

Casualties of
War in Iraq
2595
as of July 19, 2006

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Anti Immigrant Legislation Being Considered in North Texas

Farmers Branch is a city located north of Dallas in Dallas County, with a 2005 estimated population of 26,487 with Hispanics making up 37% of the total. What is not clear is the total number of undocumented immigrants who live in the area. Although, that number could be substantial considering the recent population increases in Dallas proper and Dallas County.

Farmers Branch is just a typical small city in north Texas. But if two city councilmen get their way, the city might be one of the first in Texas to follow the lead of cities like Hazleton, Pa. and others across the nation who have passed legislation aimed at making sure that illegal immigrants do not live or work in their city.

City councils, throughout the country, are taking the immigration issue and saying NIMBY or, "not in my back yard".

In Farmers Branch, council member Tim O'Hare and Mayor Pro Tem Ben Robinson suggested ideas similar to ordinances passed in Hazleton. Among them are an ordinance to prohibit the gathering of day laborers, another requiring police officers to verify the resident status of people who are stopped for routine traffic violations, and one requiring contractors to abide by all federal laws.

If Farmers Branch follows Hazleton's lead, the city could see a similar act which would impose a \$1,000 dollar per day fine on landlords who rent to illegal immigrants, and would revoke the business license of any employer who hires undocumented workers. In addition, the city council in Hazleton has also declared English as the official language and has instructed employees not to translate any city documents into any other language without official authorization.

It is becoming evident that a trend is visibly taking hold around the country in which cities are disregarding the federal government's role in immigration enforcement and taking matters into their own hands. In addition to Hazleton, PA., 4 neighboring cities have passed identical ordinances to Hazleton's and 7 more cities from Allentown, Pa. to Palm Beach, Fla., are considering similar legislation. Some cities in California and Arizona are also debating these types of ordinances.

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City and County Launch Inmate Cleanup Program

On Friday, August 25, 2006, City of Lubbock and Lubbock County officials will unveil a partnership to help keep Lubbock clean. City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld, Sheriff David Gutierrez, and Keep Lubbock Beautiful will announce how county inmates will help pick up trash across town as well as conduct other beautification projects. These working inmates will be supervised by a Lubbock County deputy. The plan will kickoff in Overton Park, located at 13th Street and Avenue T, at 11 AM on August 25th. Inmate workers will be there as well, working to clear the park of trash and debris.

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2,500 Marines Recalled to Active Duty

The U. S. Marine Corps has announced that 2,500 troops will be recalled to active duty to support U. S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. And although there is a need for the 2,500 Marines, there is no cap as to the number that can be recalled.

According to news reports, President Bush has authorized the recall because there are not enough volunteers returning for duty to Iraq. Marine Col. Guy Stratton told the Associated Press that the troop shortfall is at about 1,200; they will be needed to fill positions in upcoming troop deployments.

According to the AP, Stratton was quoted as saying, "Since this is going to be a long war, we thought it was judicious and prudent at this time to be able to use a relatively small portion of those Marines to help us augment our units".

The Marines who are being recalled are part of the Individual Ready Reserve unit which requires Marines already having served actively for 4 years to serve an additional 4 more. During that time, Marines are subject to recall back to active duty. According to Marine officials, there are about 59,000 Marines in the Individual Ready Reserve.

Although this is not the first time there has been a troop recall, (there was an Army recall in 2003 of 10,000 troops) some people who are opposed to the Iraq War are suspicious that the war and conflict in Afghanistan will eventually stress the active and guard troop levels and lead to a reinstatement of the draft. They are also asking what it means in the overall debate concerning a troop withdrawal, and an end to the war, in Iraq.

In an email to El Editor, one Lubbock resident who opposes the war and especially a return to the draft put the issue into perspective when he wrote, "Read my lips, we don't have a draft! Oyet!"

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The National Debt is a Mystery to Neugebauer

Last week, Randy Neugebauer showed that he really is not aware of the magnitude of the financial crisis facing our nation. During a live radio interview, he was asked, "What was the national debt when you took office?" When Neugebauer responded that he did not know, the caller asked "What is the national debt now?" Neugebauer's response: "I don't have the numbers in front of me."

"For the record, the national debt today is \$8.5 trillion. It has grown by over one-third since Randy Neugebauer took office," stated Robert Ricketts; Neugebauer's Democratic challenger in the upcoming November general elections for District 19.

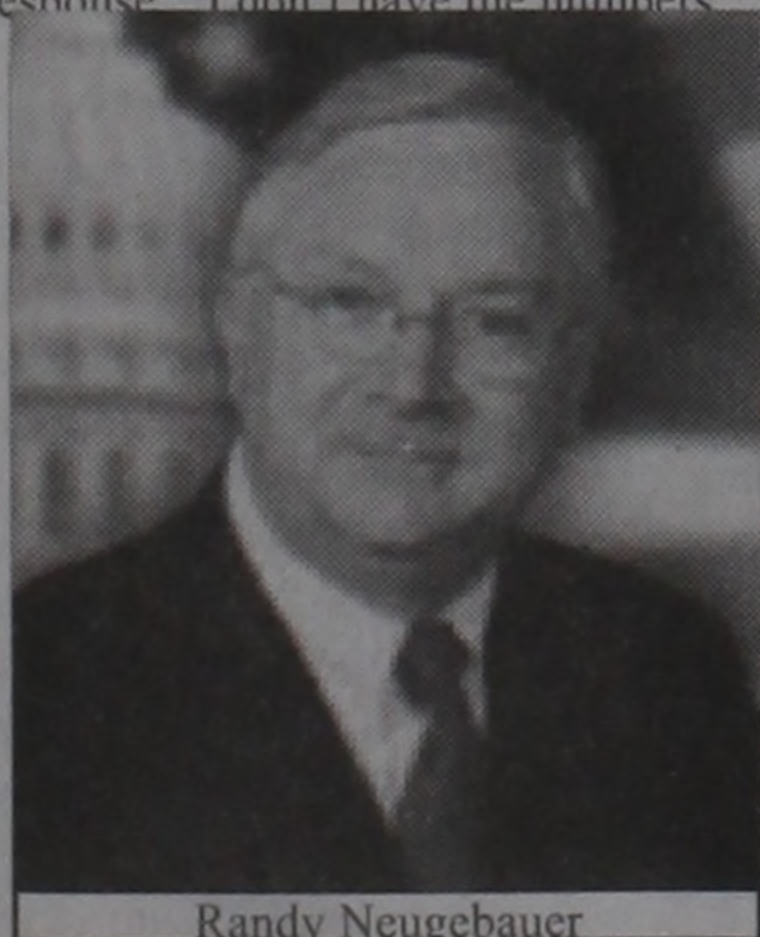
Ricketts continued: "The out-of-control national debt is a growing crisis facing all Americans. A Congress that doesn't recognize the problem is unlikely to take any meaningful steps to solve it. This November, we need to send a Representative to Washington who understands the economy and recognizes the significant problems that we face."

Ricketts is the Democratic nominee for U.S. Congress 19. He is a professor of accounting at Texas Tech University where he holds an endowed chair in taxation. His platform for sensible government is being warmly welcomed across the 27 counties of District 19.

Ricketts can be contacted at 806-535-3037 or his web site at www.roberticketts.com

Ricketts added that "Sensible government emphasizes fair taxes, fiscal responsibility, equitable access to health care, a rational energy policy, and integrity in business and government".

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Randy Neugebauer

Hispanic Students Nationally Have Higher Rate of Drug Use, Suicide Attempts

A national survey released this week showed that Hispanic high school students use drugs and attempt suicide at far higher rates than their white and black classmates. The new federal survey has the experts somewhat perplexed.

More than 11 percent of all Latino students — and 15 percent of Latino girls — said they had attempted suicide, according to the report issued Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The white and black rates were about 7.5 percent.

Latinos also reported much higher rates of using cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and methamphetamines; their use of condoms was at lower rates

Lubbock LULAC Council 263 to host Award Winning Filmmaker

"Los Lonely Boys: Cottonfields and Crossroads" To Premier in Lubbock

Regional native son Hector Galán's newest film, "Los Lonely Boys: Cottonfields and Crossroads" (2006) will be screened at the Cinemark Movies 16 Theatre in Lubbock on Friday August 25, 2006.

Mr. Galán, who has been called one of the most prolific and impassioned independent filmmakers working today, is a Tejano from San Angelo.

Prior to the showing, which begins at 7:15 PM, Mr. Galán will be featured in a "Meet and Greet" hosted by Lubbock LULAC Council 263 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Joe's Crab Shack, 5802 W. Loop

289. The event is open to the public and local LULAC members are hoping to see a large turnout at the event and at the movie premier. They are encouraging people to come out to meet the filmmaker and see the movie premier.

The city of Lubbock is also scheduled to recognize Mr. Galán's numerous accomplishments and City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon will present him with a "special recognition" on behalf of the city.

Barely out of high school, Mr. Galán became a camera operator in San Angelo and subsequently has worked in every aspect of television production since then. Mr. Galán enrolled at Texas Tech University and began working at local NBC affiliate KCBD in Lubbock. He worked his way up to the position of News Director while still in college.

He graduated from Tech with a degree in Mass Communications and was recruited by the university to work at the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS), based at the university.

While a producer at Tech, Mr. Galán even contributed to bringing a cultural and diverse awareness to the Lubbock community. He produced a show called "Viewpoint" hosted by Bidal Aguero, Publisher of El Editor and a subsequent show called "Aztlán" hosted by former Lubbock County Commissioner Eliseo Solis.

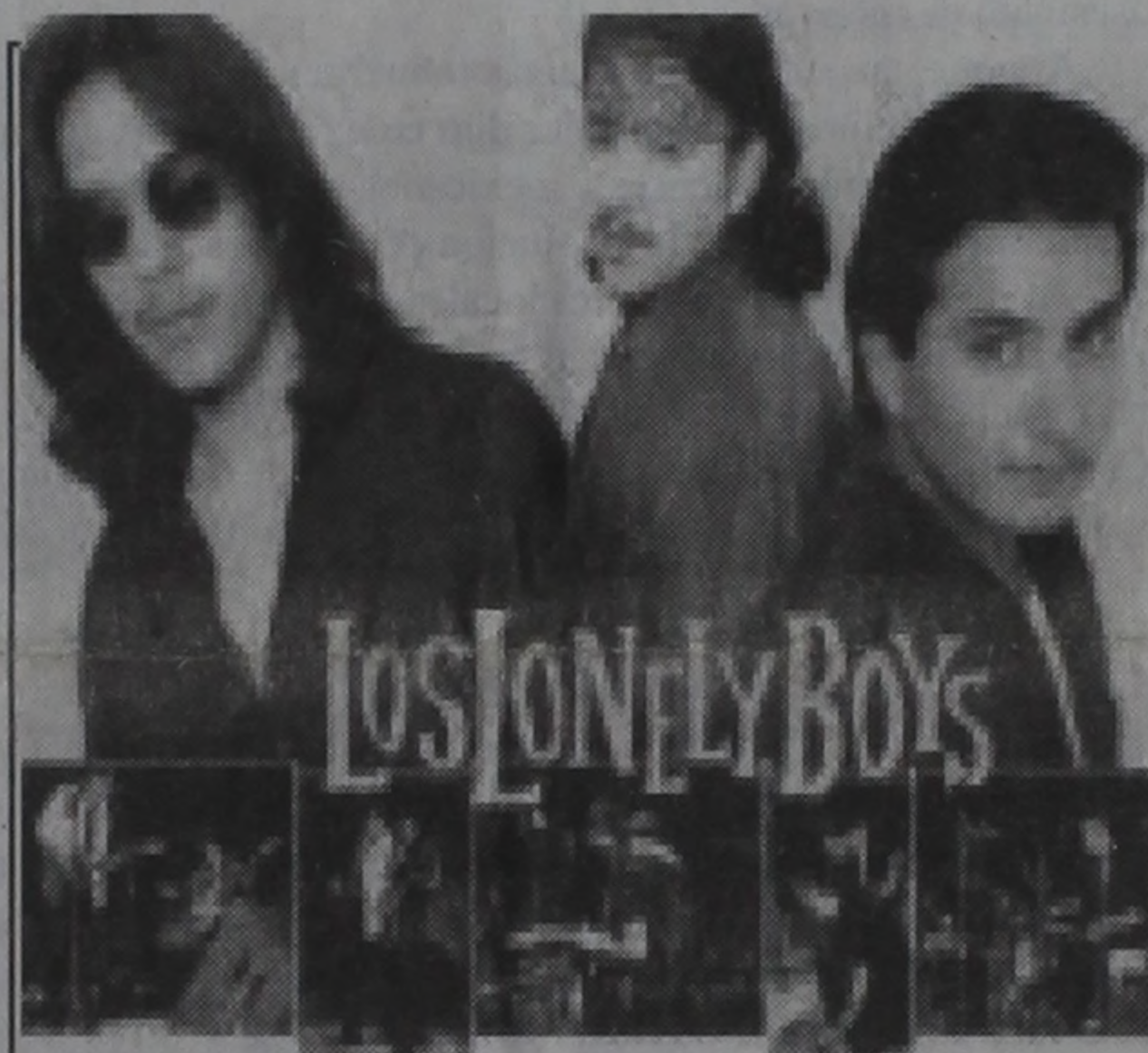
Early on, Mr. Galán realized that his goal in life was to bring diversity to national television; to bring real stories about real people. Growing up as a Mexican American in Texas, and brought up in a bilingual household, Mr. Galán's bi-cultural upbringing gave him a unique perspective and a deep passion to help change the face of television, and to make its programming more inclusive.

Galán has accomplished that goal and so much more, and will share his perspective on filmmaking at the screening of his newest completed project, "Los Lonely Boys: Cottonfields and Crossroads".

Galán has contributed over forty hours of programming to the national PBS television schedule including eleven episodes for the provocative series "Frontline"; two programs for the PBS series "The American Experience"; and the landmark four-part PBS series, "Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement"; for which he was invited to the White House to screen the work for President Bill Clinton. His work

has garnered numerous awards and recognitions including two Imagen awards, the Cine Golden Eagle Award, the Telly Award, SXSW Best Documentary, the Golden Apple, and the Blue Ribbon Award and numerous festival awards.

The critically-acclaimed Galán has won these numerous national and



international awards and recognitions for exploring such diverse topics as migrant farm workers, (New Harvest, Old Shame, 1990) the dynamics of race relations in the military, (The Color of Your Skin, 1991) college athletics, (Chasing the Basketball Dream, 1984) and issues surrounding foster care, (Who Cares About Children?, 1992) for "Frontline." Galán has cast his lens on the Latino experience in America, bringing the culture and history of the U.S. Latino experience to the screen.

He produced two award winning documentaries for the American Experience. Los Mineros (1991), the story of Arizona's copper miners in the early half of this century and their struggles for equality, (SXSW Best Documentary) and The Hunt for Pancho Villa (Imagen Award, Cine Golden Eagle Award).

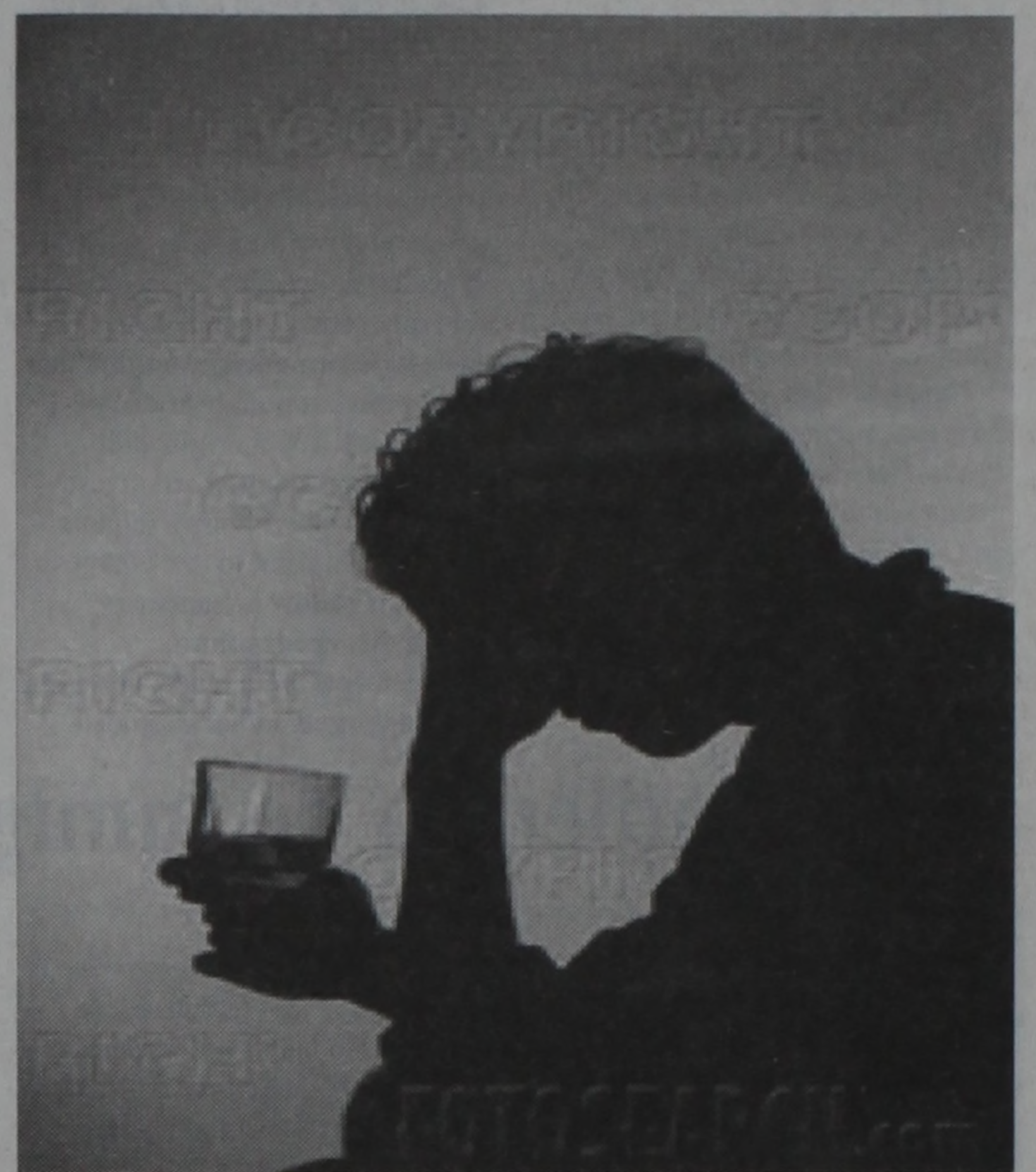
The Cinemark Movies 16 is located at 5721 58th Street, just west of Loop 289, in Lubbock.

Texas Tech Latino Association to Host Arts and Poetry Exhibit

The Latino Hispanic Faculty & Staff Association is hosting a "Sabor Hispano Arte y Palabras" Exhibit on Friday, September 8, from 6-9p.m. in the Southwest Collections Library located off 15th Street past Boston Avenue.

The event will be held in conjunction with the organization's fall membership drive and mixer. The event is free and open to the public.

Artists wishing to submit works of art or poetry may contact Daniel Sanchez at (office) 742 - 3749, ext 258, (cell) 544-6301 or daniel.sanchez@ttu.edu to make arrangements to have their artwork displayed. If the artist is not of Latino/Hispanic decent, the art or poetry must have a Latino/Hispanic theme. Additional rules and information may be found at the following website: www.orgs.ttu.edu/lhfsa



than the other population groups.

"We really don't understand this phenomenon as well as we should," said Dr. Glenn Flores of the Medical College of Wisconsin, who spoke at a CDC conference.

The CDC survey of nearly 14,000 U.S. high school students has been conducted every other year, since 1991. Results reported Thursday were from last year's survey.

Statistics on student suicides in Lubbock are not available but according to officials of the LISD guidance office there does not seem to be any substantial difference between ethnic groups. "We are only grateful that there have been very few suicides in the past few years."

(Continued on Page 5)

COMMUNITY VOICES

Now days it seems that we are continuously seeing the average Lubbock citizen confronted by robberies, home invasions, and even murders within our city. Do you think Lubbock is as safe as it was 5 years ago? Why or why not?

Work to Benefit All Families and All Areas

In the past five years Lubbock has experienced significant growth. While I applaud the physical infrastructure, and the fact that we have added additional officers to the police force, our community seems to continue to overlook and be diverted from a growing factor of poverty. Poverty continues to be the leading issue in education, and ultimately rising socioeconomic hindrances of this, crime.

Therefore, as our elected representatives work on balancing the budget, they should avoid cutting essential programs that help keep our children off the streets, and avoid eliminating services that are essential to low and middle income families, like community outreach and safety education programs provided by the police department.

Elected officials must be sensitive to the needs of all families, especially an ever-growing population of single parents, by addressing and being committed to resolving identified causes for drop outs and poverty.

They must also work to encourage growth in neighborhoods that have historically been overlooked and poverty stricken.

If Lubbock is to keep the reputation that it is a safe place to raise a family, then we must proactively and equitably work to benefit all families in all areas of the community.

Good quality of life will spark creative approaches to nurture workforce development, promote higher education, and prevent some levels of poverty, which will result in a safe and armed community.

Sincerely,

Christy Martinez-Garcia, Lubbock via Email

The writer was a candidate for an at-large seat on the LISD School Board in this year's May school board elections.

Forced Relocation to Blame for Increased Crime

This is a great question? My response would be "no". I don't think Lubbock is as safe as it was 5 years ago. I blame part of it on the "forced relocation" of the people that used to live in the Overton area by people such as our former mayor and his "business partners". They claimed to be acting in the best interest of the Lubbock community and not so much for personal financial gain.

Where was their community interest when they pushed everyone out of the Overton area and didn't bother to ensure that these people's bad habits and crimes didn't relocate along with them? I don't blame any of the city's current crime problems on the current administration. However, it is now up to them to get this resolved.

Eddie Moreno, Lubbock via Email

The writer co-hosts a morning radio show on Lubbock Radio Station KXTQ, Magic 93.7FM

New Neighborhood "not so better" Anymore

We moved to a "better" neighborhood for the safety of our kids and home. In the last year, there has been a major marijuana bust, amphetamine bust and a double homicide within a two block area of us. And, we live a block from an elementary school. No, I definitely don't think Lubbock is as safe as it was 5 years ago.

Our "better" neighborhood is not so "better" anymore.

Teresa (Terri) Contreras, Lubbock via Email

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

All comments in the Community Voices section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum to mainstream media; so readers wishing to express their opinions and comments may do so.

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An Immigration Hearing that Went Astray

By José de la Isla
Sitting nervously before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Investigations, with husband Lucio at her side, Carrie Ruiz testified last week how her daughter was murdered. As she spoke, she squeezed a framed portrait photo of 17-year-old Felicia.

In October 1999, the girl hugged her mother good-bye and left for a Halloween party. Detectives believe Jesús Gerardo Salazar, 20, drove her to a vacant lot about three miles away where Jay Luis Ferrel, 20, and Lisa Annette Huerta, 21, were waiting. The girl's body was found the next day, stabbed 39 times. Prosecutors believe the group had attempted to recruit her into a gang and Felicia refused. Two years later, Lisa Huerta was sentenced to 30 years in prison for her part in the homicide. Two days following the sentencing, Jay Luis

Ferrel was arrested. Crime Stoppers offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to Salazar's arrest. Allegedly getting family help, he now lives somewhere in Venezuela as a citizen of that country. He had apparently lived in the United States since the age of four without authorization. With assistance from Congressman Gene Green (D-Texas), the Ruizes learned an extradition agreement has been in effect between the United States and Venezuela since 1922. The local district attorney, Chuck Rosenthal, has not pressed the issue and the matter seems to be at a standstill. "Where's the justice for the victim? For my daughter? Where's the justice?" Carrie Ruiz wanted to know. Jaime Esparza, the chief prosecutor of El Paso, along with Houston police chief Harold Hurtt and city council member Adrian García, a former cop, testified that local police routinely ask for a suspect's national origin and immigration status when investigating cases involving a jailable offense. They put to rest charges that cops follow a "sanctuary" canon that needs reform. Statements were made, however, that suggested authorities don't

collaborate enough or form strategy task forces or create the right links between computer databases to allow authorities to obtain the information they need. That in part explains how the suspect in the Ruiz case slipped through their fingers. Also occurring last week, U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza, in an unusual announcement from Mexico City, said U.S. Marshals and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Denver had arrested Edgar Álvarez Cruz. He is alleged to have violated immigration law. More importantly, Álvarez Cruz is implicated in a gang that supposedly raped and murdered about 10 women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, between 1993 and 2003. U.S. Marshals assisted a Mexican task force investigating the unsolved murders and missing-women cases. Although issues about Álvarez Cruz's role in the crimes have come up, the ambassador said he believed the arrest will help U.S. and Mexican authorities who collaborated extensively to solve numerous cases. In reality, local and federal authorities do indeed have cross-national capabilities. That takes us

back to the hearings, where Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas) correctly told Carrie Ruiz there was no Republican or Democrat difference of opinion about bringing the suspect in Felicia's murder to justice. It makes one wonder why the Ruiz tragedy was used to sell the draconian features in HR 4437 that curb immigration under the guise of security. According to critics, the hearing was part of 21 so-called "road shows." Even if HR 4437 were in effect, what would it do to bring the right parties to justice? The murder of Felicia Ruiz, which had no relevance to HR 4437 or the Homeland Security matters at issue, is worthy of more than a public-policy non-starter. Dragging it into the subcommittee's hearing was tawdry political grandstanding, a deliberate distraction from the debate. Congressman Poe said, almost as an aside, he was getting the impression "nobody trusts the federal government to do what it is supposed to do." Maybe that's because people expect appropriate and sensible discourse and policies that address issues concerning justice. © 2006

Racist Garbage

By Abel Cruz
That a group of people who pride themselves on being white and superior to other races and ethnic groups should target parts of this city to distribute their racist garbage should come as no surprise to anyone who has lived here for any amount of time. Over this past year, we have been unthinkingly witnessing the signs of just how much this city is no longer a city with a small town atmosphere or not really the kind of city we hear about in so many commercials. No, I'm not being negative about the city, but I am being realistic and only stating the obvious. We all know every city has its dark side, its social problems. And racism and all the ugliness surrounding racism is a part of any city in this country; Lubbock is no different in that regard. And although significant progress has been made in the area of race relations; we do not do ourselves any favors by burying our heads in the sand and pretending that these problems do not exist in this city. Or, in believing that something like this could never happen here; it has. Examples that these types of racial undertones have always been simmering are evident but they have been so subtle that unless we have been paying attention; we've missed them. This year alone, Lubbock police have arrested at least 10 individuals with ties to the gang organization known as the Aryan Brotherhood. This particular organization is predominately white, and identifies itself with tattoos of German swastikas and other body markings which links them to the SS, or Security Service police of Nazi Germany: whose role it was to protect Adolph Hitler. Which by the way; leads me to believe that they are not very fond of those who don't resemble their skin color. In April of this year, Lubbock police arrested a man with explosives in his car with connections to the same organization. Just a few weeks ago I made reference to the racial implications contained in some of the letters coming in to the local newspaper which quoted at least one writer drawing comparisons between the illegal immigration issue and Nazi Germany. He was a Lubbock resident. And now, here we have this garbage; distributed in the front yards in some Lubbock neighborhoods. I haven't seen the flyer that was distributed, but I can almost guarantee you that the words "illegal aliens" and other references to "Mexican invasion" appear on it. I can assure you that whoever distributed this trash is familiar with Lubbock neighborhoods and was well aware of where exactly they wanted to distribute their garbage. I can guarantee you that they know that at times there is at the very least an undercurrent of racial tension in this city. They had to have; otherwise, why waste their time? In other words, if there was no potential for recruiting members to their cause, would they have really targeted this city? Would one of the "2 National Socialist Movement Units" in the entire state be based here? That's right; believe it or not, a check of the national web site promoting the group who was responsible for distributing the flyer has links to 2 Texas web sites. One is Dallas, and the other one is in, you guessed it, right here in Lubbock; complete with an email and postal address. Surprised? I'm not. They even cite the person this city is named after; here's an excerpt from their web site: "Like in our State past people of great character, like Col. Lubbock and General Hood...they fought (sic) to keep personal liberties alive and state freedom in the peoples hand! They also urge "likeminded" people to join them in their efforts to preserve their "proud Aryan Heritage". In a reference to immigration, their web site says that "All non-White immigration" must be prevented and they "demand that all non-Whites currently residing in America be required to leave the nation forthwith and return to their land of origin: peacefully or by force". If you're wondering why I am writing about this incident instead of just ignoring it and hoping that it will go away, it's because I am a firm believer that we should all be aware of these kinds of things and not just pretend that all is well in our fair city; which is what some people in this city like to do. For instance, even though this incident was widely reported in the local broadcast media, (all local television stations reported on it) on Thursday morning after it happened, not one word or even a mention of it appeared in the local newspaper. Why a story like this would be ignored by the major newspaper in this city is beyond my comprehension. I also understand the position of those that would say that we should just treat these things as trash and throw them away; the problem with that is that the people who are responsible for the distribution of this garbage will not go away. They will continue to distribute their literature; cloaking themselves in their first amendment rights until they convince some people to start believing in their cause. No, unfortunately, they will not go away until people in this city, elected city and county officials, and local law enforcement, publicly denounce their actions and visibly put them on notice that their actions are despicable and that they will do whatever is necessary to make sure that their movement does not grow; allowing them to spread their message of hatred, intolerance, and ignorance. Because until we do, they will be out there, festering like a cancerous sore; preying on people's fears; just waiting to spread their hatred to those who already half-way agree with them. And don't kid yourself, there are some out there. Email: acruzsc@aol.com

Una Audiencia de Inmigración Que se Descarrio

José de la Isla
Carrie Ruiz, con su esposo Lucio al lado, testificó nerviosamente la semana pasada ante el Subcomité de Seguridad Nacional de la Cámara de Representantes, contando cómo había sido asesinada su hija. Al hablar, apretaba una foto retrato enmarcada de Felicia, de 17 años. En octubre de 1999, la niña se despidió de su mamá con un abrazo y salió para una fiesta de Halloween. Detectives del caso creen que Jesús Gerardo Salazar, de 20 años, la llevó en auto a un lote a unas tres millas donde esperaban Jay Luis Ferrel, de 20 años, y Lisa Annette Huerta, de 21 años. Se halló el cuerpo de la niña al día siguiente, apuñalado 39 veces. Los fiscales creen que el grupo quiso reclutarla a una pandilla, y que Felicia se negó. Dos años después, Lisa Huerta recibió una sentencia penal de 30 años por su participación en el homicidio. A los dos días de ser sentenciada, detuvieron a Jay Luis Ferrel. La organización llamada 'Crime Stoppers' ofreció una recompensa de \$5,000 a cambio de información que llevara a la detención de Salazar. Bajo el pretexto de recibir ayuda familiar, Salazar vive ahora en alguna parte de Venezuela como ciudadano de ese país. Por lo visto había vivido en los Estados Unidos sin autorización desde los cuatro años. Con asistencia del congresista demócrata por Texas, Gene Greene, los Ruiz se enteraron que ha habido un acuerdo de extradición vigente entre los Estados Unidos y Venezuela desde el año 1922. El fiscal local, Chuck Rosenthal, no ha puesto mayor atención al asunto, por lo que parece estar escandalada. "¿Dónde está la justicia para la víctima? ¿Para mi hija? ¿Dónde está la justicia?" quería saber Carrie Ruiz. Jaime Esparza, fiscal principal de El Paso, con el jefe de policía de Houston, Harold Hurtt y consejera municipal Adrian García, ex policía, testificaron que la policía local de manera rutinaria pide el origen nacional y estado migratorio de personas bajo sospecha cuando investigan casos con posibilidades de sentencias de encarcelación. Dieron fin a acusaciones que la policía sigue un canon de "santuario" que requiere ser reformado. Se hicieron declaraciones, sin embargo, que sugirieron que las autoridades no colaboran lo suficiente ni forman grupos de trabajo de estrategia ni los vínculos necesarios entre bases de datos de computadoras

que permitirían que las autoridades obtuvieran la información que necesitan, lo cual explica en parte cómo el sospechoso del caso Ruiz se escapó. También la semana pasada, embajador estadounidense Tony Garza, en un anuncio poco usual desde la Ciudad de México, dijo que los jefes de policía estadounidenses federales y funcionarios de Aduanas e Inmigración en Denver habían detenido a Edgar Álvarez Cruz, a quien se acusa por haber violado leyes de inmigración. Lo que resulta más importante es que Álvarez Cruz está implicado en una pandilla que se supone ha violado y asesinado a unas diez mujeres en Ciudad Juárez, México, entre 1993 y el 2003. Los jefes de policía federales ayudaron a un grupo de trabajo mexicano con la investigación de los casos sin resolver de desaparición y asesinato de mujeres. Aunque han surgido problemas referentes al papel que jugó Álvarez Cruz en los delitos, el embajador dijo creer que su detención ayudará a las autoridades estadounidenses y mexicanos, quienes tuvieron una colaboración extensa en la resolución de numerosos casos. En realidad, las autoridades locales y federales sí cuentan con capacidad transnacional, lo cual nos regresa a las audiencias, en las que el representante republicano por Texas, Ted Poe, le dijo correctamente a Carrie Ruiz que no existe ninguna diferencia de opinión entre republicanos y demócratas sobre llevar a la justicia el sospechoso en el caso de Felicia. Uno se tiene que preguntar por qué se usó el caso de la tragedia de la familia Ruiz por vender los elementos draconianos del proyecto de ley de reforma de inmigración de la Cámara, HR 4437, que limitan la inmigración bajo el pretexto de la seguridad. Según los críticos, la audiencia fue parte de 21 llamados 'circos itinerantes'. Así se hubiera aprobado HR 4427, ¿qué haría por llevar a las partes correctas a la justicia? El asesinato de Felicia Ruiz, que no tuvo relevancia al HR 4437 ni a los temas en cuestión, se merece más que haber servido intereses políticos que no llegaran a ninguna parte. El presentarlo en una audiencia del subcomité fue habladuría política ostentosa, una distracción adrede del debate. El congresista Poe dijo, casi como tangente, que le daba la impresión que "nadie confía que el gobierno federal haga lo que debe hacer". Tal vez sea porque la gente espera un discurso apropiado y sensato, y políticas que atiendan los asuntos relacionados a la justicia.

Additionally, churches have been key in building support for peaceful immigrant demonstrations. All Latino groups relate to this immigrant struggle and have joined in solidarity with the immigrant movement. Jesús Saldaña, co-founder of the federation of clubs from the state of Zacatecas, points out that these groups have the potential to develop a "political arm that supports Latino candidates." Some 8.2 million U.S.-born citizens are of Mexican parents. While there are 2.4 million U.S. permanent residents from Mexico eligible for U.S. citizenship, a large portion of them have yet to naturalize, the researchers observe, raising the question why. Notre Dame's Bada credits major ethnic dailies such as La Raza in Chicago and La Opinión in Los Angeles for working as voices of the immigrant community, "and most importantly as advocates for their rights." The agendas of immigrant groups differ from other Latino organizations, particularly in aiding communities in Mexico, but the more that the migrants become involved, the more alike the groups become, the review's authors conclude. The report is available on the Mexico Institute webpage: (www.insoncenter.org/mexico). © 2006

Mexican Immigrants Assume New Role as 'Civic Actors'

By Verónica Macías
Millions of Mexican immigrants who have lived disengaged from U.S. society and political life until now are emerging as "civic actors." They have formed hundreds of grassroots organizations to shape a new identity, demonstrating they are no longer "invisible," according to the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. A 60-page review released Aug. 17 by the MIWWC, co-sponsored with the University of California at Santa Cruz, reveals that the migrants are becoming active members of society through their jobs, churches, labor unions and by forming immigrant coalitions. The report, "Invisible No More: Mexican Migrant Civic Participation in the United States," is in large part the result of a two-day conference held in November 2005 where civil leaders and researchers analyzed how the immigrants are pursuing recognition and inclusion into U.S. life. Mexican immigrants constitute three percent of the total U.S. population. More than half of them - 54% - entered the United States after 1990. Review participants identified an existing "immigrant civil society" composed of grassroots groups led by migrants, referred to as hometown associations. These groups are building their own networks as well as participating in traditional Latino and other organizations to improve their situation in the United States while continuing to be involved in their home country. Researchers term this phenomenon as "civic binationality." "Instead of seeing the migrants simply as laborers with no capacity to organize, we now think of immigrants as new leaders and as people who can become good U.S. citizens," says Jesús Martínez Saldaña, a member of the Michoacán legislature in central Mexico. In the report, panelists explored how hometown associations are increasingly becoming civically involved. Hometown associations have formed national federations that have become purveyors of immigrant rights. As an example, they hold "Know your Rights" seminars with Latino organizations such as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The authors also show how immigrants are engaging in U.S. politics by attaching themselves to traditional Latino organizations. They have helped raise money to campaign against legislation that targets them such as California's Proposition 187, which denied undocumented immigrants access to basic health and education services in 1994. More currently, they organized in support of a California bill to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for drivers' licenses. "We should not understand civic participation only in the electoral sense," Notre Dame professor Xóchitl Bada stresses. Immigrants play a vital role by participating in church and PTA groups. In the city of Chicago, all immigrants are allowed to vote and can be elected into school councils. Researchers consider the church as a fundamental outlet to develop pathways into the U.S. mainstream while also encouraging migrants to aid their families in Mexico.

Así se hubiera aprobado HR 4427, ¿qué haría por llevar a las partes correctas a la justicia? El asesinato de Felicia Ruiz, que no tuvo relevancia al HR 4437 ni a los temas en cuestión, se merece más que haber servido intereses políticos que no llegaran a ninguna parte. El presentarlo en una audiencia del subcomité fue habladuría política ostentosa, una distracción adrede del debate. El congresista Poe dijo, casi como tangente, que le daba la impresión que "nadie confía que el gobierno federal haga lo que debe hacer". Tal vez sea porque la gente espera un discurso apropiado y sensato, y políticas que atiendan los asuntos relacionados a la justicia.

Especially insidious is their insistence that "free trade" is the answer to world poverty. This has been the public rationale for every trade scam from NAFTA to CAFTA, including such single-country deals as the 1999 "Jordanian Free Trade Agreement." To help the impoverished people of Jordan, went the argument, let's open up the lucrative U.S. market to factories making clothes in Jordan. If we let the free market operate there without bothersome rules and regulations, then poor Jordanians will get jobs making clothes that retailers like Wal-Mart can import duty-free to the U.S. and sell to American consumers. Sure enough, since 1999, Jordanian exports to America have increased 2,500 percent! But, wait. Jordan's factory owners, under contract to the Wal-Marts, didn't hire workers there. Instead, they flew in "guest workers" from even lower-wage countries, such as China and Bangladesh, and their factories became horrific sweatshops. Since "free trade" deals exclude labor protection rules, these workers were paid a pittance, forced to work 20-hour days, frequently beaten, and jailed when they complained. To stop this corporate scam of writing abusive "free trade" deals that let them bring sweatshop products into our country - it's time for the U.S. to assert our people's values in our own marketplace by outlawing the sale of sweatshop goods. Sen. Byron Dorgan, a fighting populist from North Dakota, has introduced a bill to do just that. SB 3485, "The Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act," is the first bill ever that simply says "no" to sweatshop products in America, and it comes with the necessary incentives and enforcement power to make it stick. This is Jim Hightower saying... To get behind this bill and to help campaign for fair trade and common decency, call Sen. Dorgan's office: 202-224-2551.

Cartas al Editor

The Point of No Return
One definition of the word "Evidence" is "things helpful in forming a conclusion or judgment". From this we can say that it is "evident" we have passed the "Point of No-Return" in the global war against Fundamentalist Islamic terrorists. When a father and mother use their own baby to plant an explosive device on an airplane, when a teenage girl straps a bomb to her body and sets off to kill herself and as many innocent people as possible, when children are taught in school to hate and that heaven is theirs if they die as martyrs, when clerics incite worshippers to violence, when rockets are fired indiscriminately into neighborhoods, when bombs are detonated in busy shopping areas, when snipers target worshippers, when thousands around the globe riot and kill their own in the process; because of a cartoon, when a film producer is beheaded for reporting events, when thousands cheer and celebrate the tragic death of our space shuttle crew, we have gone beyond the "Point of No Return." For those who need more: Of 1.2 billion Muslims around the globe, only a hand-full have spoken out against the violence and none have refuted the evidence. Ysidro Gutierrez, Sergeant Major, US Army Retired, Lubbock via Email

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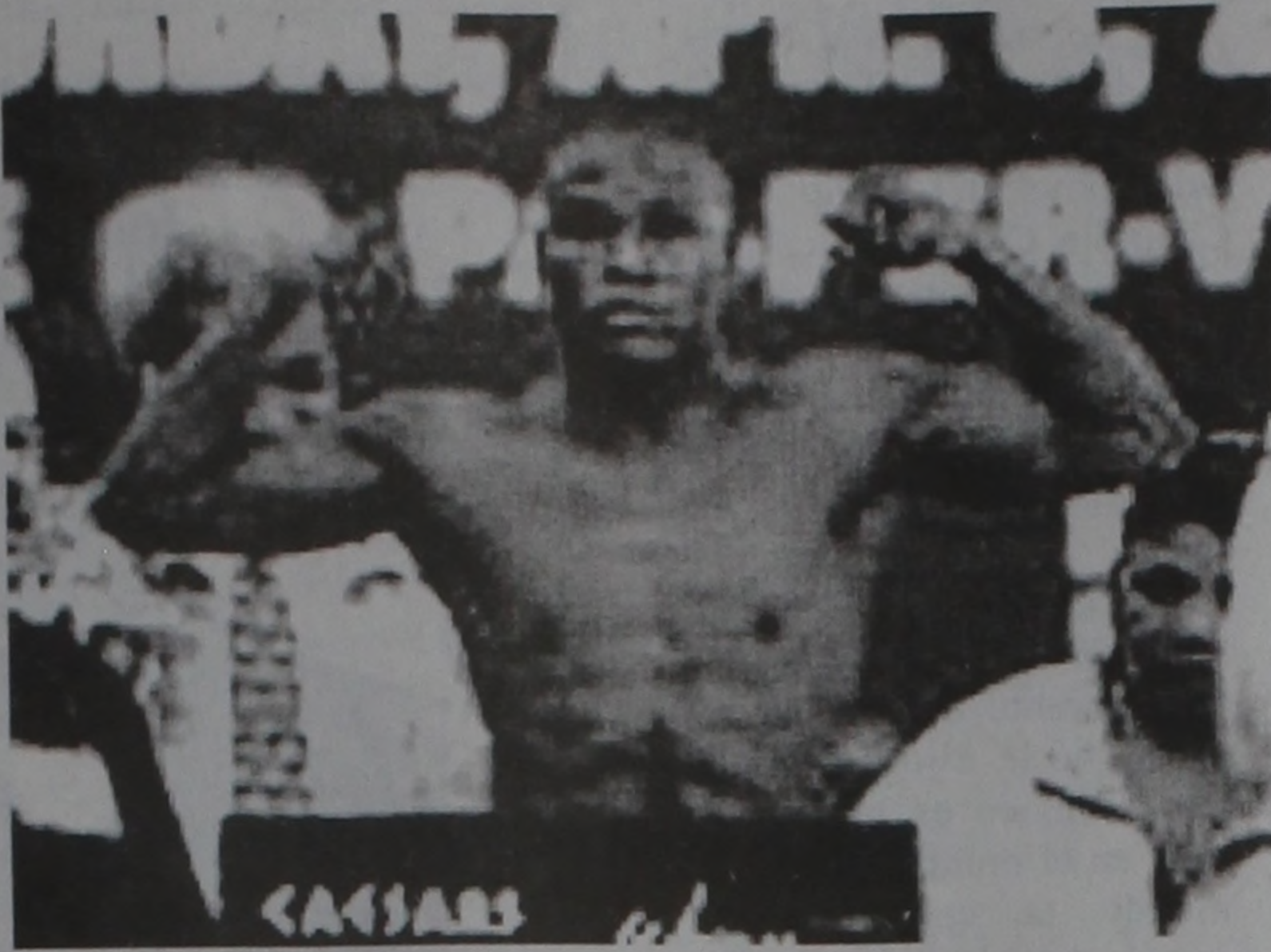
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Mayweather to fight Baldomir in November WBC title bout

Floyd Mayweather Jr., generally considered the world's best pound-for-pound boxer, will fight Carlos Baldomir for the WBC welterweight title Nov. 4 in Las Vegas.

Mayweather (36-0, 24 KOs) chose his next opponent last weekend after months of campaigning for a matchup with Oscar De La Hoya, who still hasn't decided whether he will retire. Mayweather won the IBF welterweight belt in his last fight with a unanimous decision over Zab Judah in April, but relinquished that title.

"This bout represents the linear world welterweight champion in Baldomir going



against the pound-for-pound best in Mayweather," promoter Dan Goossen said.

Cory Spinks and Kostya Tszyu also were candidates to be Mayweather's next opponent, but Baldomir should generate much more excitement among fight fans.

ment, but Baldomir should generate much more excitement among fight fans.

Baldomir (43-9 with six draws and 13 KOs) hasn't lost a fight in nearly 10 years, mostly recently stopping Arturo Gatti in the ninth round on July 22. The 35-year-old Argentine was hungry to fight Mayweather for the biggest purse of his career, calling out Mayweather moments after beating Gatti.

Baldomir also upset Judah earlier in the year, winning the WBC title but failing to claim the IBF and WBA titles because he didn't want to pay their sanctioning fees from his



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Camp Tour

Parcells' legacy needs this lone ranger

The shy and submissive Deion Sanders, who has never met a microphone he could not swap spit with, recently stated loudly and bluntly what many players on the Dallas Cowboys and beyond have likely been thinking.

Bill Parcells is just 25-23 with the Cowboys in three seasons.

Dallas coach Bill Parcells, at least recently, hasn't won

Five things you should know

In the past, it would have been unthinkable to even hint that Parcells may no longer be a winner. Parcells has cursed, screamed and intimidated his way to the top of the coaching food chain -- not to mention Hall of Fame -- with the kind of finger-popping panache and swash-buckling cockiness rarely matched in coaching history.

Though Sanders can be a mirror-loving blowhard, his knowledge of football cannot be questioned and his words cannot be ignored. He is close to some current and former Cowboys players -- he of course was once a star in Dallas -- and it is probable that he is expressing the opinion of at least some of those players as well.

Will the Cowboys make the playoffs?

Yes: T.O. puts them in No: T.O. will be a cancer Publicly no Cowboy player would ever second Sanders' notion.

"We all believe this team has the talent to win a championship," said defensive end Greg Ellis. "(Parcells) is a proven winner and a great coach."

With Dallas, Parcells is a mediocre 25-23. In the past, Parcells, who recently turned 65, has transformed teams for the better faster than foul language leaves his lips. This turnaround, by Parcells

standards, is moving in slow-mo.

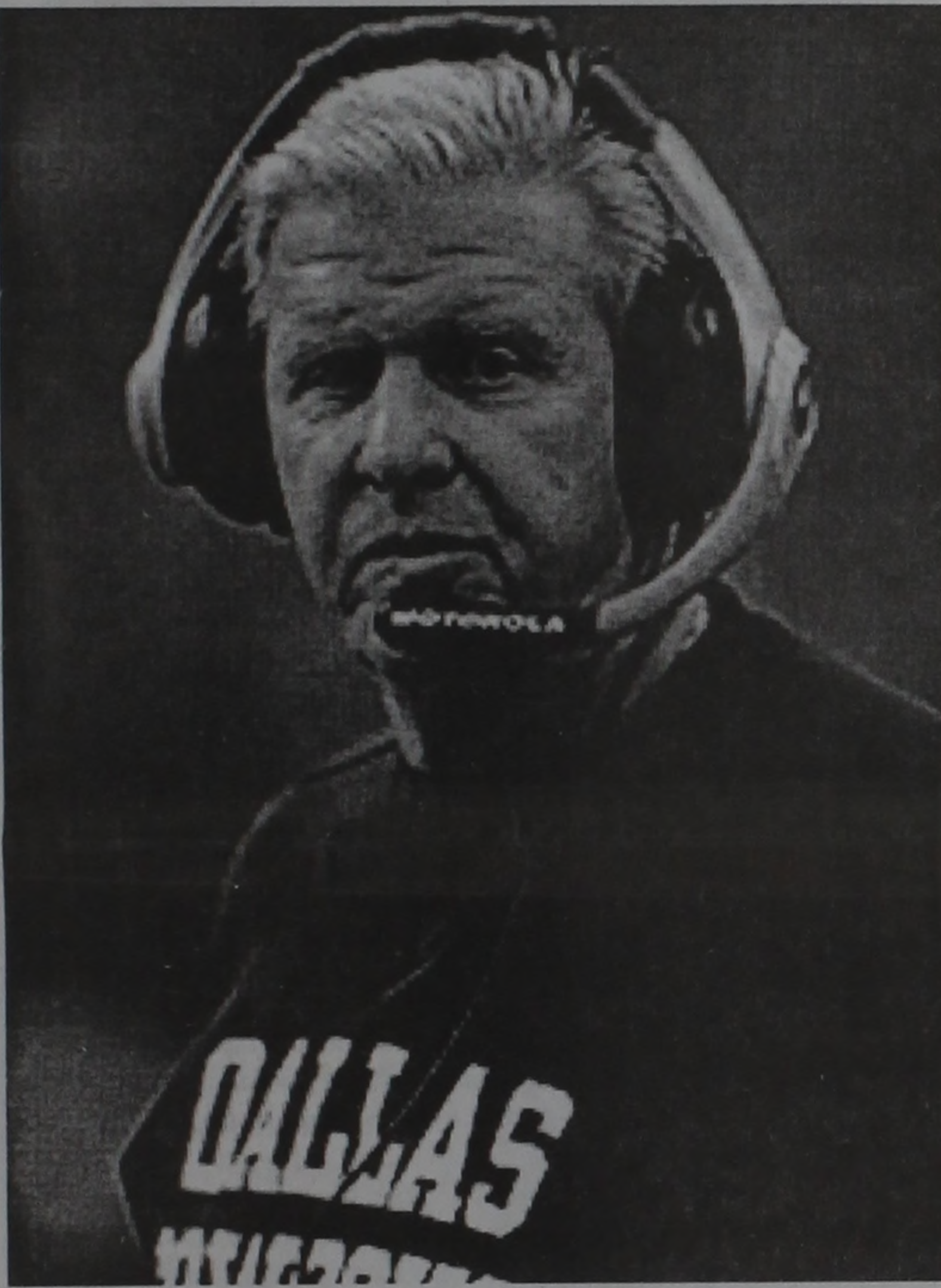
Clearly, he is pushing this Cowboys team harder than past ones.

"In mini-camp he told us that it's never taken him this long to win in his life. We all took that personal," linebacker Bradie James told reporters this month. "He's been killing us in training camp. He's always saying it."

This could be the year that Parcells lives up to a sterling reputation. The division might be the toughest in football, but it is completely up for grabs. Can Parcells and the Cowboys take advantage of that and make a run?

"I can't say if people are overlooking us," said Ellis. "I think we have to prove that we can do it. If you prove it then people can't say anything."

The same could be said about the recent career of Parcells.



jack. Nothing. Zippo. Not a poker game, not a free set of steak knives, not even a holiday card from the lawn manicurist. And definitely not a Super Bowl.

Sanders recently turned a normally soft and chirpy radio morning talk show into hardcore when he used the situation with the power struggle between Parcells and Terrell Owens -- oops, broke the rule of never mentioning his name -- to publicly support Owens and subsequently connect to Parcells' groin with his right foot.

"First of all, Bill Parcells needs T.O. more than T.O. needs Bill Parcells," said Sanders, now an analyst for the NFL Network. "When was the last time Bill Parcells won? When?"

"This league is what have you done lately."

Sanders reiterated his feelings during a conference call with reporters this week. Sanders stated he now lives in Dallas and reads and listens to the media there and believes Parcells is mishandling the situation with Owens and that infamous hamstring.

"Just rushing the guy back on the field," Sanders said. "This is your horse. You don't rush your horse back on the field."

DALLAS COWBOYS
Out of Nowhere Man
QB Tony Romo

He has received a great deal of publicity in recent days, but Romo nevertheless has emerged as a serious quarterback prospect after once being anonymous. Romo signed as a rookie free agent out of Eastern Illinois, and has yet to throw a pass in a regular-season game despite being in his fourth year.

Few players have ever publicly chastised him.

No player has had the guts or the platform to do so.

Yet the words of Sanders indicate how far the aura and approval ratings of Parcells have fallen. Parcells is being challenged from within and without. People are questioning if he is still the great coach that took the New York Giants and the New England Patriots to Super Bowls, doing so almost on pure will and the force of his nature alone.

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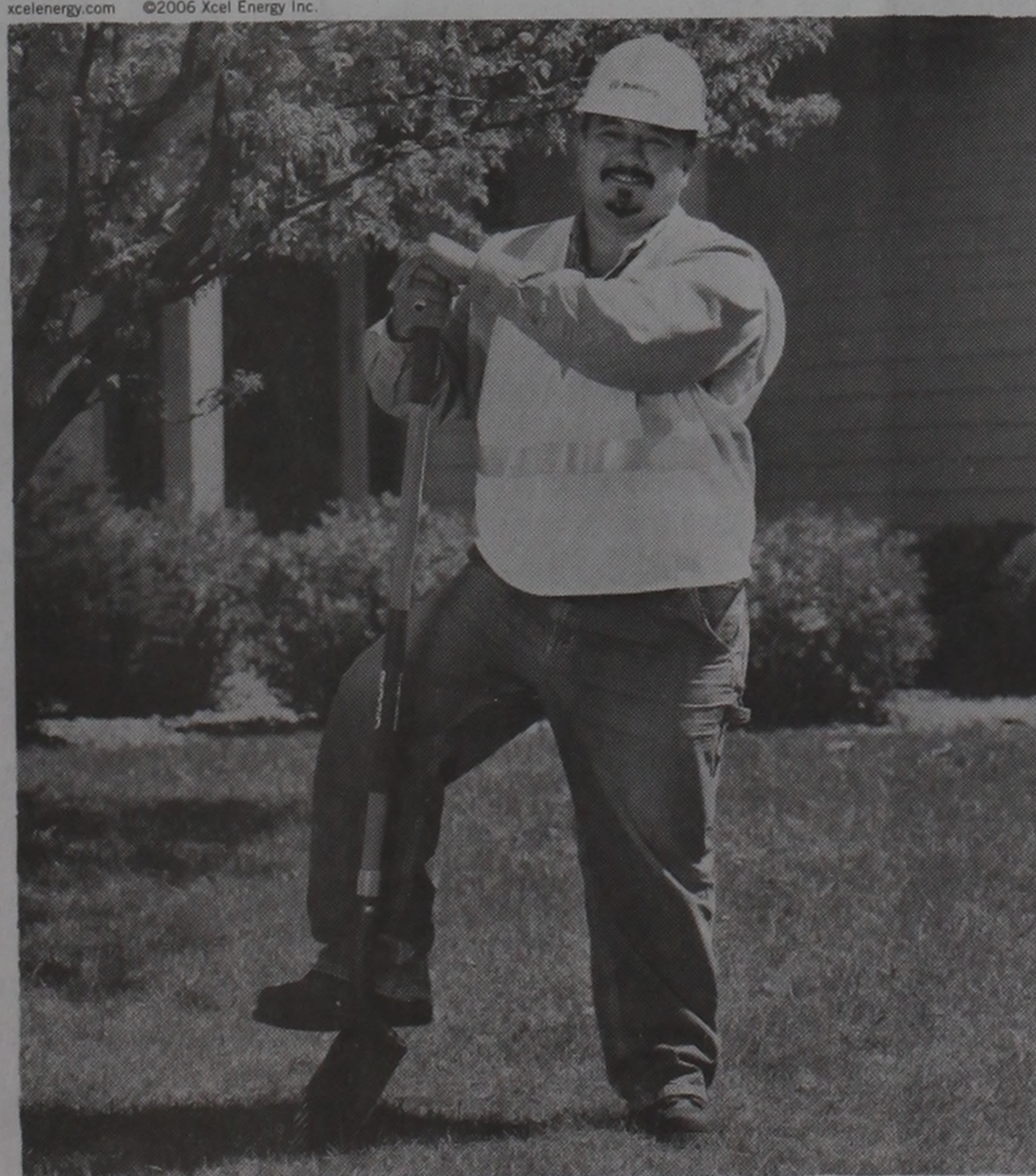
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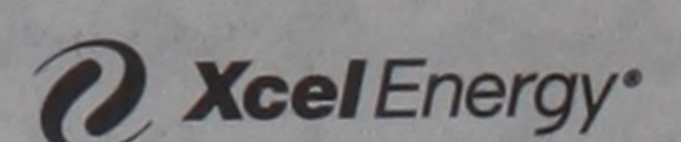
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Aseguran que canciones de RBD tienen mensajes satánicos

Internacionales. El grupo formado por Anahí, Dulce María, Christopher, Mayte, Christian y Alfonso, ha tenido un gran éxito por varios países del mundo.

Algunos éxitos de la agrupación mexicana RBD contienen mensajes satánicos, según dijo una representante del Club de Fans del grupo en Chile.

Francisca Fabio, vicepresidenta del club de fans en Santiago, afirmó haber escuchado su disco al revés en un programa de computadora: "me dio mucho miedo. Pensé que estoy

escuchando', porque se oye súper claro: 'ven y abrázame, demonio' en la canción 'Rebelde'", según declaraciones publicadas por la edición electrónica del diario Las Últimas Noticias.

La joven fan del grupo formado por Anahí, Dulce María, Christopher, Mayte, Christian y Alfonso, relata que sintió "escalofríos. Estaba en mi pieza frente a mi computadora y era de noche", aunque aclaró que no creía que fueran satánicos "quizás las canciones están arregladas en Internet".

El radiocontrolador de

"Radio Digital" de la ciudad de Iquique, en Chile, Ezequiel Acevedo quien es un "experto en dar vuelta a las canciones" aseguró haber escuchado los supuestos mensajes.

Presentación. El show de RBD en Sao Paulo podría ser cancelado por respeto a las familias que perdieron parientes en la trágica presentación del grupo en febrero pasado, cuando tres personas, incluyendo dos adolescentes, murieron en el estacionamiento del centro comercial Fiesta durante la firma de autógrafos, informó el diario local "Folha".

El Chavo y el Chapulin tienen sus sellos postales

El Servicio Postal Mexicano lanzó una colección de estampillas con imágenes del Chavo del Ocho y el Chapulín Colorado, los personajes más importantes creados por Roberto Gómez Bolaños, como parte de una serie titulada Idolos Populares de la Televisión Mexicana.

El presidente Vicente Fox "canceló" los primeros timbres durante una ceremonia en la que le dijo a Chespirito: "México es más conocido en el mundo, porque el mundo te conoce a ti", según reseñó el diario Reforma.

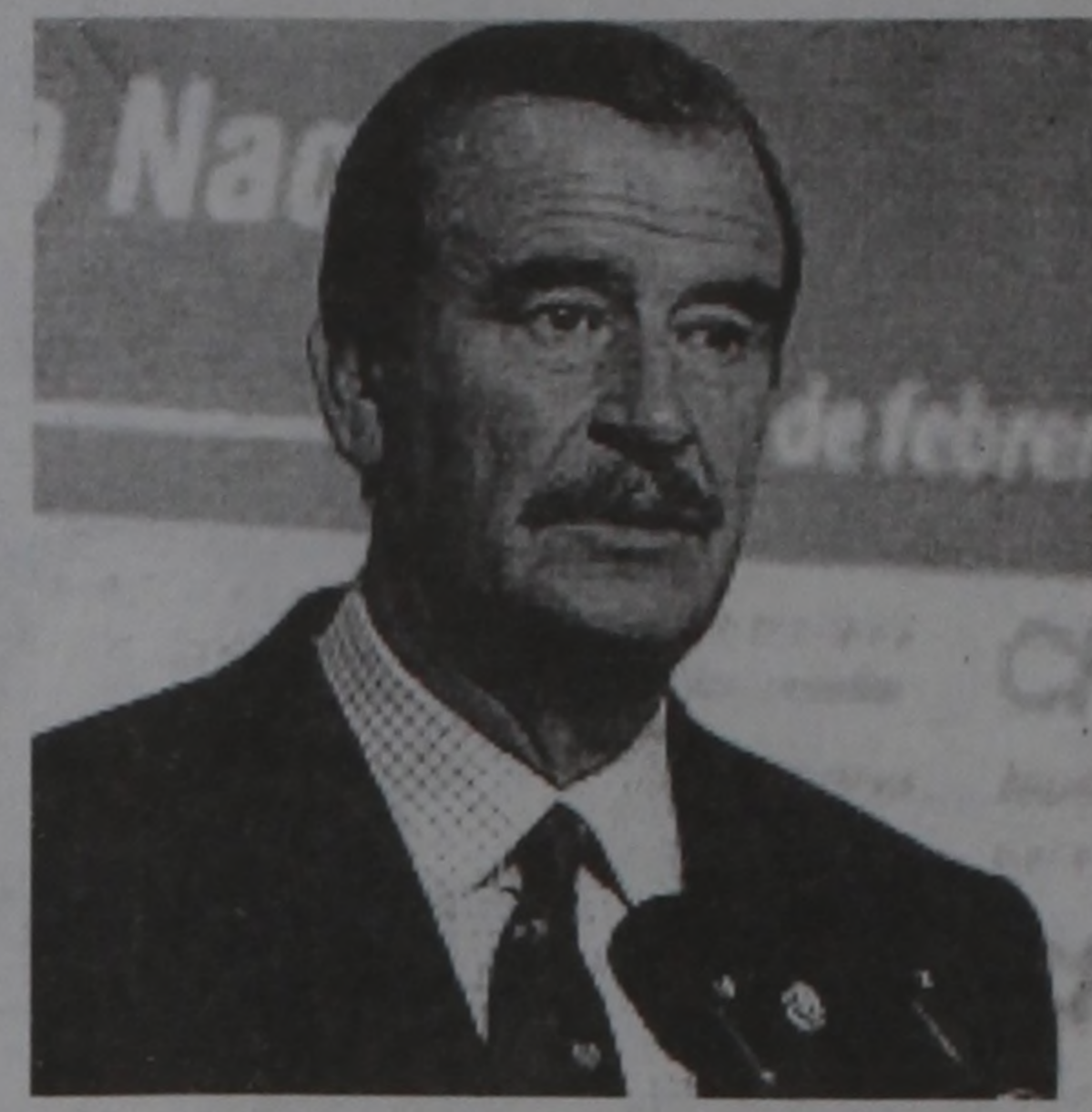
Gómez Bolaños y el presidente son amigos desde hace tiempo y en el 2000 el actor se unió a la campaña del entonces candidato.

El tiraje total consta de 500 mil unidades con cinco imágenes: tres del Chavo y dos del Chapulín, todas con una caricatura de la famosa "vecindad del Chavo" como fondo.

"Esto es algo que jamás me pasó, ni de casualidad, por la mente. No, ¡qué iba yo a imaginarme que me harían una estampilla!", dijo con emoción.

Precisamente Chespirito ha coleccionado sellos por más de 35 años cuando un tío suyo le heredó una modesta colección que él se encargó de nutrir hasta alcanzar tres mil ejemplares.

"Conozco el valor de la filatelia, por eso creo que es un honor muy grande", afirmó.



Hace tres meses el Servicio Postal Mexicano se le acercó para decirle que habían elegido sus personajes para la colección, lo que lo hizo muy feliz por entender que las autoridades hacen una labor "detectivesca" antes de elegir las imágenes que adornará los sellos.

"Mi familia me felicitó, pero también se extrañaron porque no es fácil encontrar algo así para un personaje", señaló.

Las estampillas estarán a la venta desde el martes y sus precios fluctúan entre 6.50 pesos (0.60 dólares) hasta 14.50 pesos (1.34 dólares).

Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofia T. Martinez

"Entonces Judas, el que le entrego, al ver que había sido condenado Jesús, movido por el remordimiento, devolvió las treinta monedas de plata a los príncipes de los sacerdotes y ancianos, diciendo: he pecado entregando sangre inocente. Pero ellos la dijeron: 'a nosotros que nos importa?'; y tirando las monedas de plata en templo, fue y se ahorcó" (Mt 27, 3-5).

Sería un error pensar que Judas fue siempre malo: pero si leemos atentamente el evangelio podemos afirmar que Judas empezó bien: por eso el Señor lo eligió para que fuera uno de los doce apóstoles. Y lo hizo el encargado de guardar las limosnas que le daban y con las que proveía a sus necesidades y a las de los apóstoles.

Pero pronto, un afecto desordenado empezó pronto a minar sus buenas disposiciones. Como el Guardaba las limosnas, empezó a nacer en su alma la avaricia, el amor al dinero. Para no alborotar su conciencia, disimuló su desorden con las apariencias de un deber que era necesario cumplir: puesto que le habían confiado el dinero, era su deber ahorrarlo. Así, solapadamente, este afecto fue creciendo hasta convertirse en un vicio que, no combatido, lo llevó al último extremo.

Conviene aclarar que Judas tenía todas las condiciones para alcanzar el perdón por su pecado. Para eso se necesita el arrepentimiento, y el evangelio dice expresamente que Judas se arrepintió; es necesario también confesar la culpa, la confeso públicamente ante los jefes de los judíos; y por último se necesita la reparación del pecado y devolver lo mal habido, y Judas, a pesar de la avaricia que lo llevó hasta ese pecado, fue a devolver las treinta monedas y, como no se las quisieron recibir se las tiro en el suelo.

Pero a su arrepentimiento, a su confesión y a su restitución le faltó una condición esencial: que es, la confianza en la misericordia de Dios. Si en lugar de ir con los enemigos de Jesús a confesar su pecado hubiera ido a esperar a Cristo en el camino al calvario, Jesús con una mirada le hubiera asegurado el perdón. Judas entonces hubiera acompañado a María y con Jua hubiera estado al pie de la cruz. Mas tarde, como a Pedro, el Señor le hubiera confirmado el perdón, hubiera recibido al espíritu santo el día de pentecostes, y después de predicar el evangelio, hubiera dado la vida por el maestro.

Mientras crucificaban a Jesús, a pesar de su gran sufrimiento, calla; cuando lo levantaron en la cruz, se levanto al mismo tiempo el grito de la gente, en el que iban mezcladas blasfemias, injurias, burlas, Jesús calla. Pero de pronto, sus labios se abrieron y dejaron escapar sobre aquel desbordamiento de todas las pasiones humanas la palabra del perdón universal. ¡Que grande revelación del corazón de Cristo! cuando todo a su alrededor manifiesta odio y furia contra el, Jesús solo manifiesta amor, misericordia y perdón.

Aprendamos la lección: si cuando nadie se lo pide el nos ofrece su perdón, se podrá negarlo cuando postrados a sus pies se lo pedimos?

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Almodovar film fest to warm US crowds for "Volver"



A nationwide retrospective of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's films will warm up American audiences before the US release of "Volver" in November, according to Sony Pictures Classics.

Eight films will be screened in 50 US cities to pique interest in the auteur and pave the way for the release of "Volver" in New York and Los Angeles on November 3. "Brand-new prints have been made of all eight films," which were screened starting Saturday, Sony Pictures Classics said in a statement.

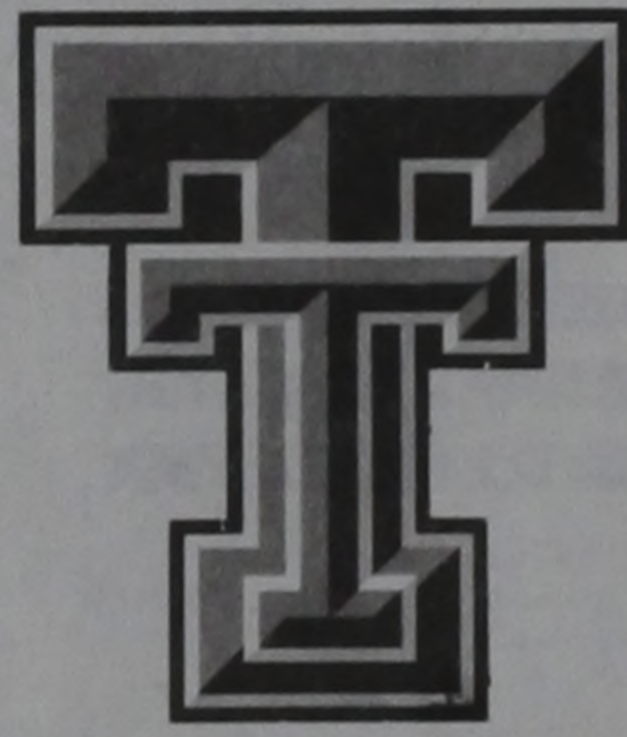
"Several of these titles have not been shown in theaters since their original releases. All of the films have been withdrawn from the DVD marketplace to accommodate their theatrical re-release," the distributor said.

The eight films are: "Matador" (1986), "Law of Desire" (1987), "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" (1988), "The Flower of My Secret" (1995), "Live Flesh" (1996), "All About My Mother" (1999), "Talk to Her" (2002) and "Bad Education"

(2004).

Almodovar, 56, won an Oscar for best foreign film in 2000 for "All About My Mother", and in 2003 won the best original screenplay Oscar for "Talk to Her".

At this year's Cannes Film Festival, "Volver" took the honors for best screenplay and won best actress awards for all four female players: Penelope Cruz, Yohana Cobo, Lola Duenas and Carmen Maura.



EL EDITOR Have A Nice Day!

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Hispanic Students

(from Page One)

Karen Southerland Records System Manager for the Lubbock Police Department reported that from 2005 to date there have been 10 suicides in Lubbock, all over the age of 17. Three involved white males, 3 involved white females, 1 involved hispanic female and 3 involved hispanic males.

Questionnaires for the national survey go to students in grades 9-12 in public and private high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Researchers got parental permission for each student who participated.

Adolescents cannot always be counted on to tell the truth about their sexual exploits, drug use, or other risky behaviors. But officials took many steps to ensure accurate responses, said Howell Wechsler, the director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health.

Participation was confidential, kids were spaced apart when answering the questions, teachers did not hover, and the questionnaire was designed so everyone would finish at about the same time — no matter how risky or safe their behavior, Wechsler said.

"We have every confidence if there's any lying going on, it's extremely negligible," he said.

The report contained revealed that the percentage of students who said they had smoked in the last month rose slightly — 23 percent, up from about 22 percent in 2003. Also, there was no decline in the percentage of students who said they'd had sexual intercourse, which held steady at 47 percent, or in the percentage of sexually active students who said they'd used a condom, which was 63 percent.

However, it's the first time in 14 years that condom use among sexually active high school students has not risen, noted Martha Kempner, spokeswoman

for the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, a New York-based nonprofit group.

"It calls into question the federal government's investment in abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, many of which openly discourage condom use," she said.

Black students reported the most sexual activity, the most TV-watching and the highest use of video or computer games. White kids were the most frequent smokers and heavy drinkers, and were worst about eating enough fruits and vegetables.

But Hispanic students had other problems.

About 36 percent of Hispanics reported prolonged feelings of sadness or hopelessness, slightly higher than previous years.

In contrast, about 28.5 percent of black students reported such feelings in the 2005 survey, about the same as two previous surveys. And about 26 percent of white students reported such feelings, down slightly from 2003 and 2001.

In the category of drug use, 1 in 8 Latino students said they had done cocaine, 1 in 10 had done ecstasy, 1 in 11 methamphetamines and 1 in 28 heroin.

Hispanics reported much higher rates of drug use in previous surveys, and that hasn't changed. The enduring disparity is concerning, said Flores, director of the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children.

He noted that substance abuse is higher in Hispanic kids who are more at home with American culture.

"It's unclear why that is, but we need to understand that better because then we can learn how we can protect all of our youth," he said.

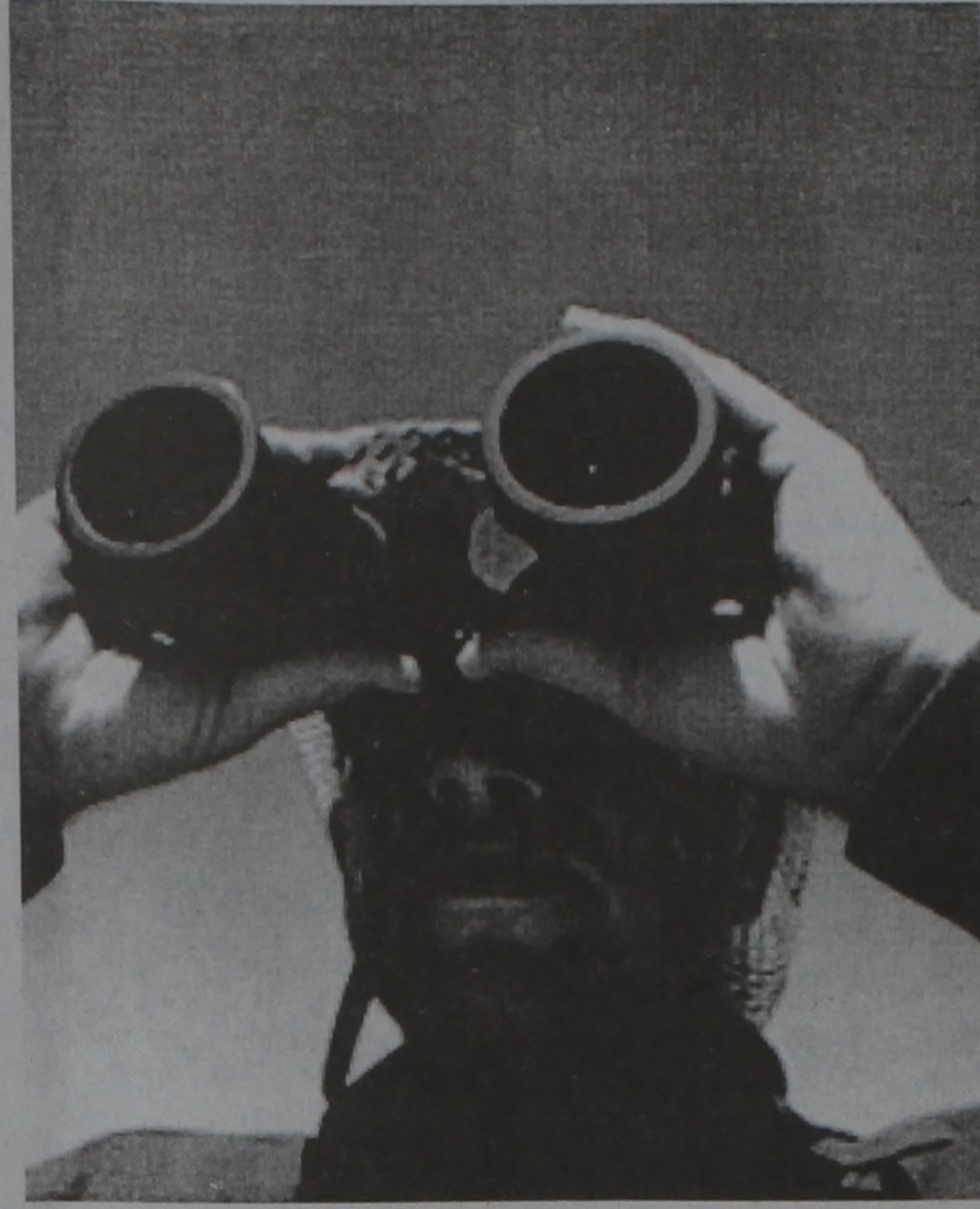
Volunteers Plan to Man Texas Border

Hundreds of volunteers plan to keep watch over the Texas-Mexico border near Laredo beginning Sept. 11, aiding the U.S. Border Patrol's effort to stop illegal immigration.

The eight-week "Operation Sovereignty", to begin on the fifth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks and end on Election Day, Nov. 7, is meant to "bring national awareness to the undocumented alien invasion crisis," said Minuteman Project founder Jim Gilchrist.

Texas Minutemen president Shannon McGauley said he expects anywhere from 800 to 2,000 attendees. The American Border Patrol of Arizona, another volunteer group, also will participate, Gilchrist said.

The Minuteman Project is different from the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, which also patrols the border and reports undocu-



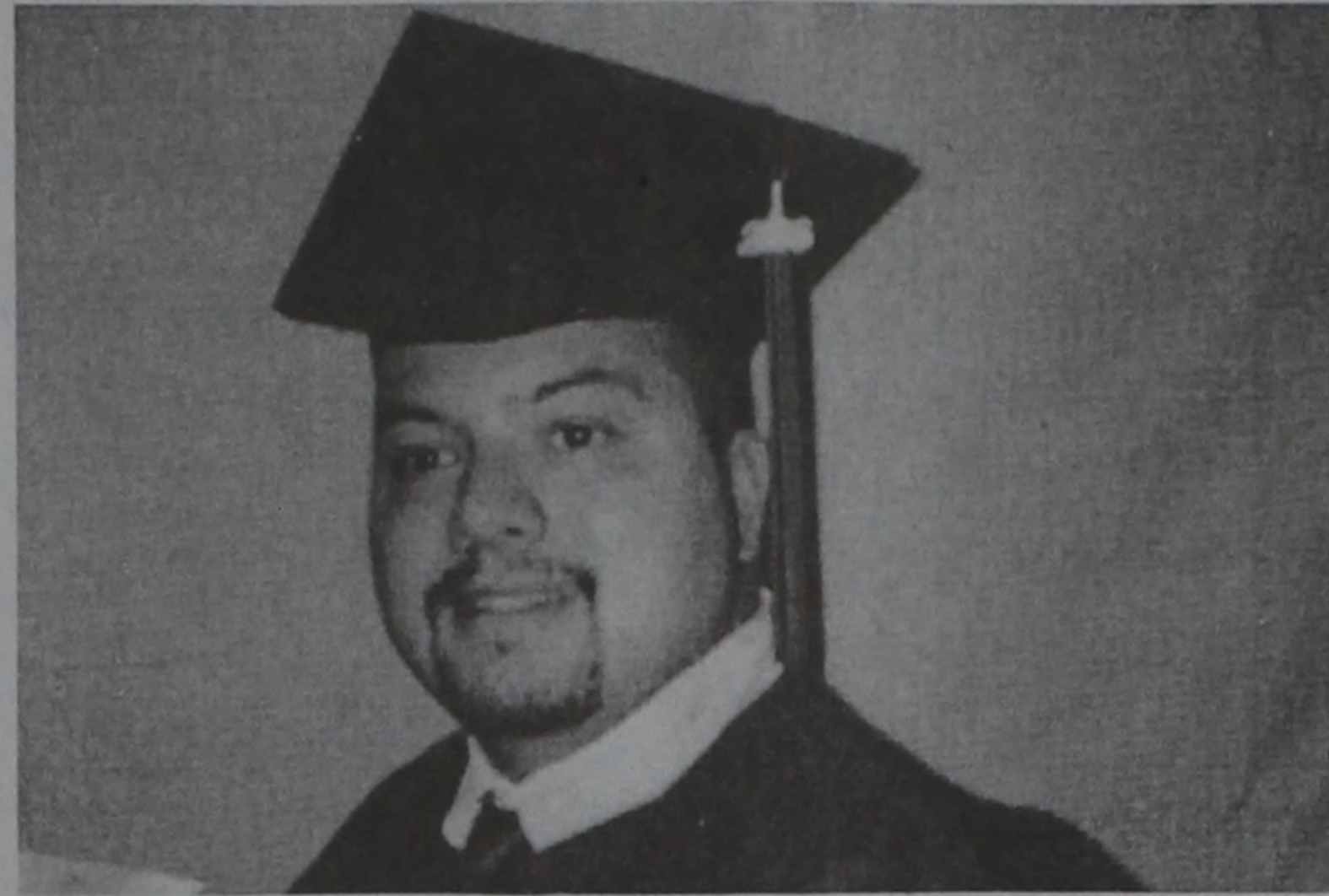
mented immigrants to authorities.

The Minuteman Project has a policy of "passive ac-

tivity," and McGauley said the volunteers will only report undocumented immigrant sightings to the Border Patrol and will not approach border crossers or interfere with officers.

Reynaldo Garza, acting chief patrol agent for the Laredo border sector, said Minuteman patrols have aided in immigrant arrests in the past. He added that the most important communication with the Border Patrol is that "we know where they are, and they know where we are."

"We depend on them to pass information on to us, and that's what the Minutemen will be doing," Garza said.



Daniel Lee Valderaz name was incorrect in last week's paper. He is a graduate from Texas Tech with a BA in Biology and Science. He plans to continue his education at Tech to possibly become a nurse practitioner. Congratulations from all his family.

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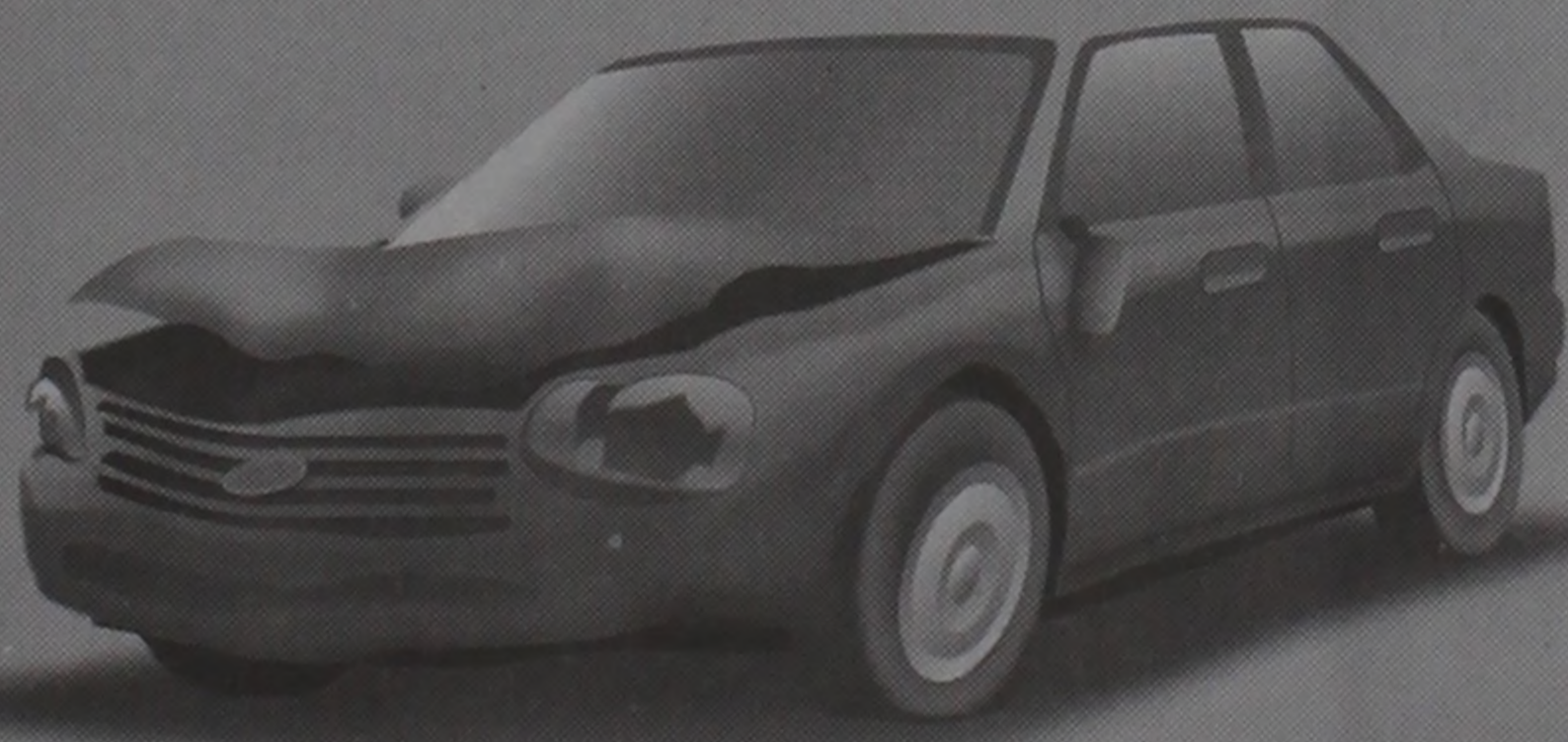
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Lawmakers wants limits on contributions waived

A Texas congressman wants limits on campaign contributions waived for some of his donors now that his district was declared unconstitutional and his primary voided.

U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, is seeking his eighth term in a competitive Nov. 7 special election that already has drawn two Democratic challengers. His re-election in District 23 became less certain in June

when the Supreme Court ruled the 2003 Legislature violated Hispanics' voting rights when it redrew his district.

Donors can give a maximum \$2,100 per election and some of Bonilla's donors had already reached that limit. But Bonilla says tallies should be restarted as though the donors who've given the maximum had never given him any money. The Federal Election Com-

mission scheduled a meeting Aug. 29 to consider his question.

"You have to start the counting over again because what the court order does, it makes the results of the primary election null and void and creates a whole new election in November," said Jan Baran, Bonilla's attorney.

Bonilla reported to the FEC he had \$2.24 million cash on hand at the end of

June. Bonilla's opponents are far behind him in money raising.

Rick Bolanos of El Paso, who won the Democratic primary, had about \$3,800 cash on hand at the end of June. Former U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez of San Antonio had a campaign debt of \$80,000 at that time, although he has said it has been reduced to \$7,000. Filing date for the special elections ends Friday.

Attorneys for Bonilla say the FEC has waived limits before, when Texas held special elections in 13 districts that were redrawn by a federal court after March primaries. In that case, the FEC decided donors could contribute in the special election under separate contribution limits, the attorneys argue.

A decision in Bonilla's favor also would apply to candidates in four other Texas districts that were altered as a

result of the Supreme Court decision. Each also have special elections Nov. 7, the same day as the general election. Runoffs among the top two vote-getters also are possible in December if no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote.

Rodriguez spokeswoman Gina Castaneda criticized Bonilla for wanting the additional fundraising flexibility.

"He's just trying to load his campaign war chest. I think he's expecting a big fight out of the Democrats and especially out of Ciro, and I really think he's running scared," Castaneda said.

Bolanos was equally critical of Bonilla's efforts, which he sees as tied to a fundraiser for Bonilla that included presidential adviser Karl Rove. The fundraiser occurred a day before Bonilla filed his request with the FEC.

"As if the \$2 million he already has isn't enough ... He doesn't need any more money," said Bolanos, who is conducting his own review of Bonilla's campaign finances.

Bonilla's campaign said the congressman will accept all he's entitled to have.

"Contributions are the mother's milk of politics, and as far as I'm concerned you can never have enough," said Phil Ricks, Bonilla's spokesman.

Calderón es el ganador de las elecciones, dice Fox

Luego de que el presidente Vicente Fox afirmara que Felipe Calderón Hinojosa fue el ganador de las pasadas elecciones presidenciales, la dirigencia del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) advirtió que no permitirá la imposición del candidato panista y, para impedirlo, amenazó con mayores movilizaciones.

"Se mantiene firme la decisión de evitar, y en su caso combatir la imposición de Felipe Calderón, no nos quedaremos con los brazos cruzados", declaró Leonel Cota, líder nacional del perredismo.

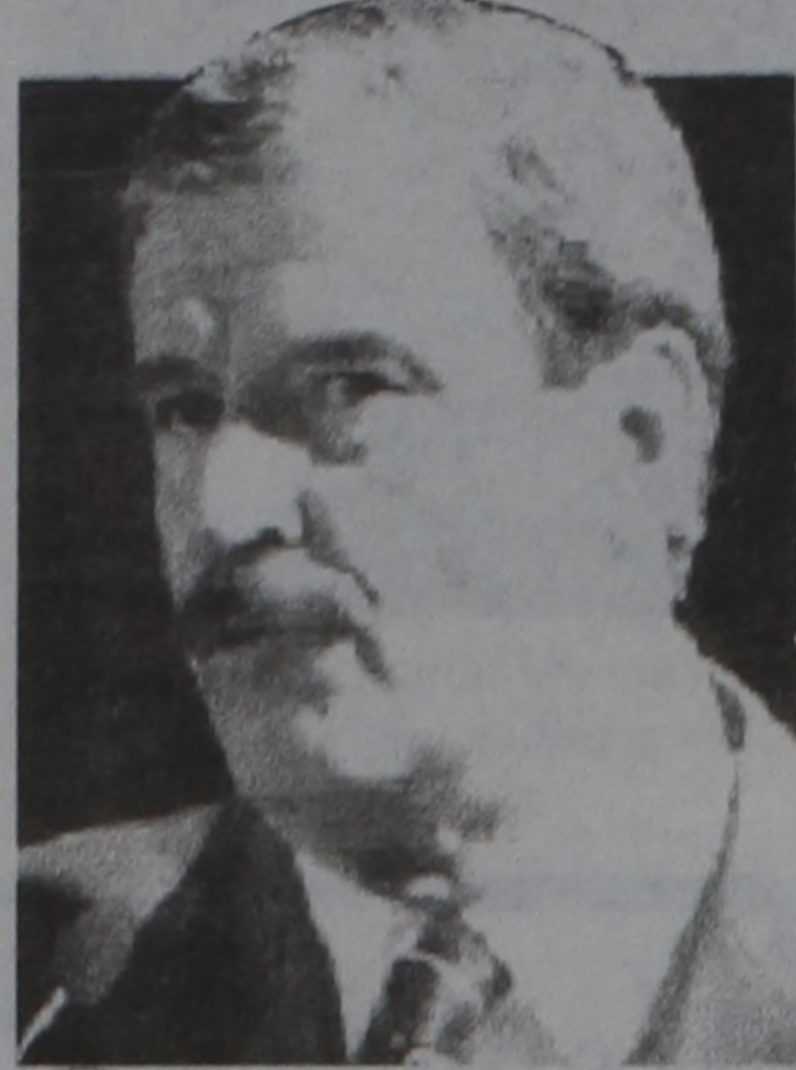
Reiteró que "de consumarse la imposición nos vamos a movilizar al lugar en que se pretende entregar la constancia de mayoría (de votos)", con el propósito de evitar que se nombre Presidente de la República al candidato del Partido Acción Nacional (PAN).

Dejó en claro: que ahora menos que nunca "no vamos a modificar una sola línea de la resistencia que mantiene la coalición Por el Bien de Todos, en demanda de la transparencia de la elección presidencial".

Cota hizo hincapié en que de ser impuesto en la titularidad del Poder Ejecutivo del país, definitivamente el aspirante presidencial del 'blanquiazul' "no podrá desarrollar un gobierno en bien de los ciudadanos, sino en beneficio de la oligarquía que ha saqueado a este país".

El tono de la manifestación del dirigente perredista se produjo después de que presidente Fox desestimara el conflicto postelectoral y expresara que en los comicios del pasado 2 de julio hubo "un ganador claro, el señor Felipe Calderón".

En una entrevista con periodistas alemanes, el primer mandatario también acotó que aunque el abanderado del



PAN ha sido el "claro" triunfador, todavía "hay una última etapa del proceso, que es la oportunidad para los candidatos y los partidos para presentar impugnaciones".

Reiteró su convicción de que "las instituciones electorales del país están probando su fortaleza" y apuntaló que, pese a las impugnaciones presentadas por un candidato y su partido: "van a salir airoas, van a salir exitosas, porque tienen esa experiencia, porque tienen esa fortaleza y esa capacidad". Sobre los plantones que los militantes de la coalición Por el Bien de Todos mantienen en la capital mexicana, Fox los subestimó: "Lo que estamos viendo aquí, en la Ciudad de México (los bloqueos en Reforma), es una situación

totalmente local".

De inmediato, Cota, líder del PRD, replicó que su partido no permitirá que se repita el escenario de 1988, cuando supuestamente se les arrebató el triunfo electoral. También criticó el pronunciamiento de Fox porque "esa intervención nos indica que ha habido decisiones externas que pueden constituir un riesgo a la gobernabilidad del país".

Lamentó las declaraciones del jefe de la Nación, por considerar que México pasa por "uno de los momentos más relevantes y dramáticos de su historia" debido a que persiste una crisis político-electoral "gravísima", derivada de "la decisión de un grupo de poder para impedir que el perredismo dirija el destino del país".

Al reclamo de Cota se unió, por separado, el de Virgilio Andrade, consejero del IFE, quien recordó a Fox que "la única institución que declara presidente electo en México es el Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación".

De forma breve, puntualizó a la prensa que de acuerdo con lo que establecen la Constitución y las leyes electorales, sólo esa autoridad puede calificar las votaciones y nombrar al ganador de las

mismas.

Siete magistrados que integran el TEPJF se encuentran en etapa de revisión de las impugnaciones presentadas por los partidos políticos. Se espera que antes del 31 del presente mes validen o anulen los comicios, total o parcialmente. Cuentan también hasta el próximo 6 de septiembre para dar a conocer al próximo presidente de México. En medio de este conflicto postelectoral, el presidente Fox expresó ayer: "hoy más que nunca debemos mantener la unidad nacional, hacer a un lado la ambición y los intereses personales y anteponer los más altos intereses de la República", y por tanto llamó a los mexicanos: "cerremos el paso a quienes pretenden dividirnos. La reforma de las instituciones no pasa por la violencia, las amenazas o el chantaje; pasa por el diálogo y la negociación constructiva, [del mismo modo que] la democracia no pasa por la convocatoria de los caudillos que sostienen posiciones conservadoras y autoritarias fijas en el pasado, pasa por un pensamiento de avanzada, pasa por la certeza que dan las leyes y las instituciones". Durante una visita a Mérida, Yucatán, reducto

panista, apuntó: "la sociedad rechaza las soluciones extremistas, las visiones mesiánicas o apocalípticas propias de una cultura política del pasado. Los mexicanos queremos mantener la estabilidad, el orden y la concordia, eso es lo que nos garantiza un futuro de justicia y equidad", e insistió en que la mayoría demanda a los políticos diálogo, respeto a la ley y capacidad para llegar a acuerdos, y que por ello todos, sin excepción, están obligados a escuchar y a respetar ese mandato del pueblo". La noche anterior, López Obrador, en la asamblea permanente, dijo que no debería extrañar que el país esté dividido en dos bloques.

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