

el Saltillo

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

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Lubbock, TX USA

Hispanics Ignored by Networks

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

"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 total of 131 stories, or 0.82%, were about Hispanics, compared to 120, or 0.75%, in 2002. Of 639 hours of news, four hours, or 0.63%, were given over to Hispanic stories, the study found.

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

"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.

The study also noted a decline in the number of crime stories about Hispanics, from 47 in 2002 to 27 in 2003.

In general, coverage of Hispanics was limited to a handful of topics, topped by immigration with 30 stories. There were a dozen Hispanic-related stories on election politics and 11 on celebrities.

The study also found that Hispanics are poorly represented in on-air reporting and anchor jobs, and that Hispanics rarely were included in stories not specifically about the ethnic group.

CNN had the most Hispanic coverage with 47 stories that added up to nearly 90 minutes, followed by CBS with 30 stories or slightly more than 48 minutes in Hispanic coverage.

ABC was the only network with a decline in coverage, from 35 stories in 2002 to 27 in 2003. Weekend calls seeking ABC comment were not returned.

The study relied on Vanderbilt University's Television News Archives. Other networks, including Fox and MSNBC, were omitted from the study because they are not part of the archives.

A Border Christmas Red Poinsettias and Green Chiles

By Elisa A. Martínez

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 Mexican chocolate.

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 tortillerías 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.

For Right Now

Immigrant Rights Leaders Breathe Easy

By Sonia Meléndez

That several anti-immigrant 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 advocates — 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 "anti-immigrant" 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 Hispanic 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 anti-inmigrantes 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 anti-inmigrante 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 republicano por Wisconsin, F. James Sensenbrenner, el jefe del Subcomité sobre Inmigración de la Cámara. Han prometido dar frente al tema de inmigración a comienzos del año.

Durante procedimientos anteriores, Sensenbrenner 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 políticas 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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EU Está Mal Preparado Contra el Bioterrorismo

Un informe indica que sólo unos pocos estados han 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 país 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-

puesta 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 mayoría 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 "sería 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 antídotos 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, diagnóstico 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 presupuestos 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 científicos. Por este motivo tendrían 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 nominated 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 gone to a more deserving candidate."

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 tumbled; more donations are welcome; and Food Bank officials are confident 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.

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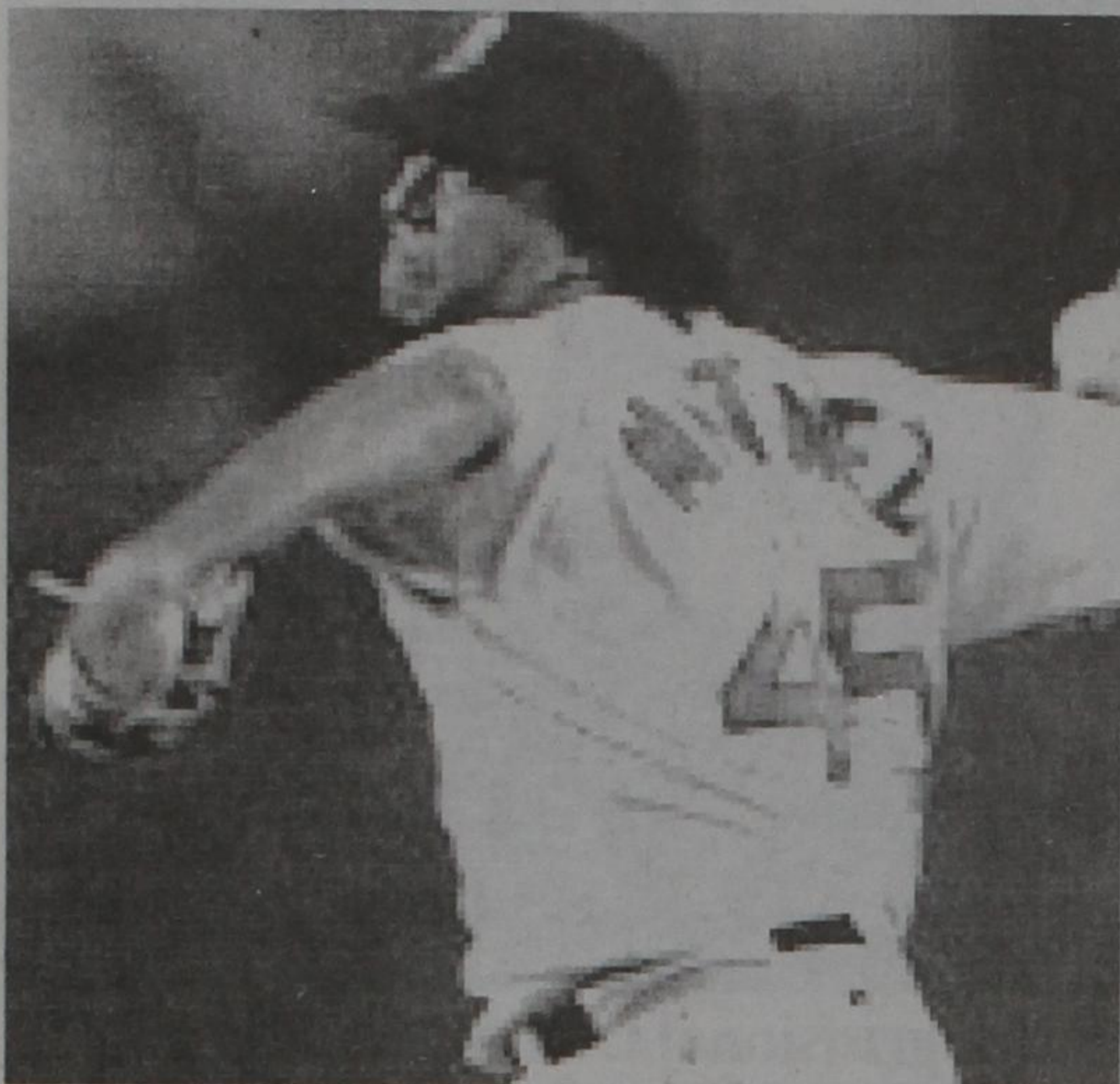
La próxima vez, tú podrías ganar.

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Las probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio en Holiday Millions Wishes son de 1 en 2.17, las probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio en Deck the Halls son de 1 en 3.26, las probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio en Holiday Cash son de 1 en 4.14, y las probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio en Holiday Gold son de 1 en 4.58, incluyendo premios iguales al valor del boleto. El número de premios en un juego se basa aproximadamente en el número de boletos ordenados. La cantidad de premios disponibles depende en la cantidad de boletos impresos, pruebas, distribución, venta y cantidad de premios cobrados. Un juego de raspar puede seguir vendiéndose aun cuando todos los premios mayores han sido cobrados. Si tienes preguntas o para más información sobre los premios que quedan en los juegos de raspar, por favor llama a la Línea de Servicio al Cliente de la Lotería de Texas al 1-800-374-LOTTO. Tienes que tener 18 años de edad o más para poder comprar boletos de la Lotería. © 2004 Texas Lottery Commission. Todos los Derechos Reservados.

Martinez may be just Start



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."

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

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 announcing the signing is expected to be held tomorrow.

Cuza did not return phone messages yesterday.

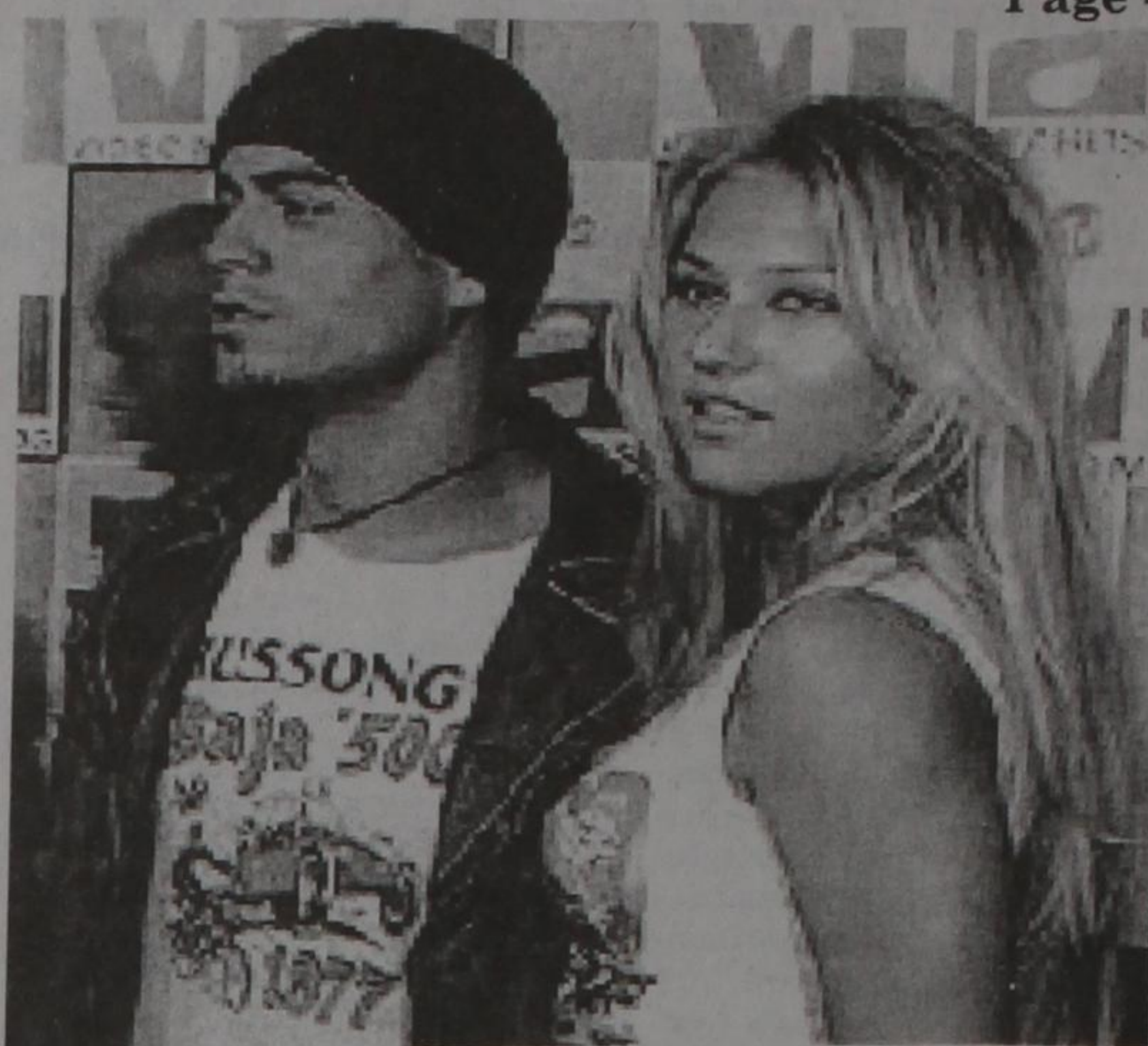
"I only hope to honor my contract and to fulfill the expectations," Martinez said. "We got what we wanted. The team and I are happy with everything."

The Mets are happy because Minaya finally was able to land one of the many big names he's been after this offseason. They hope Delgado isn't far behind.

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 Stadium were hit to right-center.

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 Orioles have been the most active teams after Delgado.

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 shows.

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".

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



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.

El Editor
Serving Lubbock
Since 1977
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Tenga un
Buen Dia!

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

Feliz Navidad!



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*The Christmas Story of a Young Girl,
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 miracle created by Love of a Family*

T46
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Saturday
Dec. 19th
9 am

El Editor - Week of Dec. 16, - Dec. 22, 2004

LULAC 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 way.
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 on."
"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, LULAC 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, LULAC 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 grandfather's LULAC anymore."
That's true. But Rocha needs to make grandpa proud.



Legislation Eliminates Duplications for Minority Businesses

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed 12/8/04, removes a large paperwork burden from many minority and women-owned 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 opportunities.
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 will be given access to all state and local projects entirely or partly funded by the federal government."
The National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, the Minor-

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) Business Development program, visit our website at www.ccward.com, contact Clinton Ward at clinton@ccward.com or call 314-533-9273.

New Program to Offer Degrees for Hispanic in the US

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 CONAHEC, 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

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 now.

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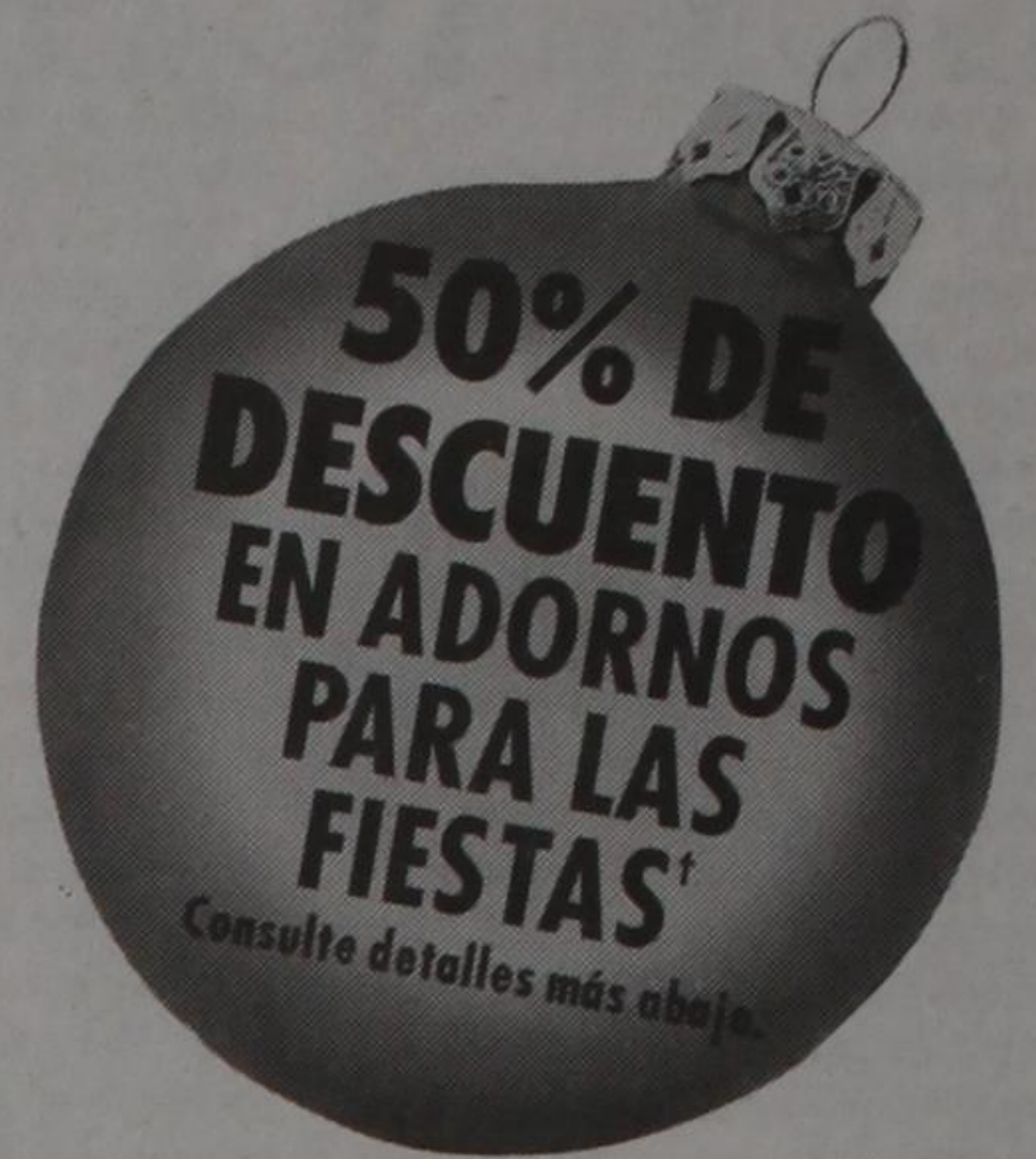
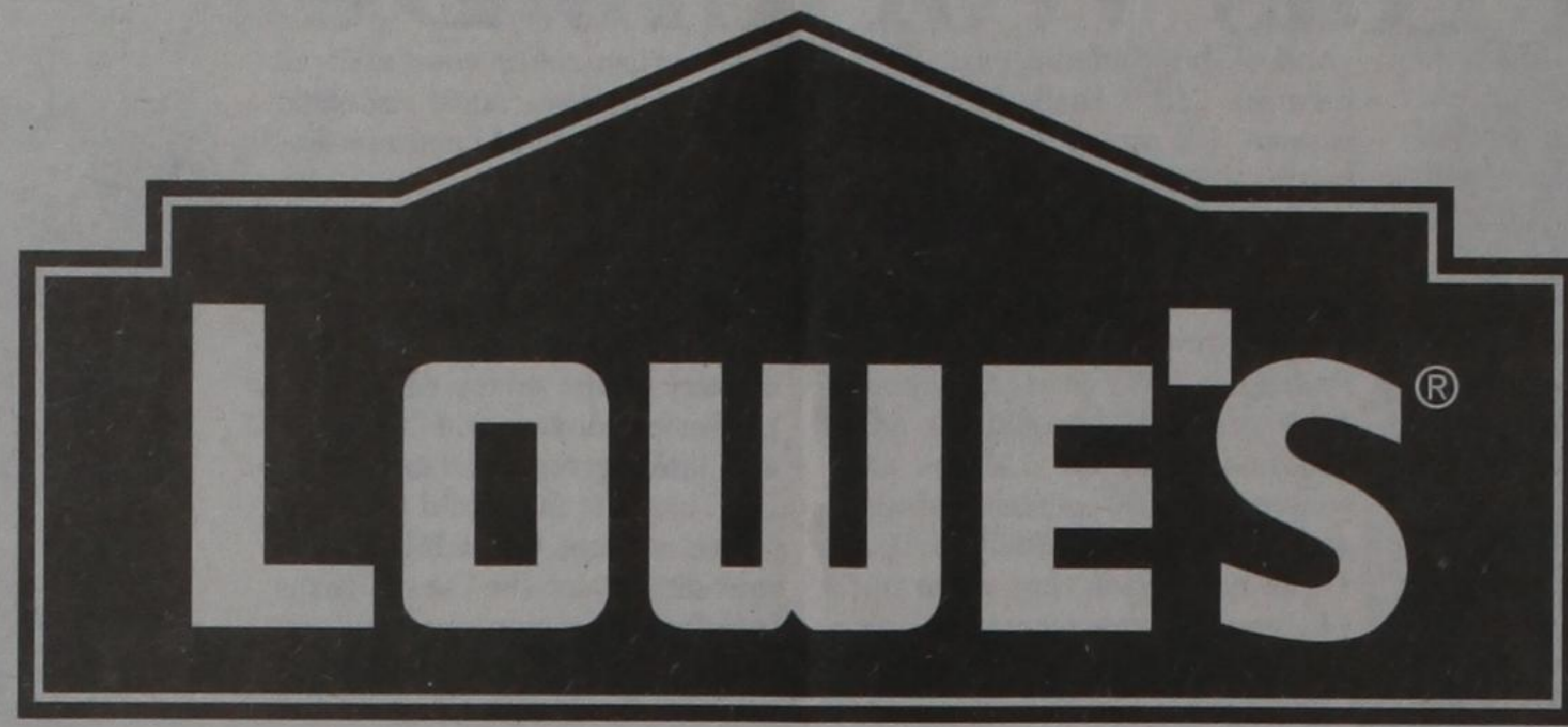


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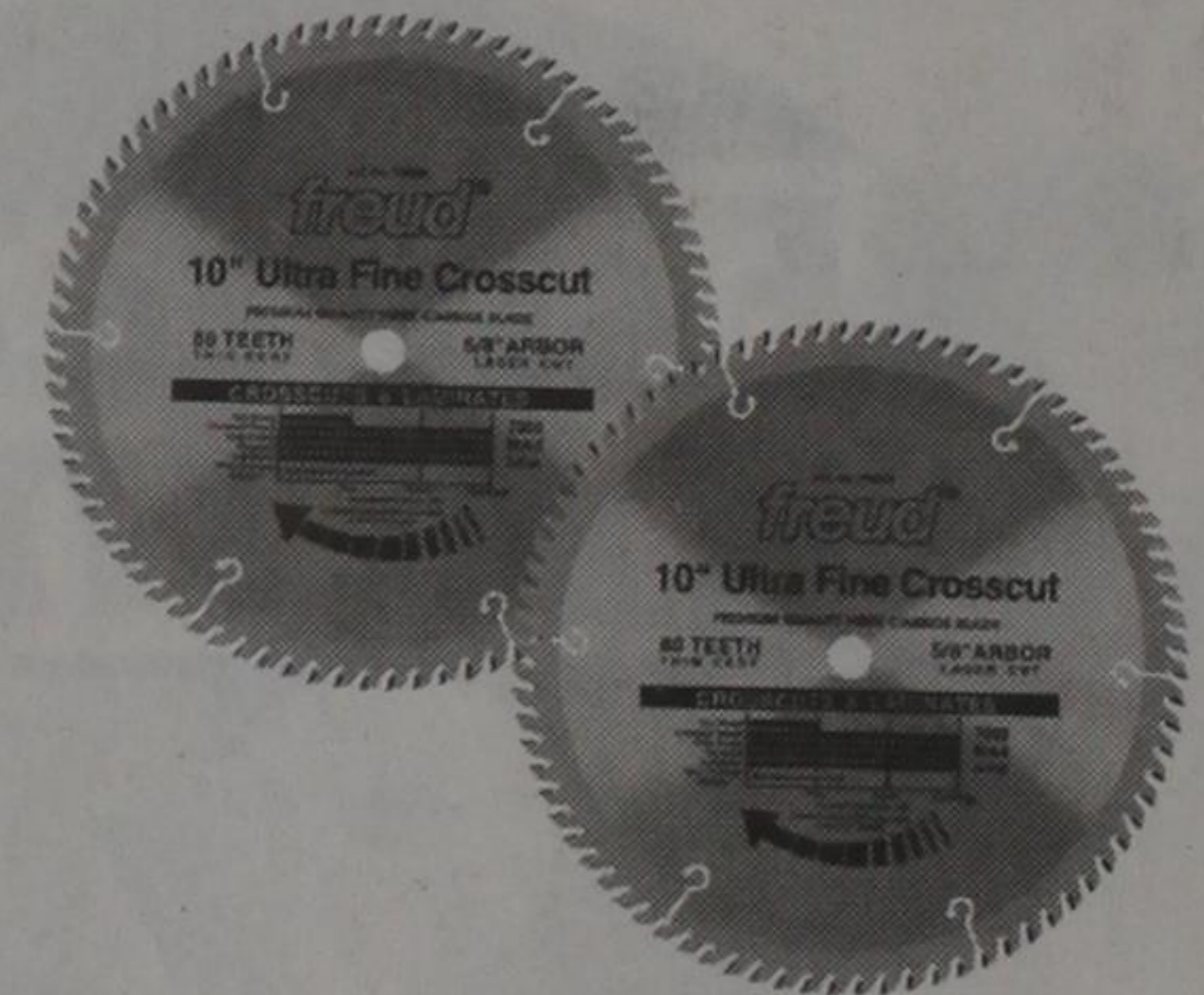


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