

Working for the Latino Vote

By Michael O. Collazo
Los Angeles, (LATNN) - On stage in Philadelphia, the Republican National Convention looked like nothing we have ever seen from the Party of Lincoln. Colin Powell criticized Republicans that oppose affirmative action. Rep. Henry Bonilla hosted the Convention proceedings. California Assemblyman Abel Maldonado made an entire speech in Spanish. Democrats, whose candidate Al Gore leads George W. Bush among voters of color, insist diversity has long been the goal of the party. Plus, to Latinos, its image of a Party for working families continues to attract the majority of Latino voters. But winning simply a majority of Latino voters may not be enough for Democrats in November.

Indeed, while this year's Republican National Convention tried to portray a more racially inclusive Party, the Democratic National Convention tried to portray Republicans as a Johnny-come-lately party that still does not hold the flag for working America - a working America within which Latinos disproportionately appear.

According to a 1999 U.S. Census Bureau report, Hispanic families make a quarter less than whites. The community's poverty rate also sits as high as 26 percent. This community, indeed, contains working - and poor - families. So to support the claim of the Party working hard for working families, Latinos were used as examples. DNC schedulers used Maria Fuentes to exemplify the impact of earned income tax credit. Linda Chavez-Thompson, the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, talked about her background as the daughter

of Mexican-American farm workers who worked to get her a "piece of the American Dream."
"I am not a renter here," said Chavez-Thompson. "I have a home in the Democratic Party." According to polls, the majority of Latinos have a home here, too. The latest polls show Al Gore, who referred to the Gutierrez family of San Antonio, Texas in his Thursday speech, holding as much as a double-digit lead over

Secondly, said Andy Hernandez, Senior Consultant of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute and a Democratic Party supporter, Republicans are looking beyond this election to the future of its Party.
"Republicans are going to be sophisticated about the Latino vote," said Hernandez. "They are not playing the short game, they are playing the long game. If they get 40 percent of the Latino vote, they then will have bragging rights [for the next presidential election]."

Possibly most importantly, this message of inclusion could help bring in undecided white voters who would not feel comfortable voting for the Party of Jesse Helms and Pete Wilson. Important Latino votes lay in, of course, the big electoral states like California and New York. But the real difference the Latino vote can make likely sits between the coasts. Midwestern state like Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and possibly even Wisconsin collectively could play big this November.

There are also votes still yet to be cultivated. The majority of Latinos are not registered to vote. Almost 5.5 million Hispanics are unregistered but eligible to vote for the 2000 elections. As much as one million Latinos await naturalization. Another 6.8 million already are registered to vote.

Does Bush need the majority of this potential vote? No. Could Al Gore use as many of these potential voters as possible? Yes. Whether or not the best-case scenario of Hispanic voter participation plays out, a lot of what happened this Convention year was meant, at least in part, for these people, who might make all the difference this November.

Winning simply a majority of Latino voters may not be enough for Democrats in November.



Texas Gov. George W. Bush among likely Hispanic voters. But in this election, gaining more Latino votes and an improved image for the GOP could mean a world of difference. Alfonso Jackson, a minority outreach consultant of the Republican Party, said in Philadelphia that just a stronger percentage of the Black and Hispanic vote - as non-authoritative as a quarter and close to a third, respectively - could win the election for George W. Bush.

News Briefs

OPPOSITION WIN IN CHIAPAS PAVES WAY FOR TALKS

By Diego Cevallos

MEXICO CITY, - The triumph by the opposition in Sunday's election in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas should pave the way for a resumption of peace talks between the government and the Zapatista rebels, according to analysts.

However, it will take much longer to come up with effective remedies for the poverty and violence shaking the country's most impoverished and highly militarized region.

The election for governor, which the opposition won for the first time, took place Sunday amidst an atmosphere of calm, which belied Chiapas' reputation as a dangerous place, where political and religious intolerance regularly claims lives.

According to the preliminary results, poll-favourite Pablo Salazar, the candidate fielded by a coalition of four opposition parties, is the new governor-elect, dealing yet another defeat to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which for the first time in 71 years lost its hold on the presidency in the Jul 2 national elections.

No one believes the conflict in Chiapas will be resolved "in 15 minutes" as president-elect Vicente Fox promised in his campaign. But most analysts and politicians agreed Monday that the new defeat for the PRI would pave the way for a renewal of peace talks between the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) and the government, suspended in 1996.

"Peace will only come hand in hand with democracy" and when the PRI is "at last" shoved out of the government, the Zapatista leadership said four years ago, when the ruling party still looked invincible.

Today, with the governing party pushed aside and real democracy emerging, there is no longer any reason to put off the negotiations for peace, according to analyst Jean Mayer.

Salazar's triumph launches a new stage in the search for peace in Chiapas, said Fox, after reiterating his readiness to respect an accord on indigenous rights and culture signed several years ago by the guerrillas and the administration of outgoing President Ernesto Zedillo. The peace talks broke off when the Zedillo government objected to a draft law based on the agreement on indigenous rights.

The president-elect says he is prepared to meet with the leaders of the EZLN, and to order, when he takes office in December, a "repositioning" of the army in the area.

The priority is to strike a peace deal with the guerrillas, said governor-elect Salazar, who represented four parties, including Fox's conservative National Action Party (PAN), and the centre-left Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) - Mexico's third-strongest political force - in Sunday's election.

But the agenda of pending issues in Chiapas predates the history of a rebel group which, after fighting the army for just 12 days in early 1994 before an armed truce was agreed, and with its unusual mix of ideological and political stances, was able to shake Mexico's entire political system and awaken a strong flow of sympathy from around the world.

Moreover, the EZLN has kept silent since June, and has neither pronounced itself on the latest political developments, nor responded to delegates sent to Chiapas by Fox.

Hemmed in by thousands of soldiers in its remote jungle refuge on the border with Guatemala, the insurgents, mainly barely-armed indigenous people, have continued to respect the truce, and cannot be attacked by the army thanks to a "law on pacification" enacted in 1996.

Chiapas is Mexico's most unstable, highly militarized and impoverished state, and one of the areas with the largest proportions of indigenous people, who account for around 10 percent of Mexico's total population of nearly 100 million.

It is also one of the states where impunity for human rights violators runs strongest, and where the distribution of wealth is extremely unequal.

Although Chiapas is Mexico's top producer of coffee, second-largest producer of livestock and third-largest producer of corn, the state has the worst marginalisation and mortality rates, and more than 65 percent of the local population is malnourished.

In the past six years, the state has had six different elected or acting PRI governors, and the Zedillo administration has poured millions of dollars into social programmes in the area, in a vain attempt to improve conditions there.

Meanwhile, an unprecedented number of army troops has been posted in Chiapas, and a spate of reports by local and international human rights groups have documented abuses such as massacres of peasant farmers, allegedly by paramilitary groups, while the number of people displaced by the violence has climbed to over 20,000.

There are around 300 military and migration checkpoints in Chiapas, as well as constant air and land patrols. However, abuses - although less high-profile than the massacre of 45 indigenous men, women and children in December 1997 in the village of Acteal - continue to occur, and impunity is the norm, rights groups complain.

Although he did not admit to the errors and even crimes of which the PRI is accused in Chiapas, acting governor Roberto Albores acknowledged his party's defeat in Sunday's election, which he described as a "watershed" in the history of the state.

"A profound political change is afoot in Chiapas," as demonstrated by the results of the election, columnist Roberto Zamarripa wrote in the Mexico City daily 'Reforma'.

Scores of Reasons Against Bilingual Ed?

Second grade scores have jumped considerably. Mathematics scores have shown marked improvement. These positive results come from the state of California - the same state that abolished bilingual education in 1998. Could losing bilingual education be the reason why standardized test scores are gaining in California?

"I thought it would hurt kids," Ken Noonan, of the California Association of Bilingual Education, said of Proposition 227, an initiative calling for full immersion of students whose first language is not English. "The exact reverse occurred, totally unexpected by me."

Although it remains unclear if Prop 227 stands as the main reason for the improvement, California's test scores have not looked better, particularly for Hispanic immigrant students. In second grade, the average reading score of a student classified as limited in English increased 9 percentage points over the last two years, to the 28th percentile from the 19th percentile in national rankings.

In mathematics, the increase in the average score for the same students was 14 points, to the 41st percentile from the 27th. In districts where bilingual students reside most, like Oceanside, the reading scores jumped from the 32nd to the 13th percentile.

Only in the 10th and 11th grades, in a reflection of the entrenched language problems of teenage Spanish speakers statewide, were the increases below 4 percentage points.

Still, over the same time these scores were produced, class sizes in the second grade also have been reduced, which may also take credit for the improvement.

Since 1998, Proposition 227 has been instituted, despite its general disapproval by particularly Latino politicians and many educators. Since then, organizations urged parents to apply for waivers, granted by school superintendents to continue in bilingual education classes. Other school districts, like San Francisco, threatened to ignore the law.

Ironically, the Vista district, where half the limited English speakers - about 2,500 students - were granted waivers by the superintendent to continue in bilingual classes, performed half as well as Oceanside, which is similar in size and economic background to Vista.

cent in the number of secondary school graduates. In Nevada it is calculated that this increase will be 77 percent, Arizona 56 percent and North Carolina 40 percent.

Between 1999 and 2009, it is expected that the number of teachers in public and private schools will increase by 6 per-

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"
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Vol XXIII No. 48

EL EDITOR

Week of August 24, 2000 thru August 30, 2000

Lubbock, Tx.

Over 100 Folklorico Dancers to Present Show Texas Tech vs. New Mexico Game to Benefit Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Pre-game festivities and halftime at this year's first Red Raider game will feature the blaring of trumpets and the colors of Jalisco dresses.

For the first time in Texas Tech history over 100 dancers will be featured at halftime as they dance to the sounds of mariachi music.

Dancers from various Ballet Folklorico groups will perform at half-time under the direction of Zenaida Aguero Reyes. Pre-game festivities will begin at Raider Alley at 3:00 p.m. The RED HOT entertainment to be provided by Mariachi Festival, Impacto, and Mariachi Juvenil is sure to capture the Hispanic flavor of the day. More entertainment surprises are planned.

Tech Raiders Rojos will take on the New Mexico Lobos at 7:00 p.m. at Jones SBC Stadium. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Hispanic College Fund, a national organization that awards scholarships to Hispanic students.

Recipients of the Fall 2000 scholarships will be recognized at the half-time festivities. They are Joseph Chavez, Stephanie Rosiles, Marisa Holguin, and Rafael Gutierrez. This event will enable the organization to award more scholarships to our deserving Hispanic students.

At total of 1,300 area junior high studentststudents will receive free tickets to the Hispanic College Fund Football Classic Saturday (Aug. 26), courtesy of Texas Tech.



Reciente ganadores de becas presentadas por la Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Se espera que habra mas dinero ahora sera disponible con contribucion de Aethna Insurance y el Health Sciences Center Photo by John Cervantes

Several colleges and divisions at Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center purchased the tickets.

Tickets will be distributed to the Lubbock Independent School District, the College of Education's Deans Scholars Program, Cooper Rawlings Neighborhood Center, members of the Class of 2000 4th Corps and the Lubbock Housing Authority.

In addition to cheering on the Red Raiders in the first home game of the season, the students will glimpse at college life by participating in special activities planned from 5 p.m. until game

time in Raider Alley. This event will be hosted by officials from every college and from the department of admissions and school relations.

Texas Tech President David Schmidly, Ph.D. initiated the free ticket initiative on the academic campus. Many departments and colleges throughout the Texas Tech System agreed to participate in the effort. The free ticket program aims to show students the many opportunities and excitement offered by a college educational experience.

"We must do all we can to open the doors to a college education for

all young Texans," Schmidly said. "One way to do this is to introduce them to college life through events such as football games. I commend my administration for coming forward to purchase these tickets. The tickets they generously purchased could open the eyes of many young students to the possibility of a college education."

In conjunction with the event to benefit Hispanics, Southwestern Bell Foundation will donate \$25,000 in scholarships to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund which awards students from across the country.

Also in conjunction with the effort the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announced a new effort to raise money for local scholarships. The fund got an initial boost by a \$5,000 grant from the Aethna Insurance and matching amount from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

Individual tickets to the game are \$35. In addition to individual tickets, a special family 4-pack deal is being offered for \$99. The family 4-pack, which is a savings of over \$60, includes 4 tickets to the game and coupons for 4 hot dogs and 4 drinks. To order individual or family 4-pack tickets, call the Athletic Ticket Office at 742-TECH or 888-GO-BIG-12. You can also visit the ticket office which is located on the North side of Jones SBC Stadium at 4th and University.

Numbers and Diversity of Student Population On the Rise

WASHINGTON, - The student population in the United States has reached 53 million and continues to grow both in numbers and in terms of ethnic diversity, especially in those states with a large concentration of Hispanics, the U.S. Department of Education reported on Tuesday.

Education Secretary Richard Riley predicted the 21st century would be characterized as an era of ongoing challenges caused by the continued growth of the student population.

According to the U.S. Department of Education study on the status of the system, titled "Growing Pains, The Challenge of Overcrowded Schools is Here to Stay," the expansion in the school-age population is the direct repercussion of the millions of young adults born between 1948-1975 who began to have

their own children who have now come of age.

Additionally, there has been an increased number of immigrants in the last two decades. Because of this, "growth in the 21st century will be constant," the secretary said.

The school-aged children, four to 17 years, are "direct descendants of the Baby-Boom Echo - when the expanding birth rate began," the report, issued Monday, said.

The two states where the highest increase of school-aged children has occurred are California, which can expect 278,000 additional students in the next decade, and Texas, which will have to accommodate some 219,000.

There will also be a 14-percent growth in the number of students in Idaho, 12 percent in New Mexico and 10 percent in

Alaska. The U.S. government also forecasts substantial increases in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, North Carolina and Wyoming.

"This September, 53 million children will enter public and private elementary and secondary schools in the United States - the highest enrollment in U.S. history," according to the report. By the year 2020, enrollment is expected to be 55 million students, by 2030, 60 million students and by the end of this century some 94 million children are expected to be enrolled in U.S. schools, the government estimates.

The report states that, "Just as the student population boom of this century will vary by region, it will also reflect the nation's overall changing demographics in the decades to come.

Gore Nominated, Lieberman Makes His National Debut

Los Angeles, — Before Vice-President Al Gore was officially nominated by Democratic delegates, Senator Joe Lieberman urged America Wednesday evening to "keep the faith" and let an administration led by Al Gore tackle, among other problems, the last vestiges of racism and discrimination that limits economic opportunity.

"Forty years ago, [Democrats] came this city and crossed a new frontier with a leader who inspired me and so many in my generation into public service," said Lieberman. "Today, I believe that the next frontier isn't just in front of us, but inside of us to overcome the differences that are still between us...to break down the barriers that remain and to help every American claim the limitless possibilities of their own lives."

Lieberman stressed his own efforts at trying to understand the views of a wide variety of people and how he has drawn strength from those diverse views. He told the stories about his parents and grandparents and how they, his wife and his constituents have helped him continue to see the "goodness of this county."

"When you try to see the world through other people's eyes, you understand that the smallest changes can make the



biggest differences in all of our lives," said Lieberman. "That is something I am sorry to say I don't think our Republican friends really understand."

The speech included a day that included speeches by Rep. Charlie Gonzales, former California Speaker and current Los Angeles mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa, Rep. Robert Mendendez, D-NJ, and Roberto Ramierz, Bronx Democratic County Chair -- all of whom who vouched for Gore and Lie-

berman's character, their loyalty to working families, and their commitment to justice and equal opportunity. It also included an 'American Dialogue segment' led by actor Jimmy Smits.

For Lieberman, the speech capped off a day that included several morning stops with cultural groups, including an appearance in front of the Hispa-

nic Caucus in which he scrutinized the GOP's record on diversity. Over the past few weeks the vice presidential nominee had drawn only lukewarm praise from ethnic groups, especially African-Americans, for his views on affirmative action. However, African-American leaders like Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., expressed their support Tuesday after Lieberman speech in front of the Black Caucus.

Real differences stressed, amidst some humor and respect Lieberman did mention that George W. Bush and Cheney decent and likeable men. He even expressed some admiration for fellow senator John McCain, saying that there were many in the GOP that he was proud to call his friends. However, he made it clear that there were clear and important differences between the parties that people should take into account in November.

Like his Republican counterpart Dick Cheney, he was not afraid to directly criticize his November opponents or their party. He attacked Gov. Bush's record in Texas when it came to health care, the environment, and the Republican nominee's plans for Social Security and education.

"We Democrats will expand the prosperity -- they will squander it," Lieberman said.

Developmental English Class Among Those On the Web

For anyone who has ever wanted to brush up their English and writing skills with the help of cyberspace, the time is now.

South Plains College has added a course in Developmental English via the Internet, part of a list of 28 classes in 11 subject areas that will be offered via cyberspace on the Levelland and Lubbock campuses this fall. Registration is Monday and Tuesday (Aug. 21-22) at the SPC Reese Center campus, Wednesday and Thursday (Aug. 23-24) at SPC Lubbock and Thursday (Aug. 24) at SPC Levelland.

Sharon Race, assistant professor of English, is teaching the developmental course.

Students will need access to e-mail and the World Wide Web.

"I feel that the developmental English class will appeal to some of the adults in the region who are working at full-time jobs but who would like to take a refresher course in English," she explained. "They may have been out of education awhile and want to get back into finishing their college courses or going to college for the first time. This would be a way for them to build their confidence

in their writing skills," she said.

Part of the course focuses on writing essays similar to the material found on the TASP exam and can be helpful to students who need to take the state-required college skills assessment.

"Students often ask about how Internet courses compare to traditionally-offered courses. The Internet course is more writing-intensive, but we will cover the same amount of material in each course," she explained.

Developmental English joins Agricultural Finance, Cultural Anthropology, General biology, Introduction to Keyboarding, Introduction to Computer Science, Introduction to C++ Programming, U.S. History to 1876, Texas History, Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, General Psychology, Human Growth and Development Current Social Problems and 11 sections of English, from American Literature to Technical Writing currently being offered on the web.

For more information, log onto the college website at www.spc.cc.tx.us or by contact SPC at 894-9611 or 747-0576.

Gore Pledges to Fight for People, Not the Powerful

Los Angeles, (LATNN) — Al Gore moved one step closer out from out the shadows of Bill Clinton and onto the White House Thursday evening by introducing himself to the American people as a fighter for the people who has a specific plan for the future.

"I'm here to talk seriously about the issues. I believe people deserve to know specifically what a candidate proposes to do," a clear swipe at what some have called George W. Bush's tendency to concentrate on issues of character and personality rather than delve deep into issues of substance.

"The presidency is not a popularity contest," Gore said. "It is a day-by-day fight for people."

The Democratic candidate appeared loose and comfortable as he outlined both his view of America and his vision for the future, using the experiences of a few citizens including San Antonio residents, George and Juanita Gutierrez. He also painted his opponents as crusaders for the rich and powerful.

"That's the difference in this election," he said. "They're for the powerful, and we're for the people."

Laying out the future Gore introduced a number of legislative priorities, the first of which would be the passage of a campaign finance bill.

"If you entrust me with the presidency, I will put our democracy back in your hands and get all of the special interest money -- all of it -- out of our democracy, by enacting campaign finance reform," Gore said.

He touched all of the traditional Democratic themes, including the support of hate crime legislation, civil and equal rights protections. He called on universal healthcare coverage for children by the year 2004, and spent some time outlining a variety of educational reforms -- from universal pre-school to higher standards and accountability in high schools, to helping provide tax relief to middle class families by making most college tuition tax deductible.

He specifically made a promise to the Gutierrez family, whom he had met when their daughter Caterina was attending a crumbling David Crockett Elementary School, that he would fight to modernize crumbling schools and reduce class size.

"You know, education may be a local responsibility. But I believe that it also has to be our number one priority," said Gore. "We can't stop until every school in America is a good place to get a good education."

He also called on for tougher crime laws and more community policing, attempting to strike a balance in providing security and respecting the neighborhood in which they serve.

"I'll fight to add another 50,000 new police -- community police who help prevent crime by establishing real relationships between law enforcement and neighborhood residents."

Tax relief for the working class While supporting measures that would end the marriage penalty tax and the so-called death tax, Gore said that he would not mortgage the future with a tax cut that would overwhelmingly cater to the rich.

"I will not go along with a huge tax cut for the wealthy at the expense of everyone else and wreck our good economy in the process."

He claimed that according to the Republican tax reform, the average family would get 62 cents a day, enough to buy a Diet Coke.

"That's not the change that I am working for," he said with a chuckle. "I'll fight for tax cuts that go to the right people -- to the working families who have the toughest time paying taxes and saving for the future."

From the Depression to Kennedy Gore also attempted to position himself as the son of working class, telling the tale of how both of his parents overcame the Great Depression to not only become successful individuals, but also entrust him the humility to honor their hard work by working on behalf of others.

Stressing public service, the Vice-President urged young people not stay on the sidelines and instead become involved beyond the campaign.

"In our democracy, the future is not something that just happens to us; it is something that we make for ourselves -- together," Gore said. "So to the young people watching tonight, I say: this is your time to make new life of our world. We need your help to rekindle the spirit of America."

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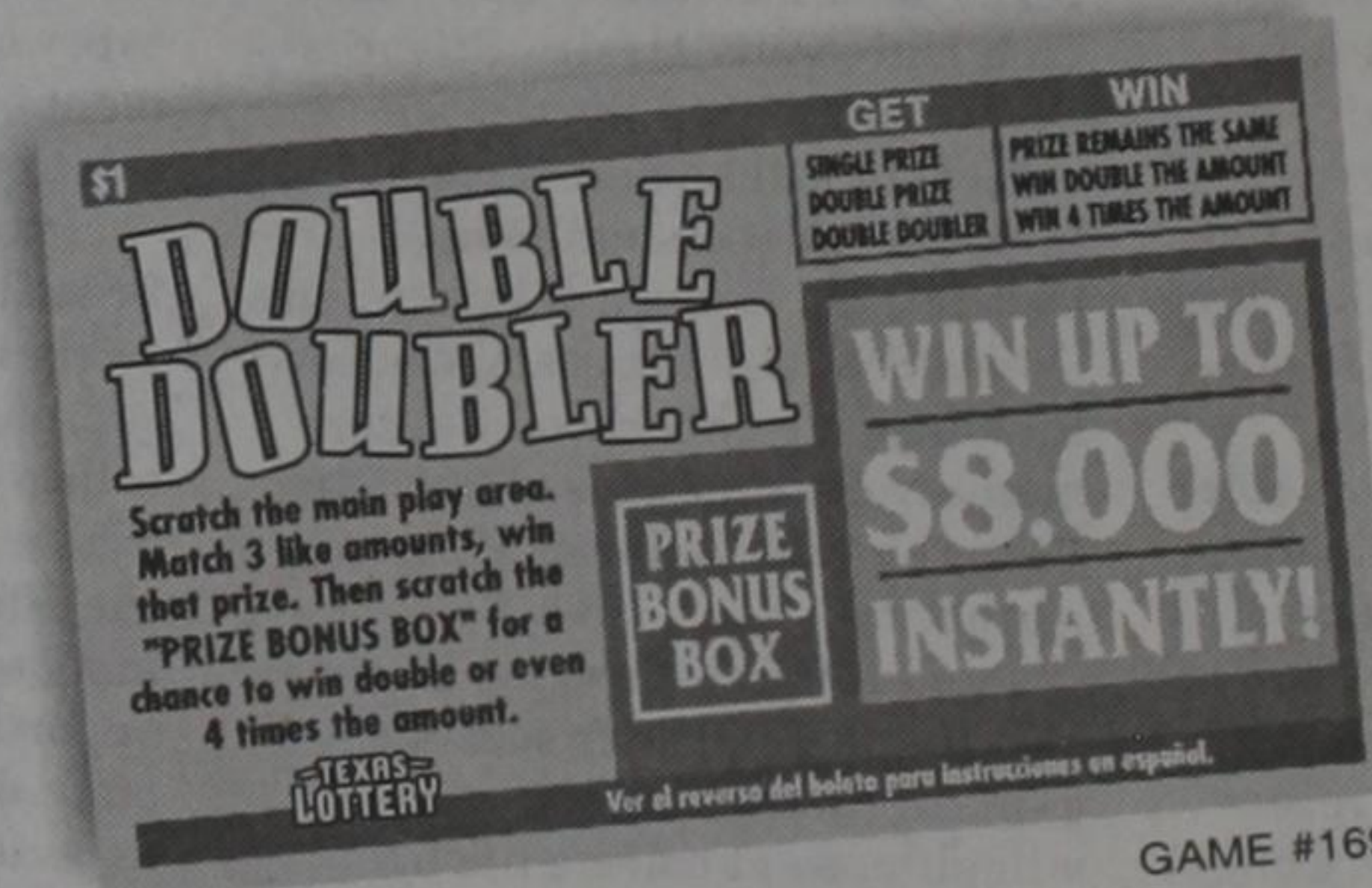
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Mobile Clinic to Offer Immunization Assistance to Schools

LUBBOCK - With the new school year underway, immunizations are a must for every student. And now, they may be no further than a phone call away.

The Mobile Clinic, part of Community Health Outreach Mobile Services at Covenant Health System, is assisting Title II schools in designated areas in Lubbock and the surrounding counties by providing immunization shots. According to Ruan Reast, R.N., F.N.P., with Covenant, convenience and access to health care is important for all school children.

"A lot of Title II children may not be as financially advantaged as others or may have moms and dads who work and are unable to take off to get their children immunized. Also, there may not be medical services close to their home or school," she said. "We want to offer services closer to their school or closer to their home for convenience."

After talking to the school nurse and assessing the school's needs, the Mobile Clinic then schedules a session for a half-day or full day as needed. Hours are 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Normally, 10 to 12 patients can be processed per hour, Reast said.

The mobile clinic will be available on the following dates:

- * Wednesday, Aug. 23;
 - more -
 - * Monday, Aug. 28;
 - * Monday, Sept. 25; and
 - * Wednesday, Sept. 27.
- Additional October dates if needed are:
- * Monday, Oct. 23;
 - * Wednesday, Oct. 25; and
 - * Monday, Oct. 30.

Cost is \$5 per child for all immunizations, including Varicella and Hepatitis B. Medicaid cards will be accepted. School nurses will be responsible for making sure children have proper Texas Department of Health (TDH) immunization forms and a parent's consent for treatment if a parent is not present at the time of immunization.

Sudan Independent School District and Jackson Elementary in Lubbock both have signed up for the Mobile Clinic's services.

Immunizations also are offered at Covenant Children's Hospital Emergency Room, 3610 21st St., from 8 a.m. to noon, seven days a week for \$5. Each child must have their shot records and an order from a physician or a note from school. Covenant Family Health Care Centers in north and northwest Lubbock also provide immunizations with an appointment.

No matter where the child goes to receive the immunizations, the most important thing is that they do receive them, Reast said.

"This is just one way that we can benefit the health of our community in the Lubbock area and surrounding counties," she said.

For more information on scheduling Covenant's Mobile Clinic, call (806) 725-6579.

Latino Educational Failure - Looking For Answers In All the Wrong Places

By Raymond Rodriguez

I cringed when I read the other day that another study for improving the educational attainment of Latino students was being unveiled in Washington, D.C.

How many times have we gone to the well on that issue?

There have been countless studies, and even studies on the studies about why Latino students fall behind at all grade levels, including graduating from college. The only factor that has been overlooked is which tortillas, corn or flour, have the greatest impact on learning ability.

We have literally studied the problem to death and are no nearer a solution than we were decades ago. The results, or lack thereof, remind me of the refrain from an old song, "looking for love in all the wrong places."

Is that what we have been doing -- looking for answers in the wrong places?

Since the primary educational institution for all children is the home, it seems to me that is the logical place to begin. Everything that infuses or penetrates our sphere is colored by the experiences we had long before our formal education began. We are all products of our time and place. Consequently, all children need to be guided and motivated to learn. A child who does not get off to a good educational start is always playing catch-up.

If we are going to make a notable difference in the educational attainment of Latino students, we must start with the parents or guardians. They are the most vital cog in the learning process. Without their involvement and participation, overcoming lack of success is an uphill battle. Which, as we all know, we are losing.

To turn the tide, Latino parents must instill in their children the importance of learning and pride in getting a good education. They must encourage their children to read by taking them to the library regularly at an early age. Setting time aside for reading should be a top priority.

The fact that parents are not fluent in English is no excuse. There are bilingual books they

can use. The bonus payoff is that in addition to their children learning to read, the parents will become more proficient in their use of English.

While I cannot stress too strongly the vital role that parents play in getting their children off to a good academic start, economic factors that must be taken into consideration. Many dedicated, well-meaning Latino parents work two or three jobs in order to survive. They don't have the time, the energy or financial resources to enrich the lives of their children.

That is evident by the fact that only 30 percent of Latino children attend preschool or are enrolled in Head Start programs. That is a crime against the children. By the time they enter elementary school, they are already at the bottom of the learning curve. A concerted effort must be made to enable Latino parents to enroll their children in preschool activities and educational programs. Arrangements must be made to aid those students who need financial assistance, transportation or personal tutoring.

Community resources, time and effort must be invested in this early and critical stage.

There is no more important educational duty facing us than getting our children off on the right foot academically. If we do so, we will find that many educational problems, costly remedial programs and drop-out rates will be drastically reduced. At least they will be if Latino children are taught by competent, well-trained and fully credentialed teachers, rather than novices or teachers with emergency credentials, as so often happens.

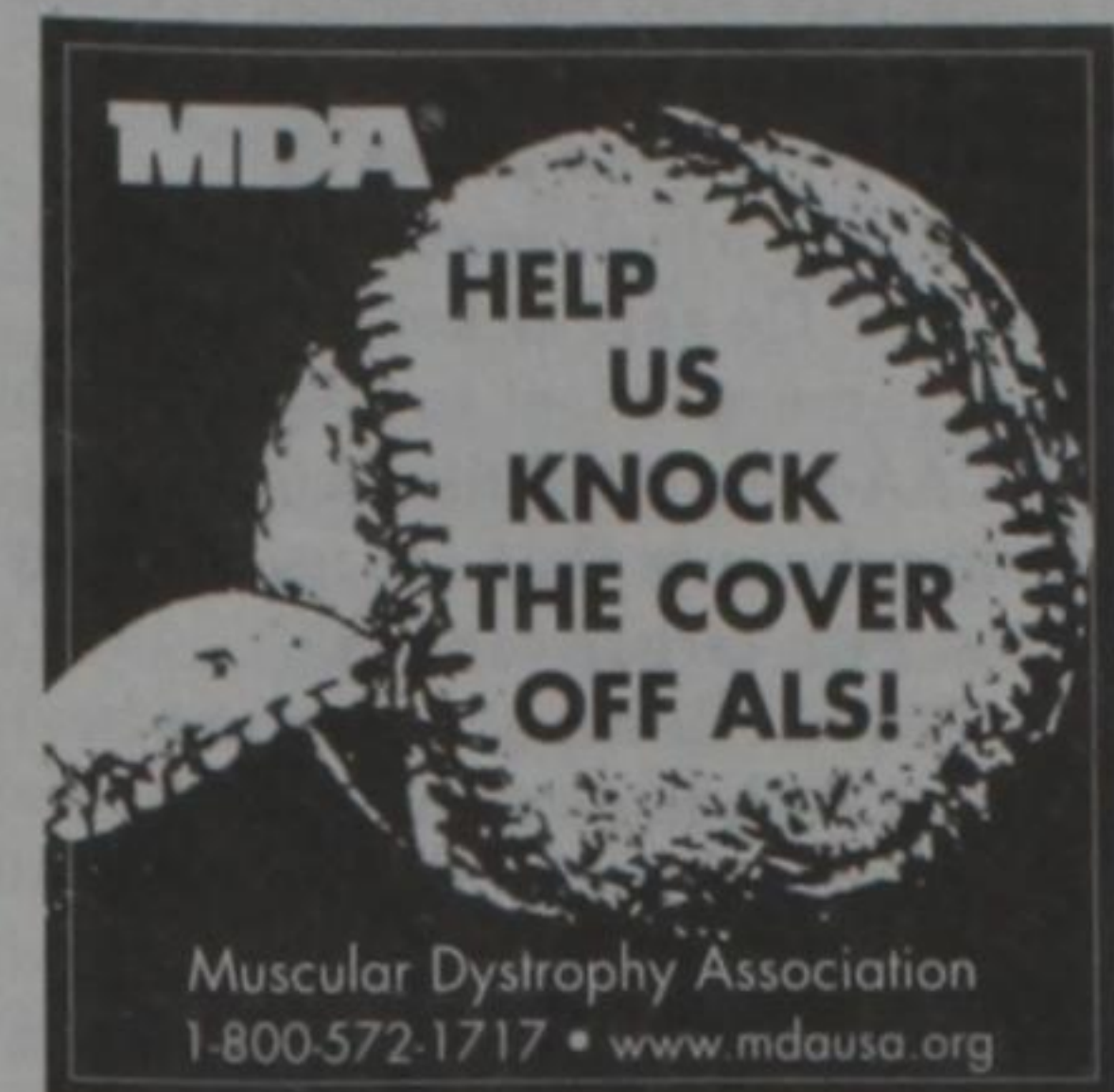
However, all these efforts will be useless unless Latino students realize there is no substitute for self-motivation and hard work. Too often, I see them goofing off in the park, thinking they are getting away with something. Apparently, they do not understand they are sacrificing their own futures. Without regular attendance and burning the midnight oil, it does not matter what the schools do or don't do. Nothing will change until underachiev-

ing Latino students develop a sense of pride and self-respect, until they resolve to study harder.

Only then will we be able to stop conducting those damn useless studies.

(Raymond Rodriguez, of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor.)

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El Editor

Fox Out to Reduce Development Gap With U.S., Canada

By Diego Cevallos

MEXICO CITY, - Mexican president-elect Vicente Fox is in the midst of a tour through Canada and the United States, in search of support for his aim to reduce the development gap separating Mexico from its two partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Fox hopes to showcase the results of his tour when he returns Friday. Analysts, however, say he will bring back merely a handful of promises, rather than any unique or outstanding solutions for Mexico's long list of pending problems.

Fox will visit Ottawa and Toronto, where he plans to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Also on his itinerary are New York, Washington D.C., and Dallas, where he will see President Bill Clinton and presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush.

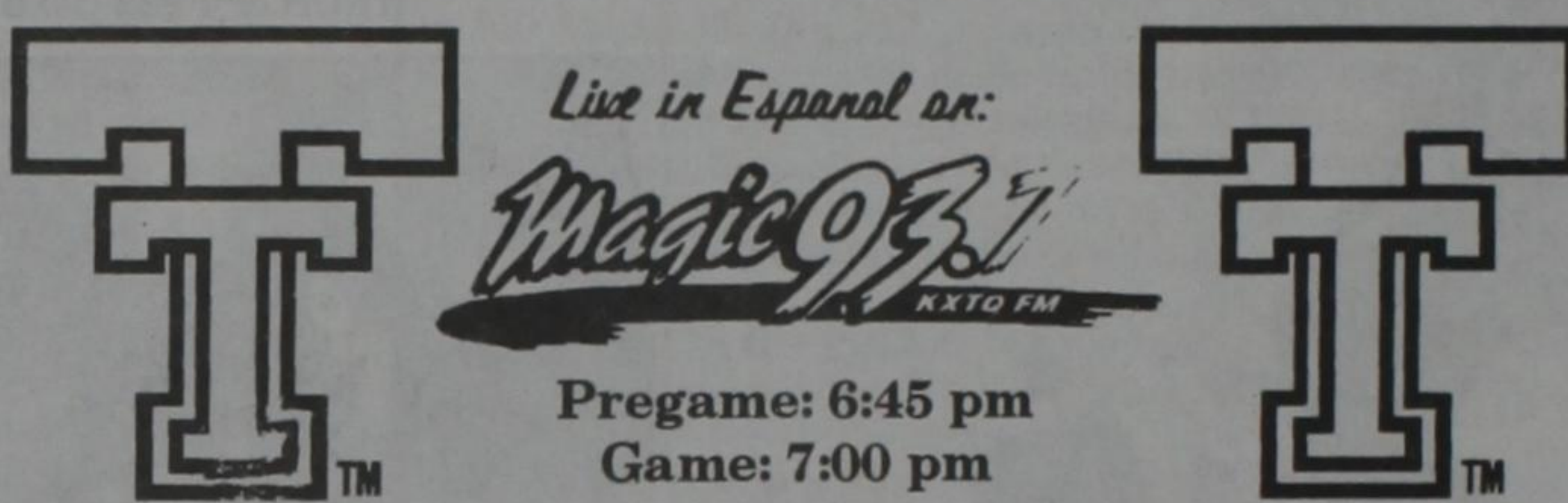
If the distance setting Mexico apart from Canada and the United States is not narrowed, harmonious development will not be possible in North America, Fox said before setting out.

But closing the gap will take decades, given the enormous differences in the areas of health, employment, education, housing and health, observers point out.

The president-elect, who takes office in December, said he would propose the joint creation by the three NAFTA partners of a social fund to support the poorest of the poor, and would seek an opening of borders over the next five to 10 years. He will also suggest a review of the NAFTA accords, in order to update them and bring them into line with today's realities.

Although partners of Mexico in the NAFTA trade bloc, Canada and the United States have an enormous economic, social, and technological advantage over this Latin American country, a distance which feeds problems in the areas of migration, drug trafficking and poverty.

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Texas Tech Meets NM Lobos

LUBBOCK, Texas - The Texas Tech ticket office is bracing for a late run on tickets for the beginning of the Mike Leach era of Red Raider football. The Red Raiders host New Mexico Saturday evening at Jones SBC Stadium.

Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers said the run on tickets will be needed if a proposed television blackout for the game is to be lifted for Lubbock and surrounding areas. Myers said about 35,000 tickets had been sold and 10,000 more will need to be sold lift the blackout. The game will be televised regionally by FOX Sports Net and will kick off at 7:07 p.m. CDT.

"We made a financial commitment to our football team and the

Texas Tech community to support this game," Myers said. "I am confident Red Raider fans will step up to welcome a new, exciting era of Texas Tech football and help provide a college scholarship along the way."

The game between Tech and New Mexico is billed as the Transamerica Hispanic College Fund Football Classic, with the 25-percent of the proceeds going toward the Hispanic College Fund, a national organization whose central purpose is to provide higher education opportunities for the Hispanic community.

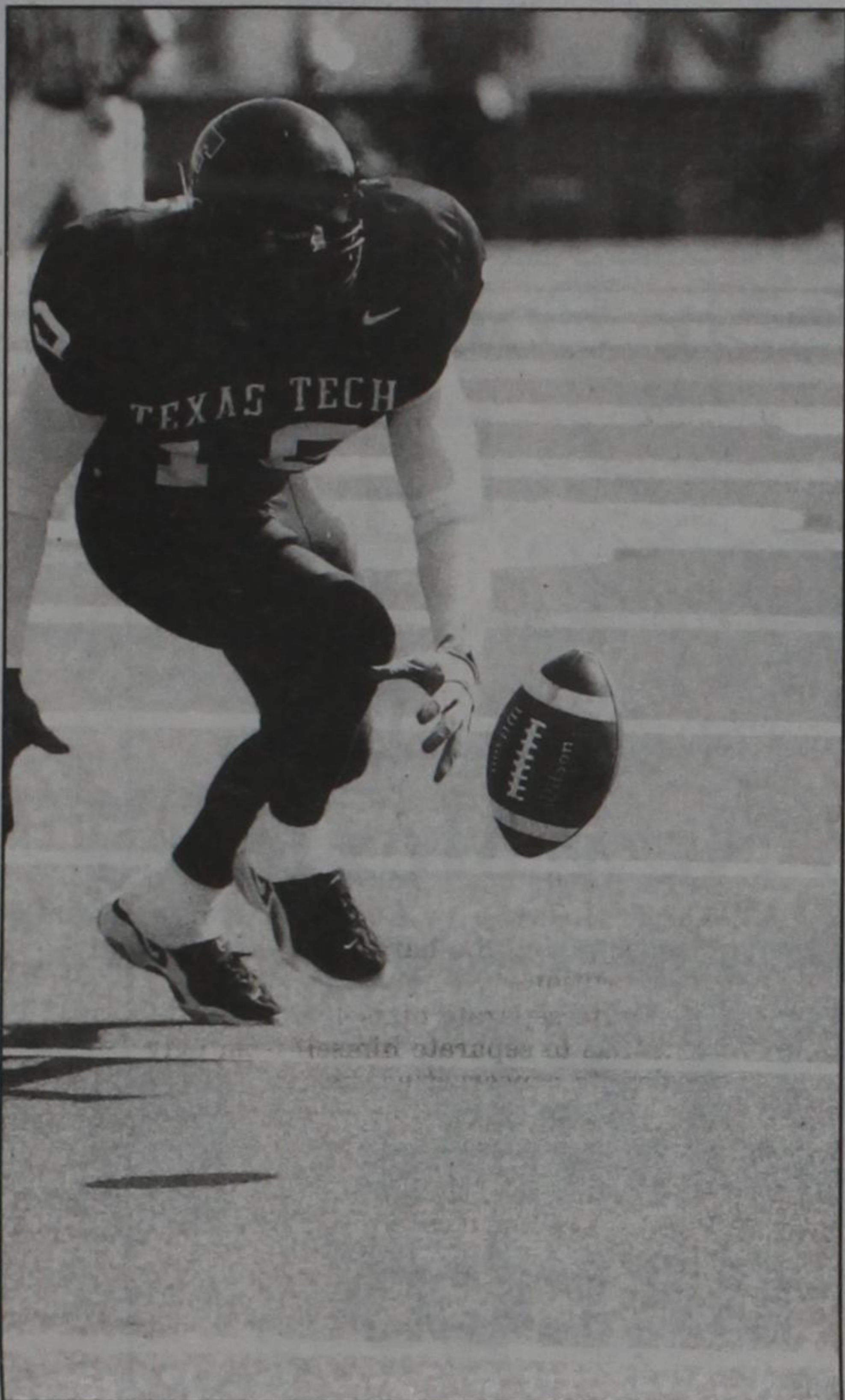
Tickets for the game are \$35. Myers said that NCAA formulas for exempt games, not Texas Tech, dictated the price of the ticket.

Per NCAA legislation for exempt 12th games, a sellout would ensure each participating institution a \$600,000 payout. The beneficiary of the game, in this case the Hispanic College Fund, is guaranteed 25-percent of the gate.

Myers said that exempt games are traditionally played in stadiums larger than Jones SBC Stadium, which seats just over 50,000. He said ticket prices for the game were set to help meet the NCAA-mandated financial commitments that are more easily met with larger venues.

"At the dawn of a new era in Texas Tech football history, the excitement level surrounding the program is better than I ever remember," Myers said. "We want everybody to be a part of it, preferably at the stadium, but at least through television. In this situation, unfortunately, we can't have one without the other."

Tech is offering an alternative to the base \$35 ticket price. Fans may purchase a Family Pack for \$99, which includes four tickets, four hot dogs and four soft drinks. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket office or by calling (806) 742-TECH or 1-888 GO BIG 12.



Mark Washington



Michael Wilborn

Holyfield Proves Wrong Thing In Winning WBA Title Over Ruiz

LAS VEGAS -- Evander Holyfield set out to prove something by winning the WBA heavy-weight title against John Ruiz. Unfortunately, he wound up proving the wrong thing.

Yes, Holyfield won a title for an unprecedented fourth time, just as he had planned. But what Saturday night's narrow but unanimous decision really showed was that Holyfield might rethink his career plans as he nears his 38th birthday.



The fighter who staged thrilling wars with Riddick Bowe and pulled one of boxing's biggest upsets against Mike Tyson looked just like what he has become against Ruiz -- an aging fighter whose reflexes are increasingly suspect.

"Everything is hard for me," Holyfield said. "I'm accustomed to it. If it's not hard, it's probably not worth it."

Holyfield became a heavy-weight champion once again by using the ring generalship acquired in 19 previous title fights to take the 12th round and win by one point on two ringside scorecards, and four on a third.

That might have been impressive against a fighter like Tyson or Bowe in his prime. But Ruiz was basically a journeyman who fought hard but had never been in a title fight and had never fought anyone of prominence, outside of a 19-second loss to David Tua.

"I'm just a little bit better than my opponent, I don't claim to be a lot," Holyfield said. "If I get an opportunity to fight him again, I'll be better."

A Holyfield-Ruiz rematch could be possible, if only because the fight was fairly entertaining despite long moments of clinching and holding in most rounds.

Ruiz gave it everything he had but seemed to run out of gas in the crucial 12th round. A left hook by Holyfield appeared to knock him down, although referee Richard Steele ruled it a

slip. "I fought my heart out," Ruiz said. "Let's set another date and let's make it for real."

Holyfield's goal is to win the undisputed title once again and retire, and he said the week of the fight that if it took him until 2003 or 2004 to do so, he would still be fighting.

It might take that long, since Lennox Lewis holds the other two belts and has already fought Holyfield twice in the last 17 months. Holyfield got a controversial draw the first time, then lost a decision.

Lewis, though, doesn't really need Holyfield anymore, and since neither Holyfield-Lewis fight was a classic, it's doubtful a third fight would be any more attractive.

Still, "Who else is he going to fight to make money?" Holyfield asked.

Money, of course, should be the least of Holyfield's concerns. Since beating Tyson, he has earned \$100 million in the ring, including \$5 million for the Ruiz fight.

Holyfield hasn't looked sharp in the ring since beating Tyson, and his last four fights have all gone the distance without him knocking any of his opponents down. He nearly dropped Ruiz in the third round, but backed off and had trouble beating him to the punch the rest of the night.

"I'll fight anybody," Holyfield said. "I'll fight Lennox or Mike Tyson if those fights can be made. I will fight until I win it."

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The Latino Vote

By Miguel Pérez

This was the first Democratic National Convention in history when the party was under pressure to fight for the Hispanic vote. Clearly regarded as the lesser of two evils, Democrats had always taken Latino loyalty for granted.

But at the Republican National Convention two weeks earlier, Democrats had been challenged to a fight over the vote from the barrios. The GOP challenge, based on newfound "compassionate conservatism," may have been superficial, but it begged a response.

Many Latinos are buying the Republican rhetoric, and they need to be reminded of the GOP's mean-spirited, anti-immigrant past and the fairly positive Democratic record on Latino issues.

So what did the Democrats do to hold onto the voting bloc that could swing the presidential election in key Electoral College states in November?

Nada. From what the public saw on television, you would think Republicans are more pro-Hispanic than Democrats. The media made a much bigger deal out of the Republican outreach to Latinos -- probably because it was so rare -- than of Democratic outreach.

But what did the Democrats do to counteract the "compassionate" rhetoric at the Republican convention? They gave us more cheap rhetoric about "diversity" and "ending discrimination" without getting down to specifics on Latino issues, which is where the one

party often proves to be as hollow as the other.

In fact, the only Hispanic who made headlines at the Democratic convention was the one who got banned from the podium.

Instead of coming out to fight for the Latino vote, the Democrats began their convention by removing a Latina from the list of speakers as punishment for being naughty.

Granted it was not the smartest move for Rep. Loretta Sánchez (D-Calif.) to plan a Hispanic fund-raiser at the Playboy Mansion at a time when Democrats are hoping to avoid focus on President Clinton's escapades. But the Democratic leadership overreacted by removing Sánchez -- quite hypocritically, since some of them have accepted campaign donations from Playboy.

In the end, Sánchez agreed to move the fund-raiser to a different location, and she was offered back her spot as a convention speaker, which she turned down, much to her credit. Nevertheless, unfortunately, the flap over the Playboy Mansion became the most prominent "Hispanic issue" of the convention.

In contrast, African-American leaders played hard to get. They held out until the last minute to force Vice President Al Gore and Sen. Joe Lieberman to take a clear stand in support of their issues, like affirmative action and hate-crimes laws. On television, that came through loud and clear. For most of the convention, it seemed as if the only

"minority" agenda was one designed to please African Americans.

When Lieberman spoke of tearing down walls "based on race, gender and sexual orientation," those of us who face walls based on ethnicity felt left out. Apparently, the Democrats thought that just showing they had a more diverse delegation -- about 10 percent Hispanic -- was enough to counteract the Republican "show" featuring a few Hispanic speakers.

But where were the Latino leaders at the Democratic convention? Why weren't they pressuring their party to deal with Hispanic issues on the same scale, and at the same prime time, as African Americans? Why weren't immigration reform and bilingual education as important as affirmative action?

The answer is blowing in the winds of history. African Americans know that protesting often gets results. Latino leaders -- both Democrats and Republicans -- have a history of playing by the rules, waiting for political crumbs and being taken for granted.

If the Democrats could get away with doing the same thing with African Americans, they would. But they wouldn't dare. Some black Democratic leaders are willing to put their party in jeopardy by causing a rift at the convention, because to them, their community is more important than their party.

This is also true of some Latinos -- let's be fair. But there are times when they need to become a little more daring.

This Democratic convention.

coming after years of immigrant bashing by Republicans and after a superficial and self-preserving about-face at the GOP convention, was a missed opportunity for Latinos -- and for Democrats.

This was the time to question the degree of the Republicans' newfound compassion and to challenge them with some hard questions: Would they support bilingual education, repeal English-only laws, allow census sampling results to be used to determine new political district lines, grant amnesty to some undocumented immigrants?

But Latinos are not there yet, although this was the year when we were supposed to flex some political muscle. Unfortunately, both parties, and the Latino operatives within them, have chosen to approach the Hispanic community with much more rhetoric than substance, leaving Latino voters little reason to feel motivated to go out and vote for either candidate.

For Republicans, the goal is clear. All they want is enough Latino votes -- not even a majority -- to neutralize the potential Hispanic Democratic voting bloc that could swing the election in some key states. For Democrats, time is running out. If they keep playing it safe and avoiding controversial Latino issues, if Latino Democrats keep falling in line and waiting for crumbs, Bush will be our next president.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with The Record in northern New Jersey.)
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Un Regalo De Los Democratras al Partido Republicano:

El Voto Latino

Por Miguel Pérez

Fue la primera Convención Demócrata Nacional de la historia en que el partido se halló bajo presión para luchar por el voto hispano. Los demócratas siempre habían dado por sentada la lealtad de los latinos, especialmente puesto que ellos lucían siempre como el menor de dos males.

Pero en la Convención Republicana Nacional, dos semanas antes, los demócratas habían sido retados a una lucha por el voto de los barrios. El reto del Partido Republicano, basado en el "conservadorismo compasivo" recién hallado, puede haber sido superficial, pero pedía una respuesta.

Muchos latinos están aceptando la retórica republicana, y necesitan que se les recuerde el pasado republicano de espíritu mezquino y contra los inmigrantes, y el historial bastante positivo de los demócratas sobre los asuntos latinos.

Y así, ¿qué hicieron los demócratas para asirse al bloque electoral que podría decidir las elecciones presidenciales en los estados claves para el Colegio Electoral en noviembre próximo? Nada.

De lo que vio el público por televisión, se podría pensar que los republicanos están más a favor de los hispanos que los demócratas.

Los medios informativos dieron una importancia mucho mayor a la proyección de los republicanos hacia los latinos -- probablemente porque era tan rara -- que a la proyección demócrata. Pero ¿qué hicieron los demócratas para contrarrestar la retórica "compasiva" de la Convención Republicana? Nos dieron más retórica barata sobre la "diversidad" y el "poner fin a la discriminación," sin llegar a lo específico sobre los asuntos latinos, lo cual es donde una parte-comprueba a menudo ser tan va-

cia como la otra.

En verdad, la única hispana que llegó a los titulares en la convención demócrata fue la que resultó excluida del escenario.

En vez de salir a luchar por el voto latino, los demócratas empezaron su convención quitando a una latina de la lista de oradores, como castigo por ser traviesa.

Aceptado, no fue la medida más inteligente para la Representante Loretta Sánchez (demócrata por California) planear una actividad hispana de recaudación de fondos en la Mansión Playboy, en una época en que los demócratas esperan evitar el enfoque sobre las aventuras del Presidente Clinton. Pero la dirigencia demócrata reaccionó excesivamente al quitar a la Representante Sánchez, con bastante hipocresía, puesto que algunos de ellos han aceptado contribuciones de campaña procedentes de Playboy.

Al final, ella acordó mudar dicha actividad a un local distinto, y se le ofreció nuevamente su lugar como oradora en la convención, que ella rechazó -- para su crédito. Sin embargo, por desgracia, la bofetada sobre la Mansión Playboy se convirtió en el "asunto hispano" más prominente de la convención demócrata.

Por contraste, los dirigentes afroamericanos se hicieron los difíciles de lograr, resistiendo hasta el último minuto para obligar al vice-presidente Al Gore y al Senador Joe Lieberman a adoptar una postura clara en apoyo de sus asuntos, como la acción afirmativa y las leyes contra los delitos por odio. En la televisión, eso resaltó en alta voz y con claridad. Para la mayor parte de la convención, pareció como que el único programa de trabajo minoritario fue el destinado a complacer a los afroamericanos.

Cuando Lieberman habló sobre derrumbar los muros "basados en la raza, el género y la orientación sexual," aquellos de nosotros que nos enfrentamos a los muros basados en la etnicidad sentimos que nos habían dejado fuera. Apparently, los demócratas creyeron que con sólo mostrar que tenían una delegación más diversa -- un 10 por ciento de hispanos -- eso era suficiente para contrarrestar a la "demostración" republicana, que destacó a unos pocos oradores hispanos.

Pero, ¿dónde estaban los dirigentes latinos en la convención demócrata? ¿Por qué no estaban apremiando a su partido para tratar de los asuntos hispanos en la misma escala, y en el mismo tiempo de privilegio, que los afroamericanos? ¿Por qué no eran la reforma de la inmigración y la enseñanza bilingüe tan importantes como la acción afirmativa?

La respuesta está suspendida en los vientos de la historia. Los afroamericanos saben que el protestar obtiene resultados a menudo. Los dirigentes latinos -- tanto demócratas como republicanos -- tienen un historial de "jugar según los reglamentos," esperar por las migajas políticas y permitir que los den por sentados.

Si los demócratas pudieran salirse con la suya para hacer lo mismo con los afroamericanos, lo harían. Pero no se atreverían a hacerlo. Algunos dirigentes demócratas negros están dispuestos a poner en peligro a su partido ocasionando una grieta en la convención, porque para ellos su comunidad es más importante que su partido.

Seamos justos: Esto es cierto igualmente para algunos latinos. Pero hay veces en que necesitan llegar a ser un poco más atrevidos.

Esta convención demócrata,

que llega después de años de porrazos republicanos a los latinos y después de un cambio de conducta superficial y auto-conservador en la convención republicana, fue una oportunidad que los latinos pasaron por alto -- y los demócratas también. Esta era la hora de poner en tela de juicio el grado de la recién hallada compasión de los republicanos y de retarlos con algunas preguntas difíciles: ¿Apoyarían ellos a la enseñanza bilingüe, rechazarían a las leyes del "inglés solamente," permitirían que los resultados del "muestreo" en el Censo se usaran para determinar las nuevas demarcaciones de los distritos electorales, concederían la amnistía a algunos inmigrantes indocumentados?

Pero los latinos no han llegado todavía, aunque éste era el año en que se suponía que flexionarían alguna fuerza política. Por desgracia, ambos partidos, y los funcionarios latinos dentro de ellos, han decidido aproximarse a la comunidad hispana con mucha más retórica que substancia, dejando a los electores latinos con poca razón para sentirse motivados a salir y votar por cualquiera de los candidatos.

Para los republicanos, el objetivo está claro. Todo lo que ellos necesitan son suficientes votos latinos -- ni siquiera una mayoría -- para neutralizar al posible voto demócrata hispano que podría decidir las elecciones en algunos estados claves. Para los demócratas, el tiempo está acabándose. Si continúan "jugando al seguro" y evitando los asuntos latinos controvertidos, si los demócratas latinos continúan poniéndose en fila y esperando para recibir migajas, Bush será nuestro próximo presidente.

Miguel Pérez es columnista de The Record, en el norte de Nueva Jersey.

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2000. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Election 2000: A Fight for the Center

by ROGER HERNANDEZ

It was funny to hear the Rev. Jesse Jackson denounce the left and proclaim himself a champion of the political center at the beginning of his speech during the Democratic convention Tuesday night.

"The long arm of justice reaches neither for the political left nor the political right, but for the moral center," he said.

Of course, by the end of the speech he was invoking the names of such famously centrist Democrats as Paul Wellstone and Maxine Waters (in the same sentence with a real centrist, Joe Lieberman, yet) and making it clear he thought any problem could be solved if government just threw enough money at it.

Ah, Jesse the moderate.

One thing for sure. Democrats are less afraid of their own left than the Republicans are of their own right. That's why on Tuesday a parade of unabashed liberals trooped before American television screens. Aside from Jackson we got to hear from Ted Kennedy and Bill Bradley, two other guys who never met a government social program they didn't like. The left wing of the party had its say-unlike the right wing of the GOP, which was shut out of their own convention.

Check out more coverage at Latino.com's Elections 2000 page. Why are ultra-conservatives pushed out and ultra liberals given the stage?

Because the damage that the hard left did to the Democratic party is a faint memory, while the damage the ultra right did to the Republicans is well. It's something the party has not yet recovered from.

Democrats were sunk by their liberal wing in the 1972 convention and the candidacy of George McGovern. On just about every important issue of those years -- welfare, crime, defense, the Cold War -- Democrats found themselves way to the left of the American electorate. Were it not for the fluke of Watergate, it is likely Jimmy Carter would today be remembered as another Dukakis, another Mondale, another liberal Democrat who lost a presidential election to a Republican Party that seemed invincible.

And invincible it was, because it grabbed centrist voters scared of Democrats' liberal excesses. It took two decades and Bill Clinton to push the party back to the center. McGovernians seem a quaint memory now. So the party knows that presenting the old warriors in full liberal regalia will energize the base and do little with other voters to damage a ticket made up of two relatively moderate Democrats. A win/can't-lose situation.

In contrast, Republicans are where Clinton was in 1992, needing to rebuild a party devastated by its militants. Nothing did more to establish the credentials of the Militant Party as the party of the center than the Republican hard right of the mid-1990s. It was just as much to the right of the electorate as the Democrats were to the left years earlier. Newt Gingrich did for the GOP what McGovern did for the Democrats.

But McGovern was almost 30 years ago. Gingrich is two years ago. And even though he is out of office, the Trent Lotts and Tom Delays are still armed and dangerous, fresh in the collective memory of the electorate. Bob Dole, no raving right-winger himself, didn't push them far away enough four years ago -- and look what happened. Which explains why George W. Bush's mission to moderate his party precluded giving the hard right an important role in the Republican convention.

The same way Clinton had to separate himself from McGovern and Jackson in 1992, Bush has to separate himself from ugly conservatives. A compassionate conservative, he is.

Just as surely, Al Gore will make sure voters don't confuse him with George and Jesse. Of course, he will have to watch his left flank, while the Republican ticket will have to watch its right. Still, Election 2000 shapes up as fight for the center. Moderation has never been more blatant in American politics.

Roger Hernández is a nationally syndicated columnist and Writer-in-Residence at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He can be reached via email at rogerh@prodigy.net.

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Getting Out of Bill's Shadow

By Elbert Garcia

Los Angeles, (LATNN) -- While he thanked his predecessor Bill Clinton, there was no doubt that the Vice-President Al Gore was his own man Thursday, making the argument that he wanted the electorate to take him for whom he was, not for the man with whom he once worked.

"This election is not an award for past performance. I am not asking you to vote for me on the basis of the economy we have," he said. "Tonight, I ask you're for your support on the basis of the better, fairer, more prosperous America we can build together."

For Gore, Thursday's greatest achievement may have been that he seemed to begin to create a personality that was all of his own. Often criticized for being a stiff intellectual, he let his hair down a bit, without losing himself in another role.

"If you entrust me with the Presidency, I know I won't always be the most exciting politician," he said. "But I pledge to you tonight: I will work for you every day and I will never let you down."

Rumors had circulated all day that the Vice-President's speech would be full of policy details, much to the private groan of many journalists. However, while the 50-minute speech touched on a number of subjects, the crowd both inside the Staples Center and outside in the media lounges were comfortably glued to the Vice-President's words, perhaps surprised that the Vice President was able to both human and alive.

Afterwards, many media analysts refused to award Gore a perfect performance. Of course some in the Staples Center would disagree.

He hit a homerun out of the park" said Abe Amoros, Media Representative for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. "He talked about real issues and that's what you have to do this election."

El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806-763-3841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers. Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero Business Manager - Olga Riojas Agüero

Conventions' Show-And-Tell:

Democrats Edge GOP On Latino Numbers

By Cynthia L. Orocco

Showtime's over. With the conventions behind them, presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore have 10 weeks to convince Latino voters that theirs is the ticket that will be most inclusive and effective over the next four years.

In spite of an unprecedented push by the Republicans to showcase Latinos, as well as African Americans, at their convention this month, the Democrats retained the numbers edge.

Their convention featured 28 onstage appearances by Latinos, submerging the 11 showcased in Philadelphia earlier in the month. National Convention Committee CEO Lydia Camarillo, California Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and U.S. Rep. Robert Menéndez of New Jersey were among eight who addressed Democratic delegates in prime time.

"As Latinos, we tell those who speak of compassionate con-

servatism -- in English or Spanish -- that what we need is opportunity, not compassion," Menéndez told delegates during his Aug. 16 address.

Eight-year-old Juan Carlos Hernández opened the Democratic convention two days earlier, singing the national anthem. Actor Héctor Elizondo led the Pledge of Allegiance the second night, and Jimmy Smits offered praise for Gore the third night.

At least three times as many Latinos filled seats as delegates at Los Angeles' Staples Center than in Philadelphia. (Keep in mind that the Democratic Party's total delegate count was 4,369, more than double the Republicans' 2,066 delegates.)

Figures showing how well Latinos were represented as delegates at each convention depended on who was doing the counting. Three published tallies, including those on their own delegations by the Repu-

can and Democratic national committees, showed:

	AP	RNC/DNC	Univision
PERCENTAGES			
Repub.	3.3	5.6	1.76
Dem.	8.3	10.0	10.0

A Hispanic Link survey of five states with large Latino populations showed wide party variance. California sent 23 Latino delegates to the GOP convention and 129 to the Democratic one. New York sent only two Latinos to Philadelphia and 32 to Los Angeles. By percentage, Latino delegate representation in those states was:

State	Latino Pop.	Dem. Delegates	GOP Delegates
California	30.8	29.7	14.2
Texas	29.4	22.1	12.9
New York	14.2	10.9	2.2
Florida	14.4	8.6	21.3
Illinois	9.9	7.4	5.4

While California Assemblyman Abel Maldonado addressed the GOP convention for six minutes in Spanish, none of the Democratic Latino presenters spoke entirely in Spanish. A few -- including Menéndez and DNC Vice Chair Roberto Ramírez -- did blend some Spanish into their comments. Ramírez, a New York state assemblyman, also addressed the issue of the U.S. Navy presence on Vieques.

"To be a Democrat from New York means to fight to end military exercises that harm the environment and risk the lives of people who live on the island of

Vieques in Puerto Rico," Ramírez said.

Some delegates waved signs that read "Peace for Vieques/Paz Para Vieques."

Los Angeles events celebrating Latino leaders and culture included a luncheon honoring U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (Calif.) and other Latinos in Congress, a DNC-sponsored fiesta for seniors and families, a Latino Committee 2000 block party featuring Celia Cruz -- who also performed at the GOP's Un Nuevo Día event in Philadelphia -- and Loretta Sánchez's Hispanic Unity USA fund-raiser at Universal Studios. Also, Bustamante held a Hispanic Entertainment Showcase featuring performances by Enrique Iglesias, Los Lobos and comedian Paul Rodríguez.

Outside the Staples Center, local groups of Latino immigrants, including the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights,

El Rescate and the Central American Resource Center -- along with labor and environmental groups -- staged demonstrations to draw attention to several issues.

These included the plight of those who die trying to cross the Mexican border into the United States, amnesty for illegal immigrants and sweatshops that exploit immigrant labor. As in Philadelphia, many of the protest groups worked with the Direct Action Network media outreach group.

Cynthia Orocco is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.

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Cifras De Las Convenciones:

Democratas Superan a Republicanos En Cantidad de Latinos

Por Cynthia L. Oroscio

El programa ha terminado. Con las convenciones detrás de ellos, los candidatos presidenciales George W. Bush y Al Gore tienen 10 semanas para convencer a los electores latinos de que sus boletas son las más inclusivas y eficaces para los cuatro años próximos.

A pesar de un empuje sin precedentes por parte de los republicanos para exhibir a los latinos, así como a los afroamericanos en su convención de este mes, los demócratas retuvieron el margen en las cifras.

Su convención destacó a 28 comparecencias en el escenario por parte de latinos, sumergiendo a los 11 mostrados en Filadelfia a principios del mes. La funcionaria ejecutiva principal del Comité de la Convención Nacional, Lydia Camarillo, el Vice-Gobernador de California, Cruz Bustamante y el Representante Federal Robert Menéndez, de Nueva Jersey, se hallaron entre los ocho que se dirigieron a los delegados demócratas en el tiem-

po más importante.

"Como latinos, decimos a aquellos que hablan de conservadorismo compasivo -- en inglés o en español -- que lo que necesitamos es oportunidad, no compasión," dijo Menéndez a los delegados durante su discurso el 16 de agosto.

Juan Carlos Hernández, de ocho años de edad, abrió la convención demócrata dos días antes cantando el himno nacional. El actor Héctor Elizondo dirigió la recitación del Juramento de Fidelidad a la Bandera la segunda noche, y Jimmy Smits ofreció el elogio a Gore la tercera noche.

Por lo menos tres veces más latinos ocuparon asientos como delegados en el Centro Staples de Los Angeles que en Filadelfia. (Tengan en cuenta que el total de los delegados del Partido Demócrata fue de 4,369, más del doble que los 2,066 delegados republicanos).

Las cifras que mostraban cuán bien estuvieron los latinos representados como delegados en cada convención dependieron de quién estaba haciendo el conteo. Tres conteos publicados, incluyendo los de sus propias delegaciones, hechos por los comités nacionales republicano y demócrata mostraron diferentes números. (vea grafico en traducción)

Una encuesta de Hispanic Link de cinco estados con grandes poblaciones latinas mostró gran variación por partido. Cali-

fornia envió 23 delegados latinos a la convención republicana y 129 a la convención demócrata. New York envió sólo dos latinos a Filadelfia y 32 a Los Angeles. Por porcentajes, la representación latina por delegados en esos estados fue también variada. (vea grafica en traducción)

Mientras que el Asambleísta de California Abel Maldonado se dirigió a la convención republicana durante seis minutos en español, ninguno de los presentadores demócratas latinos habló enteramente en español. Unos pocos -- Menéndez y el vicepresidente del

Comité Demócrata Nacional, Roberto Ramírez, mezclaron un poco de español en sus comentarios.

Ramírez, asambleísta estatal de Nueva York, se enfocó también sobre el asunto de la presencia de la Marina de Guerra de los Estados

Unidos en Vieques. "Ser un demócrata de Nueva York significa luchar para poner fin a los ejercicios militares que dañan el ambiente y arriesgan las vidas de las personas que viven en la isla de Vieques, en Puerto Rico," dijo Ramírez. Algunos delegados hicieron ondear letreros que decían "Paz para Vieques."

Los acontecimientos de Los Angeles que celebraron a los dirigentes y la cultura de los latinos incluyeron un almuerzo para homenajear a la Representante Federal Lucille Roybal-Allard

(por California) y a otros latinos del Congreso; una fiesta auspiciada por el Comité Demócrata Nacional para las personas de mayor edad y sus familias; una "fiesta de cuadra" del Comité Latino 2000 que destacó a Celia Cruz -- que se presentó igualmente en el acontecimiento "Un Nuevo Día" del Partido Republicano en Filadelfia -- y la recaudación de fondos de Hispanic Unity USA, de Loretta Sánchez, en los Estudios Universal. También, Bustamante efectuó una Función Hispana de Exhibición

que destacó ejecuciones por Enrique Iglesias, Los Lobos, y el comediante Paul Rodriguez.

Frente al Centro Staples, grupos locales de inmigrantes latinos, incluyendo a la Coalición por los Derechos Humanos de los Inmigrantes, El Rescate y el Centro de Recursos de la América Central -- junto con grupos sindicales y ambientales -- escenificaron manifestaciones para llamar la atención a varios asuntos.

Estos incluyeron las dificultades de los que mueren tratan-

do de atravesar la frontera entre México y los Estados Unidos; la amnistía para los inmigrantes ilegales, y los talleres que explotaban a los trabajadores inmigrantes. Como en Filadelfia, muchos de los grupos de protesta trabajaron con el grupo de proyección de los medios informativos Direct Action Network.

(Cynthia L. Oroscio es reportera de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2000. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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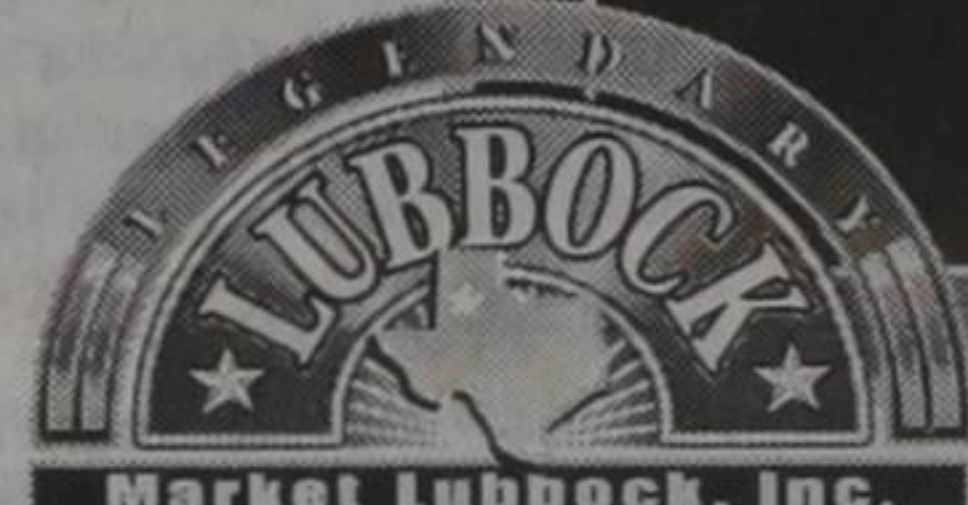
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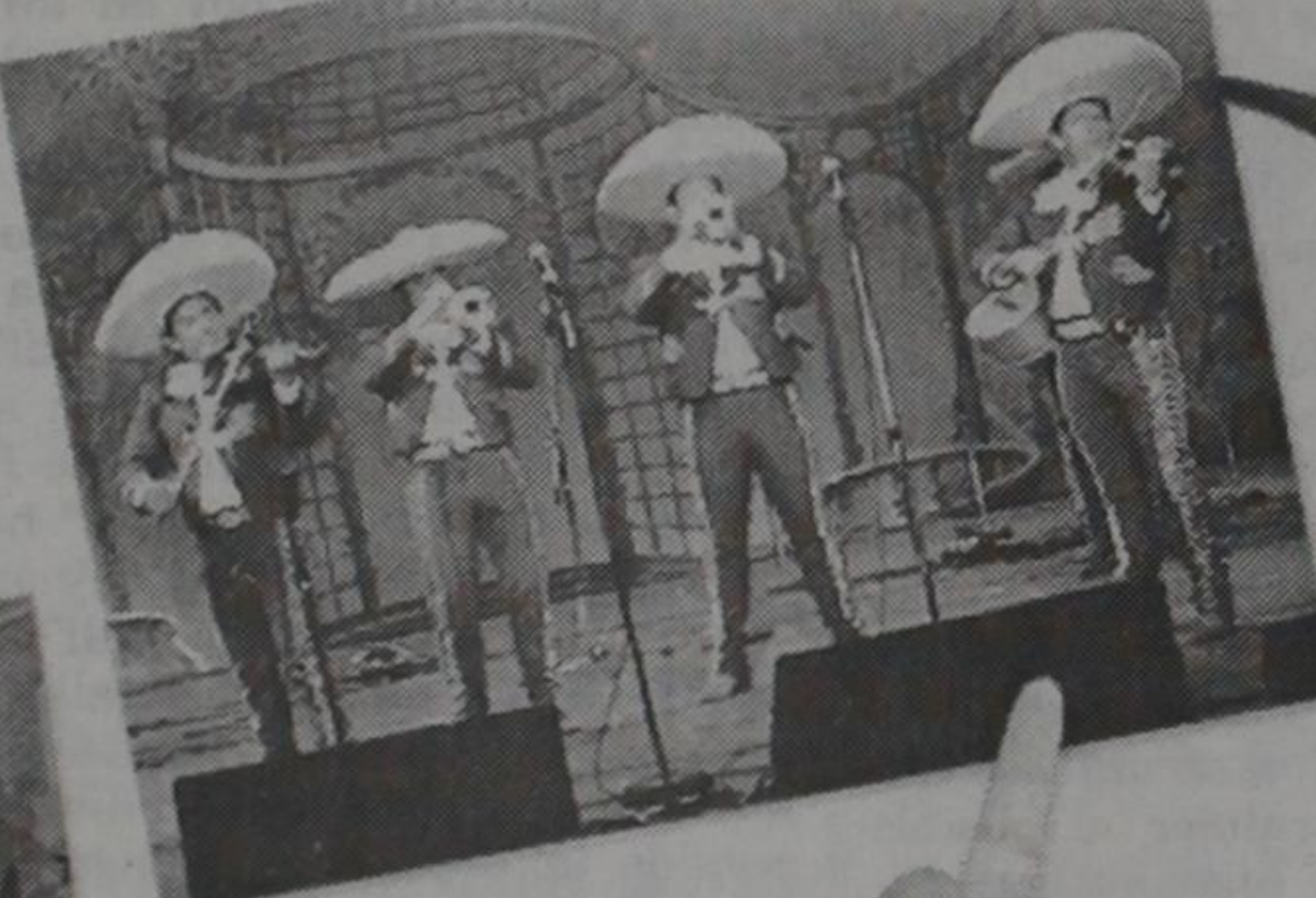
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