el período de comentarios públicos y no se retiren.

Una persona que puede estar afectada por contaminantes de emisiones atmosféricas de una planta tiene derecho a solicitar una audiencia. Si se solicita una audiencia de caso impugnado, debe presentar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección, número de teléfono y número de facsímil si lo tiene; (2) el nombre del solicitante y número de permiso; (3) la declaración "[yo / nosotros] solicito una audiencia de un caso impugnado"; (4) una descripción específica de como se vería adversamente afectado por la solicitud y emisiones atmosféricas de la planta de manera que no es común para el público en general; (5) la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad con relación a la planta; y (6) una Descripción de como emplea la propiedad la cual puede ser impactada por la planta. Si la petición la hace un grupo o asociación, el miembro o miembros que tienen derecho a solicitar una audiencia y los intereses que el grupo o la asociación busca proteger, también se deben identificar. Las peticiones para una audiencia de caso impugnado se debe presentar por escrito dentro de 30 días después de este aviso a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe, a la dirección a continuación.

Si se registra oportunamente una petición para audiencia, se dará aviso adicional. Después del cierre de todos los comentarios pertinentes y los períodos de petición, el director ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los comisionados de TCEQ para su consideración durante la reunión programada de la Comisión. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a casos debatibles de hecho relacionados a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad de aire que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios. Cuestiones tales como valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico y zonificación no están dentro de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para abordarse en este proceso judicial.

LISTA DE CORREOS Aparte de presentar comentarios públicos, puede solicitar que le incluyan en la lista de correos para recibir en el futuro avisos públicos para esta solicitud específica enviada por correo por la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe enviando una petición por escrito a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe de TCEQ a la dirección abajo indicada.

INFORMACIÓN Los comentarios públicos o peticiones para una vista pública o audiencia de caso impugnado se debe presentar a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Para información adicional acerca de esta solicitud para permiso o el proceso para permisos, favor de llamar a la Oficina de Asistencia al Público al 1-800-687-4040. Si requiere información general por parte de TCEQ, diríjase al portal electrónico www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Para obtener información adicional, escriba a Panda Muleshoe Ethanol, LLC, 4100 Spring Valley Road, Suite 1001, Dallas, Texas 75244 o contacte por teléfono al Sr. Michael Frye, Director Gerencial de Ingeniería y Construcción al (972) 980-7159.

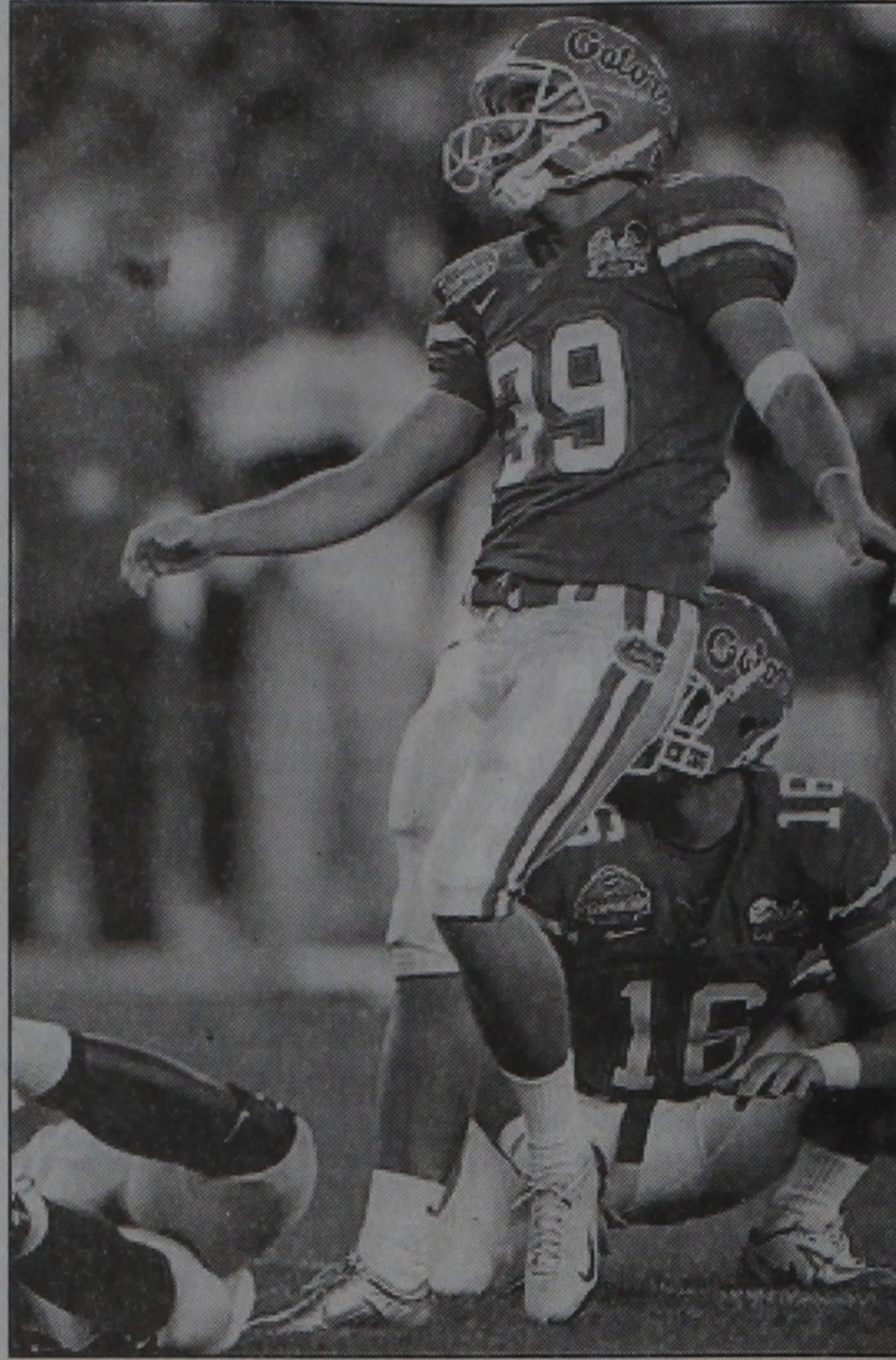
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Ohio State Not even close, Florida wins BCS Championship Game

Florida just down right embarrassed Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State 41-14 to run away

State, the last undefeated team left standing after stunning Oklahoma on the very same field in the Fiesta Bowl on New



with college football's national championship on Monday night.

Chris Leak and Tim Tebow showed off coach Urban Meyer's twin quarterback system to perfection as the No. 2 Gators became the first Division I school to hold national titles in football and basketball at the same time.

"We came here with a chip on our shoulder and something to prove," Florida receiver Dallas Baker said. "Nobody gave us a chance, but finally we can throw up the No. 1."

Now, only one question remains: What about 13-0 Boise

Year's Day.

Florida's amazingly easy victory left the Gators and the Buckeyes with identical 13-1 records and, with Wisconsin and Louisville also losing just once, almost surely will renew calls for a playoff system.

"Ohio State didn't get it done," Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel said.

Meyer had a word for the critics who demeaned the Gators.

"I'd like to thank all those people. Our pregame speech was easy," he said.

"Not everything in life is going to go the exact way you want it," Smith said. "I don't

have any regrets, though. I really don't. We came out and fought. We came up short.

"Sometimes you have great games and sometimes you don't."

"Honestly, we've played a lot better teams than them," Moss said. "I could name four or five teams in the SEC that could probably compete with them and play the same type of game we did against them."

It was the second national title for Florida, adding to the one Heisman winner Danny Wuerffel brought home in 1996 under coach Steve Spurrier with a 52-20 romp over Florida State in the Sugar Bowl.

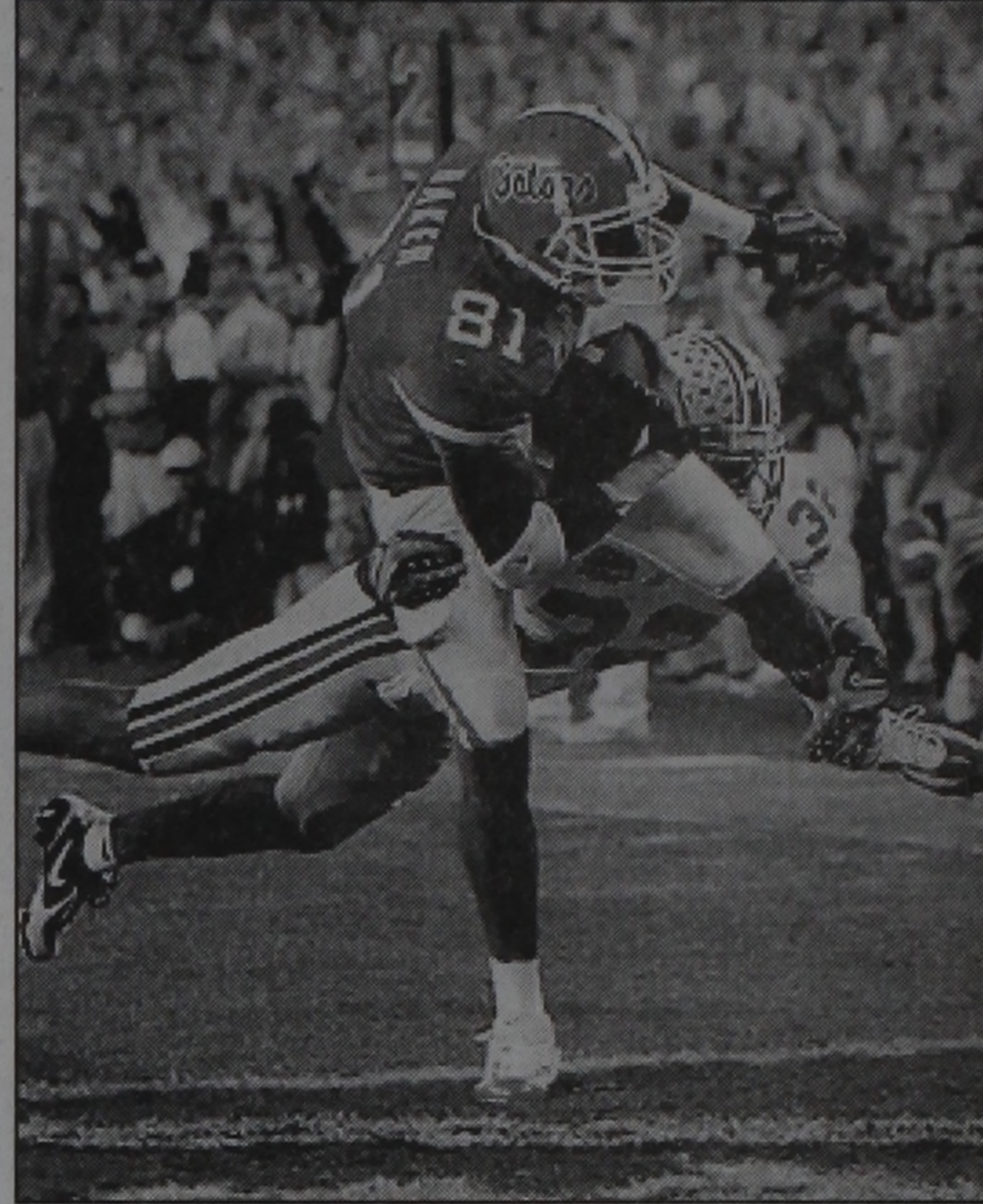
This time, the man in charge



the basketball Gators won by beating UCLA for the national championship in Indianapolis last spring.

In the first football matchup between these schools - they've both played the sport for 100-plus years - the Gators emphatically stopped Ohio State's 19-game winning streak.

The Buckeyes beat a pair of No. 2 teams, defending champion Texas and Michigan, earlier in the season, but they were no match for Florida's speed, strategy and style.



was the 42-year-old Meyer, once a .200 hitter in the low minors in Atlanta's baseball farm system. Since then, he's made a rocket rise in the coaching ranks, topped off by a title in his second year at Florida.

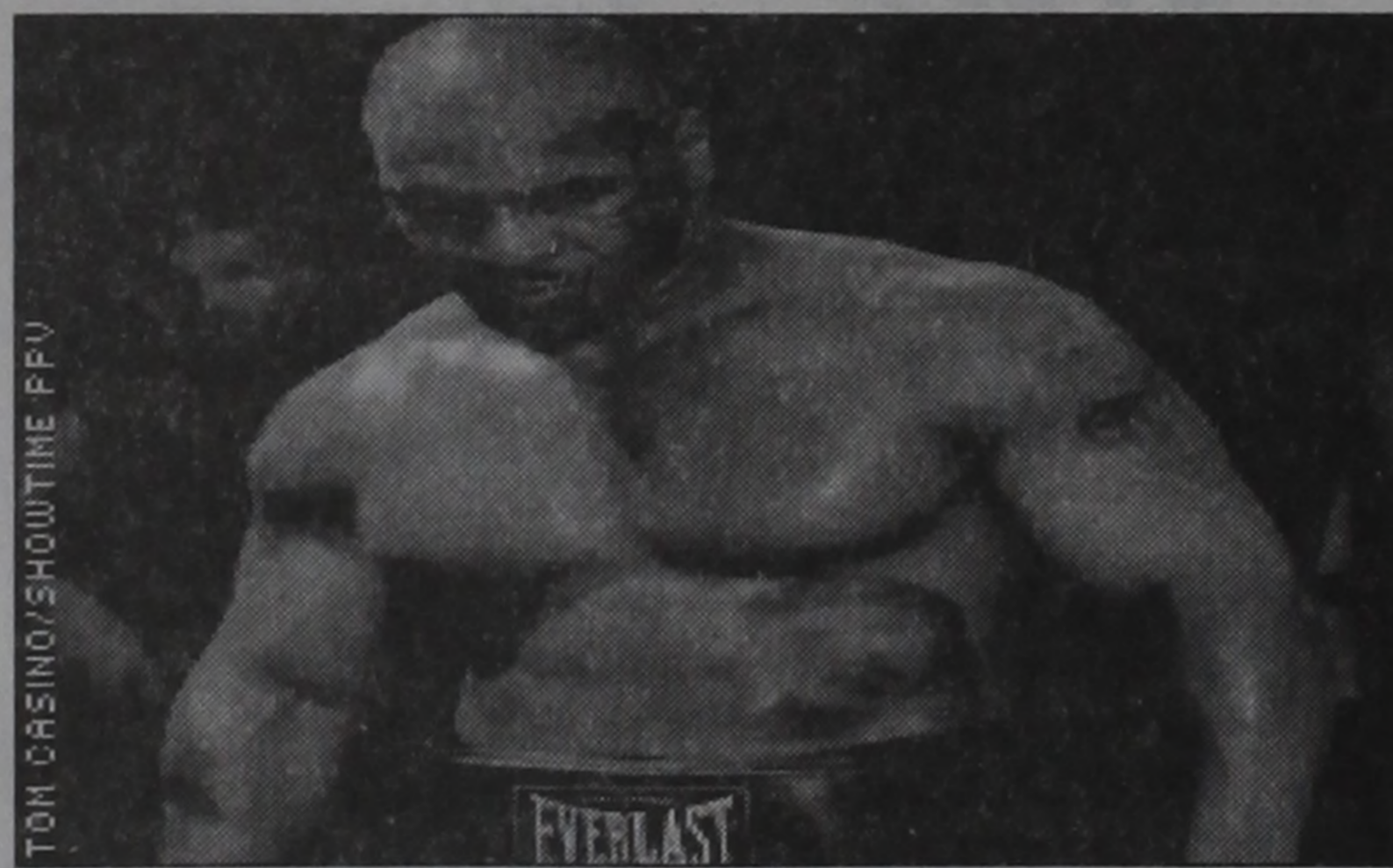
The trophy will make a perfect bookend for the one

The Buckeyes looked completely flummoxed by Florida's frenetic offense at the outset. Trying to match up with the Gators' shifting formations, they often jumped around at the line and still were out of position.

At 34-14, fans on both sides were stunned as the teams ran to the locker rooms.

Prosecutor wants prison term for Tyson

PHOENIX -- Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson was charged Wednesday with drug possession and driving under the influence of drugs, and the Maricopa County prosecutor



says he wants to send him to prison.

"He has run out of second chances, at least in my book," attorney Andrew Thomas said in a news conference.

Tyson, 40, was charged with two felonies for drug possession and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence of drugs. If convicted of all four charges, he could be sentenced to between 2 1/4 and 7 1/2 years.

The charges stem from his arrest Friday in Scottsdale, where Tyson was pulled over after leaving a nightclub. An officer found bags of cocaine in his back pocket and another in a package of cigarettes in his car, according to court records.

Tyson's criminal attorney, Thomas Marlow, didn't return phone calls Wednesday from the Associated Press.

Tyson's arrest was the latest in a string of run-ins with the law, dating more than a decade.

In 1992, Tyson was convicted of rape in Indiana. Six years later, the former boxing champ pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault charges in Maryland.

Thomas said Tyson's record makes him eligible for prison time instead of Arizona's drug

treatment programs for nonviolent offenders.

"I don't take any pleasure out of doing this," Thomas said. "A week ago, my kids and I were watching Rocky Balboa in the

him trying to wipe a white powder off the console of his car.

No alcohol was detected in his system. But Thomas said Tyson failed a sobriety test and officers searching his vehicle found three bags that later tested positive for cocaine.

The officer who made the

arrest wrote in his report that Tyson "admitted to using today and stated he is an addict and has a problem."

Tyson is required to submit to drug and alcohol testing and is prohibited from drinking or taking any nonprescription drugs while the case is pending.

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