

el Editor

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Lubbock, TX USA

Doubts Still Exist on Sales Tax Issue

by Bidal Agüero

Juan and Mary Gonzalez, not their real name, plan to go vote in the next few days. They will go to the polls, as they have done for the past 10 years but they are somewhat confused as to how they will vote.

The Gonzalez has been asked, as all Lubbock residents have, to decide if Lubbock will join the list of all of the major cities in Texas and impose a sales tax that will raise money for economic development.

The proposal to impose an additional three-eighths increase in the current sales tax has been proposed by the Lubbock City Council and will be voted on between now and Nov. 4. Most of Lubbock's organizations and leaders are in favor of the proposal but many questions seem to be left unanswered to the Gonzalez.

"I know the Chambers have said that passing the tax will bring more jobs to Lubbock but I already have a steady job so how is this going to affect me and my family?" asks Juan.

According to "Progress Lubbock", the organization taking the lead in promoting the tax, the increase in taxes will lower the property tax and will

enable businesses to devote the money they save to economic development and perhaps expanding their business and perhaps a higher paying job for Juan.

"President Bush said the same thing about tax cuts," states Juan, "But from what I read in the news, a record number of jobs have been lost in the past few years. Workers here in Lubbock have been laid off from K-Mart, Covenant, Noble, Fleming and many more. If it isn't working throughout the U.S., what makes them think it will work in Lubbock?"

None of the literature that has been produced by "Progress Lubbock" answers this question.

The Gonzales are a middle income family. While Juan works as a construction jobs earning \$11.50 per hour, Mary is also forced to work in order to provided for the family which includes two children. Mary works at a hospital and makes \$6.50 per hour. Juan works 40 hours per week with a little overtime and Mary works 30 hours. Their total income is \$34,460 before taxes. After income taxes their income drops to

Although Mary and Juan have always wanted to buy a house, they never have been able to afford to buy. "We just haven't ever been able to come up with that extra money that it takes to buy a house. We want to go to some of those classes that they say will help you work you budget in order to afford a house but we haven't ever really had the time," say the Gonzalez.

Their rent for a three-bedroom house is \$650 per month.

"They say that this will lower the tax

Example provided by Lubbock Democrats
If two families buy a refrigerator at \$749 and pay the sales tax of 8.25%. The tax for both families is the same but the middle income family pays more in proportion to their income (See the Chart)

	Income	Refrigerator	Sales Tax	Tax in Proportion to Income
Middle Income Family	\$ 43,750.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 61.79	0.001412
Upper Income Family	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 61.79	0.000494

Tax Burden in Proportion to Income

Conclusions:
The upper income family's tax burden is about 3 times less than the middle income family.
The Regressive Sales Tax unfairly burdens lower income families.
Sales Tax over many years would weigh heavily on poorer families.
It is unfair to place the burden of taxes on lower income families.

on property. Will the owners of this house pass on their savings to us? Will they lower our rent?

None of the literature that has been produced by "Progress Lubbock" answers this question but Randy Christian the public relations person working for "Progress Lubbock" said that although it would be impossible to gage the answer to that question from all Lubbock landlords some have expressed to him that although rents would probably not be lowered, planned raises in rent could be postponed.

The major opponent of the proposal is Lubbock's Democratic Party. In a statement provided to El Editor, they claim that the tax is unfair to people such as Juan and Mary. Party leaders have said that the sales tax is a "regressive tax." According to their

statement "regressive tax is a mild sounding term for an economic assault on the middle income families of Lubbock."

"Progress Lubbock" says that the sales tax is a fair way to tax since all people pay the same.

The Democrats respond "the sales tax may at first appear to be a fair way of taxing citizens because everyone, regardless of income level, pays the same dollar amount. Let's look and see what happens when your refrigerator breaks down and you go to replace it. When a middle-income family earning \$43,750 buys a refrigerator for \$749.00 they pay \$59 in tax. When a well to do family with an income of \$125,000 buys the same refrigerator, they pay \$59 in tax. That's .0472% of income for the well to do and .1348% for the middle class or almost THREE

times as much for the middle-income families."

Juan and Mary would also pay \$59 in tax on the refrigerator with his salary of \$34,460.

Another question Juan and Mary have is how it will affect the costs of living like buying food and the essentials of life and how it will affect their utilities. "Light, water, sewer and garbage fees take up a large portion of our check.

Information provided has said that revenue generated from water, sewer and garbage fees now used to fund Market Lubbock, the city-appointed economic development organization would be kept by the departments.

"Progress Lubbock" has made no mention as to whether the savings will be passed on to Lubbock residents.

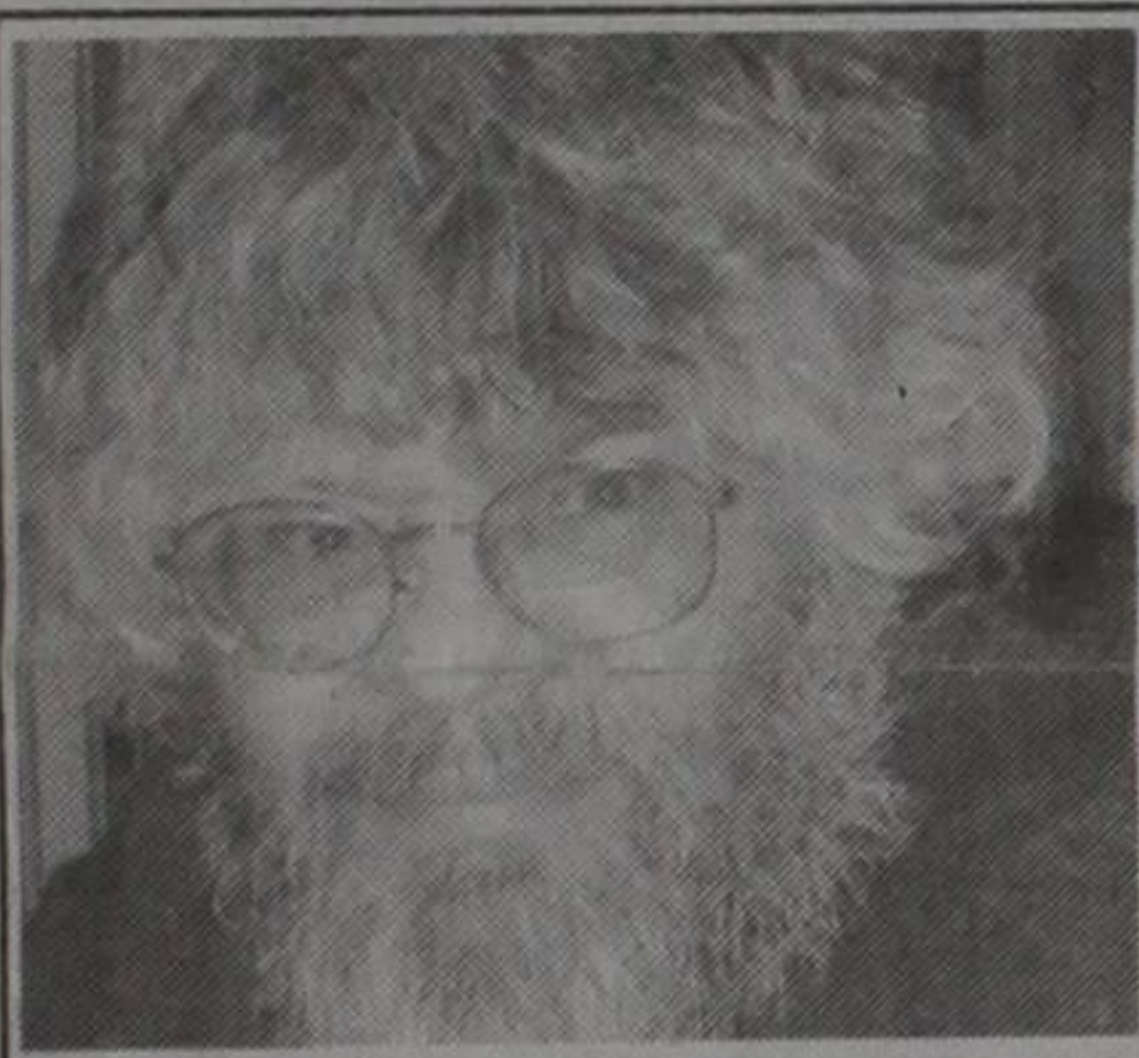
Market Lubbock's executive director, Gary Lawrence said that the organization is currently committed to over \$4.5 million for economic development. According to information, no money from the new sales tax can be used to pay off those commitments but Tommy Gonzalez, Lubbock's interim City Manager said that, "the city is currently studying how those commitments can be paid for the new sales tax."

"So what difference will it make?" ask the Gonzalez. "It still sounds like we are going to pay."

Proponents of the increase in sales taxes say that the sales tax increase would reduce property taxes and would help bring new jobs and new growth.

Juan and Mary Gonzalez still have their doubts.

Comentarios by Bidal Agüero



As we get closer to the date when Lubbock voters will have to make a decision on whether to approve a raise in the sales tax, many questions are coming to mind

The most important are those asked by Juan and Mary Gonzalez in today's front-page article.

Within the past few weeks I have been continually asked about how El Editor stands on the sales tax issue. Because of the unanswered questions being asked by Juan and Mary and so many other middle and low-income persons in Lubbock, I have hesitated to directly answer.

One point is that we must consider that the purpose of the proposed increase in the sales tax is commendable. We can agree that monies for economic development are necessary and that although Market Lubbock to date has been doing a good job, I can see where they are hindered by the amount of money they have available.

A major point is that the sales tax is a regressive tax and most certainly puts more of a burden on the low and middle-income people in Lubbock.

We can see that the fact that property taxes will be decreased will help many in Lubbock that own their homes but we also realize that the decrease will disproportionately help rich land owners and apartment owners.

Unfortunately, one cannot vote for parts of the sales tax issue. A definite stand must be taken when we get to the voting box.

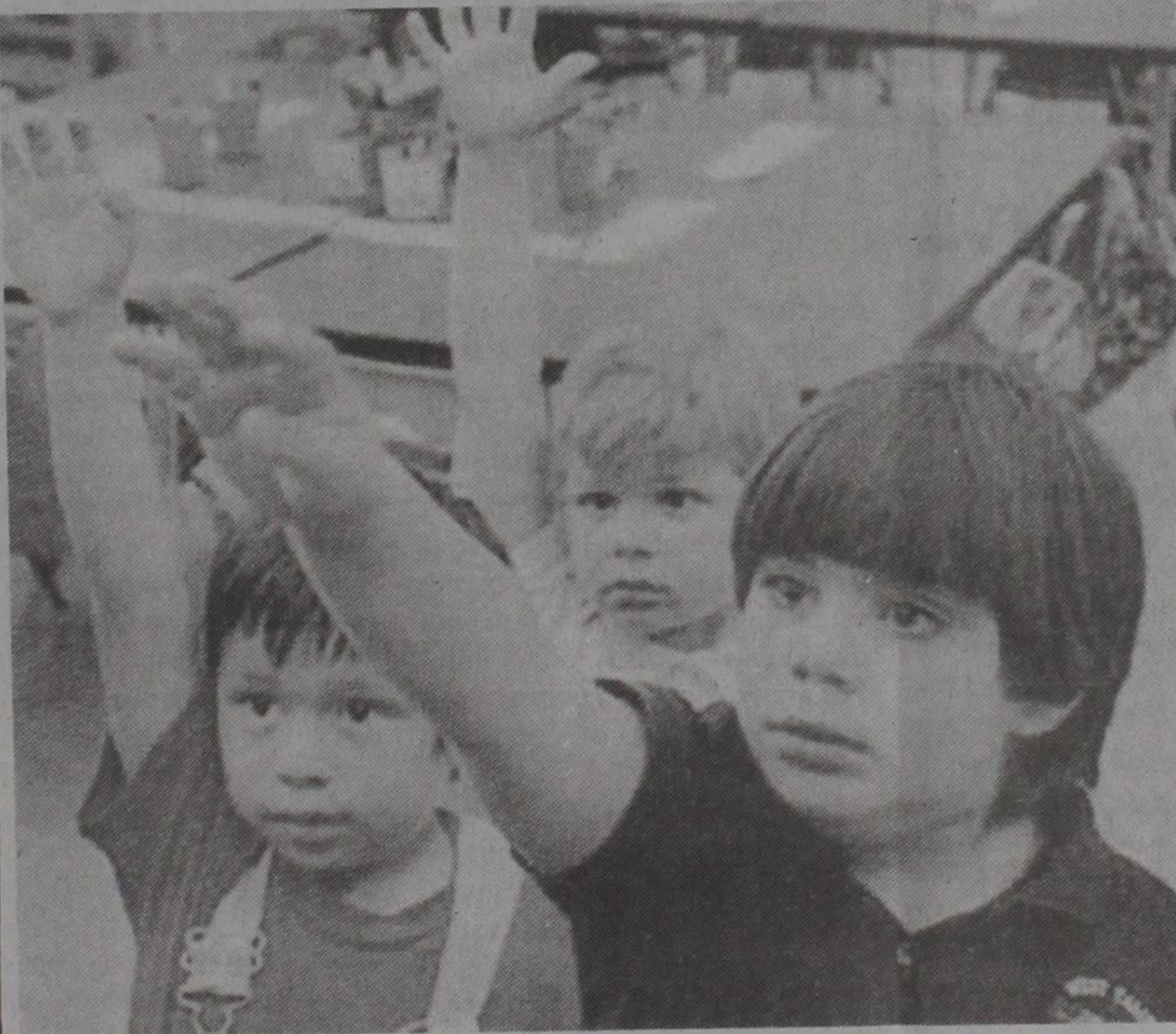
For many years El Editor has dared to take definite stands on issues regardless of their consequences to the newspaper which sometimes take the form of lost advertising from those who disagree with us. To date this has not nor will it ever make us - to put it bluntly - make us shut up.

We at El Editor have also consistently stressed and worked toward the welfare of the disenfranchised and it is for this reason that we must urge our readers to vote against the proposed increase in sales tax.

As we stated before, Market Lubbock has been doing a good job, we feel that they can continue their good work with current monies available and with those that our City Fathers might take a little more time to look for in the city's current budget.

write to Bidal at eleditor@llano.net

A New Look at an Old Educational Crisis



By Marisa Treviño

In Washington, D.C., where announcements of impending doom are as common as Hollywood tabloid headlines announcing celebrity breakups, it's no wonder that this month's dire proclamation of the educational crisis of Hispanic students received not even the customary 15 minutes of attention.

This time the news didn't come from the White House. It was issued by Hispanic CREO (Council for Reform and Educational Options), a new organization intent on informing low-income Latino parents about their choices when it comes to getting the best education for their children.

Its goals include mobilizing the parents to challenge public schools that are systemically limiting their children's opportunities in life and to acquaint them with a variety of other education options.

CREO defines "best education" as one that doesn't merely satisfy passing standardized accountability tests or fulfilling requirements for a basic high school diploma, but in the end actually qualifies children to apply for college.

That's something that doesn't mean the same thing, as I learned while attending Hispanic CREO's inaugural national conference in Washington this month.

To too many people, education mentioned in the same breath with Latinos sounds like an oxymoron, considering that Latinos have the highest high school dropout rates and teen pregnancies, and that they fill the rosters of alternative schools and juvenile court dockets.

The popular assumption is that Latino families don't care about education. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The sad statistics that garner the lead stories on evening newscasts are only the end results of school systems that push out some Latino children who don't thrive in deficient institutions staffed with indifferent instructors. Or of those who don't conform to traditional expectations of who can achieve academic success.

Jay Greene, a senior fellow at the New York-based Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, co-authored a study, "No Exit: How Lack of Educational Choice Shortchanges Hispanic Students," that was released at the CREO event.

He told us, "The biggest obstacle preventing Hispanics from rising in American society is probably the substandard education that the public K-12 system offers to Hispanic students."

(Continued Page 3)

Latino Report Card on Congress: Legislators 'Ditched Class'

By Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, a 40-member body composed mostly of representatives from the nation's most active Latino organizations, issued its final report card on the 107th Congress this month.

It tallied how members of the Senate and House voted "yea" or "nay" on 34 bills and resolutions -- 22 in the 2001 session and 12 in the 2002 session. Then NHLA weighed those votes against its own member-consensus on which bills advanced or retarded the well-being of a U.S. Hispanic community, which now numbers 43 million. The report card focused for the most part on issues related to civil rights, education, economic mobility and health care.

For example, NHLA selected three votes each in the House and Senate in the area of civil rights. One measure was the Customs Border Security Act of 2001. NHLA opposed it unless a provision granting a higher level of immunity to customs officers for searches conducted in "good faith" was removed. The bill passed the House 327-101.

NHLA was careful to give prior notice to all members of Congress regarding NHLA's positions on each bill.

Now the report card has been signed and delivered individually to the House's 435 and Senate's 100 members.

But this year, unlike years past, the Latino leaders reacted almost as much to what legislation wasn't considered by Congress as it did to those pieces that went to vote.

NHLA President Manuel Mirabal summed up his organization's concern, particularly about the second session. "It's clear that issues that affected the quality of life and ability of Latinos to advance were not dealt with," he told Hispanic Link.

With the Iraq war and homeland security dominating debate on Capitol Hill, broader reform to address domestic crises has been badly neglected, he complained.

(Continued Page 3)

Legisladores Obtienen Malas Calificaciones en Asuntos Latinos

Por Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

El grupo National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (Agenda Nacional Hispana de Liderazgo -- NHLA por sus siglas en inglés) -- compuesto por 40 miembros, en su mayoría representantes de las organizaciones latinas más activas, emitieron este mes su informe final de calificaciones al Congreso 107.

El informe de calificaciones contabilizó el número de miembros del Senado y la Cámara que votaron "Si" o "No" en 34 proyectos y resoluciones, 22 de ellas en la sesión del 2001 y 12 en la del 2002. Luego la NHLA pesó dichos votos contra el censo realizado por sus propios miembros, con respecto a cuáles proyectos habían adelantado o atrasado el bienestar de la comunidad hispana de los E.E.U.U., la cual consiste de 43 millones de personas. En su mayor parte, el informe enfatizó los asuntos relacionados con los derechos civiles, educación, movilidad económica y cuidado de salud.

Por ejemplo, NHLA seleccionó tres votos en la Cámara y tres en el Senado en el área de derechos civiles. Una de las medidas fue la ley de de Aduana del 2001 sobre Seguridad en la Frontera. NHLA se opuso a ella a menos que se removiera la disposición que otorgaba un mayor nivel de inmunidad a los agentes de aduana cuando llevaban a cabo búsquedas de "buena fe". La Cámara aprobó el proyecto 327 a 101.

Durante los años 2001 y 2002, NHLA se ocupó de notificar con anticipación a los miembros del Congreso su oposición a cada proyecto.

El informe de calificaciones se firmó y entregó individualmente a cada uno de los 435 miembros de la Cámara y a los 100 miembros del Senado.

Pero este año, contrario a años anteriores, los líderes latinos reaccionaron tanto a la legislación que el Congreso no consideró como a aquellas piezas legislativas que se sometieron a votación. (Continúa en la Pagina 3)

Licencia a los Trabajadores Indocumentados

Por Domenico Maceri

La tinta de la nueva ley SB-60 de California todavía no se ha secado y ya la asamblea republicana del estado está tratando de revocarla. La nueva ley permite a los trabajadores indocumentados obtener licencias de conducir. Como no pudieron ganar en la legislatura, los republicanos están recogiendo firmas para llevar un referendo a las urnas para que los electores resindan la nueva ley.

El gobernador Gray Davis firmó el proyecto de ley luego de que casi todos los miembros de legislatura lo aprobaron, ir-respectivamente de partidos políticos, donde todos los demócratas, salvo uno, y todos los republicanos le votaran en contra. Los republicanos dicen que el otorgar licencias de conducir a los trabajadores indocumentados plantea riesgos de seguridad y legitimiza a individuos que han cometido un crimen al entrar al país ilegalmente.

Las preocupaciones sobre la seguridad y el recompensar a violadores de la ley, son válidas. Sin embargo, somos más vulnerables cuando no sabemos quién está en nuestro país y quién está conduciendo en nuestras carreteras.

El senador estatal por Los Angeles, Gil Cedillo (demócrata), quien desde 1998 ha estado tratando de que se

implemente la ley SB-60, cree que los indocumentados ya están conduciendo, pero no conocen las reglas de la carretera ni tienen seguros. En un accidente de tránsito, en lugar de cooperar con las autoridades, las personas pueden incluso sentirse tentadas a darse a la fuga por miedo a que los arresten y deporten.

El tener una licencia significa mayor seguridad para todo el mundo. También significará que los trabajadores indocumentados podrán llevar a sus hijos a la escuela, al médico, o a cualquier lugar que necesiten ir, en un ambiente seguro. Además, la licencia le proporcionará a los solicitantes cierta dignidad como seres humanos. Ya que están trabajando aquí, la gente tiene el derecho a conducir y a hacerlo legalmente. Muchos oficiales a cargo del cumplimiento de la ley creen que a los trabajadores indocumentados se les debería permitir conducir legalmente, ya que la seguridad aumentaría para todos nosotros.

El negarle a las personas el derecho a conducir legalmente, mientras que al mismo tiempo se les permite trabajar, es un acto de hipocresía. Significa que valoramos lo que hacen, pero no obstante queremos hacerles la vida difícil. Ellos deben trabajar, pero cómo llegan al trabajo, ése es su problema.

Se estima que hay aproximadamente 2 millones de trabajadores indocumentados, por lo que la nueva ley de California afectará a un número significativo de personas. Aún así, el Estado Dorado no es el único en permitirles a los trabajadores indocumentados que soliciten licencias de conducir. Los estados de Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Luisiana, Montana, Nevada, Nuevo México, Carolina del Norte, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington y Virginia Occidental ya lo están haciendo.

A pesar de que las reglas varían levemente en cada estado, las disposiciones básicas son similares. En lugar de requerir un número de Seguro Social y prueba legal de residencia, el Departamento de Vehículos de Motor solicitará el número de identificación de contribuyente y otros números para determinar la identidad del solicitante. En California, los solicitantes tendrán también que presentar una huella dactilar legible. Además, tendrán que someterse a cotejos de antecedentes criminales y proporcionar prueba de haber vivido en California por lo menos 15 meses en los tres años anteriores a la solicitud. Sin embargo, no tendrán que probar que su presencia en E.E.U.U. está autorizada.

Claro está, la nueva ley po-

dría diluir el valor de una licencia de conducir como documento de identificación. El valor de ésta como un documento doméstico o en ocasiones de identificación internacional definitivamente disminuiría. Los residentes de E.E.U.U. que regresan a este país de México, Canadá o el Caribe, no podrían continuar utilizando la licencia de conducir como identificación.

Aun así, el propósito original de la licencia de conducir nunca fue el de utilizarla para fines de identificación. Su propósito es otorgarle al portador el privilegio de conducir. Mi licencia de California establece claramente que es válida "para conducir un vehículo de motor" y que no debe utilizarse para determinar elegibilidad de empleo, registro electoral o beneficios públicos. Cualquiera que conduzca un automóvil en California, o en cualquier otro lugar, debe recibir adiestramiento adecuado, aprobar un examen y tener un seguro, independientemente su condición de inmigrante. Si los republicanos logran revocar la SB-60, no disminuirá el número de conductores en las carreteras de California, ni la inmigración. Sin embargo, hará que todos estemos menos seguros.

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¿Did You?

By Abel Cruz

Did you see all the coverage surrounding the death of former governor of Texas, Preston Smith? Much was made about Mr. Smith being the "people's governor". I wonder what "people" they were referring to. Did you see anybody that looks like us in the news broadcast?

Did you know that Mr. Smith once owned the Arnett Benson Theater on University Ave in the Arnett Benson neighborhood? If you know anybody around the age of 55 plus years old that remembers that theater, ask them about the sign on the outside door that read, "No Mexicans or Dogs Allowed".

Did you hear that former President Bush, the "read my lips, no new taxes" president was recently in Lubbock to talk about ethics in business? How about ethics in politics? How about honesty in political campaigns? Maybe Mr. Bush could have talked about his role in the Iran-Contra Affair. Wasn't it he who pardoned Elliot Abrams and Casper Weinberger who had been indicted for their role in the Iran-Contra cover-up? Wasn't it he who raised taxes after telling us to read his lips?

Did you know that if Jack Clemmons had been terminated for violating a morals clause in his contract, that LISD would not have had to pay him the additional \$50,000 plus for keeping him on the payroll for an additional 69 days. Pretty good pay for 69 days huh? How about getting him to pay the taxpayers that amount back for use of his school issued computer for personal use? I bet we would just about break even.

Did you happen to see Saturday's AJ editorial. The editorial board seems to think that the Clemmons situation was handled properly. The editorial, entitled "Bad Behavior", (somebody thought long and hard for that title didn't they) makes sure that we know that the situation was handled properly by school board president Griffin and the rest of the school board. I wonder if the people that live on the East side and were directly affected by Clemmons cost cutting measures agree.

Did you know that Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death in this country? And I would venture to say that a high number of those deaths are people of Hispanic descent. I sure wish that "nuestra gente" would pay more attention to health issues like diabetes, cancer, and high blood pressure.

Did you happen to see the recent editorial in the New York Times about the cotton subsidies paid to area farmers? The editorial cites the case of a cotton farmer from Petersburg who has received nearly a half-million dollars of subsidies since 1995. So let's see, when poor people get government assistance it's called "welfare". When cotton farmers get it, they are called "subsidies". Interesting huh?

And finally...

Did you know that roosters don't wear any underwear? Do you know why? No? Drop me an email and I'll reply with the answer.

Warning: Answer rated PG...

Hasta la Vista Baby!

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Stop the Nonsense:

License Undocumented Workers

By Domenico Maceri

The ink is not yet dry on SB-60, the new California law allowing undocumented workers to obtain driver's licenses, and already the State's Republican Assembly is trying to repeal it.

Unable to win in the legislature, the Republicans are collecting signatures to place a referendum on the ballot so voters can rescind the new law.

Gov. Gray Davis signed the bill after it was approved by the state legislature virtually along party lines, with all but one Democrat voting in its favor and all Republicans against it.

Republicans say that granting licenses to undocumented workers poses security risks and legitimizes individuals who have committed a crime by entering the country illegally.

Concerns about security and rewarding law-breakers are valid. However, we are more vulnerable when we don't know who is in our country and driving on our highways.

State Sen. Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles), who had been trying to get SB-60 implemented since 1998, believes that people are already driving but may not know the rules of the road or have insurance. In a traffic accident, they might be tempted to run for fear of being arrested and deported, rather than cooperate with authorities.

Having a license will mean increased safety for everyone. It will also mean that undocumented workers will be able to take their children to school, to a doctor, or anywhere they need to go in a secure environment. In addition, the license

will give applicants some dignity as human beings. Since they are here and working, people have the right to drive and do so legally. Many law enforcement officers believe that undocumented workers should be allowed to drive legally because safety would increase for all of us.

Denying people the right to drive legally while at the same time allowing them to work is also hypocritical. It means that we value what they do, but nevertheless want to make it difficult for them. They must work, but how they get to the job site is their problem.

With an estimated 2 million undocumented workers, California's new law will affect a significant number of people. Yet the Golden State is not alone in allowing undocumented workers to apply for driver's licenses. Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and West Virginia are already doing it.

Although rules vary slightly with each state, the basic provisions are similar. Instead of requiring a Social Security number and proof of legal residency, the Department of Motor Vehicles will ask for a taxpayer identification number and other documents to determine the identity of the applicants. In California, applicants will also have to provide a legible thumbprint. In addition, they will have to undergo criminal background checks and provide proof of having lived in California at least 15 months in the three years preceding application. However, they will not

have to submit proof that their presence in the United States is authorized.

Of course, the new law may dilute the value of the driver's license as an ID card. Its value as a "domestic" or sometimes international identification document will certainly diminish. U.S. residents re-entering this country from Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean may no longer be able to use the driver's license as an ID card.

Yet the driver's license was never meant to be used as such. Its purpose is to grant the bearer driving privileges. My California driver's license clearly states that it's valid to

"drive a motor vehicle" and is not to be used to establish eligibility for employment, voter registration or public benefits.

Anyone driving an automobile in California or anywhere else should have to receive appropriate training, pass a test and carry insurance regardless of immigration or visa status. If Republicans succeed in overturning SB-60, it will not reduce the number of drivers in California's roads, nor will it reduce immigration. It will, however, make us all less safe.

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Una Nueva Mirada a Una Antigua Crisis Educativa

Por Marisa Treviño

En Washington, D.C., donde los anuncios de condenas inminentes son tan comunes como los titulares de los rotativos de Hollywood que anuncian las separaciones de las celebridades, no debe sorprender que la horrible proclama que se hizo este mes sobre la crisis en la educación de los estudiantes hispanos, no obtuviera siquiera los acostumbrados 15 minutos de atención.

Esta vez la noticia no vino de la Casa Blanca, sino de CREO (Consejo para la Reforma y Alternativas de la Educación). La organización originada en Texas, cuyo liderazgo cuenta con lazos con la Casa Blanca, se formó con el fin de informar a los padres latinos de escasos

recursos sobre las opciones con las que cuentan cuando se trata de obtener la mejor educación para sus hijos.

Los objetivos de CREO incluyen movilizar a los padres para que reten a las escuelas públicas que sistemáticamente están limitando las oportunidades en las vidas de sus hijos y para darles a conocer una mayor variedad de opciones educativas.

De acuerdo a CREO, "la mejor educación" no es una que se satisfice meramente con aprobar las pruebas estandarizadas de aprovechamiento académico o con completar los requisitos necesarios para obtener un diploma de escuela superior, sino una que al final de cuentas pre-

Democratic stance on the 3/8 cents sales tax increase

The reason the Lubbock County Democratic Party is taking this stance on the 3/8 cents sales tax increase because this party represents the working people and we see that the proposed sales tax increase is unfair to the hard working people of Lubbock, and it hurts rural West Texans, therefore we believe it's counterproductive.

On October 20, early voting will begin and on November 4th we will be voting for or against the 3/8 cents sales tax increase. We are asking all Lubbockites to VOTE NO on the SALES TAX INCREASE!

But I do not want to speak against ALL taxes. Without revenue from taxes, the city of Lubbock would not be able to provide schools, streets, police, fire protection, jails, government services, and all the other things we need for a good life here in Lubbock.

What I do want to talk about, is the FAIRNESS of the tax burden. The proposed sales tax shifts the tax burden onto those less able to pay and is thus a regressive tax. Regressive tax is a mild sounding term for an economic assault on the middle income families of Lubbock.

Let's look at the property tax reduction first. When the new property tax appraisals came out last summer, some property owners were surprised that their values had increased. Overall the new appraisals produced a 12% increase in the city's property tax base. Many property owners were faced with an increased outlay in property tax. The city's response was to reduce the city property tax rate by 15%. The proposed cut in Lubbock property tax will save the average homeowner \$70 a year. The city's biggest taxpayer will save almost \$100,000 a year. To replace those funds the mayor proposes a 33% increase in the city sales tax. Because the city council cannot raise the city sales tax it is up to the citizen of Lubbock to do so. One question I have is where is the public hearing required by law and the public hearing Mayor McDougal said we would have. Could it be that this backroom deal has already been made?

The proponents of the sales tax increase say that now they need a new credit card, but what about the old Market Lubbock Inc. debt of 13 million dollars in commitments do they not have to pay that? Accountability is a word I've heard however we've had the WTMPA scandal, Lubbock Power & Light scandal, Market Lubbock, Inc. scandal. Why hasn't the city council been accountable all along? Some say this administration should not be blamed. But most of the city council members have been there for years and if they did know what was going on, why didn't they?

The AJ reported that Lubbock Power & Light has a projected \$14 million deficit and it was also reported that a water pipeline might need to be built from Lake Alan Henry. And just recently on October 18, the AJ reported that our Lt. Governor David Dewhurst is considering raising the state's sales tax to finance public schools.

Our argument is that property taxes are, less regressive than sales tax. Property tax does not rely upon consumption which can fluctuate. Property tax can generate enough money for the city's budget, and property tax has a high compliance rate. All this and another advantage—Property taxes are deductible when you file your federal income tax. Sales taxes are not.

The sales tax may at first appear to be a fair way of taxing citizens because everyone, regardless of income level, pays the same dollar amount. Let's look and see what happens when your refrigerator breaks down and you go to replace it. When a middle income family earning \$43,750 buys a refrigerator for \$749.00 they pay \$59 in tax. When a well to do family with an income of \$125,000 buys the same refrigerator, they pay \$59 in tax.

That's .0472% of income for the well to do and .1348% for the middle class or almost THREE times as much for the middle income families. Where is the Republican Party? The anti-tax GOP usually weighs in against tax increases. Where are they now? I guess this tax increase is okay with them because it puts money in the pockets of the well to do and takes money out of the pockets of middle and low income families of Lubbock.

Where is SPARTAN now? The sales tax proponents are all giggly that out-of-towners are expected to pay between 30-40% of the tax increase. One reason the 2001 venue tax failed was because out-of-towners would be paying it. Dire warnings were issued that people would stop coming to Lubbock if the venue tax was passed. Where are the warnings this year that people will stop coming to the South Plains Mall?

The families of Lubbock are getting hit left and right with tax increases. The hospital tax was just raised. The county has to pay for the new jail. They'll do that through a tax increase. As I said when I began, we are not against taxes. But let's not impose those taxes disproportionately on the people least able to pay them. Let's be fair.

Irma Guerrero, Lubbock County Democratic Chair



Legisladores Obtienen Malas Calificaciones en Asuntos Latinos

Viene de la primera pagina

Manuel Mirabal, presidente de NHLA, resumió la preocupación de su organización, particularmente con relación a la segunda sesión. "Es claro que no se consideraron los asuntos que afectan la calidad de vida y la capacidad de los latinos para superarse", dijo a Hispanic Link.

Mirabal se quejó de que con la guerra de Irak y la seguridad nacional como temas dominantes para el gobierno federal, se ha abandonado gravemente una amplia reforma para atender crisis domésticas.

El gobierno federal no tomó ninguna medida para lograr un cambio sustantivo, particularmente para evitar que las comunidades latinas continúen hundiéndose en la pobreza o para proporcionarle a los trabajadores hispanos pobres herramientas básicas de sobrevivencia, tales como cuidado de salud a un costo razonable. Y no ha surgido un plan políticamente viable para resolver el enredo de asuntos de inmigración, e incluso qué hacer con respecto a los 8 millones de trabajadores indocumentados que se estima viven en áreas vulnerables de la sociedad de EEUU.

En los últimos años los activistas latinos de todos los

niveles han rogado para que se preste atención a estas crisis domésticas.

Para evitar acusaciones de que está distribuyendo propaganda político-partidista, la NHLA ni sumó ni promedió los resultados según el partido político. Sin embargo, el Comité Demócrata Nacional (DNC, por sus siglas en inglés) no perdió tiempo en proporcionar dicha información.

"El liderazgo demócrata en la Cámara y el Senado recibieron una nota promedio de 84 por ciento, mientras que los líderes republicanos recibieron una nota de apenas 10 por ciento", dijeron representantes del DNC en un comunicado de prensa que se distribuyó inmediatamente luego de que se emitiera el informe de calificaciones el pasado 9 de octubre.

Todos los demócratas latinos obtuvieron altas calificaciones que fluctuaban entre 78 y 94 por ciento. Tres republicanos latinos, miembros de la Conferencia Congresional Hispana, obtuvieron una calificación de 22 por ciento.

En el Senado, donde no hay hispanos, el senador Charles Schumer, demócrata por Nueva York, obtuvo la calificación más alta, con un 94 por ciento

Los senadores Jesse Helms, republicano por Carolina del Norte y Don Nickles, republicano por Oklahoma, fueron los únicos en obtener una calificación de cero.

En términos generales, parece que los líderes latinos piensan que el informe de calificaciones está cumpliendo con su propósito: el de informar a la comunidad latina, la cual esta cada día más activa en la política, cómo les están sirviendo sus representantes.

Larry González, director de la oficina de Washington, D.C. de la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Elegidos y Nombrados), ve la situación como una reflexión de la creciente influencia política de la comunidad latina.

La portavoz del Concilio Nacional de La Raza, Lisa Navarrete, observa otra buena señal. Ella dice que ve un aumento significativo por parte de los miembros del Congreso a las últimas calificaciones.

El informe de calificaciones está disponible en línea en www.bateylink.org

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A New Look at an Old Educational Crisis

from page one

The No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law last year to combat these very institutionalized inadequacies. Early reports from the nation's school districts tell of school boards, administrators and teachers who are confused, frustrated and becoming increasingly resentful as they try to implement NCLB and achieve the federally mandated adequate yearly progress benchmarks.

Failure to attain the progress is the kiss of death for districts in terms of federal monies revoked for not meeting the standards, as well as schools put on the dreaded list of low performing.

Also, the failure of any one of a number of student subgroups, such as limited English speakers, low-income or special education students, further penalizes faculty and schools by failing the entire campus. In short, the NCLB doesn't foster a lot of good will toward those students who, through no fault of their own, may drag test scores down.

So for the time being, Latino students are no better off. This realization triggered the latest call for action by groups like Hispanic CREO, whose organizers understand the bomb is ticking unless Latino parents are able to do what their affluent counterparts have been able to afford all along -- choose a program that offers the best environment for their children not just to learn, but to succeed.

As it stands now, Latino students in grades 4 through 12 lag far behind their white classmates in such basic subjects as reading, math, science and history, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

This learning gap widens as the children get older. It's no wonder that students drop out. According to a 2001 Rand study, in 2000, one of every five new entrants in the labor force is Hispanic. The health of the national economy is

growing more dependent on the skills and knowledge of Hispanic workers," it emphasized.

If the majority of those same workers have little more than a 10th grade education with minimal literacy skills, it stands to reason that the future holds a bigger demand for public welfare and health programs, decreased tax revenues and increased wage gaps.

History tells us such disparities are tolerated only for so long by any group that finds itself on the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

Latino Report Card on Congress: Legislators "Ditched Class"

No federal action was taken to bring about substantive change, particularly to keep Latino immigrant communities from sinking deeper into poverty or to provide the Hispanic working poor with basic survival tools, such as affordable health care. And no politically viable plan has emerged to resolve our tangle of immigration issues, including what to do about the estimated eight million exploited undocumented workers who live in the underbelly of U.S. society.

Latino activists at all levels have begged for attention to these domestic crises over the past few years.

To avoid charges of spreading partisan propaganda, NHLA did not tally and average the scorecard results by political party. But the Democratic National Committee wasted no time in providing that information.

"The Democratic leadership in the House and Senate received an average score of 84 percent, while Republican leaders scored barely 10 percent," the DNC said in a press communiqué distributed quickly after the Oct. 9 report card was issued.

Latino Democrats all scored

The Rand study states that already 60 percent of the prison population consists of high school dropouts. Couple that statistic with the observation that Latino dropouts are over-represented in service and hard-labor jobs, where minimum wage is the norm and the future not only is gloomy for Latinos, but for our nation's economic well-being, too.

It's a future that will last a lot longer than 15 minutes.

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high marks ranging from 78 percent to 94 percent. Three Latino Republicans, members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, scored 22 percent.

In the Senate, where no Hispanics serve, Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) had the highest mark, 94 percent. Senators Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Don Nickles (R-Okla.) were the only senators to score a zero.

Overall, Latino leaders seem to feel that report card is accomplishing its purpose -- to inform a Latino community that is increasingly active politically as to how well their representatives are serving them.

Larry González, director of the Washington, D.C., office of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, sees it as a reflection of the growing political leverage of the Latino community.

National Council of La Raza spokeswoman Lisa Navarrete observes another good sign. She says she's a significant increase in attention coming from members of Congress to the last couple of scorecards.

The scorecard is available online at www.bateylink.org (c)2003, Hispanic Link Weekly Report.

Una Nueva Mirada

Viene de la primera pagina

para a los niños para solicitar admisión a la universidad.

Eso es algo que no significa la misma cosa según supe cuando asistí a la conferencia inaugural de CREO Hispano en Washington, D.C. Para mucha gente, el que se mencione la palabra educación en el mismo espacio que la palabra latinos, es una contradicción, tomando en cuenta que los latinos tienen los porcentajes más altos de deserción escolar a nivel de escuela secundaria, de embarazos entre adolescentes y que llenan las listas de aquellos que están en escuelas correccionales y centros juveniles de detención. La noción popular es que a las familias latinas no les importa la educación.

Nada podría estar más lejos de la verdad.

Las tristes estadísticas que saturan los titulares de los noticieros nocturnos en la televisión, son solamente el resultado final de unos sistemas educativos que echan a un lado a algunos niños latinos que no prosperan en instituciones deficientes con maestros indiferentes. O de aquellos que no llenan las expectativas tradicionales sobre quiénes deben lograr el éxito académico.

Jay Greene, un becado del Instituto de Manhattan para la Investigación sobre Política Pública, cuyas oficinas se encuentran en Nueva York, fue coautor del estudio "No Exit: How Lack of Educational Choice Shortchanges Hispanic Students" (Sin salida: Cómo la ausencia de opciones educativas engaña a los estudiantes hispanos), el cual se dio a conocer en la actividad de CREO.

Según Greene, "el mayor obstáculo que no permite que los hispanos prosperen en la sociedad americana es probablemente la educación de baja calidad que el sistema de educación pública ofrece a los estudiantes hispanos entre los grados de K-12".

La ley No Child Left Behind (NCLB) (Que ningún niño se quede atrás) se firmó el año pasado para combatir estas insuficiencias demasiado institucionalizadas. Los primeros reportes de los distritos escolares de la nación hablan sobre juntas escolares, administradores y maestros que están confundidos, frustrados y cada vez más resentidos al tratar de implantar la ley y lograr los mandatos federales con respecto a las normas de progreso anual.

El no lograr progreso es la muerte para los distritos, ya que se revocan los fondos federales por no cumplir con las normas; también implica el que las escuelas se incluyan en la lista de escuelas de bajo rendimiento.

Además, el que cualquier número de estudiantes dentro de un subgrupo, tales como los que tienen dificultades para hablar inglés, los de bajo ingreso o los estudiantes de educación especial falle en dichas pruebas, penaliza aún más a los maestros y a la escuela, al reprobar a toda la institución. En resumen la ley NCLB no estimula mucho la buena voluntad hacia esos estudiantes qui-

enes sin tener la culpa, contribuyen a disminuir los resultados de las pruebas.

Así que por el momento, los estudiantes latinos no están nada mejor. Esta realidad dio el toque para la última llamada de alerta por parte de grupos tales como el CREO Hispano, cuyos organizadores entienden que la bomba está a punto de estallar, a menos que los padres latinos sean capaces de hacer lo que sus contrapartes acomodados han venido haciendo todo el tiempo: seleccionar un programa educativo que le proporcione el mejor ambiente para que sus hijos no sólo aprendan, sino que sean exitosos.

Tal y como está ahora, los estudiantes latinos entre los grados de 4 a 12, están mucho más rezagados que sus compañeros de clase, en materias básicas tales como lectura, matemática, ciencia e historia, de acuerdo con la Evaluación Nacional de Progreso Educativo.

Este abismo en el aprendizaje se agranda a medida que los niños crecen. No es de extrañarse entonces que los estudiantes se den de baja de la escuela.

De acuerdo al estudio Rand, el cual se llevó a cabo en el 2002, en el año 2000 una de cada cinco personas que entró por primera vez a la fuerza

laboral era hispana. "La salud de la economía nacional depende cada vez más de las destrezas y el conocimiento de los trabajadores hispanos".

Si la mayoría de esos mismos trabajadores tienen poco más de un décimo grado con el mínimo de destrezas de alfabetización, es razonable pensar que en el futuro habrá una mayor demanda por programas de bienestar social, programas de salud, menores ingresos por concepto de contribuciones y mayores diferencias en salarios.

La historia nos dice que cualquier grupo que se encuentre en el más bajo de los escalones de la escalera económica sólo puede tolerar estas desigualdades por un tiempo.

El estudio Rand asegura que ya el 60 por ciento de la población penal consiste de desertores escolares. Esa estadística, unida al que los desertores escolares latinos comprenden la mayoría de los trabajos de servicios y los de mano de obra dura, donde el salario mínimo es la norma, y se vislumbra un futuro sombrío, no sólo para los latinos, sino también para la economía de la nación.

Es un futuro que durará mucho más de 15 minutos.

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Pelosi: 'Desigualdades en la salud para minorías son inaceptables y debemos de eliminarlas'

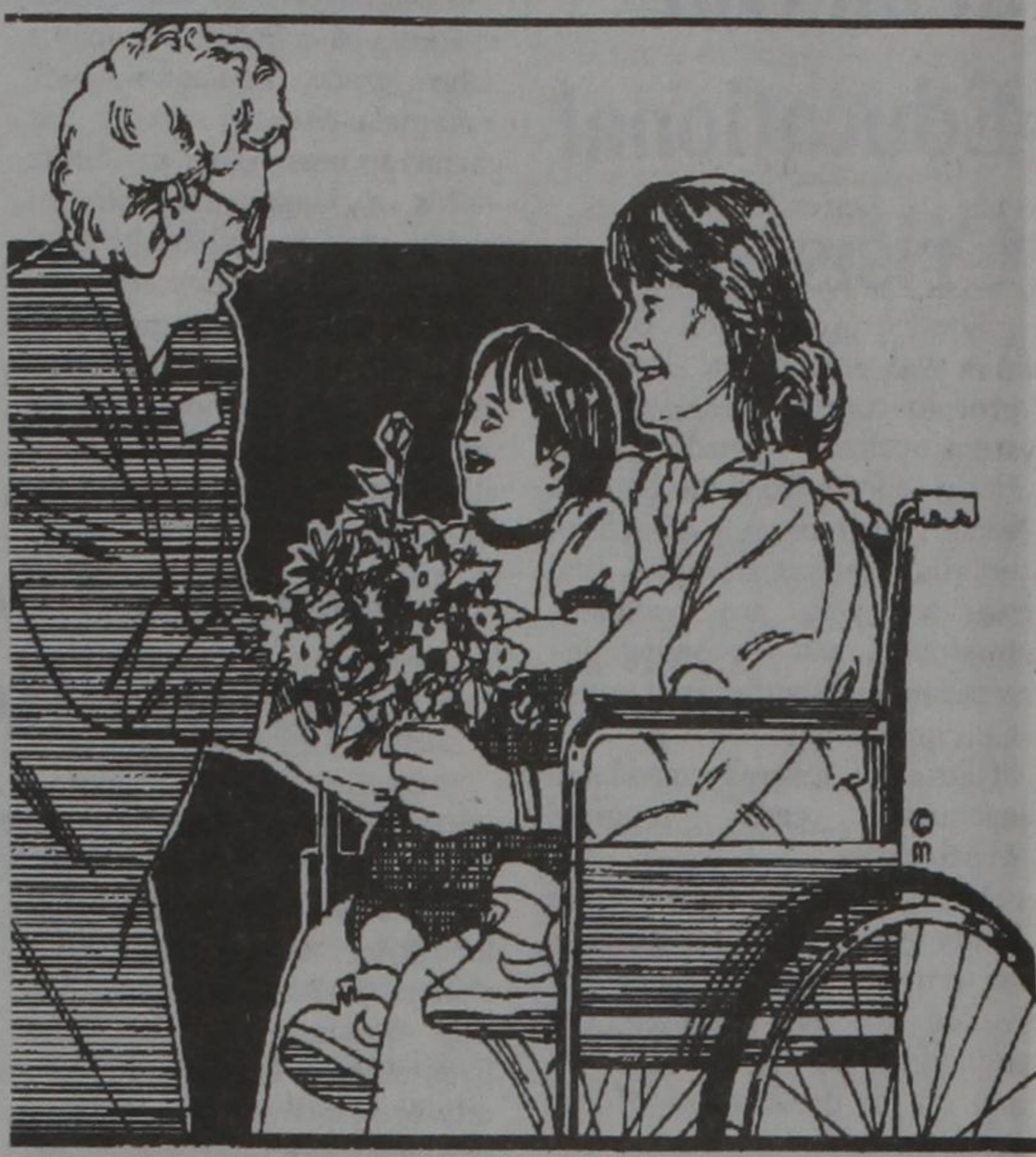
La líder Demócrata de la Cámara de Representantes Nancy Pelosi, el líder Demócrata en el Senado Tom Daschle y otros líderes del Caucus Demócrata de la Cámara anunciaron hoy una legislación innovadora que ayudará a mejorar la calidad de la salud de los afro americanos, los hispanos y que otras minorías reciben. La Ley de Igualdad y Responsabilidad en la Salud de 2003 podría cerrar el abismo en el cuidado de la salud que provoca que los afro americanos, hispanos y otras minorías sufran y mueran en grandes cantidades de enfermedades comparado con los anglosajones.

"La diversidad, en nuestro Caucus y en nuestra nación, es la fortaleza mayor de nuestro país - económica, cultural y políticamente hablando," Pelosi dijo. "Sin embargo, nuestra diversidad no está servida adecuadamente cuando las diferencias en el cuidado de la salud de las comunidades minoritarias son desatendidas," añadió.

"Hemos desarrollado un plan para ayudar a acabar con las desigualdades en la salud, gracias a nuestro trabajo con nuestros colegas del Caucus Demócrata del Senado," dijo Pelosi. "Nuestro plan aumenta la cobertura de acceso

El congresista Elijah Cummings, Presidente del Caucus Congressional Negro (CBC por sus siglas en inglés); Mike Honda, vicepresidente del Caucus Asiático-pacífico; el congresista Frank Pallone, Vicepresidente del Caucus Nativo americano; el congresista Ciro D. Rodríguez, Presidente del Caucus Congressional Hispano; la congresista Donna Christian-Christensen y la congresista Hilda Solis se unieron a la Líder demócrata Nancy Pelosi en el anuncio de hoy y dirigen los esfuerzos de cerrar el abismo que afecta muy de cerca cada grupo minoritario en este país.

"1 de cada 3 latinos en este país no tiene seguro - una tasa



terriblemente desproporcionada para nuestra gente. Afortunadamente, esta legislación expandiría las opciones de cobertura de salud a través de Medicaid para cubrir a padres y mujeres embarazadas, jóvenes

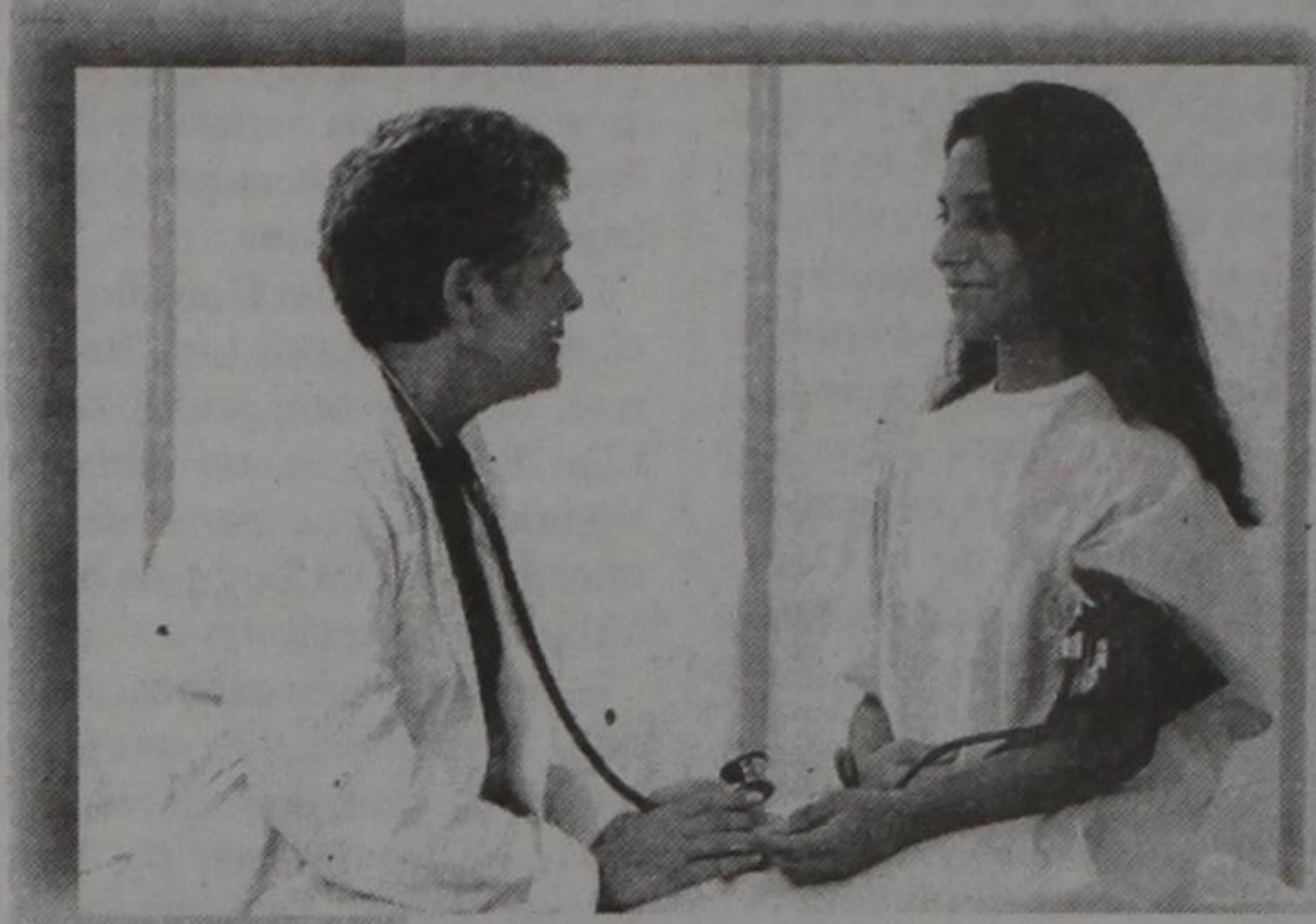
hasta la edad de 20 años, y todos los inmigrantes legales," dijo la congresista Hilda Solis (D-CA). "Los demócratas estamos comprometidos para asegurarnos que todas las comunidades tengan el mismo acceso a

servicios de salud que sean de calidad y económicos. Al enfocarse en mejorar los servicios de salud y el acceso para las comunidades de color e inmigrantes, esta legislación comenzará a cerrar la brecha en la salud."

La Ley de Salud para las minorías ayudará a cerrar las divisiones en el cuidado de la salud que afecta a todas las comunidades minoritarias: los afro americanos, hispanos, indio americanos, y los isleños asiático pacíficos. Más notable aun, ayudará a que la calidad

del cuidado de la salud sea más costeable y que provea para más investigación sobre las complejidades de cada raza y enfermedad. La ley también ofrecerá iniciativas para ayudar a combatir aquellas enfermedades que desproporcionadamente afectan a las comunidades minoritarias.

"Esto no es un asunto partidista. Afortunadamente, nuestros colegas republicanos se unirán a los demócratas para que este plan pueda ser aprobado," dijo Pelosi.



Pelosi: 'Minority health Disparities Are Unacceptable and We Must Eliminate Them'

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and leading members of the House Democratic Caucus today announced sweeping new legislation to improve the quality of health care for Hispanic Americans and other minorities.

"Diversity, in our Caucus and nation, is our country's greatest strength - economically, politically, and culturally," Leader Pelosi said. "But our diversity is not well served when health care disparities in minority communities go unaddressed."

"Working with our colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus, we have developed a plan that would help end these health disparities," Pelosi said.

"Our plan increases health coverage and access for minorities while improving research and government accountability."

Pelosi and Daschle were joined by the Members of Congress who are leading the effort to close the health care gap that affects nearly every minority group in the country: Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; Mike Honda (D-CA), Vice Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus; Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Vice-Chair of the Native American Caucus; Ciro Rodríguez (D-TX), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI); and Hilda Solis (D-CA).

A staggering 1 in 3 Latinos in this country are uninsured - a rate that is terribly disproportionate to our numbers. Fortunately, this bill will expand health insurance options through Medicaid to cover parents and pregnant women, young people up to age 20, and all legal immigrants," Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA) said. "Democrats are committed to ensuring that all communities have equal access to quality and affordable health care. With a focus on improving health care services and access for communities of color and immigrants, this bill begins to bridge the health care divide."

The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003

would close the health care divide that affects minority communities. Most notably, it will help make quality health care more affordable and provide for more research on the complexities of race and disease. The bill will also offer initiatives to help combat those diseases that disproportionately affect minority communities.

Leader Pelosi pointed out that currently:

"This is not a partisan issue. Hopefully, our Republican colleagues will join us so we can get this plan passed," Pelosi said.

"Those who are willing to trade liberty for the sake of security will wind up with neither." - Benjamin Franklin

Fat Joe aceptó aparecer en "Scary Movie 3", pero dice que lo que prefiere es la música

Fat Joe nunca olvida sus raíces.

Nacido en el Bronx de padre cubano y madre puertorriqueña, Joseph Antonio Cartagena—su verdadero nombre— se ha paseado los últimos 10 años entre el rap y el cine, según él, sin que la fama le haya afectado.

"No soy parte de la sociedad falsa", dice con relación a los cambios que la vida de ricos y famosos puede producir en algunas personas. "Cuando la gente quiere poner los pies sobre la tierra llama a Fat Joe".

El artista de 33 años aparece en la comedia del terror Scary Movie 3, que se estrena nacionalmente este viernes. Hace el papel de sí mismo en una escena que parodia la cinta 8 Mile, de Eminem, y para la cual escribió un rap.

Afirmó que es tan "ferviente fanático" de las primeras dos versiones de Scary Movie que no dudó en aceptar el papel, y que incluso viajó tres días en autobús hasta Vancouver, Canadá, donde se rodó el filme, porque no le gusta viajar en avión. "Me divertí mucho", expresó.

Sin embargo, dijo que prefiere "rapear" a actuar porque disfruta más escribiendo su propia creación.

"La música me habla", asegura. "Puedo escuchar apenas un par de notas e inspirarme para escribir todo un rap". Su último disco se titula Loyalty (Lealtad).

Fat Joe, casado con una colombiana y padre de dos niños—de 11 y 8 años—, dice ser leal a sus admiradores, su familia, sus amigos, a "todo aquello con lo que me identifico".

El artista ha trabajado por años con el mismo grupo de gente, pero dice que "siempre hay espacio para nuevos productores". Recientemente colaboró con la estrella mexicana Thalía para su sencillo I Want You.

"Thalía es buena gente", dijo Fat Joe. "Es una estrella tan grande, pero tiene los pies tan sobre la tierra. Eso me tomó por sorpresa".

Con respecto a cómo su herencia latina ha afectado su carrera, no dudó en responder: "¡Positivamente!".

Considera que como hispano ha sido un pionero en el mundo del rap, y dijo que desearía que hubiese más latinos en este negocio.

"Hicimos que esté en la onda ser puertorriqueño y cubano", dijo, agregando que hay ciertos momentos de su carrera que le habría gustado mucho ver como niño.

Entre sus momentos profesionales de mayor orgullo destacan "cuando canté con Big Pun en la histórica pelea de [Félix] Trinidad y [Oscar] De la Hoya", así como su colaboración con el cantante R. Kelly. "Eso fue lo más grande para mí... Después estuve alardeando, alardeando y alardeando..." al respecto.

Sobre el futuro, Fat Joe dijo que eventualmente desea escribir una película sobre los gánsters puertorriqueños del Bronx. "Soy un narrador tan bueno y he tenido una vida tan dura... Quiero escribir".

Scary Movie 3, dirigida por David Zucker y protagonizada por Anna Faris, Charlie Sheen, Regina Hall, Denise Richards, Jeremy Piven y Queen Latifah, entre otros, se estrena el viernes en salas de cine estadounidenses.



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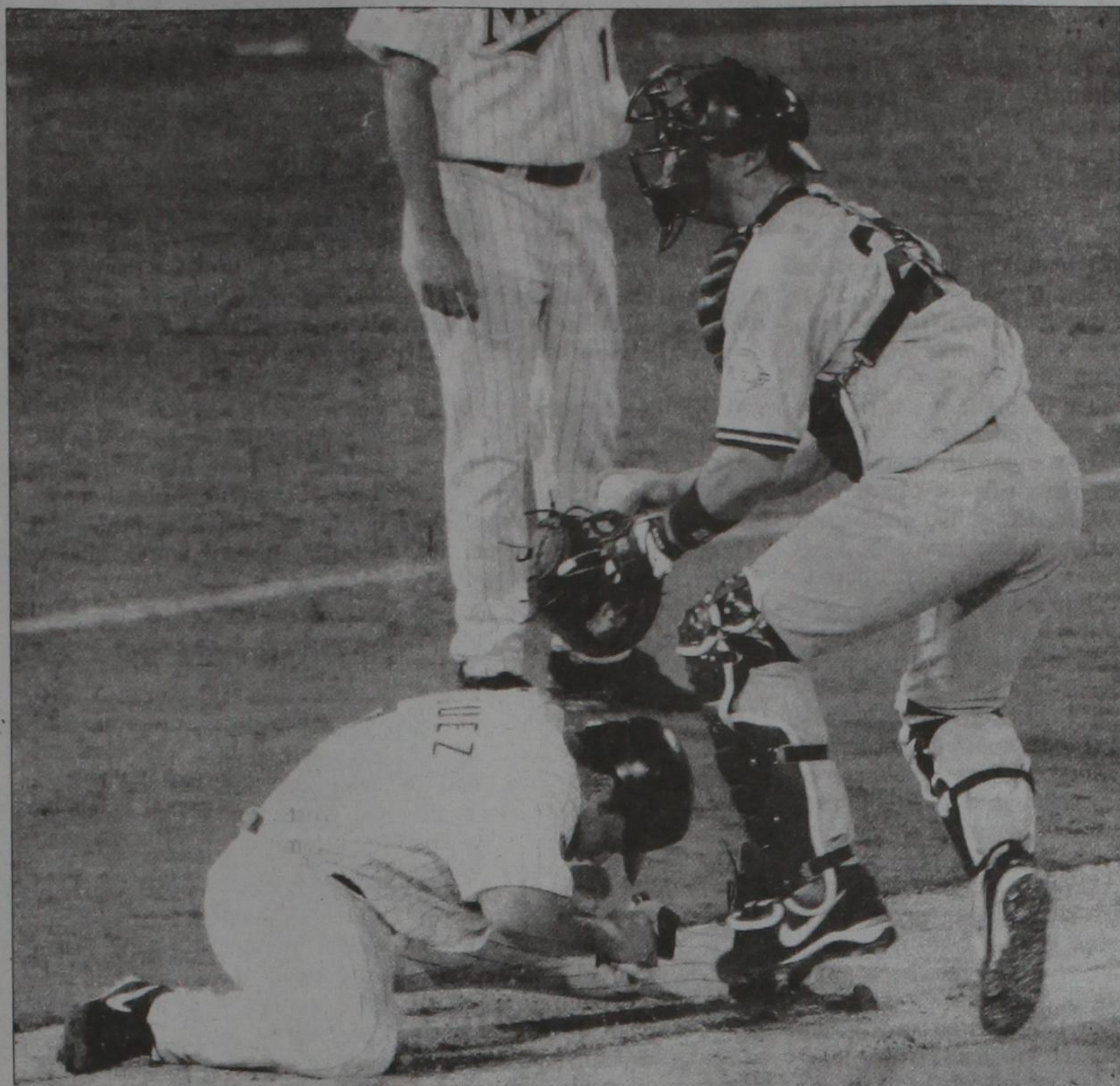
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Gonzalez homer lifts Marlins to Series tie



Marlins catcher Ivan Rodriguez was run down by Yankees counterpart Jorge Posada, making the second out in the sixth inning.

Roger Clemens walked off the mound a hero. Alex Gonzalez and the Florida Marlins danced off the field as winners.

Gonzalez led off the bottom of the 12th inning with a home run and the Marlins survived yet another late Yankees' jolt, beating New York 4-3 Wednesday night to even the World Series at two games each.

"I had a feeling. I was strong with the bat," the slumping Gonzalez said.

After both teams saluted Clemens in what might have been his final appearance, pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra saved the Yankees with a two-out, two-run triple in the ninth that tied it at 3.

It turned out the drama was just beginning once the clock passed midnight. And at 12:28 a.m., Gonzalez hit a low line drive off Jeff Weaver that barely cleared the left-field wall for the win.

Gonzalez had been only 5-for-53 this postseason. Weaver, the odd man out on the Yankees' staff for most of the season, pitched for the first time since Sept. 24.

"Just trying to put it in play, man. He threw me that sinker and I got it," Gonzalez said.

Both teams threatened in extra innings, with Marlins reliever Braden Looper escaping a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the 11th and posting the victory.

The Yankees had won seven straight extra-inning games in the Series since 1964. The previous two were among the most stirring in their storied history, set up when Tino Martinez and Scott Brosius hit two-out, two-run homers in the bottom of the ninth on consecutive nights against Arizona's Byung-Hyun Kim in 2001.

But the Marlins also knew a thing about late magic. Their last Series win at Pro Player Stadium was an 11-inning victory in Game 7 against Cleveland in 1997.

"That's what this is all about. You've got two great teams that deserve to be here, and you saw great baseball tonight," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Now with things all even, it goes to Game 5 on Thursday night. David Wells starts against Florida's Brad Penny in a rematch of the opener that the Marlins won 3-2.

The Marlins guaranteed the Series will return to Yankee Stadium. And that means there's still a chance Clemens will pitch again - and it would be in Game 7.

"We got five straight hits in the first inning we thought we were going to get to him

early," Florida's Jeff Conine said. "It was really nice to see the crowd give him a sendoff like they did."

While Clemens did not win, the Yankees at least made sure he did not lose.

Shut down for eight innings by Carl Pavano, New York came back in the ninth against Ugueth Urbina.

Bernie Williams singled with one out, Hideki Matsui walked and Jorge Posada grounded into a force play. David Dellucci came in to run for Posada, and Sierra fouled off two full-count pitches before tripling into the right-field corner.

The Yankees were delirious as they spilled out of the dugout to celebrate the big hit. Earlier, they came off the bench in respectful fashion for Clemens' farewell.

"It was quite memorable for me," Torre said. "I mean, Roger, he just took it all in. I think we'd all like to be in his body and see what it felt like walking off that mound maybe for the last time."

All the elements were in place for Clemens' coronation as one of the all-time greats. His place in the Hall of Fame is already assured, and the Yankees hoped he could go out with a win that would put them one victory for yet another championship.

But the plucky Marlins had other ideas.

Miguel Cabrera, only 1 when Clemens made his major league debut in 1984, put the Marlins ahead with a two-out, two-run homer in the first.

Florida had managed only two runs in the previous two games combined, and his fourth homer of this postseason gave the sellout crowd of 65,934 at Pro Player reason to believe.

Clemens gave up another run in the first, and left after the seventh after striking out Luis Castillo.

Popping flashbulbs lit up the ballpark and Clemens' teammates patted him on the back as he made his way to the bench, waving his hand. The ovation continued and Clemens came out of the dugout to acknowledge the cheers from the Marlins, patting his heart and doffing his cap.

Catcher Ivan Rodriguez clapped his hands as did the other Marlins, and manager Jack McKeon saluted Clemens from the dugout. It made for a rare scene - opponents saluting someone on the other bench during a game that meant so much.

"It was a classy thing by both teams," McKeon said. "All of our guys were on the top step, giving it their best hand."

Clemens got a no-decision, leaving him at 3-0 lifetime in the World Series. The 41-year-old ace was trying to become the first 300-game winner to win in the Series since Grover Cleveland Alexander in 1926.

Instead, he was outpitched by a guy who grew up idolizing him in Connecticut and later as a prospect in the Boston farm system.

Pavano shut down the Yankees on seven hits and one run over eight innings. He walked none, struck out four and helped himself by getting Derek Jeter to ground into two double plays.

Clemens was the first Yankees player to jog onto the field after New York was done batting in the top of the first.

Eager to get going, he retired Juan Pierre and Castillo on easy grounders. Then suddenly, the Marlins' hit parade started.

Rodriguez singled and Ca-

brera, after being backed off the plate by an inside fastball, reached out and hit a drive over the right-field wall.

Clemens bent over at the waist as he watched it sail, took a few steps toward the plate and simply signaled umpire Jeff Kellogg for a new ball.

Cabrera's homer was the fourth of this postseason for the 20-year-old rookie.

Florida wasn't finished, either. Conine, Mike Lowell and Derrek Lee singled for another run and a 3-0 lead, forcing Weaver to start warming up in the Yankees' bullpen. The inning ended on Clemens' 42nd pitch, with Gonzalez's bid for a three-run homer falling short of the warning track.

Clemens walked off the mound with his head down while first baseman Jason Giambi trotted by with an encouraging word.

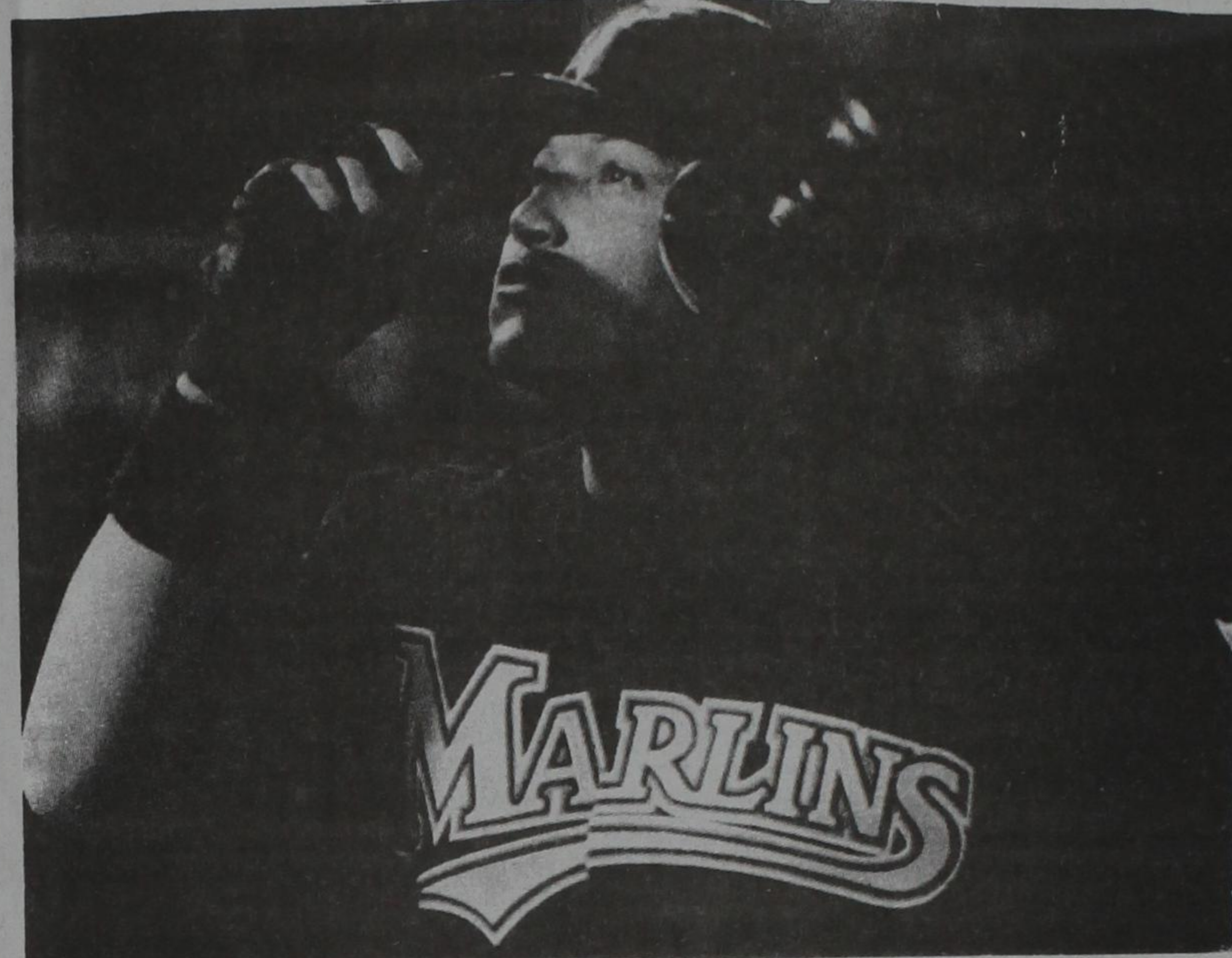
The Yankees began to claw

back right away, loading the bases with no outs in the second on three straight singles. Matsui got a break on his infield hit, as he was called safe by first-base umpire Ed Rapano despite replays showing he was really out by a hair.

Pavano did a great job of limiting the damage, giving up a sacrifice fly to Aaron Boone and then retiring Clemens on a grounder.

With his single in the fifth, Clemens closed his career -- as a hitter, that is -- with a .185 average (5-for-27) with no home runs and one RBI.

Even the infallible Jeter made a rare mistake in a big game. The Yankees shortstop failed to run on his soft looper in the opening inning, perhaps thinking Castillo would catch the ball. The second baseman fielded it on one hop and turned a double play before Jeter was halfway down the line.



Miguel Cabrera helped the Marlins to a 3-0 lead in the first inning of Game 4 of the World Series with a two-run homer.

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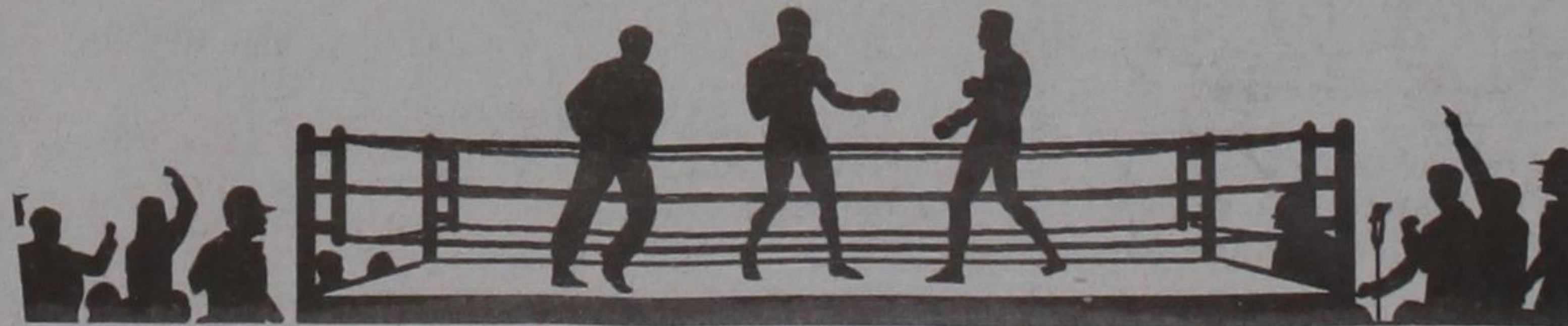
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W 34-6	HOUSTON	
L 14-15	@ Pittsburgh	
W 52-13	OAKLAND	
REGULAR SEASON GAMES (TV)		
L 13-27	ATLANTA	
W 35-32	@ New York Giants (OT)	
Sun., Sept. 21	BYE	
Sun., Sept. 28	@ New York Jets (FOX)	3:15 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 5	ARIZONA (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Oct. 12	PHILADELPHIA (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Oct. 19	@ Detroit (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Oct. 26	@ Tampa Bay (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Nov. 2	WASHINGTON (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Nov. 9	BUFFALO (CBS)	3:15 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 16	@ New England (ESPN)	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 23	CAROLINA (FOX)	Noon
Thurs., Nov. 27	MIAMI (CBS)	3:05 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 7	@ Philadelphia (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Dec. 14	@ Washington (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Dec. 21	NEW YORK GIANTS (FOX)	Noon
Sun., Dec. 28	@ New Orleans (FOX)	Noon
Home Games in BOLD CAPS		

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Communities to Close the Achievement Gap

Today, the Education Trust released a report documenting how AYP provides important new information about academic achievement in America's public schools. This year's first-ever application of the AYP formula is providing the foundation for school improvement efforts in all 50 states by uncovering large achievement gaps, identifying schools that have made significant progress, and recognizing schools with high percentages of low-income and minority children meeting state proficiency benchmarks.

"Our society can no longer afford to consider schools successful unless they successfully teach all groups of students. For too long, state accountability systems looked only at overall averages, and in so doing allowed massive achievement gaps between groups to be ignored. This initial release of AYP data tells us that different groups of students, often times even those in the same school, are not taught to the same high levels," said Ross Wiener, policy director of the Education Trust.

The report, *What New 'AYP' Information Tells Us About Schools, States, and Public Education*, highlights information about the AYP formula in Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Although some have criticized the AYP formula as unfair, "the unfairness flows from how many students aren't getting taught what they need to know, not from the AYP formula," said Wiener. "This is the beginning of a truth telling process. The challenge now is to turn this new awareness into action, to help the schools and students that are struggling."

As states continue to release their AYP lists, questions are being raised about how the AYP formula works and what factors contribute to the number of schools on AYP lists. This report provides answers to those questions.

This report provides several examples of ways AYP is helping real schools and their communities move forward. Much of the angst concerning this law comes from the fact that AYP is identifying schools with large achievement gaps that were previously designated by their states as being successful based on overall averages. AYP is forcing these schools to examine why some groups of students are performing far below state proficiency levels while others are exceeding them.

"Some education organizations are using the façade of 'A' schools not making AYP to seduce the public into be-

lieving that this law is unfair. They would rather tout the success of a few, while simultaneously sweeping the lives and future of many away," said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust. "From now on, all means all - we can't go back to a time when overall averages masked big gaps."

This report identifies several ways AYP is working:

- AYP is identifying schools with massive achievement gaps, including many schools that had been identified as "successful" by state accountability systems.

- AYP is identifying schools that are falling short across the board.

- AYP is recognizing the improvement of previously low-

performing schools. • AYP results show that schools previously designated as needing improvement can improve and move off the list.

- AYP is identifying schools that are successfully teaching all groups of students.

"We can no longer accept the illusion of averages. A focus on averages has hidden the truth about who is getting taught and suppressed the academic potential of our poor and minority students. Now is the time to get our heads out of the sand and face the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead of us. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the schools and students who need our help the most," Haycock concluded.

Rising Job Worries, Bush Economic Plan Doesn't Help

Many Americans agree with President Bush that news reports from Iraq are making the situation there seem worse than it really is, but that has not stemmed rising public unease over the U.S. military presence in Iraq. At home, the trend in economic attitudes present a much less mixed -- and much more negative -- message for the White House.

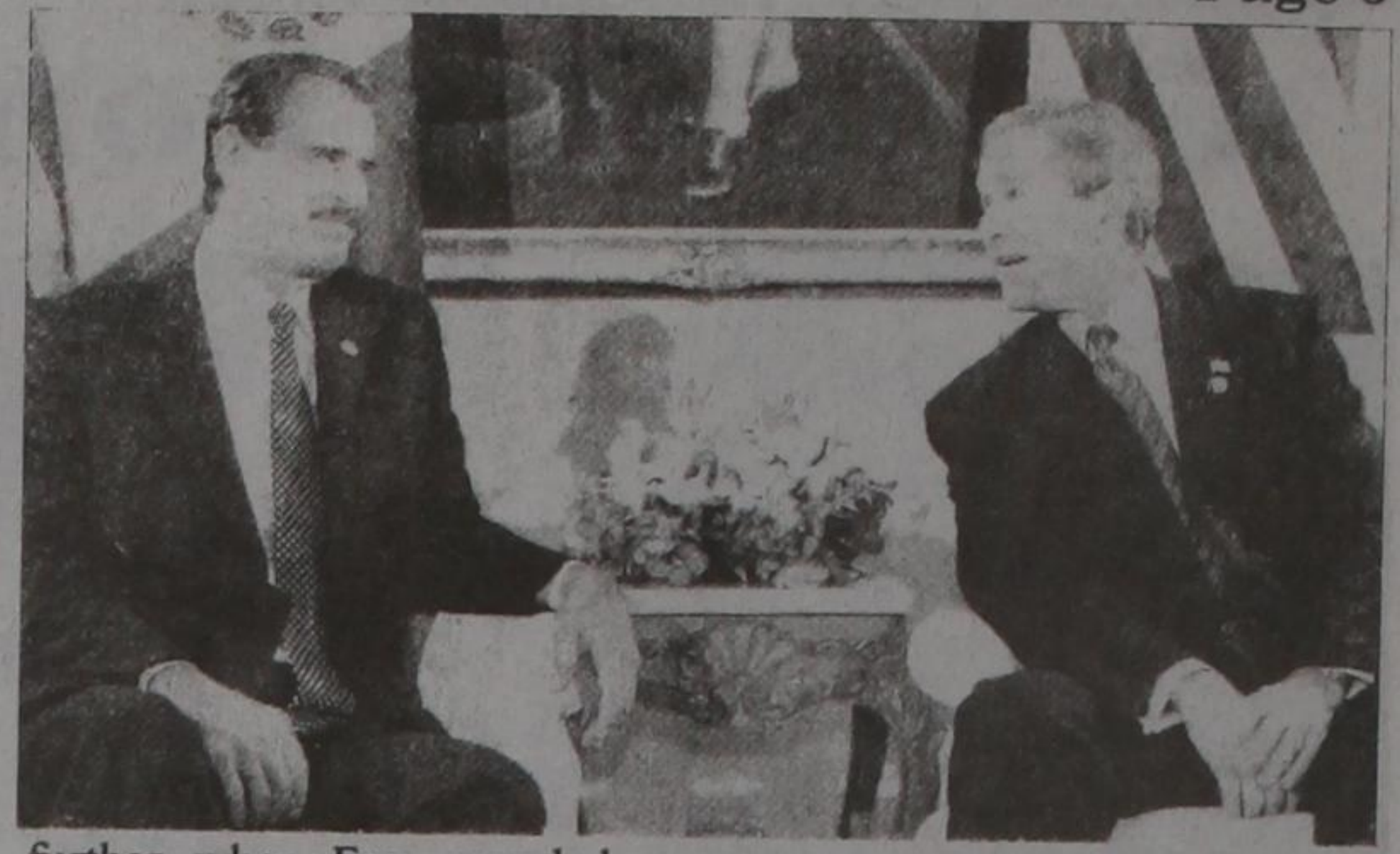
Two-thirds of Americans say that jobs are hard to find in their communities, up from 59% in June 2002 and 44% a year earlier. And a 43% plurality says Bush's economic policies are making the economy worse -- more than twice the number who say his policies are helping (18%).

Bush's overall approval

stands at 50% in the latest nationwide poll from the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 15-19 among 1,515 adults. Bush's job approval rating is closely tied with assessments of the local job market. In June 2002, a solid majority (66%) of those who said jobs were hard to find approved of the president's performance; today, just 41% do.

On Iraq, 38% agree with Bush that news organizations are presenting too bleak a picture of the situation in Iraq, while 36% say news reports from that country are fairly accurate. But an increasing number say U.S. forces in Iraq should be brought home as soon as possible -- 39% express that view now, compared with 32% in late September.

Bush asks Fox to set aside disputes over immigration and differences over war with Iraq



President Bush sought Monday to repair relations with Mexico, asking President Vicente Fox to set aside disputes over immigration and Iraq.

Bush called Fox last week ahead of their meeting at an economic conference here to tell him he was eager to meet. At the summit, the presidents discussed immigration, trade and Iraq reconstruction, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said.

She reported no progress on a migration pact, and no timetable emerged.

"They would rather get this issue right, rather than try to move it quickly," she said.

Mexico wants to bring a measure of legality to the 4 million or more undocumented Mexicans living in the United States. The Bush administration set aside such initiatives in its efforts to tighten borders after Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The relationship was strained

further when Fox canceled a visit to Bush's ranch last year to protest the execution in Texas of a man Fox said was a Mexican national. And Mexico refused to back an Iraq war resolution before the United Nations in March.

The two leaders discussed the same thorny issues at the same summit last year in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Then, too, they emerged without making any headway, nor did they produce a timetable.

Monday, the two had a "relaxed and really warm discussion, and they're looking forward to meeting again," Rice said.

Bush thanked Fox for Mexico's vote as part of the unanimous approval last week of a U.N. Security Council resolution urging all U.N. nations to help rebuild Iraq.

The two leaders also discussed the North American Free Trade Agreement, she said.

"President Fox has been very concerned, as everyone knows, about the fact that there is not an equal distribution of the benefits of NAFTA throughout Mexico, and how to improve the competitiveness of North America in the world trading system," she said.

Bush's sought to put past differences behind them, telling Fox on the phone, "What happened has happened," Rice said. It was a message similar to the one Bush gave German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder last month, when he told Schroeder, another opponent of the Iraq war, "We have had differences and they are over."

But Mexico's top diplomat suggested earlier this month they are not, from his country's perspective, over.

"No state can impose on another its own security agenda, nor the order of its priorities," said Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez.



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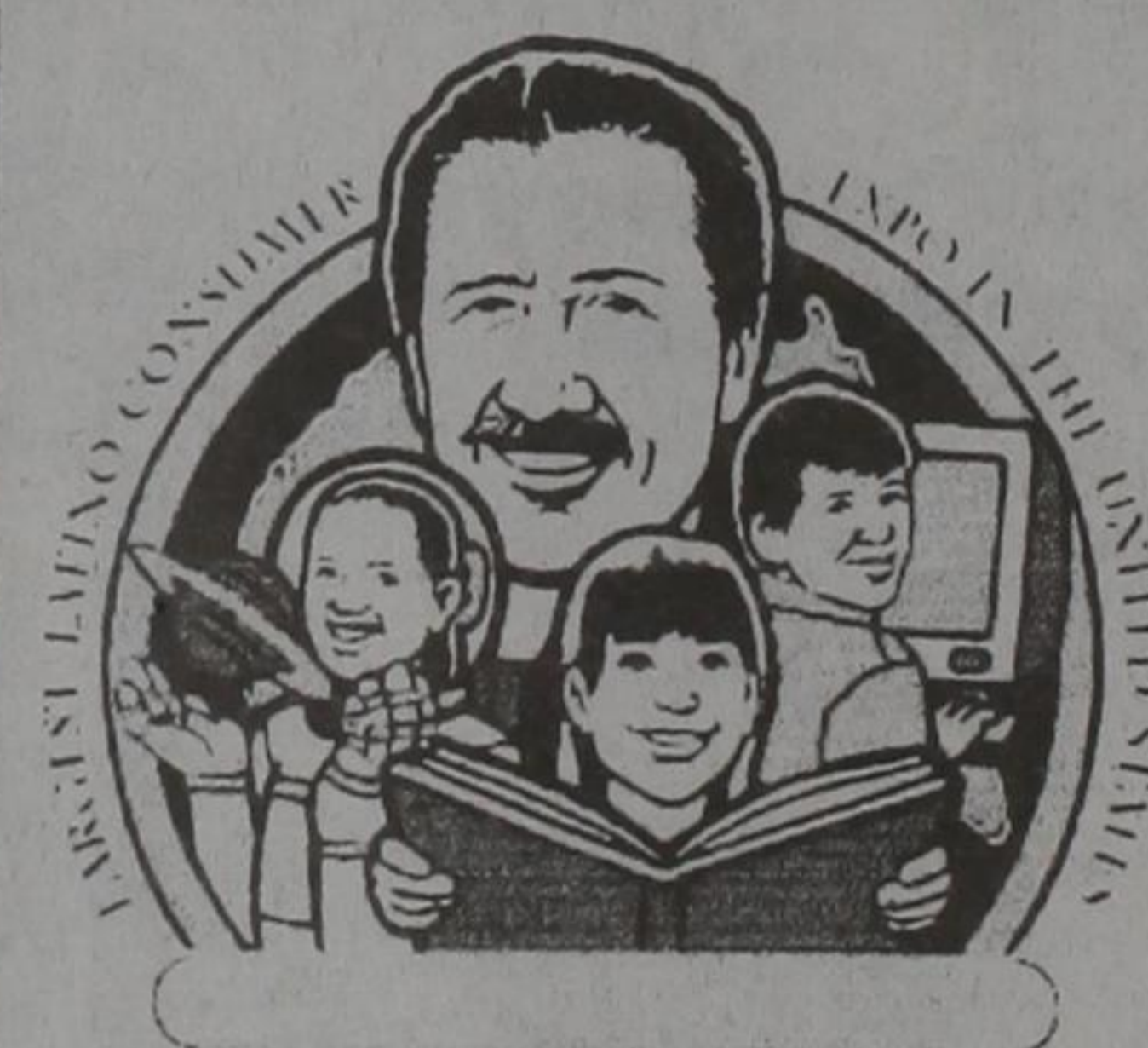
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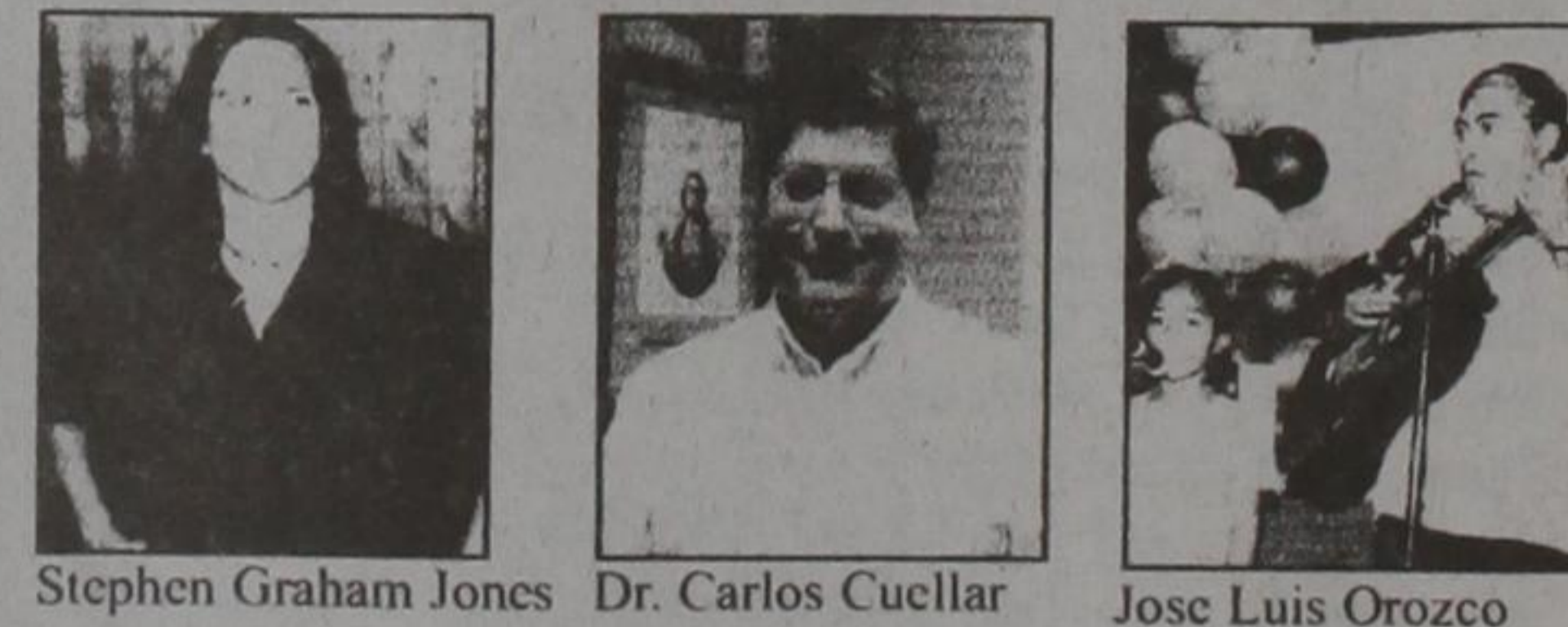


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