

Week of December 16 through December 22, 2004

The study also noted a

limited to a handful of topics, topped by

immigration with 30 stories. There were a

dozen Hispanic-related stories on election

poorly represented in on-air reporting and

anchor jobs, and that Hispanics rarely were

included in stories not specifically about the

CNN had the most Hispanic coverage

minutes, followed by CBS with 30 stories or

with 47 stories that added up to nearly 90

slightly more than 48 minutes in Hispanic

ABC was the only network with a

decline in coverage, from 35 stories in 2002

to 27 in 2003. Weekend calls seeking ABC

The study relied on Vanderbilt

Other networks, including Fox and

University's Television News Archives.

MSNBC, were omitted from the study

because they are not part of the archives.

comment were not returned.

The study also found that Hispanics are

politics and 11 on celebrities.

ethnic group.

coverage.

Lubbock, TX USA

Lic Benito Juarez

"El Respeto al Derecho

Ajeno es la Paz"

Hispanics Ignored by Networks

merica's largest and fastest-grow ing minority remains mostly ignored, according to an annual study being released Monday.

VOL. XXVIII No. 12

"Network Brownout 2003," prepared for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and being released Monday, examined more than 16,000 stories that were on the nightly newscasts of ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN.

A Border Christmas Red Poinsettias and Green Chiles

By Elisa A. Martinez

We have to assume a shared past experience in order to be able to transmit it to others. — Jorge Luis Borges

The aromas and colors of Christmas are in the air. I stopped by the grocery store very early in the morning and green chile was being roasted in the parking lot.

The beautiful earthy smell made my mouth water as I walked in. The hot roasted chile was piled high in a metal bin. With a pair of tongs I filled two big plastic bags that immediately steamed over. I'll use it to stuff some of the Christmas tamales with chile and asadero cheese.

Immediately as you step into the store there's a colorful display of the many foods and spices needed for the holidays. Piled high are cellophane packages with corn shucks and red chile pods and little blue packages of lard next to baskets full of piloncillo(and spices.Comino. anís, coconut, biznaga, raisins and bars of

In the meat section next to the smoked hams and the turkeys sit the pork roasts. The pork will be cut and seasoned to fill the other batch of tamales.

The employees in the tortillerias are bracing themselves for the long lines of customers that will begin to queue up super-early in the cold mornings to buy masa. I look forward to standing in line bundled in my warmest clothes, chatting with so many strangers as the warm breath from my mouth jets into the chilly air to form little clouds.

They sell hundreds of pounds of the specially prepared dough every day.

This masa will also be used for making champurrado, a thick delicious hot drink made from corn masa, brown sugar

(piloncillo) and chocolate. No low carb for these days.

The church is ready, too. The advent wreath has been lit. There are four candles. One is lit on each of the four

Sundays before Christmas. Red is everywhere. The altar is covered with poinsettias. They blend with the tri-colored Mexican flag and the red roses that will be the background for the festivity of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th of December.

I remember practicing in the choir loft as my mother and grandmother, together with the ladies of the altar society, worked to prepare the church for the posadas.

The posadas begin before Christmas Eve. For nine days Mary and Joseph ask for a place to rest. They are rebuked until finally they are received warmly on the last day in preparation for the birth of the baby Jesus. The music of the posadas is traditional. The catchy tune and words are taught to all the children.

Noche de Paz, noche de amor. Silent night. Holy night. I can never forget the guitars that played that night in the corridor of the hospital on the 21st of December as my mother died peacefully.

My house is full again. They are all home for the holidays. They arrive with abrazos and gifts to be set under the Christmas tree adorned with ornaments that have lasted through two generations. Each one holds a special recuerdo. Jackets are piled high on the coat rack. The house smells of pine and good food.

Christmas, the occasion that once again brings the family together. From the oldest to the youngest, we share in this beautiful season with our family of ghosts that wander through our memories. May your navidad be as joyous as ours.



or 0.75%, in 2002. decline in the number of crime Of 639 hours of stories about Hispanics, from 47 in 2002 to 27 in 2003. news, four hours, or 0.63%, were given over to Hispanic stories, In general, coverage of Hispanics was

the study found. Hispanics make up nearly 14% of the U.S. population.

ics, compared to 120,

"The lack of coverage and airtime devoted to Latino stories remained dismal and Latinos continued to be covered within a narrow range of topics such as immigration and crime," the study said.

There was an increase in favorable reports on Hispanics as shown by a measurement of human interest stories about the ethnic group: 15 such stories aired in 2003, compared to three the year before.

"Many of these stories profiled the service and sacrifice by Latino soldiers," according to the study, headed by media analyst Federico Subervi.

Several stories profiled Marine Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, who was among the first to die in Iraq and was posthumously granted citizenship, the study noted.

Repudian la idea de sellar la frontera desde México

Una iniciativa que otorgaría el poder al gobierno de México de impedir el cruce de los inmigrantes hacia Estados Unidos por zonas catalogadas como "corredores de la muerte", desató el repudio total de organizaciones de derechos humanos de ambos lados de la frontera.

Esto pese a los argumentos del senador Héctor Osuna Jaime, autor que introdujo recientemente en el Congreso de México la controversial iniciativa, de que dicha reforma a la Ley General de Población es necesaria para evitar que continúen aumentando las muertes de los migrantes en su intento por cruzar la frontera.

"Estoy consciente de que se van a dar muchas críticas, pero esto no es más que una solución a corto plazo para evitar más muertes, no podemos exigir que el gobierno de Estados Unidos respete los derechos de los migrantes cuando nosotros como gobierno no hacemos algo para salvar sus vidas", dijo vía telefónica a La Opinión desde la sala de reuniones del Senado de la República.

El representante del estado de Baja California Norte y uno de los funcionarios de más alto rango dentro del Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN) dijo sentirse confiado en que sus colegas de las diferentes fracciones de los partidos políticos entenderán el razonamiento detrás de la petición.

"Se encuentra en comisiones, después ira al grupo parlamentario, espero que para febrero o marzo sea considerada ya que quisiera que se implementase antes de que llegue el verano y las altas temperaturas y con ello las muertes", dijo refiriéndose a los cientos de migrantes que pierden su vida año con año ya sea por deshidratación en verano o de frío en invierno.

La iniciativa establece que, "los estados y municipios del país, así como con el auxilio de la Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional, del Sistema del Instituto Nacional de Migración, la Secretaría de Gobernación tiene la facultad de vigilar y cerrar de manera permanente el tránsito en aquellas zonas fronterizas que previamente haya determinado como de alto riesgo para la integridad física y la vida de las personas".

Además de por motivos de integridad física de los migrantes, Osuna Jaime afirmó que el cierre permanente de los "corredores de la muerte" las 24 horas del día, los 365 días del año también responde a cuestiones de seguridad nacional.

"El crimen organizado es un problema que atenta contra la seguridad nacional, atenta contra muchas cosas, un tema tan importante que se ha tomado a la ligera, lo que se busca es que los mexicanos no mueran desamparados de la protección de su gobierno".

"Creo que es una iniciativa arriesgada porque va contra los tabús que existen, y no faltará quien diga que no se puede por la Constitución impedir el libre tránsito", añadió el que fuera alcalde de la ciudad de Tijuana de 1992 al 95.

"Vamos a estar cabildeando con las otras fracciones de partidos para pedirles que tengan cuidado con lo que intenta esta iniciativa y dejarles saber que perjudicaría los derechos humanos de los ciudadanos, además de que es totalmente absurda, ya que si se cierran algunos puntos de la muerte, se abrirían otros, eso ya lo sabemos por experiencia", dijo José Mena, presidente de la Coalición Pro Defensa del Migrante de Baja California.

For Right Now

Immigrant Rights Leaders Breathe Easy By Sonia Meléndez

hat several anti-immi grant provisions were removed from the House version of the 9/11 intelligence bill approved during Congress' December special session is good news for Hispanics

and immigration reform advo-

cates — at least for now.

The compromise bill, the biggest overhaul of U.S. intelligence agencies in more than 50 years, passed the House, 336-75, on Dec. 7. The Senate adopted it, 89-2, a day later. The legislation following breakthrough negotiations led by President Bush and 9/11 Commission members in the final days of the 108th Congress.

Anti-immigrant provisions stripped from the final bill included driver's license restrictions and what advocates felt would have led to excessive border security, deportation and asylum laws.

While immigrant rights leaders called the vote a victory, they expect new anti-immigrant legislation to be introduced in the 109th Congress soon after it convenes in January.

Opponents of the modified bill included Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), House Armed Services Committee chairman, and Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.), House immigration subcommittee chairman. They have vowed to tackle the immigration issue. at the beginning of next year.



In earlier proceedings, Sensenbrenner helped block a House vote because some of the immigrant and border security provisions had been removed.

Sensenbrenner blamed the Senate for failing to include a driver's license provision that he is claiming was needed to keep the country safe.

"We are under no illusion that this has gone away forever," Christina DeConcini, director of policy at the National Immigration Forum, told Hispanic Link.

However, observing that the majority of House and Senate members rejected "antiimmigrant" provisions not connected with

making our country safer, she added, "We are hoping to see forward-thinking legislation in the next Congress that will focus on what is really needed, which is reform of our broken immigration system and comprehensive immigration reform."

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), who took part in the 9/11 negotiation proceedings, said she is quite satisfied by the bill.

"The final text of the 9/11 legislation maintains a balance between national security and the legal rights and process of immigration.

"I profoundly thank President Bush and his Cabinet for their efforts in ensuring

these changes," she commented.

Michele Waslin, senior immigration policy analyst for the National Council of La Raza, said the anti-immigrant proposals are part of a long-term agenda by Republican right-wing House members.

She predicted that another provision supporting a national identification system will be re-introduced which will specifically target immigrants and their legal status.

Rick Oltman, western field director for the immigration restriction group Federation for American Immigration Reform, questioned Congress' decision to remove the immigrant and border security measures.

He said he is not very optimistic that stricter immigration measures will be passed next year.

"If it wasn't important enough to pass it in this bill that contains the 9/11 Commission recommendations, then why would it be important enough to pass it next year?" he said. (Sonia Meléndez is a reporter with His-

panic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. She may be contacted by e-mail at soniam@hispaniclink.org.)

Don't Miss Our SPECIAL Christmas Edition Next Week

Dirigentes Pro Derechos del Inmigrante Dan un Suspiro de Alivio - Por ahora

Por Sonia Meléndez

Que se eliminaron varias provisiones antiinmigrantes de la versión de la Cámara de Representantes del proyecto de ley sobre inteligencia aprobado durante la sesión especial del Congreso en diciembre es buen augurio para los hispanos y los que abogan por la reforma de las leyes de inmigración por lo menos por ahora.

El proyecto, una concesión, representa la mayor reforma de las agencias estadounidenses de inteligencia en más de 50 años, lo aprobó la Cámara, 336 a 75, el 7 de diciembre. El Senado lo adoptó, 89 a 2, un día más tarde. La legislación llegó en pos de negociaciones sin precedentes dirigidas por el presidente Bush y miembros de la comisión del 11 de septiembre durante los últimos días del Congreso 108.

Las provisiones anti-inmigrante retiradas del proyecto final incluyeron restricciones sobre las licencias de conducir y lo que los abogados pensaban hubiera llevado a medidas de seguridad excesivas, la deportación y leyes de asilo.

Si bien los dirigentes pro derechos del inmigrante cantan victoria, están a la espera

de la introducción de nueva legislación antiinmigrante durante el Congreso 109, al volver a reunirse en enero.

Los opositores al proyecto modificado incluyen el representante republicano por California, Duncan Hunter, jefe del Comité de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Cámara, y representante republican por Wisconsin, F. James Sesenbrenner, el jefe del Subcomité sobre Inmigración de la Cámara. Han prometido dar frente al tema de inmigración a comienzos del año.

Durante procedimientos anteriores, Sesenbrenner ayudó a arrestar un voto de la Cámara por lo que se habían eliminado algunas provisiones sobre inmigración y la seguridad fronteriza.

Sensenbrenner le echó la culpa al Senado por no incluir una provisión sobre las licencias de conducir que él dice se necesitaba para mantener seguro el país.

"No tenemos ninguna ilusión que esto haya desaparecido por siempre", le dijo a Hispanic Link Christina DeConcini, directora de politicas del Foro Nacional sobre la Inmigración.

No obstante, al observar que la mayoría

de los miembros de la Cámara y del Senado rechazó provisiones "anti-inmigrantes" que no tenían conexión con hacer más seguro nuestro país, agregó que "Esperamos ver legislación progresista durante el próximo Congreso que tenga un enfoque sobre lo que realmente se necesita, que es la reforma de nuestro malogrado sistema de inmigración y una reforma comprehensiva de las leyes de inmigración".

La representante republicana por Florida, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, quien formó parte de las negociaciones durante los procedimientos sobre el 11 de septiembre, dijo que ha quedado bastante satisfecha con el resultante proyecto de ley.

"El texto final de la legislación del 11 de septiembre mantiene el equilibrio entre la seguridad nacional y los derechos legales y el proceso de la inmigración.

"Le doy mi profundo agradecimiento al presidente Bush y su gabinete por su esfuerzo por asegurar estos cambios", comentó.

Michele Waslin, analista principal de políticas de inmigración para el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, dijo que las

propuestas anti-inmigrantes son parte de una agenda a largo plazo ideado por los miembros republicanos de derechas de la Cámara de Representantes.

Waslin proyectó que se volverá a introducir otra provisión que apoya un sistema de identificación nacional, la cual tendrá como blanco específico los inmigrantes y su estado legal.

Rick Oltman, director de campo occidental del grupo pro restricción a la inmigración, Federation for American Immigration Reform, cuestionó la decisión del Congreso por eliminar las medidas de seguridad de inmigración y la frontera.

Dijo que no siente mucho optimismo que se aprueben medidas más restrictivas contra la inmigración el próximo año.

"Si no fue lo suficientemente importante para aprobarlo con este proyecto de ley que contiene recomendaciones de la Comisión del 11 de septiembre, ¿por qué tendría que cobrar suficiente importancia el próximo año?" preguntó.

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The Year 2006 Could Double Latino Numbers in U.S. Senate

By Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Two Latino congressmen who just completed their sixth terms in the U.S. House of Representatives have positive prospects to join the U.S. Senate within the next two years.

That's the talk on Capitol Hill. Bob Menéndez, a Cuban-American Democrat from New Jersey, and Henry Bonilla, a Mexican-American Republican from Texas, nearly share the same birthdays. Menéndez was born Jan. 1, 1954, in New York City; Bonilla was born the same year just a day

later in San Antonio. By another coincidence, they may share some political good fortune come November 2006.

Each is serving in a state where the incumbent senator may soon vacate his or her seat.

Menéndez, the House Democratic Caucus chairman, is considered a front-runner to replace a fellow Democrat, Sen. Jon Corzine, who announced Dec. 2 that he will run for governor of the Garden State next year.

Bonilla is being mentioned as a successor to fellow Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison if she runs for governor of Texas in 2006, as speculation has it. And he doesn't deny he's tempted.

If Corzine wins the New Jersey race to replace James McGreevey, who announced his resignation Aug. 12 after revealing he was gay, he would appoint a replacement to

complete the final year of his Senate term. If he loses, he would remain in the Congress until 2006, when he is up for reelection. Corzine has yet to choose a successor and Menéndez has yet to endorse Corzine for governor.

According to analyst Jennifer Duffy, managing editor of the respected Cook Political Report, Menéndez as the Senate pick makes sense. "He is known in the northern part of the state and is in the House leadership," she says.

Last month Menéndez was reelected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, a post he has held since 2002.

Rodolfo de la Garza, a political science professor at Columbia University, told Hispanic Link, "Menéndez has distinguished himself as a congressman. He is one of the best in the House of Representatives."

As a member of the 9/11 conference committee charged this month with settling differences between the House and Senate versions of the intelligence bill, Menéndez successfully fought against the insertion of immigration provisions unrelated to the 9/11 panel recommendations in the bill's final version.

The Senate door may also open for Rep. Henry Bonilla if Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison chooses, as speculated, to run for

governor of the Lone Star state in 2006. A Texas poll completed Dec. 2 showed her a 2-1 choice over incumbent Gov. Rick Perry.

"Most if not all members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference would be supportive of Representative Bonilla running for Senate if he so chooses," CHC spokesperson Mario López told Hispanic Link. "He has done a lot of good work in the House and it would be nice to see another Hispanic in the Senate."

After a void of more than three decades, two Hispanics, Democrat Ken Salazar, a Mexican American from Colorado, and Mel Martínez, a Republican from Florida, won Senate seats Nov. 2.

Last month Bonilla received considerable attention for successfully proposing House rule changes to ensure Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) would not be forced to step down if DeLay is indicted in an ongoing probe. DeLay is under grand jury investigation on charges of money laundering and illegal fundraising. The House Republican Conference approved the rule last month.

De la Garza calls Bonilla's proposal of the rule "shameful," contending, "He is allowing himself to be used because of the gains he will get. He has no record of defending Latino or working class interests.'

However, de la Garza is quick to add that because Republicans dominate the state and because of

Bonilla's heightened profile, he is in a good position for the Senate race.

Henry Flores, a political science professor at Texas' St. Mary's University, agrees. "He has a very good chance because he has the backing of the Republican establishment. He'll have a lot of money and support."

Ironically, if Bonilla does run, his support will likely be strongest outside the Hispanic community. Two years ago he won re-election against Democrat Henry Cuéllar with barely 50 percent of the vote in a district that is nearly 60 percent Latino. "He's won with the support of Anglos in the north," says Flores.

The lack of Latino support stems from a variety of factors. Bonilla doesn't support public policy positions that resonate well with Latinos," says Flores, attributing that to the political relationships he has with the conservative party members of the state.

In 2004, Bonilla won reelection handily with 69% of the overall vote against less formidable opposition than Cuéllar. Cuéllar, who served two terms as Texas Secretary of State, defeated incumbent Democrat Ciro Rodríguez in the primaries and went on to win the seat handily in November.

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Letter to the Red States

Author Unknown

Sorry, I try not to deluge people with my ramblings. But I had to write this and, having written it, had to send it. Even though I don't know anyone I can send it to (without alienating my Republican in-laws, who are the only "middle country" people I know.)

I am writing this letter to the people in the red states in the middle of the country -- the people who voted for George W. Bush. I am writing this letter because I don't think we know each other,

So I'll make an introduction. I am a New Yorker who voted for John Kerry. I used to live in California, and if I still lived there, I would vote for Kerry. I used to live in Washington, DC, and if I still lived there, I would vote for Kerry. Kerry won in all three of those regions.

Maybe you want to know more about me. Or maybe not; maybe you think you know me already. You think I am some anti-American anarchist because I dislike George W. Bush. You think that I am immoral and anti-family, because I support women's reproductive freedom and gay rights. You think that I am dangerous, and even evil, because I do not abide by your religious beliefs.

Maybe you are content to think that, to write me off as a "liberal" -- the dreaded "L" word - and rejoice that your candidate has triumphed over evil, immoral, anti-American, anti-family people like me. But maybe you are still curious. So here goes: this is who I am.

I am a New Yorker. I was here, in my apartment downtown, on September 11th. I watched the Towers burn from the roof of my building. I went inside so that I couldn't see them when they fell. I had friends who were inside. I have a friend who still has nightmares about watching people jump and fall from the Towers. He will never be the same. How many people like him do you know? People that can't sit in a restaurant without plotting an escape route, in case it blows up?

I am a worker. I work across the street from the Citigroup Center, which the government told us is a "target" of terrorism. Later, we found out they were relaying very old information, but it was already too late. They had given me bad dreams again. The subway stop near my office was crowded with bomb-sniffing dogs, policemen in heavy protective gear, soldiers. Now, every time I enter or exit my office, all of my possessions are X-rayed to make sure I don't have any weapons. How often are you stopped by a soldier with a bomb-sniffing dog outside your office?

I am a neighbor. I have a neighbor who is a 9/11 widow. She has two children. My husband does odd jobs for her now, like building bookshelves. Things her husband should do. He uses her husband's tools, and the two little girls tell him, "Those are our daddy's tools." How many 9/11 widows and orphans do you know? How often do you fill in for their dead loved ones?

I am a taxpayer. I worked my butt off to get where I did, and so did my parents. My parents saved and borrowed and sent me to college. I worked my way through graduate school. I won a full tuition scholarship to law school. All for the privilege of working 2,600 hours last year.

That works out to a 50 hour week, every week, without any vacation days at all. I get to work by 9 am and rarely leave before 9 pm. I eat dinner at my office much more often than I eat dinner at home. My husband and I paid over \$70,000 in federal income tax last year. At some point in the future, we will have to pay much more -- once this country faces its deficit and the impossible burden of Social Security.

In fact, the areas of the country that supported Kerry - New York, California, Illinois, Massachusetts -- they are the financial centers of the nation. They are the tax base of this country. How much did you pay, Kansas? How much did you contribute to this government you support, Alabama? How much of this war in Iraq did you pay for?

I am a liberal. The funny part is, liberals have this reputation for living in Never-Neverland, being idealists, not being sensible. But let me tell you how I see the world: I see America as one nation in a world of nations. Therefore, I think we should try to get along with other nations. I see that gay people exist. Therefore, I think they should be allowed to exist, and be treated the same as other people. I see ways in which women are not allowed to control their own bodies. Therefore, I think we should give women more control over their bodies. I see that people have awful diseases. Therefore, I think we should enable scientists to try to cure them. I see that we have a Constitution.

Therefore, I think it should be upheld. I see that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Therefore, I think that Iraq was not an imminent danger to me. It seems so pragmatic to me. How do you see the world? Do you really think voting against gay marriage will keep people from being gay? Would you really prefer that people continue to die from Parkinson's disease? Do you really not care about the Constitutional rights of political detainees? Would you really have supported the war if you knew the truth, or would you have wanted to spend more of our money on health care, job training, terrorism preparedness?

I am an American. I have an American flag flying outside my home. I love my home more than anything. I love that I grew up right outside New York City. I first went to the Statue of Liberty with my 5th grade class, and my mom and dad took me to the Empire State Building when I was 8. I love taking the subway to Yankee Stadium. I loved living in Washington DC and going on dates to the Lincoln Memorial. It is because I love this country so much that I argue with my political opponents as much I do.

I am not safe. I never feel safe. My in-laws live in a small town in Ohio, and that town has received more federal funding, per capita, for terrorism preparedness than New York City has. I take subways and buses every day. I work in a skyscraper across the street from a "target." I have emergency supplies and a spare pair of sneakers in my desk, in case something happens while I'm at work. Do you? How many times a month do you worry that your subway is going to blow up? When you hear sirens on the street, do you run to the window to make sure everything is okay? When you hear an airplane, do you flinch? Do you dread beautiful, blue-skied September days? I don't know a single New Yorker who doesn't spend the month of September on tip-toes, superstitiously praying for rain so we don't have to relive that beautiful, blue-skied day.

I am lonely. I feel that we, as a nation, have alienated all our friends and further provoked our enemies. I feel unprotected. Most of all I feel alienated from my fellow citizens, because I don't understand what you are thinking. You voted for a man who started a war in Iraq for no reason, against the wishes of the entire world. You voted for a man whose lack of foresight and inability to plan has led to massive insurgencies in Iraq, where weapons are disappearing into the hands of terrorists. You voted for a man who let Osama Bin Laden escape into the hills of Afghanistan so that he could start that war in Iraq. You voted for a man who doesn't want to let people love who they want to love; doesn't want to let doctors cure their patients; doesn't want to let women rule their destinies. I don't understand why you voted for this man. For me, it is not enough that he is personable; it is not enough that he seems like one of the guys. Why did you vote for him? Why did you elect a man that lied to us in order to convince us to go to war? (Ten years ago you were incensed when our president lied about his sex life; you thought it was an impeachable offense.) Why did you elect a leader who thinks that strength cannot include diplomacy or international cooperaton? Why did you elect a man who did nothing except run away and hide on September 11?

Most of all, I am terrified. I mean daily, I am afraid that I will not survive this. I am afraid that I will lose my husband, that I will never have children, that I will never grow old and watch the sunset in a backyard of my own. I am afraid that my career -- which should end with a triumphant and good-natured roast at a retirement party in 2035-- will be cut short by an attack on me and my colleagues, as we sit sending emails and making phone calls one ordinary afternoon. Is your

life at stake? Are you terrified? I don't think you are. I don't think you realize what you have done. And if anything happens to me or the people I love, I blame you. I wanted you to know that.

Se Podrian Doblar los Numeros de Latinos en el Senado en 2006

Por Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Dos congresistas latinos que aca-ban de cumplir sus sextos términos en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados cuando le tocaría la re-elección. Corzine Unidos tienen buenos prospec-tos para unirse al Senado durante los próximos dos años.

Así dicen las voces del Capitolio. Bob Menéndez, demócrata cubano-

americano de Nueva Jersey, y Henry Bonilla, republicano mexicano americano de Texas, comparten prácticamente el mismo día de cumpleaños.

Menéndez nació el primero de enero de 1954 en la ciudad de Nueva York, mientras que Bonilla nació el mismo año, sólo un día después, en San Antonio.

Otra coincidencia los podrá permitir compartir la misma buena fortuna política en noviembre del 2006.

Cada uno se desempeña en un estado cuyo senador titular podrá pronto dejar su escaño. Menéndez, jefe del Caucus demó-

crata del Senado, se considera principal en la carrera por reemplazar a otro demócrata, el senador Joh Corzine, quien anunció el 2 de diciembre que se lanzará a la campaña por gobernador de Nueva Jersey el próximo año.

A Bonilla lo mencionan como sucesor de otra republicana, la senadora Kay Bailey Hutchison si decide lanzar- recomendaciones del panel del 11 de se a la campaña por gobernador de Texas en el 2006, como se especula. Y él no niega que está tentado.

Si Corzine gana la campaña en Nueva Jersey por reemplazar a James McGreevey, quien anunció que dimi-tiría el 12 de agosto tras admitir su homosexualidad, nombraría a un

reemplazo para completar el último año de su término en el Senado. Si perdiera, seguiria en el Congreso hasta el 2006, aún no ha seleccionado un sucesor y Menéndez tampoco ha concedido su apoyo a Corzine como gobernador.

Según analista Jennifer Duffy, editora administrativa del Cook Political Report, la opción de Menéndez para el Senado tiene sentido. "Se le conoce en la parte norte del estado y participa del liderazgo de la Cámara", explicó.

El mes pasado Menéndez fue reelegido como jefe del Caucus demócrata del Congreso, puesto que ha mantenido desde 2002.

Rodolfo de la Garza, profesor de ciencias políticas de la universidad de Columbia, dijo a Hispanic Link que, "Menéndez se ha distinguido como congresista. Es uno de los mejores en la Cámara de Representantes".

Como miembro del comité de conferencia del 11 de septiembre encargado este mes de resolver las diferencias entre las versiones de la Cámara y el Senado del proyecto de ley sobre las agencias de inteligencia, Menéndez luchó con éxito contra la inclusión de provisiones sobre la inmigración sin relación a las septiembre que se proponían para la versión final del proyecto de ley.

Puede que quede abierta la puerta del Senado para darle la bienvenida también al representante Henry Bonilla si, como se especula, la senadora Kay Bailey Hutchison decide lanzarse a la campaña por gobernadora de Texas en el 2006. Una encuesta realizada en Texas el 2 de diciembre señaló que ella gana 2 a 1 como selección sobre el titular Rick

"La mayoría, si no todos los miembros de la Conferencia Congresional Hispana (CHC por sus siglas en inglés) apoyaría la campaña del representante Bonilla si opta por lanzarse a la campaña por un escaño en el Senado", comentó vocero de la CHC Mario López a Hispanic Link. "Ha hecho muchas buenas obras en la Cámara y sería bueno ver a otro hispano en el Senado".

Tras un vacío de unas tres décadas, dos hispanos, demócrata Ken Salazar, mexicano-americano de Colorado, y Mel Martínez, republicano de la Florida, se hicieron con escaños en el Senado el 2 de noviembre.

El mes pasado a Bonilla le cayó considerable atención por proponer con éxito que hubiera cambios en la reglamentación de la Cámara para asegurar que el dirigente mayoritario, Tom DeLay (republicano de Texas) no se viera obligado a retirarse si lo encuentran culpable como resultado de una continua investigación. DeLay está bajo investigación realizada por el tribunal mayor por razones de lavado de dinero y recaudación ilegal de fondos. La reglamentación fue aprobada por la Conferencia Republicana de la Cámara el mes pasado.

Según De la Garza, la propuesta por cambiar la reglamentación de Bonilla es "vergonzosa", y alega que "El está permitiendo que lo utilicen por lo que ganará después. No tiene historial de defensa de los intereses latinos ni de la clase obrera".

No obstante, rápidamente agrega De

destacado de Bonilla, están en buena posición para lanzarse al Senado. Henry Flores, profesor de ciencias políticas de la Universidad de St. Mary,

la Garza que por lo que los repubicanos

dominan en el estado y por el perfil

en Texas, concuerda con esta aserveración. "Tiene muy buenas posibilidades porque tiene el apoyo del establecimiento republicano. Tendrá mucho dinero y apoyo".

Es irónico, pero si se lanza Bonilla, su mayor apoyo probablemente vendrá de allende de la comunidad hispana. Hace dos años ganó la re-elección contra el demócrata Henry Cuéllar con apenas 50 por ciento del voto en un distrito casi 60 por ciento latino. "Ha ganado con el apoyo de los anglos en el norte", dice

La falta de apoyo de parte de la comunidad latina se remonta a una variedad de factores. Bonilla no apoya posiciones de política pública que tengan resonancia con los latinos", explica Flores, al atribuir este hecho a las relaciones políticas que ha cultivado con los miembros del partido conservadores del estado.

En el año 2004, Bonilla ganó con facilidad la re-elección con el 69% del voto general contra oposición menos formidable que Cuéllar. Cuéllar, quien se desempeñó durante dos términos como secretario de estado de Texas, se vio victorioso sobre el titular demócrata Ciro Rodríguez en la votación primaria, para continuar y ganarse el escaño sin problemas en noviembre.

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Cartas al Editor

In response to the letter from "a Chicano Reader."

Chicano Reader states: liberals problems are they always ignore the facts.

Lets go over some of them. Chicano Reader claims that the Lubbock unemployment rate dropping below 3 % is being repeated nationwide.

A visit to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics website (a website being run by the Bushies) shows the unemployment rate in the U.S. currently stands at 5.4%. That is quite a discrepancy. A second visit to the Texas Workforce Commission website shows by end of Nov 04 the statewide unemployment rate (5.3 %) stood at one tenth of a point below the national rate.

Chicano Reader is right, there is a trend being repeated here. Chicano Reader also goes on to say the economy is "booming." Really? The U.S. Dept. of Labor website also says there were 112,000 jobs created last month (Nov 04) in this country. Hmm, sounds good right? Yes... until you realize the same site says 150,000 new jobs are required every month just to keep pace with population growth. I do believe that's a net loss of jobs for the month. Chicano Reader, this information is being put out by your administration. If someone is going to be a cheerleader or mouthpiece or rubber stamp for any particular group, belief, or idea; then, that person should back up those beliefs or ideas with facts.

Chicano Reader also says "Anarchist" and "American Haters" (which is code for liberals) call the terrorists misunderstood heroes. Who says that? Who in America let alone Lubbock has said that? My father served in the U.S. Army (Artillery) during WW II in Southeast Asia; I served in the Texas State Guard, and my son Served in the 82nd Airborne Division. Are me and my family American Haters? Why is it anyone who criticizes this administration or conservatives is automatically branded an American hater?

What did you do for your country? Sounds to me like something Chicano Reader heard on talk radio, either Limbaugh or Fox News and then repeated it. I'd like the readers to know a poll taken by The Program on International Policy Attitudes or the P.I.P.A.. shows Republicans i.e. Conservatives are more likely to be the most misinformed when it comes to issues dealing with Iraq and Al-Qaida. This is most true when Fox News is the source. 33 % of the people who use Fox as their primary news source say weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq. Sadly, no such weapons have been found. 67 % believe Saddam was working with or connected to Al-Qaida and the 9/11 attacks. No such link exists and in the 2nd Presidential debate Bush himself admitted -albeit- angrily that no evidence had been uncovered to support this connection.

C.R. (Chicano Reader) says Republicans promise to give us an opportunity. Again, Really? Why didn't he articulate what this opportunity might be, rather than keeping us in the dark? Have we not seen it even though unbeknownst to us it has either figuratively or literally fallen into our collective laps? I guess our liberal lenses tend to obscure the obvious.

C.R., you can pretend the same conservatives that made you and me sit in a certain part of a theater when we went to the movies, or kept us from

swimming at the public pool when we were kids, or refused to allow us entrance into their restaurants, or didn't allow us to date their sons and daughters, or join their clubs, or who sent Law Enforcement to Polling places on voting day to keep us and our kind from exercising our rights, are now the only ones who can be counted on to lead us out of the Barrio but not me. Well, let's just say I don,t share your particular brand of faith. Then again I'm not usually sauced at 7:00 in the morning either.

In Reagan's First Inaugural Address he said "Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem." This is the same conservative hero who wanted to have ketchup counted as a vegetable in federally funded school lunches for underprivileged kids and tried to cancel the Federal Head Start program and eliminate the Department of Education in order to be able to buy more nukes.

In the Conservative mind Government does way too much for the poor and minorities. What Reagan and conservatives truly mean is we (minorities) are the problem and should just go back from whence we came. Reagan later said an unfettered free market economy will provide everyone what is needed.

Once again, Really? Has the free market provided us access to affordable housing? Has the free market given us affordable Healthcare? Has it given us a livable wage? I think not and unknowingly C.R. agrees with this last point when he says that as a secondary education teacher he has to put up with long hours and low pay. Seems to me C.R. should thank his Conservative buddies in Austin and Washington for that. After all, Republicans view all Government workers with disdain and contempt and have opposed Teacher pay increases at every opportunity.

There is a difference between Conservatives and Liberals. Liberals believe Government can be a positive force (not a handout) for change, especially for those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. Conservatives believe Government should do primarily two things: help only those who need it least e.g. the rich, the super rich and corporations; also, that Government should leave things the way they are (maintain the status quo). It has always amazed me that Conservatives can get more upset about a stain on a dress — than about a corporation stealing 490 million dollars of its employees pension funds.

One last thing please. I have never liked the term Chicano to describe our people. When that word was created by the Nahuatl speakers from Morelos state who referred to themselves as "mesheecanos" it was considered demeaning and insulting to be called by that name. Even though it was later adopted by the Brown Power movement of the 60's and 70's, it still carries for me a negative connotation. As someone whose father was born in Seguin and was himself born in San Angelo and whose son was born in Seagraves and whose grandchild will be born in Lubbock, why can't we refer to ourselves as Americans? The answer is, I think, we've all learned the conservative lesson of divide and separate.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter sincerely,

an Anonymous American Reader

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Léa El Editor Primero

EU Está Mal Preparado Contra el Bioterrorismo

Un informe indica que sólo unos pocos estados ham tomado medidas satisfactorias

Los estados que habitualmente sufren huracanes y otros desastres naturales están mejor preparados que los demás para hacer frente al bioterrorismo, pero en general el pais sigue teniendo dificultades para hacer planes de emergencias de salud pública.

Florida y Carolina del Norte, que tienen más práctica con la evacuación de miles de residentes en poco tiempo y con la distribución de ayuda de emergencia, recibieron las calificaciones más altas en un informe de la institución privada Trust for America's Health. Alaska y Massachusetts recibieron las calificaciones más bajas a pesar de las cantidades de ayuda federal que han recibido para mejorar su re-

U-Can-Share Abundance to be Shared by Food Bank during Holiday Season

The 21st Annual U-Can-Share drive of the South Plains Food Bank ended this past Saturday -- and what it was all about will be demonstrated this coming Saturday and on three more days before Christmas.

From 9 am to 4 pm Saturday (Dec. 18) volunteers will work at the Food Bank, 4612 Locust, packing boxes with canned goods and other non perishable food items collected during the six-day drive last week. Then on Dec. 21, 22, & 23, those boxes will be distributed to families who need help with meals during the holiday season and into the New Year.

The U-Can-Share still being weighed and tbulated; more donations are welcome; and Food Bank officials are confidant the goals will be reached.

According to executive director, David Weaver, the response to U-Can-Share demonstrates this year -- as it has for the past two decades -the generosity that helps to define the Lubbock community.

spuesta frente a las emergencias.

En general, el informe concluye que los estados están poco a poco mejorando su grado de preparación para hacer frente al bioterrorismo, pero la mayoria sigue sin tener planes de respuesta a nivel estatal. Los fondos federales para la planificación también están disminuyendo.

El informe se hace eco de los temores expresados por el secretario de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Tommy Thompson, al anunciar su renuncia este mes en el sentido de que no comprendía cómo los terroristas no han atacado el suministro alimentario del país, puesto que "seria muy fácil hacerlo".

El informe se publica tras un año en que el país se ha encontrado con un desabastecimiento de vacunas contra la gripe, que suele ser una protección de rutina contra un problema conocido. El combate contra el bioterrorismo es el punto más débil de la seguridad interior, declaró el ex gobernador de Connecticut Lowell P. Weicker Jr., que actualmente es presidente de Trust for America's Health.

"No estamos preparados y no veo excusas que justifiquen que no lo estemos", declaró Weicker, que fue senador durante tres legislaturas. Según Weicker, si bien el informe se concentra en el bioterrorismo, también muestra que el país está mal preparado para hacer frente a emergencias de salud pública del día a día, como el asma infantil o el virus del Nilo occidental.

El informe, publicado ayer martes, asegura que sólo seis estados están preparados adecuadamente para distribuir vacunas y antidotos en caso de emergencia, pero nombró sólo tres: Florida, Illinois y Louisiana. Estados como Florida han gastado dinero en formación y han puesto en pie una infraestructura eficaz para hacer frente a emergencias de salud pública, declaró Shelley Hearne, directora ejecutiva de Trust for America's Health. El informe llega a la conclusión de que no se dispone de mecanismos básicos de detección, diagnosis y respuesta frente al bioterrorismo, y que al país le falta mucho para estar en condiciones de proteger al público de tales ataques.

La escasez de dinero es un problema habitual. La ayuda federal contra el bioterrorismo se redujo en un millón de dólares

por estado en 2004, y aproximadamente la tercera parte de los 50 estados redujeron sus presu-

puestos de salud pública. El informe da calificaciones a los estados en función de cómo han cumplido 10 criterios, como las cantidades de gasto estatal y ayuda federal en salud pública, las tasas de vacunación contra la gripe y el número de científicos y laboratorios de que disponen para hacer pruebas de ántrax o de la peste.

Ningún estado cumple los 10 criterios y únicamente Florida y Carolina del Norte cumplen 9 de los 10. La mayoría de los estados cumplen 5 ó 6.

El fallo de mayor importancia entre los estados es la carencia de laboratorios de salud pública adecuados y de científicos de laboratorio para hacer frente a los brotes graves. El informe llega a la conclusión de que sólo hay 16 estados con una cantidad suficiente de laboratorios y 21 con un número suficiente de cientificos. Por este motivo tendrian dificultades en hacer frente a una pandemia de gripe, sobre todo si se tiene en cuenta la escasez de vacunas que se ha producido este año, como mínimo 20 estados que no cuentan con ningún plan de respuesta pública.

Por ejemplo, la aparición este año de un brote de la denominada "gripe del pollo", que ha obligado a sacrificar miles de aves en varios países del continente asiático y se ha contagiado a otros animales, ha vuelto a poner a los expertos en el umbral de la emergencia.

La gripe aviar ha causado ya 20 muertos en Vietnam y otros 12 en Tailandia desde comienzos de año y parece por el momento controlada, pero la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) teme que el virus causante de esa epidemia pueda cruzarse con el de la gripe humana y provocar una pandemia susceptible de afectar al 30 por ciento de la población mundial.

A comienzos de otoño, los funcionarios de salud de Estados Unidos comenzaron a buscar vacunas de la gripe tras haber cerrado las autoridades británicas las instalaciones del fabri-

National Republican Congressional Committee Awards 2004 Ronald Reagan Republican Gold Medals

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), NRCC Chairman Tom Reynolds (R-NY) and the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) announced today that Mr. Richard G. Lopez has been chosen as a 2004 Ronald Reagan Republican Gold Medal Award winner.

Mr. Lopez was selected based on unyielding support of the Republican Party, outstanding leadership in business and for displaying a commitment to President Ronald Reagan's vision for an entrepreneurial America.

Only an elite group of business and professional people were nominted to receive the award before the awards selection committee reached a final decision.

Commenting on the selection, Congressman Tom Reynolds, Chairman of the NRCC, said, "Mr. Lopez has served as an Honorary Chairman of the Business Advisory Council and has provided much needed support. This award could not have gon to a more deserving candidate."

cante de vacunas de propiedad americana Chiron Corp. en dicho país, al haber hallado contaminación en la planta de Liverpool. El portavoz Von Roebuck, del Centro de Control de Enfermedades (CDC) declaró que el organismo se encuentra realizando una evaluación minuciosa del grado de preparación de los estados, pero que no publicará un informe detallado. En lugar de ello, declaró, el CDC está trabajando con los estados para ayudarles a desarrollar planes de respuesta.

Este es el segundo año en que el Trust for America's Health ha realizado un informe calificando a los estados en relación con el bioterrorismo. Pero, al haberse modificado los criterios de calificación en relación con el informe del año pasado se hace dificil establecer comparaciones.

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William one

Martinez may be just Start

the Mets and his agent, Fernando

Cuza, were continuing to work

on the distribution of his salary.

Martinez said the deal also is

contingent on his passing a

physical, which he is expected to

take today in New York. If he

passes, the news conference an-

nouncing the signing is ex-

Cuza did not return phone

"I only hope to honor my con-

tract and to fulfill the expecta-

tions," Martinez said. "We got

what we wanted. The team and I

The Mets are happy because

Minaya finally was able to land

one of the many big names he's

been after this offseason. They

Delgado, 32, interests the Mets

because they need a lefthanded

power hitter. A recent internal

study by the Mets found that the

majority of home runs at Shea

Busy with the negotiations for

Martinez on Monday, the Mets

could only find time to tell

Sloane he should expect a call

this week. The Mariners and Ori-

oles have been the most active

teams after Delgado.

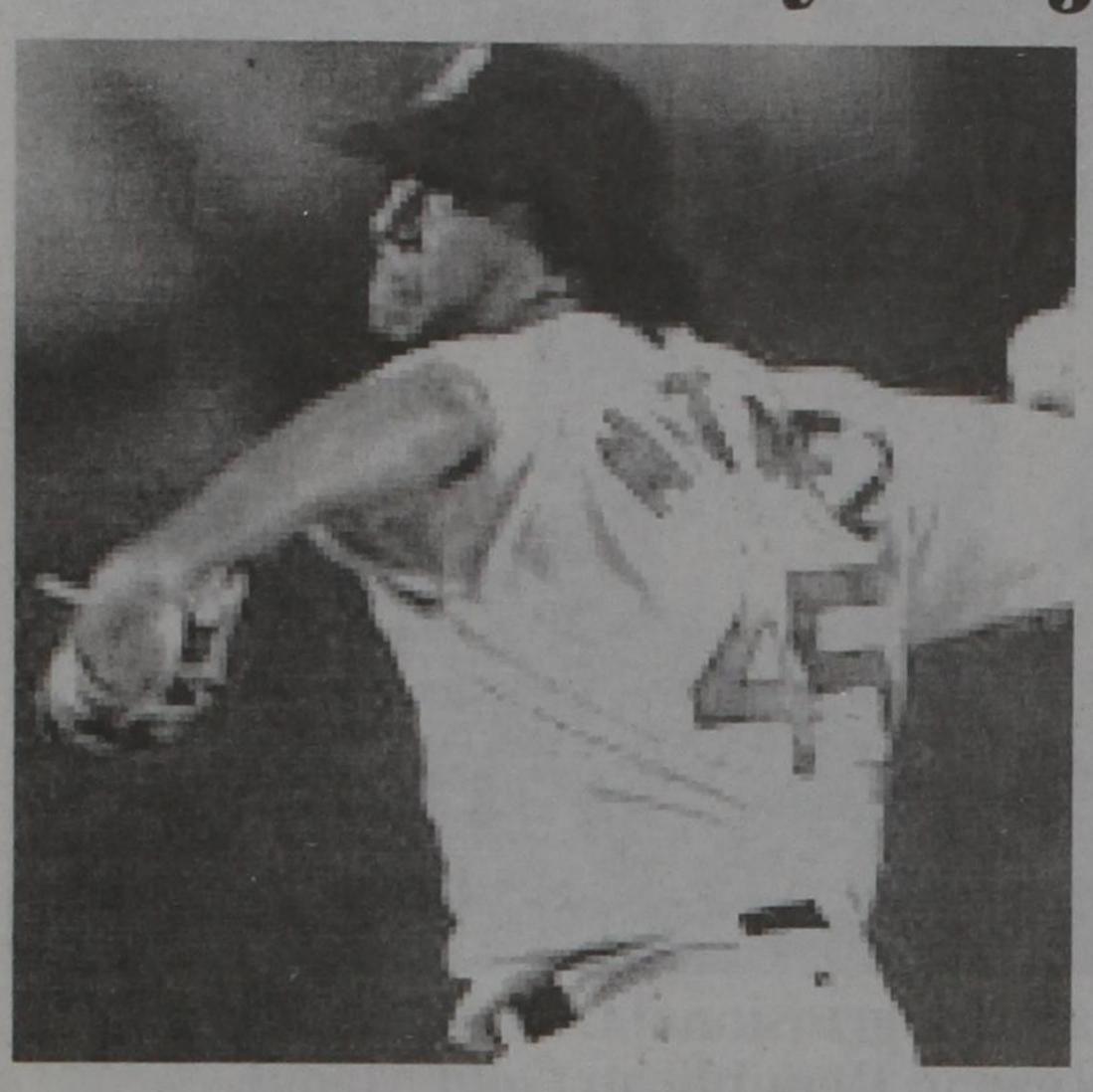
Stadium were hit to right-center.

hope Delgado isn't far behind.

are happy with everything."

pected to be held tomorrow.

messages yesterday.



Pedro Martinez confirmed on Dominican television yesterday that he has reached an agreement with the Mets, representing perhaps the flashiest signing in team history. But it's clear that general manager Omar Minaya doesn't think he's finished with his winter shopping.

Several people familiar with Minaya's thinking said he remains intent on adding "a big bat" to the Mets' lineup and is focusing on making a strong push for free-agent first baseman Carlos Delgado.

The Mets hope prying Martinez away from Boston will entice Delgado, who is expected to land a four-year deal worth about \$45 million wherever he ends up. The Mets' first offer was for three years. Agent David Sloane declined to comment last night.

The Mets yesterday refused to confirm their agreement with Martinez, 33, on a four-year deal worth \$53 million. That didn't keep Martinez from talking about it on television in his homeland. "The bigger the contract, the bigger the responsibility," he said.

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, also said

Although he struggled during the first half of last season, Delgado rebounded to hit .269 with 32 home runs and 99 RBIs. He has hit at least 25 homers for nine straight seasons.

The Mets also are holding out hope that they can get Manny Ramirez from Boston in a trade. though that window appears to be closing.

The Mets and Red Sox engaged in lengthy talks Sunday about Ramirez, who is owed about \$80 million over the next four years. The trade interested the Red Sox because they were looking for financial flexibility to make a run at free-agent outfielder J.D. Drew, but they appear to be changing their plans.

The Mets were set to trade Cliff Floyd and prospects for Ramirez, who is from Washington Heights, and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz. But talks broke down over how much money the Red Sox would pay to offset Ramirez's contract.

Although Ramirez, 32, is a poor leftfielder and is at times best described as spacey, he has consistently been one of the best hitters in baseball. He batted .308 with 43 home runs and 130 RBIs last season.

The Mets remain interested in 38-year-old leftfielder Moises Alou as well as a much-discussed trade for Cubs rightfielder

Sammy Sosa. The Mets' signing of Martinez and their interest in established sluggers send a strong message to their fan base that they intend to compete next season.

It's especially important for the Mets to be successful next season because their television network debuts in 2006. How high they set their advertising rates and sponsorship fees will be directly correlated with how much of a buzz they can create around Flushing next season.

Landing the always unpredictable and entertaining Martinez is certainly a start.

"My heart will always be with the Boston fans," Martinez said. "I hope that everyone who truly loves me will still support me now that I won't be a Red Sox."

Enrique Iglesias & Kournikova may have Secretly Married

Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias and Russian model Anna Kournikova got married some weeks ago in the Mexican city of Puerto Vallarta according to versions released by local news TV

The gossip TV show "El Gordo y la Flaca" which airs in the Hispanic TV network Univision, informed the American magazine US Weekly will publish this Wednesday a story about the couple's marriage, who have been previously dating for two years.

According to the information, it was a private ceremony and neither Julio Iglesias, Enrique's father, nor Chabeli, Enrique's sister, attended the ceremony,

only close friends were there. The TV hosts stated this Sun-

day the couple threw a party in Boca Raton, some 90 kilometers north Miami where Anna wore her engagement ring.

Iglesias, who will turn 30 next May 8, is one of the most famous Latino artists in the world while Kournikova, 22, has been a not so famous a tennis player as she was a model.

Based in South Florida for some years, the couple started their romance back in February

2002 when the Russian girl starred in Enrique's video "Escape"

Page 4

There have been other versions of an alleged wedding of these two like last June when a British tabloid assured they had married in Dominican Republic.

According to the reports, which have not been denied yet, Kournikova was married to Russian hockey player Sergei Fedorov for quite a short time.

Few changes expected for Shakira's new album



Shakira's new album, expected for release in 2005, will be a flawless production, but without many changes in style, stated

music specialists. Concert promoter Ricardo

Leyva stated that the new pro-

duction by multi awarded artist will maintain its pop-rock sound, and, as on previous records, will have a mix of English and Spanish.

"It would be one of Shakira's best albums. My sources have told me that her production is more Anglo than ever. She stayed in the pop-rock vein and she'll continue doing innovations in that field", said Leyva to reporters.

The singer-songwriter, who has won several Grammy awards, announced that her new album will be out on the first months of 2005, for which she works non stop in Miami, said close sources to the singer.

Music critic Juan Carlos Garay agreed that Shakira's next record will be a good one, but without any surprises in her style.

Shakira has been hermetic about her latest musical work and, according to show business sources; she currently works with 70 songs of a record that will be distributed as a 2-disc package.

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C Still Has Work to Do

By Richard Gonzales

Special to the Star-Telegram Like teachers prepping their students for a civics final, Roger Rocha Jr., Texas LULAC state director, and Adrian Rodriguez, Texas LULAC chief of staff, peppered LULAC youth with questions about social and political issues.

They tested their understanding of the 10 percent plan that grants top high school graduates admission to any Texas state university. Rocha warned that Latinos face difficult times in the next legislative session with revisions or possible abandonment of the plan and other Latino-unfriendly efforts.

They prompted the students to awareness, mobilization and action in the activist tradition of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Rocha and Rodriguez urged the youth to go to Austin, speak with legislators, write and make their positions

known on issues in the upcoming legislative session.

It was a call for youth to flex their political muscle their grandfathers' way - the LULAC

In 1929 -- in a world of lynching, poll taxes and segregated schools, restaurants and cemeteries - Texas Latinos organized LULAC primarily as a civil rights organization.

"People couldn't meet in fear of their lives," Rodriguez said. "They were afraid."

Some men and women overcame their fears. Like Rocha and Rodriguez, they traveled the state goading Latinos to organize, to assert their voice and vote.

They chose as an emblem a shield displaying the American flag, partly to fend off accusations of anti-American subversive activity.

Rocha, an SBC executive by profession and LULAC leader by passion, said that there's "still a

good-ol'-boy mentality that is harmful to Hispanics and women. It's prevalent today primarily in West Texas. There's still racial discrimination going

"We've seen institutional things going on in Texas," said Rodriguez. "We've seen dropout rates that are horrendous and continue to be so. Latinos accounted for 60 percent of the growth in 1990-2000 in the Texas population, but we're not getting the representation we need in the state Legislature or Congress."

Both call for closing loopholes so that "legislators aren't bought so easily."

During its own evolution, LU-LAC learned that it, too, needed to clean house.

Women at first had been permitted to participate only in auxiliary councils. The constitution originally allowed membership only for Latino citizens.

The organization soon realized its hypocrisy and allowed women, noncitizens and non-Latinos to join.

Rocha views the immigrant as the "new frontier." With an estimated 8 million undocumented Latino immigrants in hostile country at the mercy of unscrupulous employers and "coyotes" and lacking representation, LU-LAC extends the shield to them.

Rocha warns that a bill will be introduced in the next Texas legislative session that will require driver's licenses to identify the driver as citizen or illegal. He's alarmed that this will permit police to stop Latino-appearing motorists for citizenship checks. LULAC will fight this bill.

Rodriguez advocates for the appointment of independent police investigators to explore accusations of police brutality and corruption.

"The Dallas fake drug scandal is a perfect example of the need for an independent investigator," he said. "You have a [district attorney's] office that works closely with police on criminal cases, and yet we are asking them to work together to investigate themselves."

It's not going to happen, he says.

LULAC envisions extending the membership shield to Canada, Mexico and South America. American expatriates and Mexican citizens have invited LULAC to help organize councils to confront their local issues.

Rocha said that "because you can only cultivate the same piece of land every time to grow your crops, you have to expand to look at other areas to grow, cultivate and nurture."

Rocha runs Texas LULAC like a business, requiring accountability and professionalism in its ranks. He has formed partnerships with Coca-Cola and SBC to raise money for health, education and civil rights issues. Members are expected to pay their dues in commitment, money and ideas.

With an ever-growing, young Latino population, the need for educated Latinos to fill the professional ranks grows. To succeed, LULAC veterans must let the young assume leadership and gain experience in the legislative process.

Rocha tells LULAC audiences that "this isn't your grandfa-

ther's LULAC anymore."

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Friday, Dec. 31

8:00 pm - 1:00 am

Music by D.J. Ralf

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New program EDUCAMEXUS, that offers orientation and educative online and onsite courses to Hispanics in the United States, including undocumented people, anticipate to offer an engineering degree in 2005.

"We're about to sign an agreement to make this career available to the Latin community in Arizona and any other US entity", said Francisco Marmolejo, Director of the Partnership of Collaboration of Universities of North America (CONAHEC).

He explained that the degree in engineering that will be offered in 2005 from the seat of CONA-HEC, located at Tucson's University of Arizona, is an online course designed by the Technological Institute of Durango in Mexico.

EDUCAMEXUS, released last November, is a joint effort of the CONAHEC, which agglutinates

New Year's

Eve Dance

140 universities of Mexico, the United States and Canada, and the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Superior Education (ANUIES) of Mexico.

The program offers in addition courses in Spanish for Hispanics in the United States, including undocumented people, who wish to conclude the baccalaureate, secondary and university, by means of a system of renewal of studies guaranteed by the government of Mexico.

Marmolejo explained that among other things the program offers the opportunity to Mexicans and any other Hispanic immigrants in the United States that had been in the necessity to leave their country without finishing their academic studies concluding them by Internet

Legislation Eliminates Duplications for Minority Businesses

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed 12/8/04, removes a large paperwork burden from many minority and womenowned businesses wishing to do business with state and local governments. It states that once a business has been certified by the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as disadvantaged and is a participant in the SBA's 8(a) Business Development program, it does not have to go through recertification at the state and local levels to participate in projects funded by the Federal government.

The legislation was sponsored by U.S. Senator Jim Talent (R-Mo.) "Recertification is a time consuming and expensive process," Sen. Talent said in a speech on the Senate floor. "This legislation will save minority small business people thousands of dollars...."

The legislation is important because it will increase the number of qualified minority and women-owned businesses available to work on projects receiving federal money. Because state and local governments and agencies have similar certifications for contracting as a minority or disadvantaged contractor, the additional certification process has presented a serious problem for minority and women-owned businesses seeking to do business in these markets.

Clinton Ward, President of C. C. Ward & Associates (CCWA), a management consulting firm that assists others in becoming certified for a number of Federal and state programs says, "This legislation will save of business owners thousands of dollars a year in certification costs and open up new business opportunities. Of-

ten, there are five or more local governments and agencies within a company's trade area with potential contract opportu-

But each one has its own certification process that a company must go through in order to bid as a disadvantaged, minority or woman-owned business. These certifications can often take tens of hours to complete and tie up management time that could be better spent in trying to grow the business. Because of this fact, many firms simply choose not to exhaust precious resources and pass on these business opportunities. By removing these certification requirements, more firms

ernment." The National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, the Minor-

will be given access to all state

and local projects entirely or

partly funded by the federal gov-

ity Business Council of St. Louis and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis supported the legislation.

The SBA's 8(a) Business Development program was created to help small disadvantaged businesses compete in the American economy and access the federal procurement market. This change in scope broadens the reach of its participants into to all State and local projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government. The goal is to decrease business costs and increase the system efficiency for participants in the program.

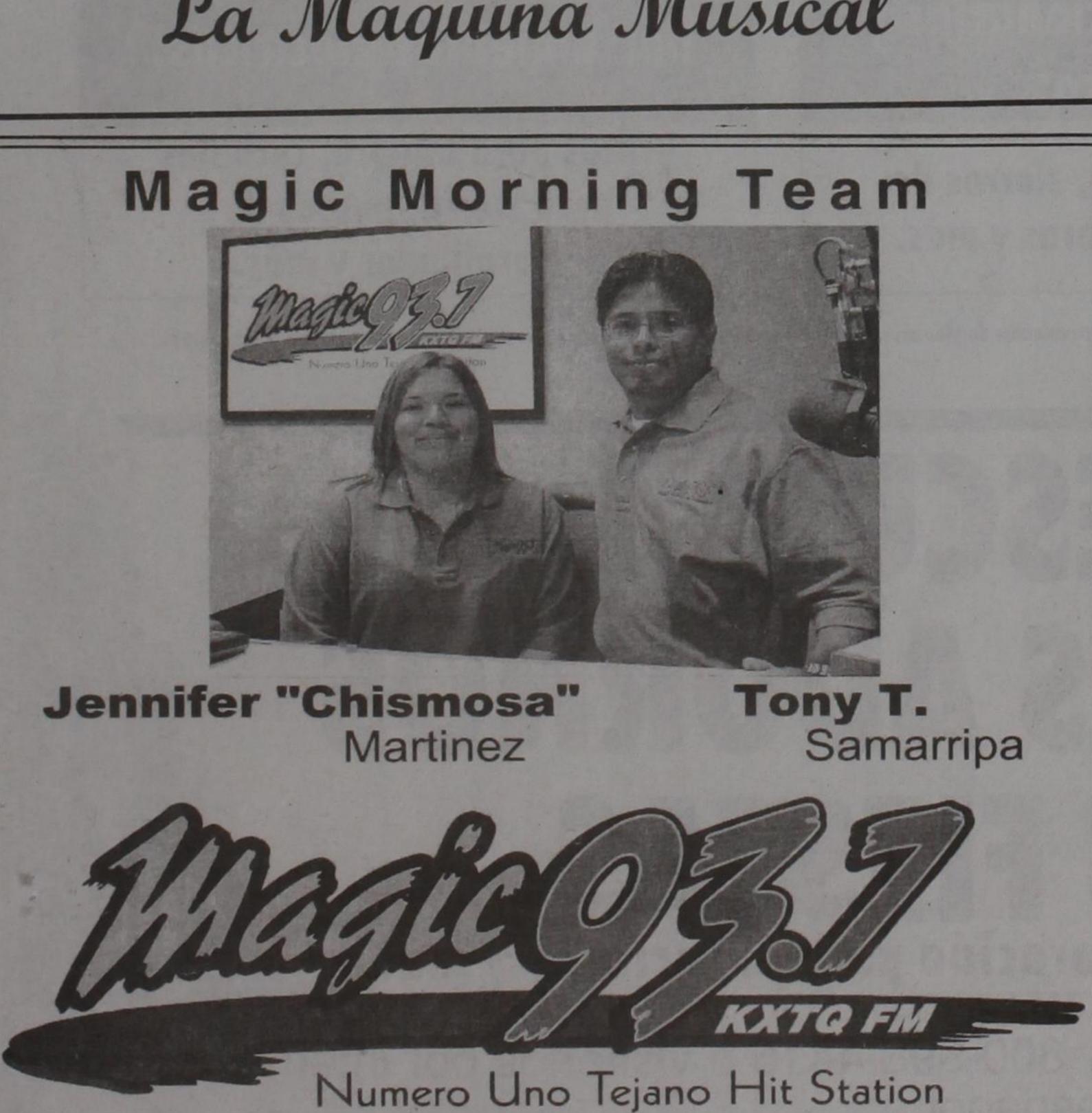
For additional information, contact on the SBA's 8(a) Busi-Development program, website www.ccward.com, contact Clinton Ward at clinton@ccward.com or call 314-533-9273.

EL EDITOR

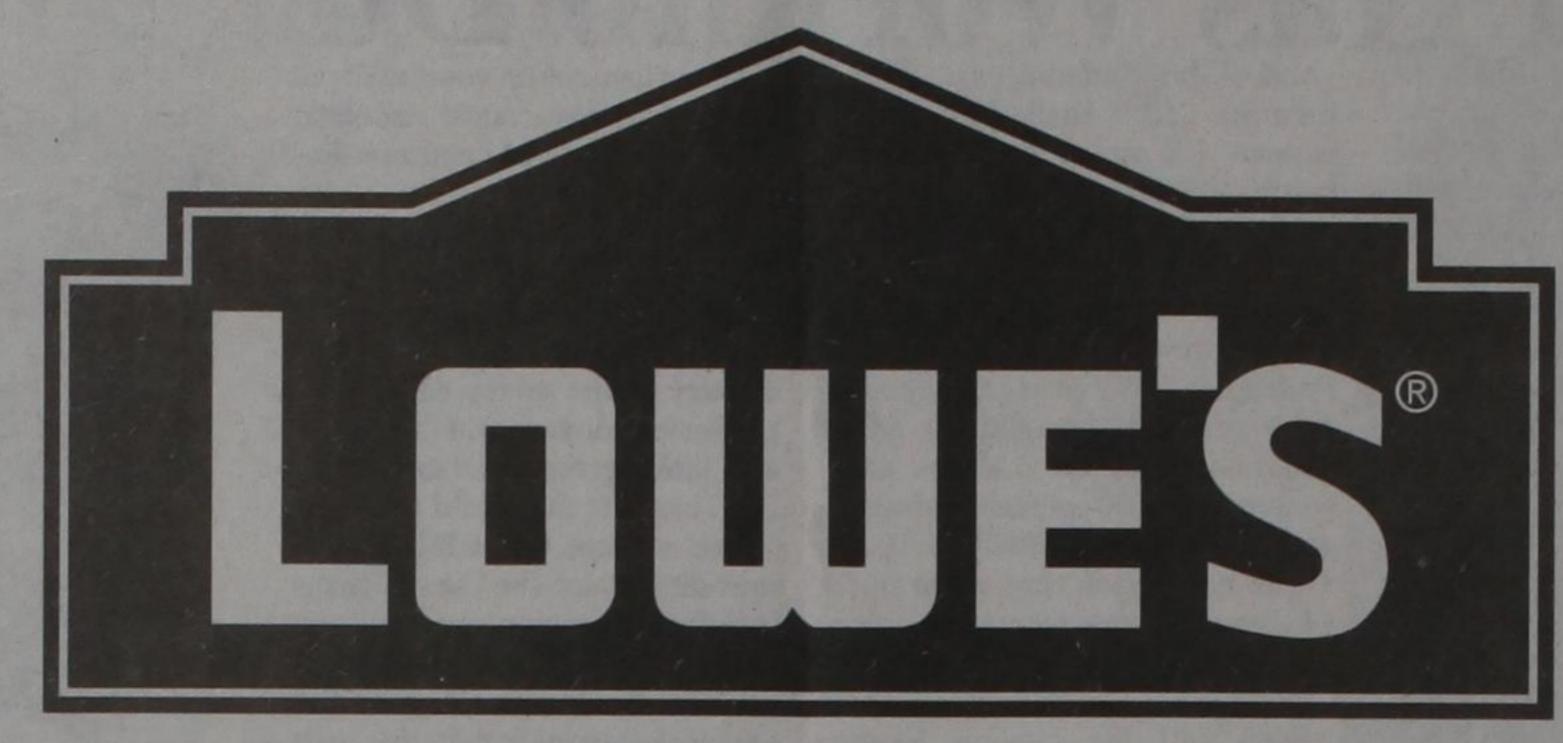


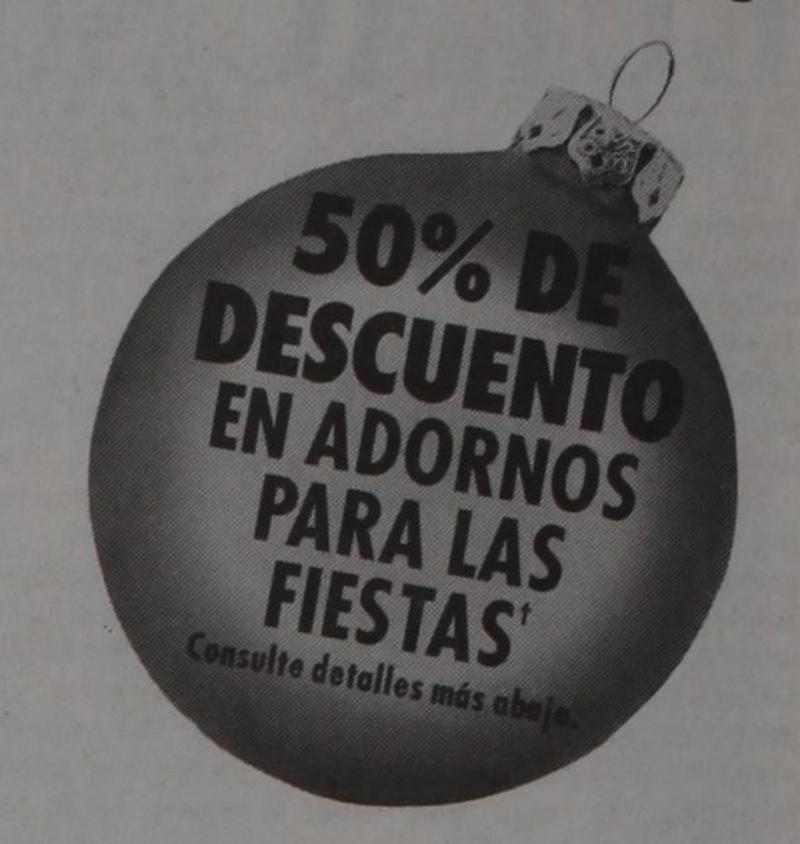












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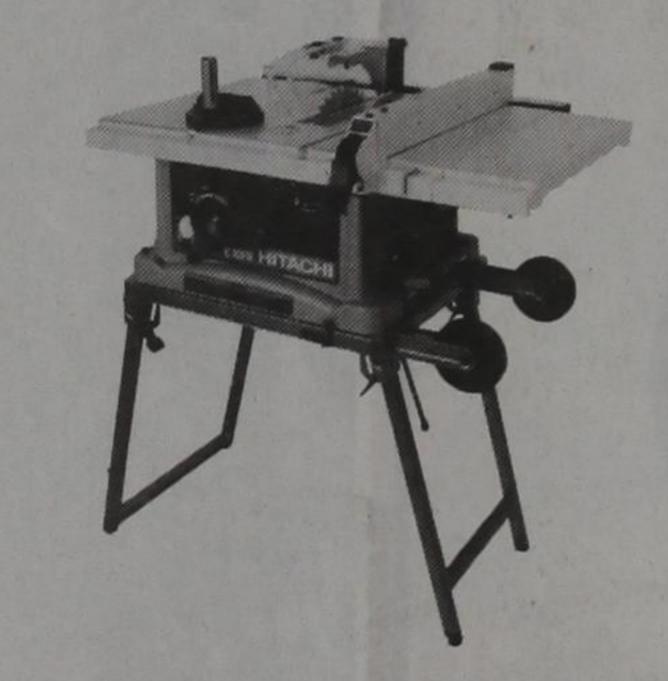
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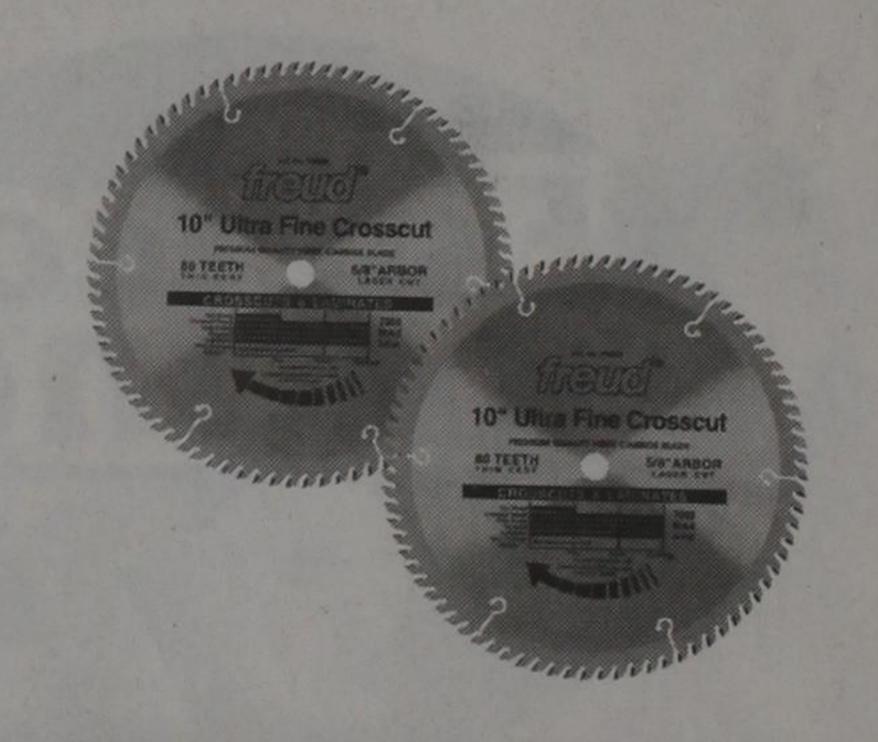
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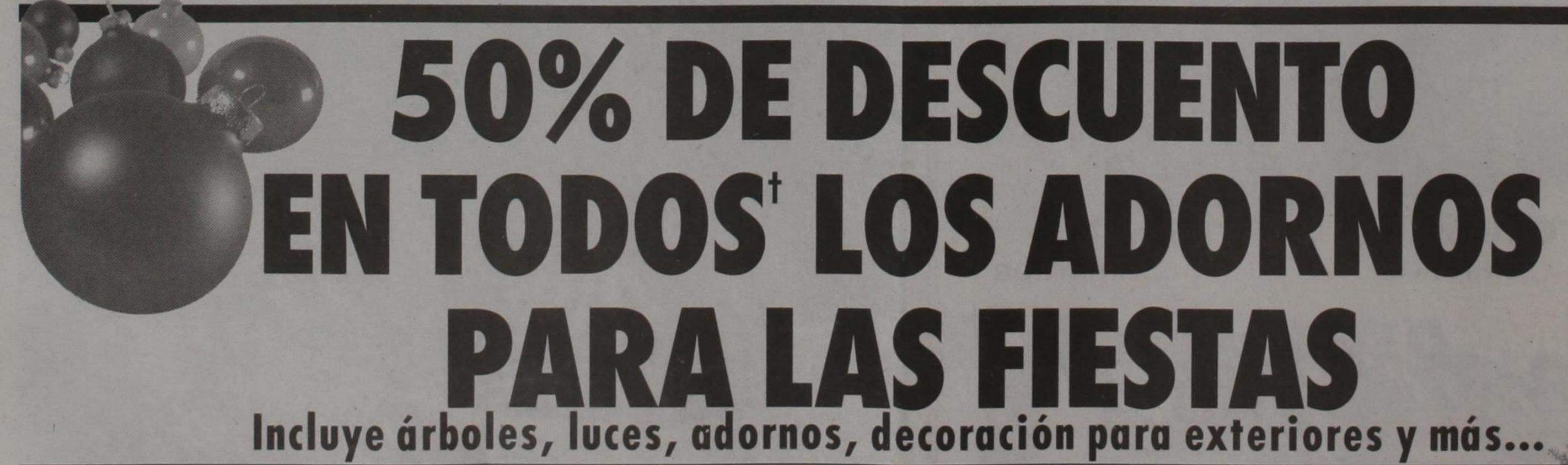
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