

# el Espectador

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"El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz"

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## Gun Control Tops Latino Concerns

Latino voters favor gun-control measures by a wide margin and hold other views that show them largely aligned with the Democratic Party on domestic policy issues, a survey recently released by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute found.

Gun control was a more important issue to the Latino voters surveyed than abortion or school vouchers, said Harry Pachon, president of the institute, which is at Claremont Graduate University and is also affiliated with Columbia University.

"It makes sense," he said. "Where are crimes committed? They're committed in the ghettos and the barrios." The institute conducted a telephone survey of 2,011 Latino registered voters in five states -- California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Texas -- in October 2000.

"It's the real voters and what they think," Pachon said. The institute undertook the survey "to get an accurate barometer of what the community thinks," which can be used in place of conjecture by pundits, he said. Of the Latino voters sur-

veyed, 64.7% favored gun-control legislation. But only 29.1% backed school vouchers. Both of those findings put them in the Democratic camp.

On abortion, however, the Latino voters were more like Republicans: Just 37.8% sup-

ported abortion rights. But a large group of Latinos isn't so much against abortion as uncertain or riding the fence on the issue, Pachon said.

"The fact they are Catholic doesn't mean they are pro-life the way Republicans would like to think they are," said Rodolfo de la Garza, a political science professor at Columbia University, who helped oversee the survey. He is the institute's vice president of research and presented the findings Friday in Washington, D.C., at a conference organized by the Campaign for America's Future, a labor-backed liberal group.

Education was the top public policy issue among those surveyed. But the lower the voters' income, the less they saw education as an important issue, which De la

Garza said was troubling.

The survey's findings were generally consistent across regions and Latino groups, Pachon and De la Garza said.

"I think the first thing that stands out is the extent to which, on many issues, Cubans, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans agree," De la Garza said.

Cubans are most conservative on foreign policy, which wasn't the subject of the survey, De la Garza said. Latinos of Puerto Rican and Mexican ancestry tend to vote Democratic while Cubans still vote predominantly Republican, but Cubans' significance as a national political force is declining, he said.

Republican Assemblyman Bob Pacheco of Walnut said the survey findings coincide with findings of other surveys he's seen of East Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Latinos.

"On the social issues, Latinos tend to be more liberal in their thinking," he said.

The GOP needs to craft its messages better to win over more Latino voters, Pacheco said. Because many Latinos are raised with the Catholic message of helping the poor, Republicans would attract them more if they framed an issue like welfare reform, for example, not as a program ending costly taxpayer support for unemployed people but as a program that helps people find jobs, he said.

"We tend to take a hard-nosed approach to issues like that and don't think of the implications," said Pacheco, chair of the four-member Republican Latino Caucus in the Assembly.

Many Republicans talk about educating Latinos about their party, he said, but "we have a poor approach to educating Republicans about Latinos."



## El Pasoans Call For Medical School

AUSTIN -- El Paso physician W. Gordon McGee will try to persuade the Texas Medical Association today in Dallas that the state needs another medical school.

On Friday, state higher-education officials are likely to approve the process for deciding whether Texas should build new professional schools -- and, if so, where.

McGee and other advocates of a four-year medical school for El Paso cite statistics showing El Paso needs nearly 350 more physicians simply to reach the state average of 162 doctors per 100,000 population.

"The numbers say that there's a tremendous need for physicians out here based on absolute numbers or patient-doctor ratios or specialty services," said McGee, a past president of the Texas Medical Association.

Texas has eight medical schools, including the Baylor College of Medicine, which is private. None are along the border.

"Every community with a full four-year medical school has about double the number of physicians as El Paso, including total numbers of physicians, primary-care practitioners, medical specialists, surgeons and surgical specialists," McGee said.

Nearly 30 years have passed since the Texas Legislature approved a new professional school. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Medical Association will be influential in shaping a legislative response to debate on the medical-school issue. So far, the association contends a new school is unnecessary.

"That's going to be the real skirmish, the opening battle" in the debate, said Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa, regional dean of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in El Paso. "The TMA will carry a big stick in this coming legislative session."

The medical association says the state does not need to train more doctors, either by adding a medical school or increasing capacity at existing schools. It has appointed a committee that will use objective criteria to explore the need for a new school. But the group's position will not change "simply because of political pressures," said Dr. Tom Hancher, president of the association. "We try to base our recommendation on facts and on statistics rather than on the emotional issues."

**Other problems**  
Hancher readily acknowledges a maldistribution of physicians, which has left the border region and rural Texas communities chronically short of doctors. He attributes that shortage to high liability insurance for doctors practicing along the border and inadequate reimbursement rates for low-income and elderly patients.

"El Paso is an area where a lot of people would enjoy living as is Brownsville or Harlingen but these physicians must be

able to make a living and not live in fear of the next lawsuit," Hancher said.

State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, agreed that the border region produces an inordinate number of medical malpractice claims. "We need to fix that. ... However, the solution is not just reimbursement rates, and malpractice suits. It's a set of issues -- starting with medical training on the border."

Shapleigh and El Paso Mayor Ray Caballero contend that a medical school in El Paso would create a pipeline for delivering physicians to the region.

The absence of a full medical school is a major reason why El Paso ranks last in the state for the number of doctors per capita, Caballero said.

"Rich or poor, we all see the same physicians. We all are made to wait longer for appointments and we have fewer choices because we don't have a medical school," he said. "If we want a first-class children's hospital, we need a medical school, as they are natural partners. That's also the way to train, attract and retain the sub-specialists we desperately need."

But Hancher said studies "show that physicians are more likely to stay in an area where they have done their internship and residency -- not necessarily where they've done their medical-school training. So throwing a medical school at El Paso is certainly not the way to handle that issue."

**Shapleigh disagreed.**

"If we recruit a student from the Silva Health Magnet School and provide a college and medical education, the chances are more likely that Silva student will stay in El Paso and serve this community," Shapleigh said.

The number of doctors graduating from Texas medical schools has not changed substantially in 20 years -- about 1,200 a year. Only 44 percent of the state's 34,214 practicing physicians graduated from a Texas medical school. Most are imported from other states or countries.

But the federal government has stopped issuing J-1 visas allowing foreign students with medical degrees to enter the United States to serve in rural or underserved areas. More than 20 percent of physicians practicing in Texas graduated from medical

schools in foreign countries.

Texas can no longer count on foreign-trained doctors, and that, McGee said, "will make our situation even more acute."

**Hispanic imbalance**

Although Hispanics have increased to more than 30 percent of the state's population, only 10 percent of Texas physicians are Hispanic.

An El Paso medical school with its own admissions committee might help rectify that, some argue.

"That's important because the admissions committee determines what kind of student gets into the medical school," Tech's de la Rosa said.

A medical school in El Paso would focus on border and Hispanic health issues, he said.

However, Hancher said, "no matter where the location of a medical school, the admissions committee still has to use the criteria that all the other medical schools are using, so putting a medical school in El Paso would not automatically mean that there's going to be a high percentage of Hispanics in that class."

A key step in the debate over creating another medical school will arrive in a July report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The report will issue findings and recommendations to the board based on criteria that board members are expected to approve Friday.

**Many criteria**

The methodology will include an analysis of population growth, supply of professional services, student demand for professional careers, geographic access to professional schools and whether the state should create new schools or expand existing schools.

"This is our job -- to get out in front on these issues, to determine, first, whether they're needed and then, secondly, what would be the best location for them," said El Pasoan Adair Margo, a member of the board.

The board is scheduled to discuss the need for more law and veterinary schools in October.

"You buy into the methodology and then you apply the methodology and then you receive reports back on what is found. I think we are being really thorough and cautious," she said.

## Jefe del INS: Deberá Regularizarse La Situación De Indocumentados

Aunque enfatizó que las negociaciones migratorias entre Estados Unidos y México son un trabajo en progreso, el comisionado del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS), James Ziglar, afirmó ayer que cualquier programa que lidie con la situación de indocumentados que ya trabajan y viven aquí y con un programa de trabajadores temporales necesariamente tendría que considerar un rumbo hacia la regularización.

Ziglar testificó ante el subcomité senatorial de Asuntos del Hemisferio Occidental, Cuerpos de Paz y Narcotráfico, en la primera de una serie de audiencias sobre cómo enfrentar efectivamente los retos de la relación Estados Unidos-México. Uno de esos retos es la migración. Un amplio plan de legalización quedó rezagado tras los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre.

El presidente del panel, el senador de Connecticut, Christopher Dodd, le preguntó a Ziglar si cualquier plan para crear un programa de trabajadores temporales llevará necesariamente a buscar mecanismos para legalizar o regularizar a los millones de trabajadores indocumentados que ya viven en este país o a los que vengan.

Ziglar dijo que desconoce cuándo la administración arribará al punto de tener algo que presentar a los mexicanos y al Congreso estadounidense en lo que al plan migratorio respecta, aunque sigue siendo, dijo, una prioridad.

"Pero en términos muy amplios me parece que sería seguro decir que cualquier programa que trate de lidiar con trabajadores indocumentados, aquí y ahora, en términos de su situación migratoria, así como crear un programa de trabajadores temporales, terminaría necesariamente dentro del marco de crear una ruta hacia la residencia permanente, que, por supuesto, crea una ruta hacia la ciudadanía", dijo Ziglar.

"Sería poco realista pensar que podemos diseñar un programa que sólo tenga circularidad, es decir, el concepto de que la gente viene, se queda unos años y luego se va. Es claro que la gente viene, se enraiza, se integra a nuestra cultura, con-



tribuye a nuestra sociedad y todas esas cosas, y como todos los inmigrantes del pasado, aspiran a ser estadounidenses", declaró Ziglar.

"Mi trasfondo es empresarial", senador. Trato de lidiar con la realidad y hay realidades en torno a toda esta situación y cuando en este país hay ocho millones de indocumentados, tenemos que hacer algo al respecto", dijo Ziglar.

La Administración Bush insiste en que no concederá una amnistía a trabajadores indocumentados y que sólo desarrollaría mecanismos de regularización a través de un programa de trabajadores temporales.

En ese sentido, el congresista demócrata de Texas y presidente del grupo latino del Congreso, Silves-

tre Reyes, insistió en que cualquier plan de trabajadores temporales tiene primero que solucionar la situación de los millones de indocumentados que ya trabajan aquí.

La semana entrante la Cámara Baja considerará el proyecto de desmantelamiento del INS en dos agencias para mejorar su funcionamiento. Pero Reyes, que favorece el desmantelamiento, dijo que la reconstrucción puede ir a la par de desarrollar un amplio plan de legalización, contrario a muchos republicanos que consideran que primero debe reestructurarse la agencia antes de seguir echándole responsabilidades que no puede cumplir.

El Editor

## New Latino Plays Take Center Stage

Cañel Rossi was a 13-year-old aspiring playwright when she began seeking out plays about people like herself.

"I was looking for works that were identifiable, but there were no voices [representing] Caribbean-Latina playwrights," says Cañel Rossi, who grew up on the lower East Side in a Puerto Rican-Spanish family.

It was while attending the High School of Performing Arts in Manhattan that Cañel Rossi had a "life-altering moment." She says the best her teachers could

recommend to her were black-themed plays, such as Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf."

"Right then is when I decided to be a poet/playwright," she says. "It had become a desperate search for a voice we all could relate to and a struggle we could understand."

Nearly 20 years later, Cañel Rossi -- now a playwright ("Homegirls on the Prowl"), filmmaker (the upcoming "Rhythm of the Saints") and theater producer -- has joined with members of two other local

production companies who shared the same experience growing up.

"It became our mission," she says, "to bring the voice of the Latino experience to the forefront."

The result is "Songs From Coconut Hill," a theater festival that begins Friday at Manhattan's HERE Performance Art Center and features seven Latino-themed, English-language plays performed over 10 days.

"There still isn't enough support for [Latino] writers," says Cañel Rossi. "What we wanted to do was

create a supportive network and give these artists the opportunity to get their work out there."

The same exposure helps Hispanic actors and backstage technicians showcase their talents, too.

Yet it's highly unlikely the festival would ever have come off had it not been for the trio of companies banding together -- after years of friendly competition and mutual admiration.

In addition to Cañel Rossi's Cynalex Productions, "Coconut

Hill" is being presented by LatinoWorld/MundoLatino Inc. and Veronica Caicedo of Caicedo Productions. While each company has a long track record of staging Latino-themed works, they've been mostly small, Off-Off-Broadway showcases that often have struggled to find an audience.

"We wanted to work with each other because we knew each other's work," says LatinoWorld's Jesse Mojica, "and because there's strength in numbers and the power

**In California Politics:**

# It's Latinas Who Lead the Way

By Tony Castro Jr.  
Call it Latina Power.  
Look around the California political landscape, and you find that it's not Latinos who are coming into power.

It's primarily Latinas. No fewer than four Latinas represent Southern California in Congress, and a fifth is likely to follow in November. Add to that two state senators and a leader in the Assembly, not to mention a Los Angeles County supervisor.

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, which keeps tabs on such things across the country, reported that at the end of last year, Latinas constituted 38 percent, or 1,952, out of the total number of Hispanics who held elective positions across the country. That compares with only 32 percent, or 1,661, in 1996.

"We have actually decided to start taking charge of our own destinies," says Linda Sánchez, who is favored to win the redrawn 39th Congressional District seat in Southeast Los Angeles. She's the sister of Rep. Loretta Sánchez (D-Garden Grove), and if she's elected, Linda and Loretta will become the first sisters ever to sit in Congress, underscoring the impact of Latinas in politics.

No one fully understands why this has happened. Universities and

academics across the country are trying, with the most recent attempt being a panel discussion at California State University at Long Beach on the Latina political experience.

During the last decade, an increasing number of Latinas have been elected to local and national office, recounts Victor M. Rodríguez, CSULB associate professor of Chicano/Latino studies. Latinas have also become the focal point of union and community organizing throughout Southern California.

The best explanation for the phenomenon comes from Loretta Sánchez herself: "We come from a culture where the people who get things done tend to be the women," says the three-term congresswoman. "The women in our families are very, very strong."

The traditional political arena is a man's world. Women are discounted, and most women who make it to Congress get there despite the fact that the institution and the machinery are against them.

Political scientists concede that research has yet to prove that today's Latina leaders get their *ganas*, or motivation, from the women in their families. They do say they are finding that certain factors influence Latinas' decisions to run for office.

Latina politics is a sensitivity to

the need for change, says Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the University of Massachusetts Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and a leading researcher on Latina politics.

The thing that distinguishes Latina politics from politics in general is that the individual goals, the personal goals, are under this driving force to make things better for their families and their communities.

Hardy-Fanta says she is discovering that the skills Latinas learn in other fields, such as school volunteering, translating for neighbors and families, business-work interactions or community organizing, are easily transferable into invaluable political skills for the aspiring candidate.

Another contribution has been the work of Latina groups, such as Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, or HOPE, a 12-year-old, statewide organization founded by five Latinas who were dismayed that their *comadres*, or fellow Latinas, were not visible in local politics or other leadership positions.

"Our major focus is to try to inspire, empower and engage Latinas to pursue leadership positions," says Susan Sifuentes-Trigueros, president of HOPE. The philosophy is that if you have a strong Latina leader, that will

transcend to all communities at large.

Sifuentes-Trigueros' group took to heart its findings and in 1999 established the HOPE Leadership Institute. Latinas interested in pursuing public office apply to the institute, where they learn presentation skills, how to raise funds, develop an image and run a campaign.

Already the training institute boasts distinguished alumnae, including Rosario Marin, the former Huntington Park city council member and now the 41st treasurer of the United States, the highest-ranking Latina in President George W. Bush's administration.

Across the country, more and more Latinas can be found sitting on city councils, school boards and walking the halls of state and national legislatures.

This is the future of government, says Hardy-Fanta. If Latinas are getting elected at higher rates than Latinos, and make up a large portion of elected Latino officials, then they are going to have a role in the governing of this country on both the local and national levels. "Latinas," she asserts, "are aiming for power."

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## This is the Moment of Citizenship

By: Ysidro V. Gutierrez

The following is one of several speeches presented at the Founding Convention of the West Texas Organizing Strategy last Sunday. Over 1200 delegates attended the convention. The new organization's agenda for families was publicly announced at the convention. The speech was presented by Ysidro V. Gutierrez. The reader should read this piece as a speech. Notations and credits are not included.

My fellow delegates, before we begin this afternoon's meeting I want to talk to you about Citizenship - I want to show you Citizenship - this is citizenship - we are Citizenship.

Over the last three years, in hundreds of house meetings, involving thousands of members, WTOS has been building participative Citizenship. We have recreated Citizenship. Indeed we have defined Citizenship. We are the only ones in this community practicing true Citizenship.

Why do we do it?

• Why have we torn down the economic, racial, social, educational, and religious barriers

• Why are we working for the common good

• Why are we Re-Thinking Citizenship and creating a new history for ourselves, our families, our churches, our schools, and our community.

The answer is simple - Because we love our families, we love our churches, we love our schools and we love our community. We do it because it is the right thing to do. That is WHY we engage in participative Citizenship.

In our meetings over the last three years we have discovered what it takes to be good Citizens. It takes caring, patriotism, leadership, and courage. We have discovered that Citizenship is linked directly with human relationships and the ways in which we care for others and for our community.

We have discovered that:

• Caring does not make us good Citizens. But that we are good citizens because we care.

• Patriotism does not make us good citizens. Good Citizenship makes us Patriots.

• We are not leaders because we are good citizens. We are good citizens because we are leaders.

• We have not courage because we are good citizens. We are good citizens because we are courageous.

To understand this aright and to act on this is to acknowledge the love of families, churches, schools and community.

We are creating history HERE! And we will continue to recreate history. We will do it not only when it is fashionable. We will do it day after day, EVERYDAY, we will not be silent, we will never cease to be Citizens.

For we can never stop loving our families, churches, homes, schools and community - we are citizens because family, church, and schools and community are what we value.

And at WTOS we act on our VALUES.

My fellow delegates, let me make it clear - History is made by Citizenship.

Blessed are the History Makers for they will establish a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

History is something we create ourselves and we are thus responsible for our history. At our house meetings, we have discovered what Citizenship is:

• Citizenship insures protection of liberties,

• Citizenship guarantees free discussion and free expression.

• Citizenship guarantees uncensored news and fair commentary.

• Citizenship is the freedom to obtain the truth and most importantly, equal access to debate and willingness to hear opposing views.

• Citizenship is constructive exchange of ideas - for this is how needs are identified.

• Citizenship generates political initiatives and forms values.

• Citizenship works for the most vulnerable.

• Most importantly Citizens United for the common good have POWER.

We now know what is needed to build citizenship. It takes imagination, passion, tools of analysis, and social criticism. Creating Citizenship means a bold conviction about an alternative possibility we call HOPE. Hope is essential for Citizenship. Citizenship is the only way to human newness. It is the only way to effect lasting change. The better world awaits us for we at WTOS dare to imagine a better future beginning with this moment of Citizenship.

Let us walk together, let us respect each other, let us sit at one table as equals, let us dream together, let us practice the Citizenship that we are building - this is how we become deserving of citizenship - this is how we pass on this noble legacy to our children.

The absence of citizenship means the end of dialog, and narrowness of thought and outlook. WTOS will not see this end.

WTOS will work for the enlargement of the mind and the human spirit, and the expansion of perspective. In the end it will be the true citizens who are the history makers. And we shall be called sons and daughters of God.

We welcome everyone that is open to new possibilities - this means new practices, new dialog. This means a new and deep citizenship.

Let us therefore, with a firm belief in the rectitude of our intentions and a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, dare to imagine a new and deep Citizenship. Let us continue what we have begun. Let us be Active Participative Citizens.

Let us do it for our families, churches, schools, and community. Let us do it because it is right.

## En La Politica Californiana:

# Las Latinas Son Las Que Marcan El Paso

Por Tony Castro

Llamémosle "potencia de las latinas".

Si observa el paisaje político californiano, descubrirá que no son Latinos varones quienes están asumiendo el poder.

Se trata de latinas principalmente.

Nada menos que cuatro latinas representan al sur de California en el congreso estadounidense, y una quinta tiene buenas probabilidades de sumarse en noviembre. Además de eso, hay dos senadoras y una líder en la asamblea estatal californiana, sin contar a una supervisora del condado de Los Angeles.

La National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (asociación nacional de funcionarios latinos electos y nombrados), organización que lleva las cuentas en este tema por todo el país, informó que, al finalizar el año pasado, las latinas constituían un 38 por ciento (1,952 latinas) del número total de hispanos que ocupaban puestos electivos en todo el país. Ello contrasta con sólo un 32 por ciento (1,661 latinas) en 1996.

"Realmente hemos decidido tomar por las riendas nuestro propio destino", dice Linda Sánchez, la candidata predilecta de la contienda por el 39no distrito congresional, en el sureste de Los Angeles, que fue retrazado recientemente. Linda es hermana de la representante congresional Loretta Sánchez (D-Garden Grove). Si resulta elegida, Linda y Loretta se convertirán en las primeras hermanas que sirven simultáneamente en el congreso, y

recalcarán el impacto de las latinas sobre el mundo de la política.

Nadie entiende por completo por qué se ha dado este fenómeno. Universidades y estudiosos a lo largo de todo el país están tratando de comprender. El intento más reciente fue una discusión de un grupo de expertos sobre la experiencia política de las latinas en la California State University-Long Beach (CSULB).

Durante la última década, cada vez más latinas han sido elegidas a puestos locales y nacionales, relata Víctor M. Rodríguez, profesor adjunto de estudios chicanos y latinos. Por todo el sur de California, las latinas también han surgido como focos de organización sindical y comunitaria.

La mejor explicación del fenómeno la trae a colación la misma Loretta: "Venimos de una cultura en la que quienes hacen que las cosas se realicen tienden a ser mujeres", dice la representante congresional que ha sido electa tres veces. "Las mujeres en nuestras familias son muy, muy fuertes".

El campo político tradicional lo dominan los hombres. A las mujeres se les descarta, y la mayoría de las mujeres que llegan al congreso lo logran a pesar de que la institución y la maquinaria política operan en su contra.

Los científicos políticos conceden que todavía los estudios no han probado que las líderes latinas actuales deriven sus "ganas", su motivación, de las mujeres de su familia. Dicen que están descubriendo que ciertos factores afectan la decisión de competir por una plaza electiva.

La política de las latinas representa una sensibilidad a la sed del cambio, dice Carol Hardy-Panta, directora del Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (centro para las mujeres en la política y la política pública) de la University of Massachusetts e investigadora líder en el tema de las latinas en la política.

Lo que distingue la política de las latinas de la política en general es que las metas individuales, las metas personales, son el fundamento de este afán por hacer que las cosas mejoren para sus familias y sus comunidades. Hardy-Fanta dice que está descubriendo que las destrezas que las latinas aprenden en otros campos tales como en el trabajo voluntario en la escuela, la traducción para vecinos y familiares, las interacciones en los negocios y la organización comunitaria se pueden transformar fácilmente en destrezas políticas de valor incalculable para la candidata aspirante.

Una contribución adicional ha sido el trabajo de organizaciones de latinas como Hispanas Organized for Political Equity (hispanas organizadas por la equidad política), HOPE, una organización fundada hace doce años, cuyo alcance cubre todo el estado, que establecieron cinco latinas que se sentían consternadas porque sus "comadres", hermanas latinas, no eran visibles dentro de la política local u otros puestos de liderazgo.

"Nuestro enfoque principal consiste en inspirar, facultar y hacer conscientes de su potencial, e involucrar a latinas en aspirar a posiciones de liderazgo", dice

Susan Sifuentes-Trigueros, presidenta de HOPE. La teoría detrás de nuestro enfoque es que una buena líder latina va a trascender su comunidad.

El grupo de Sifuentes-Triguero tomó en serio sus hallazgos y, en 1999, fundó el HOPE Leadership Institute (instituto de liderazgo HOPE). Latinas interesadas en competir por puestos electivos postulan para participar en el instituto, donde aprenden cómo hacer presentaciones, recaudar fondos, desarrollar una imagen y administrar una campaña.

El instituto de adiestramiento ya cuenta con ex-alumnas distinguidas. Entre ellas, se encuentra Rosario Marin, la antigua miembro del consejo municipal de Huntington Park y ahora 41ra tesorera de los Estados Unidos, y la latina de más alto rango de la administración del presidente George W. Bush.

Por todo el país, se pueden encontrar más y más latinas en consejos municipales, juntas escolares, y en los pasillos de legislaturas estatales y nacionales.

Este es el futuro del gobierno, dice Hardy-Panta. Si se están eligiendo latinas en índices mayores que latinos, y ellas están formando una proporción mayor de los funcionarios latinos, entonces van a desempeñar un papel en el gobierno de este país tanto a niveles locales como nacionales. "Las latinas", afirma, "se dirigen hacia el poder".

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# Where's Pete Wilson When Democrats Need Him?

By Tony Castro

Presidential mid-term election years have traditionally been good for the parties out of power in the White House, but Art Torres in 2002 may be facing his toughest test as California Democratic Party chairman.

Not only is Torres tackling the problem of rousing support for a tough reelection campaign of a less-than-dynamic Democratic governor, he is also confronting the gloomy prospect of having Rep. Gary Condit drag down the Democrats far beyond his Central California congressional district.

Torres publicly urged Condit not to run for reelection. Condit might have listened and stepped aside had the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks not diverted the focus of a media firestorm raging over Condit's behavior in the disappearance of his Washington intern Chandra Levy. But given new life by the national tragedy, Condit plunged into the reelection fray.

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, the front-running candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, leads Davis in the head-to-head polls and enjoys the luxury of a larger campaign war chest, not to mention the support of a very popular

president who spent much of the past year aggressively courting Latinos and swing voters in California.

Torres, the former state senator from East Los Angeles, now faces the unenviable prospect of seeing Republicans take back the governorship on his watch - something unimaginable after former Gov. Pete Wilson all but drowned the GOP in the Pacific Ocean just a few years ago.

Democrats are worried that Condit's campaign will hand the conservative district he represents to a Republican and jeopardize the party's chances at taking control of the House.

Publicly, Torres and the Democrats still love to talk about how Pete Wilson destroyed the Republicans in California with his anti-immigrant politics and the divisive Proposition 189 campaign of 1994. But privately there is concern. Some Latino leaders are frustrated with Davis, complaining that he delayed signing a bill that would have expanded the category of noncitizens allowed to get driver's licenses. The measure will be considered again this year.

"What that translates to is lukewarm support," says Antonio

González, president of the William C. Velásquez Institute, a Latino think tank. "There's no passion for Gray Davis in the Latino community."

Add in the Riordan factor, and it makes Democrats shudder.

Riordan's connections to Latino communities go back decades, rooted in his philanthropy. The Riordan Foundation has given thousands of computers to public and parochial school students in poor neighborhoods, many predominantly Latino.

In Boyle Heights, a Latino neighborhood east of downtown Los Angeles, the main building of the nonprofit Puente Learning Center is named for Riordan because of his hefty financial contributions.

While mayor, Riordan repeatedly aligned himself with Latinos. He campaigned for Proposition BB, a school repair bond measure that passed because of the overwhelming Latino support. He promoted Rocky Delgadillo, his former deputy mayor who is now city attorney. He backed City Councilmen Alex Padilla and Nick Pacheco in their races. Last spring, he endorsed former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa to

replace him as mayor, spurning eventual winner James K. Hahn.

"There's no question that Dick Riordan won the Latino vote in Los Angeles ... and that's going to translate into votes for him in 2002," concedes Miguel Contreras, head of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

What Torres and the Democrats are now doing is running a part of their gubernatorial campaign in the March primary, even though Davis is a cinch for the party's nomination.

The Democrats are also gunning for one of their own, Condit, as he seeks a seventh term. Although party chaimen usually stay out of primary fights, Torres has openly endorsed popular Latino Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza against him.

U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Santa Fe Springs) has also broken with colleague Condit and tradition to endorse Cardoza. Other House members are either lining up behind Cardoza or staying far away from Condit.

But even all that may wind up backfiring for the Democrats.

In Condit's home district, there are some Democrats -- Latino

## ¿Dónde Esta Pete Wilson Ahora Que Los Demócratas Lo Necesitan?

Por Tony Castro

Los años que corresponden a la mitad del término presidencial han sido positivos en cuanto a las elecciones del partido opositor de la Casa Blanca, sin embargo, Art Torres en 2002 podrá tener que enfrentarse a su prueba más difícil como jefe del partido demócrata de California.

No sólo tendrá que obtener apoyo para una campaña de re-elección del gobernador demócrata poco dinámico, sino que también se enfrenta con la triste posibilidad de ver decaer el partido demócrata californiano más allá del distrito congresional del centro del estado, por culpa del representante Gary Condit.

En público Torres le pidió a Condit que no buscara la re-elección. Condit tal vez le habría hecho caso si los ataques del 11 de septiembre no hubieran desviado el enfoque ferviente de los medios de comunicaciones del comportamiento de Condit en referencia a la desaparición de su asistente en Washington, Chandra Levy. Pero el representante cobró nueva vida con la tragedia nacional, y se lanzó de lleno a la contienda electoral.

Antiguo alcalde de Los Angeles, Richard Riordan, primer candidato para la nominación a gobernador por el partido republicano, le lleva la delantera a Davis en las encuestas y disfruta del lujo de más dinero para la campaña, por no mencionar el apoyo de un presidente de la república muy popular que ha pasado mucho del año pasado cortejando agresivamente a los

latinos y votantes indecisos de California.

Torres, antiguo senador del estado proveniente del este de Los Angeles, se enfrenta ahora con el prospecto nada envidiable de ver que los republicanos recuperen el cargo de gobernador bajo su mando - lo cual habría sido imposible de imaginar después de que el antiguo gobernador de California, Pete Wilson, hubiera ahogado prácticamente al partido republicano en el océano Pacífico hace apenas unos años.

Los demócratas se preocupan de que la campaña de Condit le entregará a un republicano el distrito conservador que representa, perjudicando las posibilidades que tuviera el partido demócrata de controlar la cámara.

En público, a Torres y a los demócratas todavía les encanta recordar cómo Pete Wilson destruyó a los republicanos en California con su política anti-inmigrantes y la campaña divisiva de la Propuesta 189 en 1994. Pero en privado están preocupados. Algunos dirigentes latinos están frustrados con Davis, quejándose que tardó en firmar un proyecto de ley que hubiera ampliado la categoría para los que no son ciudadanos que pueden sacar la licencia de conducir. Se volverá a considerar el proyecto este año.

"La implicación es que no nos apoya del todo", dice Antonio González, presidente del instituto William C. Velásquez, que considera temas de envergadura para

continúa en la página 5

Valley," says Lucille Mejía, a longtime Democratic activist in the Modesto area. Davis is now on her own political hit list.

For state party chair Torres, the mid-term election will be no party.

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## La Víctima Acusó a Un Sacerdote de Embarazarla y De Pagarle Un Aborto Cuando Ella Era Adolescente

La arquidiócesis de Los Angeles y la diócesis de Orange pagarán 1.2 millones de dólares a una mujer que acusó a un sacerdote de Orange de haberla sometido a abuso sexual cuando ella tenía 14 años. La mujer sostiene que como consecuencia quedó embarazada y que el religioso la obligó a abortar.

Lori Haigh acusó al sacerdote John Lenihan de abuso sexual cometido en varias ocasiones entre 1978 y 1982. Actualmente está casada y es madre de dos hijos.

Durante una conferencia realizada en la oficina de su abogada, esta mujer de 37 años anunció que también denunciará a Lenihan a la policía por esas acciones de abuso sexual contra una menor cuando era sacerdote en la catedral de La Sagrada Familia, de Orange.

"Fui abusada sexualmente por mi sacerdote católico", dijo Haigh. "Cuando fui a quejarme con otros sacerdotes, uno me hizo avances sexuales y otro me llamó mentirosa y me corrió de la iglesia".

Tod Brown, obispo de la diócesis en Orange, ofreció disculpas por el caso de Lenihan y señaló que será despojado de su calidad de sacerdote por el papa Juan Pablo II. Agregó que Lenihan fue removido de su cargo el año pasado y aceptó dejar el sacerdocio después de que se descubrieron "serios incumplimientos de contrato" cometidos en su desempeño.

"Siento un inmenso dolor por el daño a causa de las acciones del padre Lenihan y ofrezco mis más sinceras disculpas a la señora Haigh y a todas las víctimas de abuso sexual cometidos por clérigos", dijo. "La Iglesia debe ser un lugar seguro. Estamos tomando cada paso posible para asegurarnos de que los sacerdotes y otros religiosos que actúan en nombre de la Iglesia Católica en Orange hagan de ella un lugar donde se halle protección para los débiles y vulnerables: donde la gente pueda curar sus heridas".

Según el acuerdo, la arquidiócesis pagará 240 mil dólares, mientras que el resto lo cubrirá la diócesis del Condado de Orange.

"Nosotros no supervisamos la diócesis de Orange", indicó Tod M. Tamberg, portavoz de la

arquidiócesis de Los Angeles. "Cada diócesis tiene su obispo que la representa".

Pero en la demanda presentada en diciembre, Haigh acusó a la arquidiócesis de Los Angeles y a la diócesis de Orange de saber que Lenihan había abusado sexualmente de otra niña antes que empezara a abusar de ella en 1979.

El documento indica que la arquidiócesis conocía el caso porque el padrastro de la otra víctima, Mary Grant, de 15 años, escribió una carta en la cual acusa al padre Lenihan de tener "una relación íntima" con ella. En ese entonces (septiembre de 1978), monseñor Clement J. Connally respondió que referiría el caso al obispo de Orange.

En la demanda presentada en diciembre, Haigh también alega que cuando tenía 17 años contó a dos diferentes sacerdotes del supuesto abuso sexual. Dijo que el primero, identificado como el padre Lawrence Baird, respondió abrazándola y besándola en la boca, y el segundo, John Urell, la acusó de mentir y le dijo que se fuera de la iglesia.

Ambos son monseñores en la diócesis de Orange. Baird es el portavoz y se encarga de proveer datos e información a la prensa, incluyendo casos de acusación de abuso sexual contra sacerdotes. Urell es el investigador principal de "asuntos sensibles" que investiga este tipo de quejas. El equipo de monseñores reveló el viernes que la diócesis había removido a todos los sacerdotes acusados de delitos sexuales.

Maria Schinderle, directora de recursos humanos de la diócesis de Orange, negó las acusaciones contra Urell y Baird y argumentó que no tenían fundamento. Afirmó que los sacerdotes seguían en sus puestos, pero debido a las acusaciones Baird ya no estaba encargado de la prensa.

"El Comité de Asuntos Delicados investigó estas acusaciones y no hay ninguna base para apoyarlas", dijo. "Tanto monseñor Baird como Urell niegan las acusaciones y la diócesis los apoya".

Haigh recordó el supuesto abuso que sufrió por tres años. Explicó que los actos se iniciaron con

simples caricias, que llevaron a relaciones sexuales y que terminaron en un aborto.

"El padre John me embarazó", afirmó. "Cuando le dije del embarazo me dijo que me sometiera a un aborto. El padre John me llevó a su banco y retiró dinero [entre 300 y 800 dólares] para pagar el aborto. Nunca he podido reconciliar el hecho de que el padre, que dio sermones de que 'el aborto es un pecado mortal', haya sido quien me dijo que me sometiera a un aborto".

Agregó que ese tipo de abuso destruyó su fe en la Iglesia Católica y que merece el máximo castigo.

"Me da gusto saber que el padre John va a ser destituido", indicó Haigh. "Pero él merece estar en la cárcel y por eso iré a la policía a denunciar los delitos".

Haigh recibió el apoyo de Grant, de 39 años, quien llegó a un acuerdo de 25 mil dólares con la diócesis en 1991, cuando acusó a Lenihan de abuso sexual entre 1978 y 1991.

"En los últimos años la Iglesia decía que exageré... que ni siquiera era una niña --yo tenía 14 años-- y que algunos niños a esa edad son precoces", dijo Grant, quien en 1992 inició el programa Grupo de Apoyo de Víctimas de Abusos Sexuales por Sacerdotes (SNAP). "Ese tipo de comentarios está diseñado para 'hacer sentir a las víctimas que es su culpa'".

Kathy Freberg, la abogada de Haigh, también representó a Grant y Ryan DiMaria. En el último caso, la arquidiócesis de Los Angeles, ofreció una disculpa pública y pagó 5.2 millones de dólares a este hombre que supuestamente sufrió abuso sexual, cuando tenía 17 años, a manos de Michael Harris, el director de una escuela católica del condado de Orange, que después fue destituido.

"La arquidiócesis tuvo la obligación de investigar pero se lavaron las manos con las acusaciones", dijo Freberg. Los acusados y los hombres de la Iglesia que cubrieron estos casos nunca pensaron que estos niños crecerían y se convertirían en hombres y mujeres con voz. Sus voces dicen que ya no vivirán con la vergüenza. Sus voces dicen que ya no tolerarán los encubrimientos".

## A Heroine Whose Name Escaped Public Notice

By Zita Arocha

By age 11, Josefina (Pipina) Salas-Porras, a trailblazing community leader, activist, teacher and businesswoman from El Paso, Texas, was already on her way to busting barriers and *abriendo paso*, opening the way for women and Hispanics.

Determined to be a teacher that summer of 1937, she recruited three boys from neighboring *Ciudad Juárez*, and, with help from a friend, taught them English on her front porch swing. Two years later, the "school" -- by then equipped with loaned desks, chairs and books -- had two dozen students and moved to the family basement in Central El Paso.

Recently diagnosed with cancer, this gutsy, 76-year-old Mexican-American grandmother retired in December after 22 years as trustee of the Arlington, Va.-based Freedom Forum, leaving a long trail of *logros*, accomplishments that have left her imprint nationally.

While still in high school, Pipina, as she likes to be called, convinced her father, a department store buyer, to let her teach at a local language school. Knowing her youthful looks might be off-putting to the adult students, she traded bobby socks for a black dress and panty hose.

"I always had a passion for teaching," she admits.

Pipina graduated from El Paso High School at age 15 and from the College of Mines (now the University of Texas at El Paso) at 19. Later came a multitude of appointments to corporate and foundation boards, more than a dozen over the last 26 years.

The only Latina trustee of the Freedom Forum media foundation, she was the first Latina appointed to similar guiding bodies of local telephone and utility companies and the first to the El Paso branch of Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Recalls best friend/former classmate Isabel Gómez Fushille, "Pipina is also the first one to tell you it's not so terrific being a Hispanic and a woman. You fill two positions but only get one chair."

A celebration to honor her pioneering spirit had been planned at UTEP just weeks ago, but the event was canceled after Salas-Porras became too ill to attend.

"She kept UTEP on the radar screen in settings where she had contacts and channels we didn't

have," says UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "It's a mystery why Salas-Porras is not better known nationally -- or even in her own community."

The elegant, sometimes salty-tongued advocate has been to multiculturalism in education and media diversity what better-known Hispanics like César Chávez and Antonia Hernández have been to Latino farm-labor organizing and civil rights.

Although Mexican Americans growing up in the Southwest in the '30s, '40s and '50s were often targets of discrimination, she says that personally, "I never felt that in El Paso," where she married her college sweetheart, Francisco "Pancho" Salas-Porras.

Throughout her life, she has been unwavering in her commitment. "The people who are out front picketing get all the headlines, but someone has to go into the boardroom and make it all work," says Félix Gutiérrez, senior vice president with the Freedom Forum before retiring to Oakland, Calif., to write this winter. "That's where she was most effective." The foundation's agenda includes one of the country's longest-running, most successful journalism programs for college students of color. Salas-Porras was also a key player in promoting press freedoms throughout Latin America and the world.

Forum founder Al Neuharth calls her the foundation's conscience on diversity issues. "She had strong feelings and let them be known."

Pipina has promoted efforts to provide greater education opportunities and scholarships to

students from Mexico as well as U.S. Hispanics. Her forebears fled the Mexican Revolution in railroad boxcars and settled in the frontier town of El Paso in the early 1900s. Recently she published her first book, *"El Ratoncito Pequeño,"* based on a nursery rhyme she remembers from childhood.

On a state and national level, the well-connected Salas-Porras has been a tireless fighter for more government and philanthropic dollars for her often-neglected, predominantly Latino border community, one of the poorest in the country.

On a personal level, she has been a role model for young Latinas, including her three grown daughters. Daughter Marta, creative director of a global communications company in San Francisco, says of her mother, "She taught us that it's not about being an 'A' student but about having a passion for what you want to do in your life and career."

Pipina has led by example as well as with words. In 1970, while raising six children, she co-founded an international language school that grew into a successful business with offices in El Paso, Mexico City, California and Nicaragua. "I got on the phone to every bank president in El Paso and told them I'm teaching a class on Monday at seven. Be there," she recounts.

Pipina's endless list of *logros* has been accomplished without fanfare. "I wish I had done more," is all she says.

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## El Editor Newspapers

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Happy Birthday  
Marisol Aguero  
12 Years Old

from  
Dad, Mom  
& Family!

We Love You  
Mucho...Mucho!  
& We Are  
Proud of You!

## ¿QUÉ PASA?

### Candidate Forum

There will be a candidate forum on Monday, April 22 starting at 7:30 pm held at Shepherd King Lutheran Church which is located at 2122 18th Street. The candidate participants will be Mayor of Lubbock: Rick Fowler, Isaac Garnett, Ysabel Luna, Marc McDougal, Gilbert John Montes II, Larry Rogers, Rick Spivey, Lubbock City Council: Victor Hernandez, District 1, Gary Boren, District 3.  
For more information contact 744-7772.

### American GI Forum of Lubbock

The American G.I. Forum, a veterans family non-profit organization, will be having an Enchilada Dinner fund raiser at Lala's Restaurant which is located at 1110 Broadway. This fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2002 starting at 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

All funds raised will go towards purchasing bricks with Veterans names and branch of service for low income veterans and families. These bricks will be placed on the Veterans Memorial Monument that will be build at Huneke Park, located on 82nd & Knoxville Street. This monument will be build for all veterans of all wars. Lets show these veterans that we really care about them and all that they have done for our country.

For additional information call Robert Narvaiz at 792-5037 or 239-3474 or Gee Garza at 794-3738.

### Los Trabajadores-The Workers

'Los Trabajadores' Workers which is an award winning documentary film by Heather Courtney will be Friday, April 19, 2002 at 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be available at the college of Human Sciences Building, Canyon Room at 1:00; screening of film, room 169. A panel discussion will follow. RSVP 742-8672 for lunch count.

This is a program of Hispanic Cultural Awareness Week April 15-19. This event will be sponsored by Hispanic Student Society in partnership with College of Human Sciences.

## Every Neighborhood Counts

"I don't want a City Hall that quits on its neighborhoods - a City Hall that will look the other way."

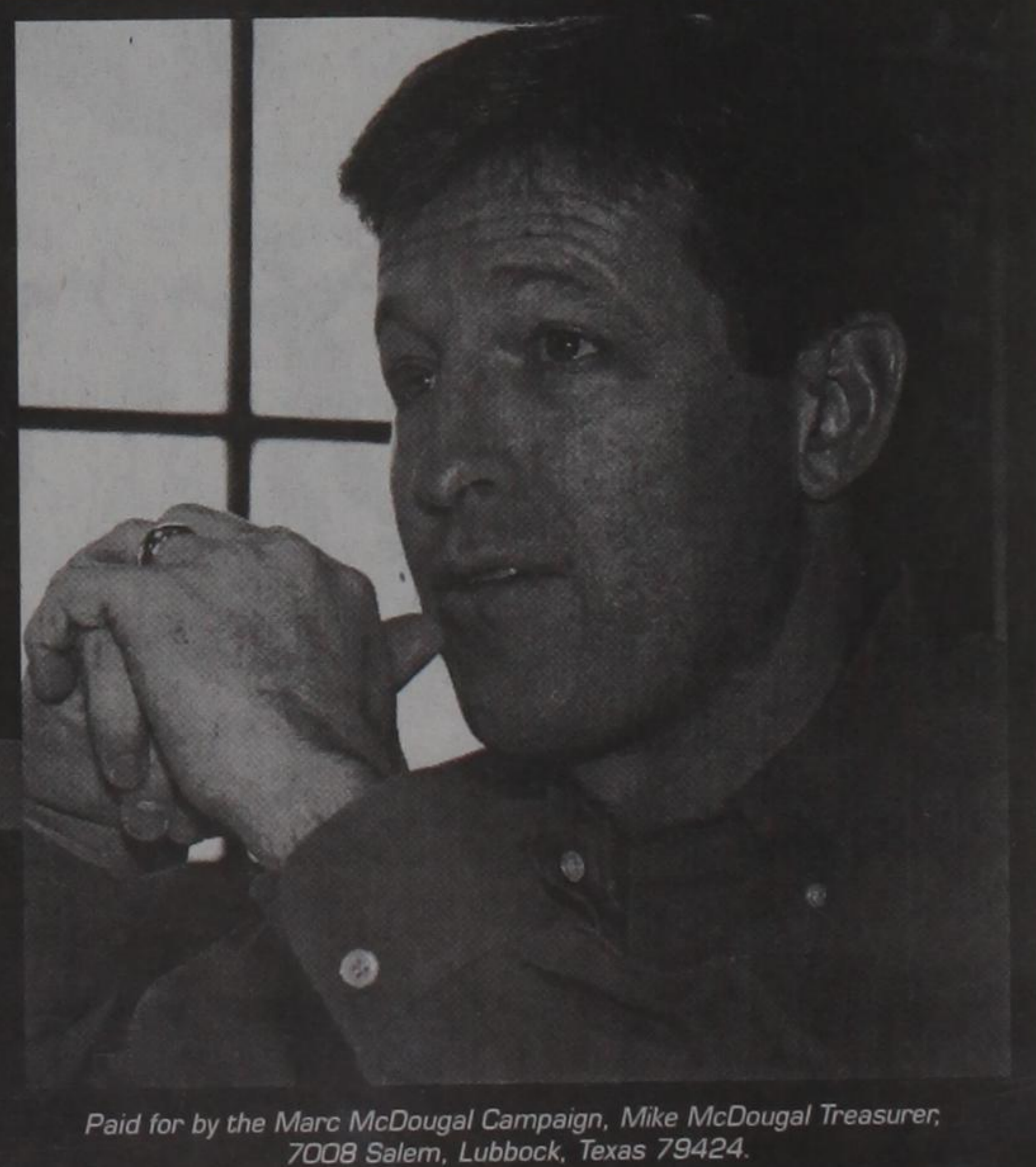
## Every Neighborhood Counts

"City Hall's purpose should be to help people live their lives - not try to run them. Neighborhood schools are the heart and soul of our city. We must keep them open to educate our future leaders because education is the best way to a better life. We need to make sure we keep neighborhoods alive and encourage them to prosper. We need to make sure it isn't necessary to close any more schools."

"I am ready to meet the challenges to help Lubbock be all that it can be and that includes each and every neighborhood. I need your support and vote."  
Thanks

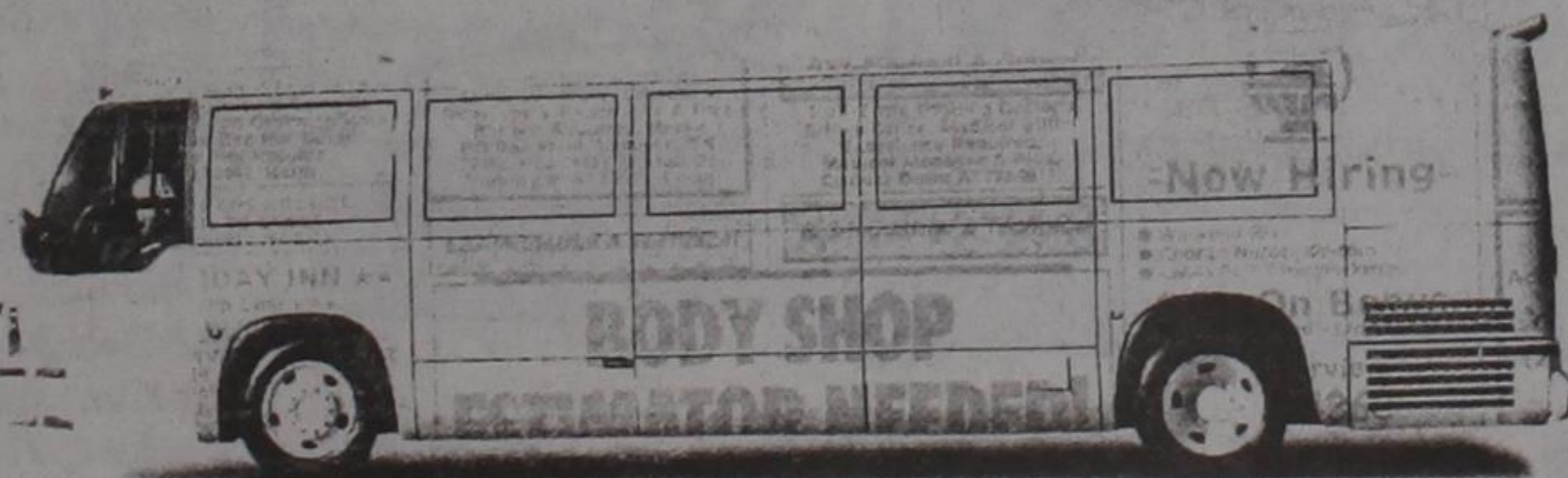
- Marc McDougal

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# Rangers Blow Lead In 10th, Fall to Angels

John Roker and his troubled career are headed to the minor leagues.

The left-hander was optioned to the minors early Wednesday, hours after he blew a save for the Texas Rangers in the 10th inning against the Anaheim Angels.

"It's a disappointment for him," Roker's agent, Joe Sambito, said.

Sambito said it would be premature to comment further because there was "too much going on."

Roker, whose crude remarks about minorities in 1999 led to a suspension and set off a nationwide debate, was sent to the Rangers' Triple-A Oklahoma farm club. He had 72 hours to accept the assignment.

The club had not yet made a roster move to replace Roker on the 25-man roster, Rangers spokesman John Blake said in a statement.

Blake, reached later in his hotel, said the team would have no comment on the move until later Wednesday.

Roker is 0-1 with a 9.53 ERA and one save in six relief appearances with Texas this season. He has blown two of his three save opportunities.

He was the losing pitcher in Tuesday's 6-5 loss in 10 innings at Anaheim, allowing Darin Erstad's game-winning two-run double.

Roker was one of the top young closers in baseball in 1999, saving 38 games and helping the Atlanta Braves reach the World Series.

That offseason, Roker made offensive comments about gays, minorities and immigrants in an interview with Sports Illustrated and was suspended for the first two weeks of the 2000 season and became one of the most despised

players in the game. He never again reached the heights of his 1999 season. He struggled with his control early in 2000 and was sent to the minors by the Braves after a confrontation with Jeff Pearlman, the reporter who wrote the Sports Illustrated article.

Roker was soon called up and pitched well for Atlanta, but the Braves cut their ties with the reliever anyway, trading him to Cleveland in June.

Roker lost the closer's job with the Indians, going 3-7 with a 5.45 ERA after the season.

But new Texas general manager John Hart, who acquired Roker in Cleveland, decided to trade for the reliever in December.

Roker didn't have any behavior problems with the Rangers, but struggled at the job he once did so well. Put into the closer's role when Jeff Zimmerman started the season on the disabled list, Roker blew his first save chance April 9 against Oakland.

After blowing another one Tuesday night, the Rangers had had enough.

Roker is 11-20, with a 3.21 ERA with 88 saves in 254 major-league appearances with Atlanta, Cleveland and Texas.

# Oscar DeLaHoya Hablará Con La Prensa Sobre La Evolución De Su Lesión



Será la próxima semana cuando Oscar de la Hoya hable directamente con la prensa sobre la lesión que sufrió en su mano izquierda, y que lo obligó a aplazar el esperado combate ante su acérrimo rival Fernando Vargas.

De la Hoya y Vargas unificarán el cetro superwelter del Consejo Mundial de Boxeo (CMB), en poder del

"Golden Boy", y el de la Asociación Mundial de Boxeo (AMB), que posee el "Feroz", en un combate que se efectuará el 14 de septiembre en el hotel Mandalay Bay de Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Oscar llegará este fin de semana de Puerto Rico y esperamos que hable con la prensa el lunes o martes para ofrecer una explicación sobre esta lesión que tantos dolores de cabeza nos ha dado", dijo ayer Richard Schaefer, jefe ejecutivo de la oficina del quintuple monarca universal.

"Sabemos que no hay satisfacción entre mucha gente y la prensa porque Oscar no ha hablado o demostrado que en realidad está lesionado, y por eso se realizará esta reunión, para terminar con las especulaciones", afirmó.

"¿Dónde se llevará a cabo?"  
 "En una clínica de Pasadena que fue recomendada por el doctor Tony Daly, donde Oscar iniciará su rehabilitación con uno de los mejores terapeutas".

"¿Cuánto tiempo durará esa reha-

bilitación?"  
 "Todo eso lo responderá el doctor, quien a su vez hablará detalladamente sobre lo que causó la lesión y cómo se trabajará para sanarla".

En el Show de Irvine Schaefer confesó que el aplazamiento del combate fue un gran contratiempo por la clase de respuestas negativas que provocó por parte del equipo de Vargas, pero señaló que la vida da vueltas y que nada es perfecto.

"Jamás nos imaginábamos que esto iba a suceder, pero así como estábamos preparados para llegar con todo el 4 de mayo, también estamos listos para afrontar esta situación que nos ha dado tantos problemas".

"Sin embargo, tanto Oscar como todo su equipo tratan de tomar las cosas por el lado positivo, y por ello [De la Hoya] asistirá a la velada del 25 de abril en Irvine, que es una de sus promociones".

"Finalmente, todo lo que se hable negativo o positivo de Oscar es

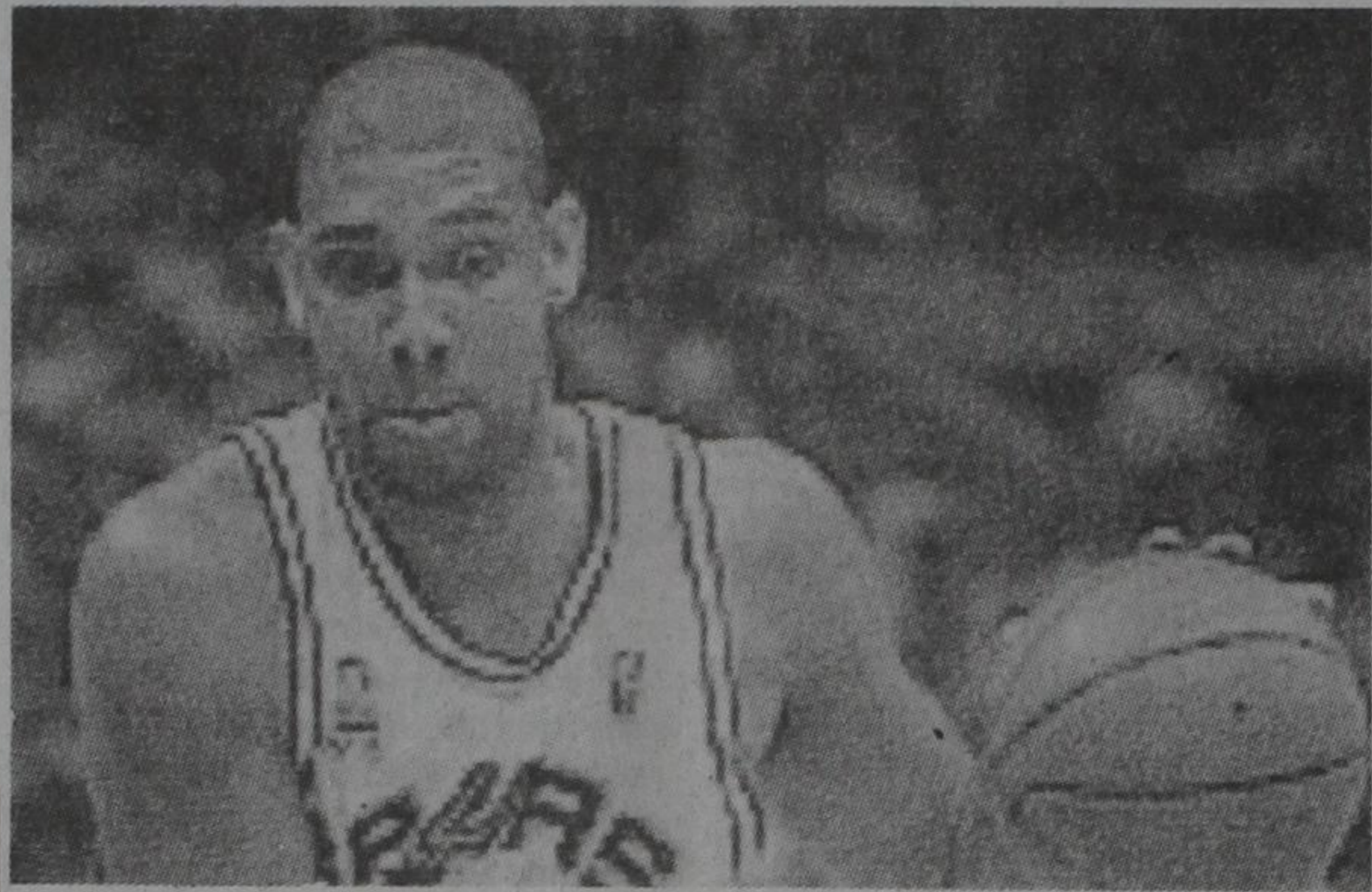
bueno, y mientras Fernando Vargas mantenga la intensidad en sus declaraciones, eso ayuda a que la flama se mantenga intensa y no se apague", subrayó.

Definitivamente la próxima semana será vital, pues se podrá observar en detalle la lesión del "Golden Boy", pues se afirma que el hueso del tercer metacarpo le quedó bastante débil --muy delgado-- tras la operación que se le practicó el 8 de noviembre de 2001, y que tiene muy saltado el nudillo.

"No habrá problema. Oscar quedará bien de esta lesión y tendrá la misma fuerza para enfrentar a Vargas", comentó el lunes Bob Arum, y agregó que a la mayoría de los peleadores se les adelgaza el hueso por el uso constante de sus manos, que a la vez son sus herramientas de trabajo.

Y aunque la duda persiste, los resultados de la rehabilitación a la que se someterá De la Hoya confirmarán si está apto para combatir o quizás, simple y llanamente, tenga que decir adiós al boxeo.

# Spurs Win, Control Own Destiny for Midwest Division Crown



With one game remaining, the San Antonio Spurs hold their playoff destiny in their own hands.

Tim Duncan scores 24 points and grabs 11 rebounds as the Spurs overwhelm the Suns.

Tim Duncan's 24 points and 11 rebounds led a 95-71 win over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night, putting the Spurs on the verge of

the Midwest Division title and an automatic No. 2 seed in the Western Conference.

The win improved San Antonio's record to 57-24, the same as Dallas, which defeated Utah on Tuesday. But the Spurs went 3-1 against the Mavericks this season to earn the tiebreaker should the teams finish with the same record.

San Antonio ends its regular season Wednesday at playoff-bound Utah, while Dallas will wrap up in Phoenix.

Duncan said the Spurs will face a major challenge in the Delta Center. The Jazz are trying to move up in the seedings, and the teams have a long-established and heated rivalry.

"It's a tough place to play and the fans are always loud," he said. But, he added, "we're stepping up in stretches like this. ... We've really played well in the last couple of games."

The Spurs have won eight straight overall and 13 consecutive games at home. This was the final regular-season contest in the Alamodome, where San Antonio has played since the 1993-94 season.

Antonio Daniels added 17 points and Tony Parker 13 for San Antonio.

Joe Johnson led Phoenix with 12, while Stephon Marbury and Dan Majerle each contributed 11. Bo Outlaw led all players with 13 rebounds.

Majerle, playing the next-to-last game of his 14-year career, went 3-for-4 on 3-pointers.

San Antonio played without center David Robinson, who was placed on the injured list earlier in the day with a lower back strain. He was hurt in Friday's win at Detroit and didn't play in Saturday's victory in Memphis.

The plan is for Robinson to rest up, stay loose and be ready to go this weekend.

"Every day things are getting a little bit better," Robinson said of his injury. "We want to be at full strength in the playoffs."

Mark Bryant started in place of Robinson and showed some flair by making a pair of jump shots to help San Antonio to a 15-6 lead in the game's opening minutes. Phoenix, which finished with 20 turnovers, never led in the contest.

The Spurs soon had their edge into double figures and kept building on it by shooting 62 percent from the floor in the first half. Duncan made eight of his 11 attempts for 17 points before the break, while Daniels sank five of his seven shots for 12.

At the other end, the Suns managed just 34 percent, with Marbury and Marion limited to only 11 points on 5-for-18 shooting.

"The best thing about this game is that it's over," said Suns coach Frank Johnson. "They're gearing up for something and we're gearing down for some time off. It's a big difference."

**Congratulations to Alex & Cindy Gomez on their first grand-daughter Anessia who was born on Wed., April 17. She weighed 7 lbs 6 oz**

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# Texas Senate Candidate Scolds Rep

Republican Senate candidate John Cornyn on Friday disavowed a remark by his campaign spokesman that the Democrats' black-and-Hispanic statewide campaign ticket is a "racial quota system."

"It was shocking and inappropriate," said Cornyn, who is white. "I just want to make it absolutely clear that race is not going to play any part in this campaign, not on my part, not on the mayor's part, I trust."

Cornyn, who is the state attorney general, faces former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, a black Democrat, in the Senate contest.

With Kirk running for Senate and Hispanic banker Tony Sanchez running for governor, some have called the Democratic ticket in Texas a "Dream Team" because of its diversity.

On Wednesday, Cornyn's spokesman Dave Beckwith scoffed at that description. "This dream ticket is cynical. It is based on a racial quota system. In the end, it will not work because most people vote on issues and philosophy, not on race," Beckwith told The Associated Press.

Cornyn said he did not know about Beckwith's comment until reading it in the newspaper. "I was shocked," Cornyn said.

Beckwith remains on his campaign staff, Cornyn said, but he added, "I certainly will not tolerate any repetition of these kind of comments."

After Cornyn disavowed the remark, Kirk campaign spokesman Justin Lonon said: "I certainly do find it encouraging that at least Mr. Cornyn himself recognizes that these comments were distasteful."

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# Maria Felix's Death Closes the Curtain On a Golden Era

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas  
It seemed only fitting that Maria Félix, the legendary Mexican actress many thought of as her country's last diva, died while sleeping in the early hours of her 88th birthday. It was a near-perfect ending to a near-mythical life.

As with her life, the death of Maria Félix was shrouded in movie-star mystery. Not all her biographers agreed on the April 8 birth date, with one investigator claiming to have uncovered a certificate proving she was born on May 14, 1914, in Alamos, in the northern Mexican state of Sonora. (Félix may have died on April 8 just to prove him wrong).

By her own account, Maria de los Angeles Félix Guereña was a tomboy raised among at least a dozen siblings by a tyrannical, indigenous man married to a Spanish woman -- a combination that accounted for her striking mestizo beauty. Her sexuality was awakened by a town priest who kissed her on the mouth when she was 13, a tale that now seems believable in light of the Church's sex scandals of today. Her

family moved to Guadalajara, where as a teen she married a traveling cosmetics salesman and bore her only child before she was 20.

It wasn't long before she had fled to Mexico City, filed for divorce and was discovered by a film director who cast her in the 1942 *El peñón de las ánimas* ("The Rock of Souls"), a film most significant because it starred Jorge Negrete, whom Félix would marry a decade later.

Her screen debut gave Mexicans a first glance at the qualities that would have some call her Mexico's most beautiful woman, most impressively her dark, piercing eyes. Only two films later, she was considered a movie star, picked by the Venezuelan author Rómulo Gallegos for the lead in the film version of his landmark novel, *Doña Barbara*, about a strong-willed woman known as "the devourer of men."

That description was quickly affixed to Félix herself, whose on-screen persona seemed to mirror her own life. She began to be known as *La Doña* -- "the Lady" -- and throughout most of her 47 films,

she played tough, driven women: title characters such as *La generala* ("The Female General"), in which she portrayed a leader in the Mexican revolution, or *La cucaracha* -- "The Cockroach," a woman so named because, like the female insect, she was likely to pair off with more than one male.

Félix herself had multiple lovers and admirers, including the great painter Diego Rivera, who was said to be so obsessed with the star that he devoted a period of his life to painting her. She had four or five husbands, depending on which biography one believes, but her most famous mate was perhaps husband No. 2.

She married Agustín Lara, perhaps Mexico's most beloved songwriter, at the height of his popularity in 1943. Like most of the country, he was enthralled with her beauty, and he dedicated one of his most famous songs, *Maria bonita*, to her. Alas, she was not to be a one-man beauty, and in a fit of jealousy -- an incident perhaps romantically exaggerated by an enamored biographer -- Lara took a shot at her. They divorced in 1947.

Theater Festival.

Despite the emphasis on new works, "it was important to include individuals like Carmen and Candido," says Cañel Rossi. "They're examples of people who have made a long-term commitment to Latino theater and are leading the charge."

Félix was widowed from two other husbands. Negrete's health was already failing when they married in 1952, and he fell ill while working in Hollywood, where he died from hepatitis a year later. She had been working in Europe but flew to Los Angeles to accompany his coffin to Mexico, where he was given a hero's burial.

Her longest marriage, to French millionaire Alex Berger, lasted from 1956 to his death 18 years later.

While she was more famous for her beauty than her acting talent, a series of movies in which she was directed by Emilio el Indio Fernández and photographed by Gabriel Figueroa -- two of her country's top filmmakers of all times -- are considered jewels of Mexico's Golden Age of cinema.

During her lifetime, she was rivaled by another great Mexican beauty, Dolores del Río, who, unlike Félix, made a name for herself in Hollywood. But Félix was said to resent the stereotypical roles offered to her north of the border and never learned English. She did speak French and starred in a number of European films for such directors as Jean Renoir and Luis Buñuel.

Her partner for the last two decades was French painter Antoine Tzupoff, with whom she shared an apartment in Paris. She divided her time between France and homes in Mexico City and Cuernavaca, in the state of Morelos, but seemed to spend more time in her native land after the 1996 death of her son, Enrique Alvarez Félix, a popular TV actor.

Younger Mexican audiences became acquainted with Félix in the late 1990s through an infamous interview conducted by TV personality Verónica Castro, a younger actress befriended by *La Doña*. Not only did Félix openly talk about her two passions -- men and horses -- but she lashed out at politicians and would be starlets while smoking on her signature cigar. Earlier this year she reminded her countrymen of her superstar stature when she stood up in the middle of a concert in Mexico City, walked up to the stage and kissed 30-something singer Luis Miguel on the mouth.

When she died this month, thousands of mourners lined up to pay their last respects to at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, where she lay in state. In doing so, they were not only saying goodbye to the last Mexican diva, but to an era that has surely come to an end.

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# La Muerte De Maria Felix: El Cierre De Una Apoca Dorada



Por Antonio Mejias-Rentas

Era natural que María Félix, la legendaria actriz mexicana a la cual muchos consideraban la última diva de su país, muriese en su sueño este mes, en las primeras horas de su 88vo cumpleaños.

Fue un final prácticamente perfecto para una vida prácticamente mítica.

Pero como en vida, la muerte de Félix estuvo rodeada de misterio al estilo de una estrella de cine. No todos sus biógrafos estaban de acuerdo con la fecha de nacimiento del 8 de abril, y un investigador reclamaba haber encontrado un certificado que declaraba que había nacido el 14 de mayo de 1914, en Alamos, en el norteño estado de Sonora. (Puede que la Félix haya muerto precisamente el 8 de abril, sólo para demostrarle su error.)

Según su propio relato, Maria de los Angeles Félix Gereña había sido criada como un niño, junto a por lo menos una docena de hermanos, por un hombre indígena de carácter tiránico casado con una mujer española -- combinación que resultara en su deslumbrante belleza mestiza. Su sexualidad sería despertada a los 13 años por un cura de pueblo que la besó en la boca, un cuento que ahora parece más creíble en vista de los escándalos de la Iglesia de hoy en día. Su familia se mudó a Guadalajara donde, de adolescente, se casó con un vendedor de cosméticos ambulante y dio a luz a su único hijo antes de cumplir los 20.

No fue mucho después cuando huyó a la ciudad de México, se divorció, y fue descubierta por un director de cine que le dio un papel

en la cinta de 1942 "El peñón de las ánimas", una película de menor importancia excepto por el hecho de que fue protagonizada por Jorge Negrete, con quien Félix estaría casada una década después.

Ese debut filmico permitió que los mexicanos observaran por primera vez aquellas calidades que harían que muchos la llamaran la mujer más hermosa de México, particularmente sus ojos negros y profundos. Sólo dos cintas después ya era considerada toda una estrella de cine, elegida por el autor venezolano Rómulo Gallegos para el papel principal en la versión filmica de su más importante novela, "Doña Bárbara," sobre una mujer de temple de acero a quien se le conocía como "la devoradora de hombres".

Esa descripción pronto se le asignó a la misma Félix, cuya imagen en la pantalla parecía ser un reflejo de su propia vida. Se le comenzó a llamar "La Doña", y a través de sus 47 películas representó personajes de mujeres rudas y decididas: protagonistas como los de "La generala", en la que hizo el papel de una líder de la revolución mexicana, o "La cucaracha," una mujer así apodada porque, al igual que el insecto femenino, no estaba satisfecha con un sólo macho.

La misma Félix tuvo varios amantes y admiradores, incluyendo al gran pintor mexicano Diego Rivera, de quien se dijo estuvo tan obsesionado que dedicó un periodo de su vida a pintarla. Tuvo cuatro o cinco maridos -- dependiendo de

continúa en la página 6

## From Page One

of unity. "When you've been around for a while, you keep running into the same people who you know are as committed as you are," he adds. "Our companies have all done productions individually, and done them fairly well. But we knew that by putting all our talents together we could focus our energy into trying to reach a larger audience."

Among the new works are three shows dealing with Latina identity: Cañel Rossi's "Lali's Song," about a girl who travels from Puerto Rico to New York in the '40s; Magdalena Gomez's one-woman show, "Chopping," and "Yo Soy Latina" by Linda Nieves-Powell.

Coati-Mundi Hernandez in the one-man "Vegetable Hanging in Casa de Jota"

Also included is Jaime Velez's one-man show about fatherhood, "Mi Familia," and "Vegetable Hanging in Casa de Jota," writer-director Coati-Mundi Hernandez's one-man piece about Cuban entertainer Chico Cruz Cortez.

A pair of familiar plays by more established writers open the festival -- Carmen Rivera's slightly revamped "Betty's Garage," about an underground railroad for abused women, and "Mama's Boyz," Candido Tirado's surreal tale of drug dealers that made its debut at last year's New York City Hip Hop

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## Pete Wilson De La Pagina 3

los latinos. "La comunidad latina no le tiene pasión a Gray Davis".

Al sumar esto con el factor Riordan, los demócratas tiemblan.

Las conexiones de Riordan con las comunidades latinas remontan décadas, enraizadas en su generosidad filantrópica. La Fundación Riordan ha otorgado miles de computadoras a estudiantes de escuelas públicas y parroquiales en vecindades pobres, muchas de ellas predominantemente latinas.

En Boyle Heights, un barrio con una gran población latina al este del centro de Los Angeles, la sede del Centro de Enseñanza Puente, sin fines de lucro, lleva el nombre de Riordan por las importantes contribuciones económicas que ha hecho al centro.

Mientras fue alcalde, Riordan se alió repetidamente con la comunidad latina. Hizo campaña en apoyo a la Propuesta BB, una medida de bonos para la reparación de escuelas que se firmó gracias al apoyo impresionante de los latinos. Promovió a Rocky Delgado, anteriormente su diputado, quien ahora tiene el cargo de fiscal de la ciudad. Apoyó las campañas de los concejales municipales Alex Padilla y Nick Pacheco. Durante la primavera, brindó su apoyo públicamente al anterior vocero de la asamblea Antonio Villaraigosa como su sucesor para la alcaldía, rechazando al que ganó, James K. Hahn.

"No cabe duda que Dick Riordan se ganó el voto latino en Los Angeles...lo cual se traduce en votos que tendrá en el 2002", concede Miguel Contreras, director de la federación de trabajadores del condado de Los Angeles, la AFL-CIO.

Lo que hacen ahora Torres y los demócratas es lanzar parte de su campaña electoral para gobernador durante las primarias de marzo, aunque de todas maneras Davis ganará la nominación del partido.

Los demócratas también respaldan a uno de los suyos, Condit, al querer ser elegido a un séptimo término en el congreso. A pesar de que los jefes del partido normalmente no se inmiscuyen en los conflictos de las primarias, Torres abiertamente apoya al popular miembro de la asamblea, Dennis Cardoza, contra Condit.

Representante demócrata de Santa Fe Springs, Grace Napolitano, también ha roto con su colega Condit y con la tradición para apoyar a Cardoza. Otros miembros de la cámara se afilian con Cardoza o se distancian de Condit.

Es posible que a pesar de contar con todo esto, los demócratas no tengan el resultado que desean.

En el distrito base de Condit, hay algunos demócratas - demócratas latinos, encima - que no se mueven del lado de Condit y que critican como Gray Davis, Art Torres y los demócratas lo han desheredado.

"Gray Davis no tendría la posición que tiene si no fuera por el apoyo que Gary Condit le dio al presentarlo al Valle Central", dice Lucille Mejia, activista demócrata hace muchos años en el área de Modesto. Ha puesto a Davis en su lista negra.

Para jefe del partido del estado Torres, las elecciones de mediotérmino no serán ninguna fiesta.

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## Mobilizing Community Assets

Non-Profit Provides Drug-Prevention Coalition Training

The Lubbock Housing Authority will host a drug prevention coalition training, **Mobilizing Community Assets**, April 23 and April 24 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"At this time when America is coming together join us to discover ways we can improve our community," says Executive Director Phil Watson.

The training is of no cost to the public. In order for a coalition to be successful parents, students, organizations, businesses, city governments, churches and service providers are needed to represent the concerns and opinions of their communities. Experiential activities and break out groups take place as well as addressing and directing community concerns and issues in the two-day training.

Drug Prevention Resources, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides prevention strategies that empower youth and families to flourish within their environment.

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# Latino Awards Tap 'Kids,' 'Pinero,' 'Tortilla'



Box office hit "Spy Kids" and arthouse entries "Pinero" and "Tortilla Soup" are among the films that snapped up multiple nominations Tuesday for the 2002 Alma Awards.

All three will compete for the best picture crown at the June 1 ABC kudofest, which recognizes Latino achievements in entertainment. Showtime's "Resurrection Blvd." was the leader on the nominations front, snapping up eight.

The stars of the three films, Antonio Banderas, Benjamin Bratt and Hector Elizondo, respectively, are all up for the best actor title. Likewise, their respective directors, Robert Rodriguez, Leon Ichaso and Maria Ripoll will vie for best director.

Actress nominations went to Penelope Cruz for her work in "Vanilla Sky," Laura Elena Harring for "Mulholland Dr.," Pilar Padilla for "Bread and Roses," Jennifer Lopez for "Angel Eyes," and Jacqueline Obradors for "Tortilla Soup."

Rounding out the best picture race will be "King of the Jungle," "Bread and Roses" and "Crazy/Beautiful." John Leguizamo ("King of the Jungle") and Jay Her-

andez ("Crazy/Beautiful") are also up for actor.

Alejandro Amenabar (Miramax's "The Others") and Luis Mandoki ("Angel Eyes") complete the directors' pack.

In the TV arena, Showtime's "Resurrection Blvd." will look for wins for series, actor (Michael DeLorenzo, Tony Plana) and director (Norberto Barba), among other categories.

Other series on the hunt for blue ribbons are Lifetime's "Strong Medicine" and two HBO efforts, "Oz" and "Six Feet Under."

TV acting nominees also include Eddie Cibrian for "Third Watch" (NBC); Freddy Rodriguez, "Six Feet Under"; Charlie Sheen, "Spin City (news - Y! TV)" (ABC); Martin Sheen, "West Wing" (NBC); Esai Morales, "NYPD Blue (news - Y! TV)" (ABC) and Wilmer Valderrama, "That '70s Show."

Actress nominees are Jessica Alba for "Dark Angel (news - Y! TV)," (Fox); Jamie-Lynn Sigler, "The Sopranos (news - Y! TV)" (HBO); Rosa Blasi, "Strong Medicine"; Christina Vidal, "Taina" (Nickelodeon); Rita Moreno, "Oz"; Lisa Vidal, "The Division" (Lifetime); Judy Reyes, "Scrubs" (NBC) and Lauren Velez, "Oz."

# Hernandez Almost Quit Acting

Actor Jay Hernandez was discovered in an office elevator, but he was thinking about quitting acting when he landed his first starring role in "crazy/beautiful."

"There were times when I wanted to quit, I wanted to get out," he said. "I thought I was wasting time, I wanted to continue with college."

But his manager kept encouraging him with pep talks similar to the ones Dennis Quaid gives to his baseball players in the movie "The Rookie," in which Hernandez has a part.

"Eventually it came time to shoot 'crazy/beautiful' and (my manager) said this is your moment. You worked hard for this, and have fun," Hernandez said.

In "The Rookie" Quaid stars in the true story of Texas science teacher Jim Morris who also serves as a baseball coach for a bunch of high school underachievers.

He tells his players that if they

win the divisional championship, he'll try out again for a pro team. To his surprise, they do, and Morris eventually gets a chance to pitch in the major leagues.

Hernandez had never played baseball before "The Rookie."

"I'm athletic so I picked it up, I picked it up pretty good," he said. "We trained constantly. We trained a couple weeks (in California) and once we got to Austin we trained every day we didn't work, every day we weren't shooting."

There's an easy solution to writing better roles for Latinos, said Hernandez, who played a smart Hispanic high school student in "crazy/beautiful" with Kirsten Dunst.

"The solution is not being so stereotypical, sort of being blind to the skin color," he said. "Stereotypical roles are always bad guys, it's always someone in the street doing bad things."

# Julio Who? Benjamin Bratt Marries Co-Star

Former "Law and Order" star Benjamin Bratt and Talisa Soto, his co-star in the 2001 film "Pinero," were married on Saturday in Bratt's hometown of San Francisco, his spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

Bratt, 38, and Soto, 35, were "wedded on Saturday in San Francisco at an intimate family gathering, a day that perfectly celebrated their love and happiness," Ina Treციokas, Bratt's New York-based spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Bratt rose to prominence as Detective Reynaldo Curtis on "Law & Order," but left the series after four years in 1999 to focus on his movie career. Last May he ended a 3 1/2-year relationship with Oscar winner Julia Roberts, reportedly because he was unable to get Roberts to commit to marriage, according to published reports.

Soto, 35, began her career as a model and is known for playing the role of the exotic Kitana in "Mortal Kombat" (1995) as well as sequels "Mortal Kombat: Annihilation" (1997) and "Mortal Kombat 3: Domination" which premieres next



year.

Her three-year marriage to actor Costas Mandylor ended in divorce in 2000. In 1990, Soto was chosen by People magazine as one of the 50 Most Beautiful People in the world.

Peg Donegan, a spokeswoman for Soto, said the couple met prior to the filming of "Pinero."

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# NBC Says Completes Telemundo Acquisition

General Electric Co.'s NBC network on Friday said it had completed the acquisition of No. 2 U.S. Spanish-language broadcaster Telemundo, a deal that will give it access to U.S. Hispanic viewers.

"This transaction represents NBC's strong commitment to growing our network business and serving the needs of the booming Hispanic market," said in a release Bob Wright, vice chairman of General Electric and chairman and chief executive of NBC.

On its largest acquisition ever, NBC paid \$1.98 billion in cash and assumed \$700 million in debt for Telemundo, a 24-hour network of 11 full power stations and two cable units, Mun2 and Telemundo Internacional.

By combining infrastructure and talent, NBC will look to boost Telemundo's revenue. Analysts hope the backing of the U.S. network, known for its aggressive sales team, will bring more advertising money into Telemundo's pockets.

Amid the worst ad slump in recent history, Spanish-language media outlets have fared better than their U.S. peers as corporate America has kept tackling an underserved market with an estimated annual spending power of \$500 billion.

Telemundo is sandwiched between market leader Univision

Communications Inc. and its second network, Telefuturo, which just made its debut in mid-January but is gaining attention quickly.

However, Telemundo is expected to beef up its programming in coming months, with more in-house production of soap operas and sports shows as well as comedy sitcoms.

This week Telemundo said it had signed Maria Celeste Arrars, a former top Univision anchor, to lead its new afternoon tabloid show "Al Rojo Vivo"

# Maria Felix

From Page 5

cuál biografía uno crea - pero su pareja más famosa fue quizás el esposo número dos.

Se casó con Agustín Lara, quizás el compositor de canciones más querido de México, cuando éste disfrutaba la plenitud de su carrera, en 1943. Como todo México, él había quedado prendido por su belleza y le dedicó una de sus más famosas canciones, "María bonita". Desafortunadamente, no era la beldad de un sólo hombre y en un golpe de ira - un incidente probablemente exagerado por un biógrafo enamorado - él llegó a dispararle. Se divorciaron en 1947.

Félix enviudó de otros dos esposos. La salud de Negrete ya estaba en decadencia cuando se casaron en 1952, y el cayó enfermo mientras trabajaba en Hollywood, donde murió de hepatitis un año después. Ella estaba trabajando en Europa pero voló a Los Angeles para acompañar su ataúd a México, donde fue enterrado como héroe.

Su más largo matrimonio fue con el millonario francés Alex Berger, que duró desde 1956 hasta la muerte de éste 18 años después.

Aunque era más famosa por su belleza que por sus dotes como actriz, una serie de películas en las que fue dirigida por Emilio "El Indio" Fernández y fotografiada por Gabriel Figueroa - dos de los más importantes cineastas de su país de todos los tiempos - son consideradas joyas de la Epoca de Oro del cine mexicano.

Durante gran parte de su vida profesional rivalizó con otra gran belleza mexicana, Dolores del Río, quien contrarió a Félix se hizo de un nombre en Hollywood. Pero se decía que Félix resentía los papeles estereotípicos que le ofrecían en el

norte, y nunca aprendió el inglés. Si hablaba francés, y estelarizó un número de cintas europeas, para directores como Jean Renoir y Luis Buñuel.

Su pareja de las últimas dos décadas había sido el pintor francés Antoine Tzapoff, con quien compartía un apartamento en París. Ella dividía su tiempo entre Francia y casas en la ciudad de México y en Cuernavaca, en el estado de Morelos, y parecía pasar más tiempo en su país desde la muerte en 1996 de su hijo, Enrique Alvarez Félix, un popular actor de televisión.

Una nueva generación de mexicanos conoció a Félix a finales del siglo pasado a través de una controversial entrevista realizada en televisión por Verónica Castro, una actriz más joven de quien "LaDoña" se hizo amiga. No sólo habló de sus dos grandes pasiones - los hombres y los caballos- pero lanzó duros comentarios en contra de políticos y aspirantes a estrellas, mientras fumaba un puro.

Hacia unas semanas le había hecho recordar a sus compatriotas lo que es ser una gran estrella, cuando se levantó en medio de un concierto en la ciudad de México, caminó al escenario y le plantó un beso en la boca al cantante treintón Luis Miguel.

El cadáver de María Félix fue expuesto en el Palacio de Bellas Artes de la ciudad horas después de su muerte, donde miles de mexicanos pudieron darle el último adiós. Al hacerlo se despedían no sólo de la última diva mexicana, sino también de una era que ciertamente llegó a su fin.

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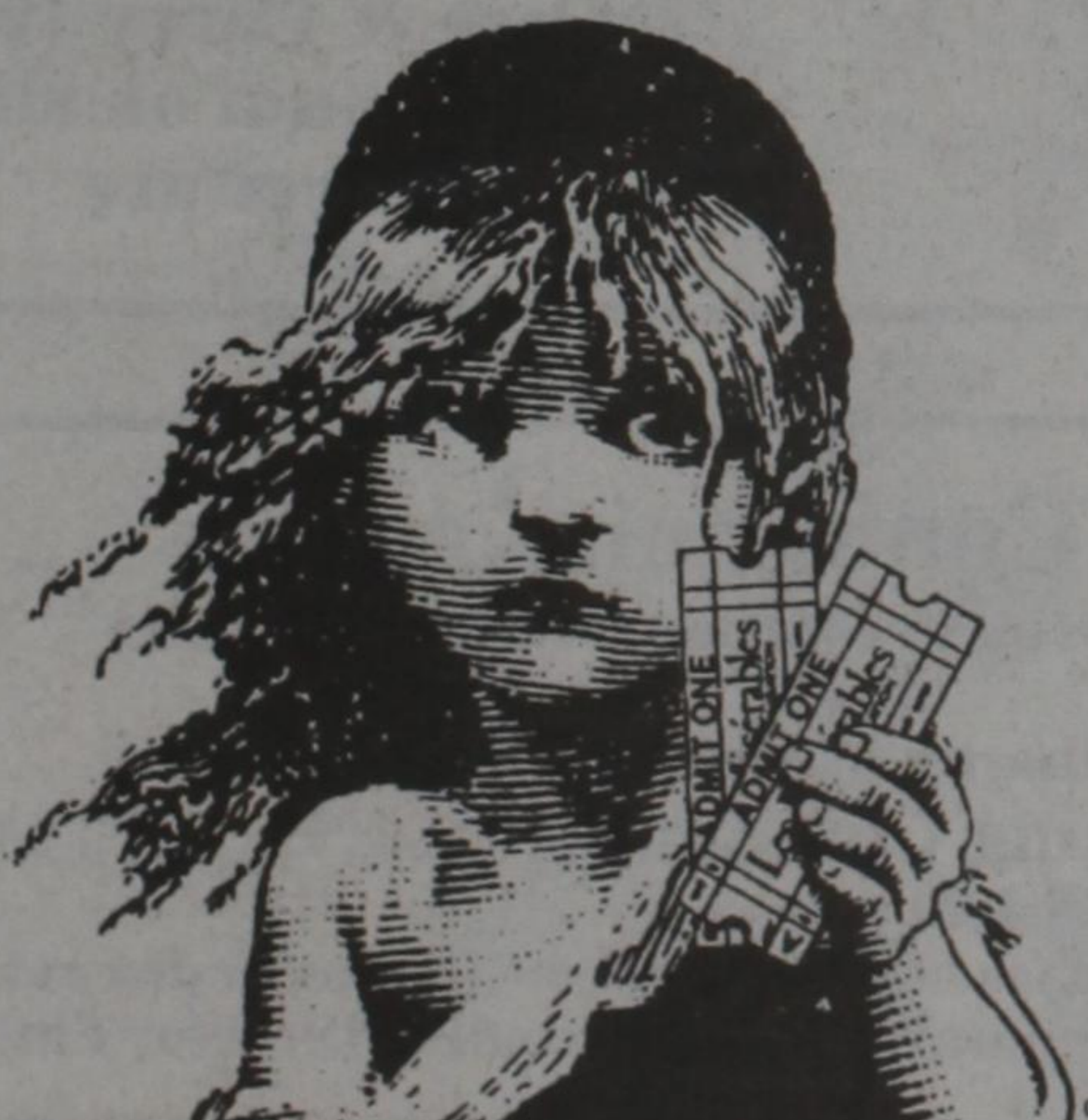
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