

# El Salidor

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

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## Authority, Value Questioned as Local Police Become Immigration Officials

By Alejandro Meneses Miyashita and Arlene Martinez

Police agencies around the country remain divided on whether they should enforce immigration laws -- and the federal government may be adding to their confusion.

A 2002 Department of Justice opinion, which to date has not been released to the public, finds that state and local officers have "inherent authority" to arrest undocumented immigrants on civil violations of federal immigration law.

That authority comes without entering a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DOJ or receiving any training. This appears contrary to requirements set forth by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996.

However, the DOJ has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Florida and is moving toward entering into one with Alabama.

So which is it?



### Comentarios

de Bidal Agiiero

H ave you noticed that it seems that just about every City Council meeting nowadays is filled with or City Fathers arguing.

Last week City Fathers were preoccupied about having to release personal income data. This week it seems that the City Fathers are worried about how much some people's taxes are going up. Little to nothing is ever discussed about providing better services or developing better programs to eliminate blight. As I drove around the City last week trying to find a few bargains at garage sales, I couldn't help but notice how housing in some neighborhoods and especially in the Harwell neighborhood is getting so substandard that the neighborhood somewhat resembles what is shown on TV as urban blight in big cities like Dallas, Chicago and Houston. Apparently neighborhood are deteriorating and little is being done because City councilpersons are busy busy following the people agenda of lowering taxes. I'm not one to say that lowering taxes is not important but what about housing. What about homelessness? What about parks? What about jobs? As Lubbock grows and becomes a major City in Texas, it is time to start addressing these problems in order to avoid further problems in our neighborhoods.

Next week we will feature a special story on blight in Lubbock and how the City Council is addressing the problem. Look for it.

This weekend is Father's Day. This means that most fathers will be tied up cooking bar-b-que and greeting their sons and daughters as they come to visit and eat. It always seems that father's day is never as important as mother's day in our community. Maybe that's because Dad will always settle for a six-pack of beer and a hamburger while Mom requires a little more attention. What ever is the case.

Happy Fathers Day to all our readers from El Editor! ¡Feliz día de los Padres!

A Freedom of Information Act request by the National Immigration Forum and signed onto by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the National Council of La Raza and others (34 in all) to release the DOJ opinion was denied. An appeal was also denied. Nine groups -- including NCLR, filed suit in U.S. District Court in Southern New York in late April to force its release.

In a letter to the Migration Policy Institute, Alberto Gonzales, counsel to President Bush, said the authority extends only to people who are "possible terrorists who are violating immigration laws and who are in National Crime Information Center (NCIC)."

DOJ spokesman Jorge Martinez explains to Hispanic Link News Service, "We ask (state and local authorities) to undertake this voluntarily."

NCIC, which used to track criminal violations almost exclusively, began including in larger numbers persons who have civil immigration violations, such as expired visas. The DOJ in

March exempted NCIC from the Privacy Act, which requires accurate and current information be provided.

Until last year, when Florida became the first state to enter a cooperative agreement with the federal government to deputize 35 state officers as immigration agents, no other state had entered the 1996 MOA. The Florida agents completed their training in August. Alabama began training last month.

Police departments from cities with high Latino immigrant populations, including Los Angeles, Denver, San Francisco, Austin and San Antonio, are among several jurisdictions that oppose using their officers to help enforce federal immigration laws. "People without legal rights would not be willing to speak or would be frightened of police if we did," Grace Brady, spokesperson for the Los Angeles Police Department, sums up its principal concern, echoed by many opponents.

Undocumented immigrants would be less willing to report crimes, they reason, and mistrust would widen between immigrant communities and police. (Continued Page 3)

## Bush desecha la iniciativa de México y Lieberman la adopta

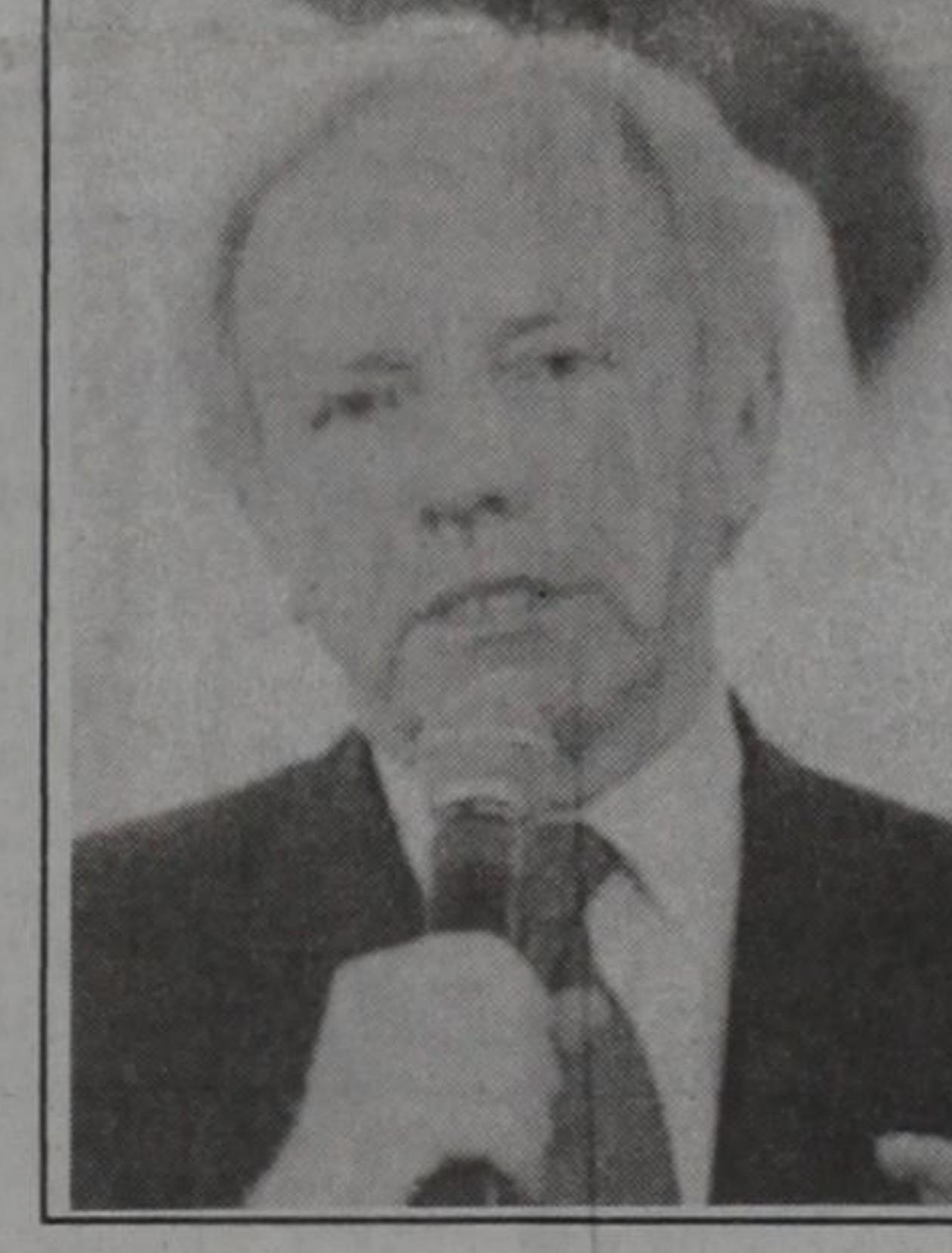
Por RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Si no se cierra un trato, se abre la oportunidad para que lo haga la competencia. Es cierto en los negocios... y también en el mundo de la diplomacia internacional.

Prueba A: La administración del presidente George W Bush se equivocó en los convenios con México sobre inmigración. Falló en forma tan dramática en lograr un acuerdo de inmigración con su vecino del sur que creó una oportunidad para cualquier candidato presidencial demócrata lo bastante inteligente para aprovechar la ventaja.

Ése es el senador Joe Lieberman de Connecticut. Ahora que la administración parece haber perdido el interés en diseñar un acuerdo que una a los trabajadores mexicanos con los empresarios de Estados Unidos, o incluso en regresar a la mesa de las negociaciones, Lieberman ve una oportunidad para anotarse puntos políticos a costa del Presidente.

No es que el presidente mexicano Vicente Fox no mereciera un baño de agua fría de la administración. Fox se equivocó al no ofrecer su ayuda de inmediato a Estados Unidos después de los ataques terroristas del 11 septiembre. Pudo ofrecer un aumento en sus envíos de petróleo o quizás, como hizo Inglaterra y otros países, enviar tropas a Afganistán. Más adelante, Fox agravó el error al oponerse a la guerra dirigida por Estados Unidos contra Irak. Pero hace poco le dijo a The Washington Post que Estados Unidos y México tienen "corresponsabilidades" por el problema de la inmigración ilegal.



(Senator Joe Lieberman)

Fox olvida algo, este "problema" apenas existiría si no fuera por el fracaso de México para proporcionar oportunidades económicas para su pueblo, en lugar de tratar a Estados Unidos como una gigantesca oficina de Western Union.

Aún así, donde se equivocó la administración Bush fue en permitir que su desilusión con Fox minara sus objetivos de política con respecto a la inmigración. Dejó que la ira, el orgullo y la susceptibilidad se interpusieran en su compromiso anterior al 11 de septiembre para crear un acuerdo significativo de inmigración con un país del que dependen millones de empresas de Estados Unidos para su mano de obra barata y fácil de conseguir.

(Continua en la pagina 3)

## Democratic National Committee aide decries Hispanic disconnect

By Steve Miller

The chairman of the Hispanic caucus of the Democratic National Committee said yesterday that there is a "disconnect" in the party regarding the minority vote and accused it of scrapping a \$1.5 million plan to attract Hispanics. Alvaro Cifuentes, who also chastised the DNC leadership for failure to hire Hispanics, announced a three-day summit for party Hispanics in September that will be "completely funded on our own, separate from the DNC."

"There is obviously a problem in the party with Hispanic and Latino issues," Mr. Cifuentes said. "We've been trying for the past two years to address them."

The DNC did not return calls for comment.

The \$1.5 million "Hispanic Project" was to be a vast, annual effort that included a get-out-the-vote campaign, recruitment of Hispanic candidates and establishment of satellite offices in key states.

Some caucus members insist the plan is still being put together, although they declined to offer details.

The summit is a result of indifference from the party's leadership, Mr. Cifuentes said. It is to be held in Albuquerque, N.M.

"We aren't waiting around for anybody to put an agenda together anymore," he said.

The dilemma is "an interesting problem," said Steven Ybarra, a caucus member who leads the Pacific region for the DNC.

"Terry McAuliffe made a pledge to make sure that the voters who were

## Cuestionan El Valor de Trabajo de Policias en Inmigración

Por Alejandro Meneses Miyashita y Arlene Martínez

Las agencias de policía por todo el país continúan divididas en cuanto si deben hacer cumplir las leyes de inmigración -- y el gobierno federal puede que esté añadiendo leña a su confusión.

Una opinión del Departamento de Justicia en el 2002, hasta ahora sin hacerse pública, halló que los funcionarios estatales y locales cuentan con la "autoridad inherente" para detener a inmigrantes indocumentados en base a violaciones civiles de las leyes federales de inmigración.

Esta autoridad se deriva sin postular un memorándum de concilio (MOA por sus siglas en inglés) al Departamento de Justicia y sin recibir ningún tipo de capacitación, lo cual

resulta contrario a los requerimientos establecidos en el acta de reforma de la inmigración ilegal y responsabilidad inmigratoria de 1996.

No obstante, el Departamento de Justicia ha firmado un MOA con el estado de Florida y están proceso de firmar otro con el estado de Alabama.

Entonces, ¿cuál es?

Se negó una solicitud del Acta de la Libertad de Información por parte del Foro Nacional de Inmigración, y firmada por el Fondo Mexicano Americano de Defensa Legal y Educación, el Consorcio Legal Nacional Asiático y Pacífico, el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, entre otros (34 grupos en total) pidiendo la emisión de la opinión del

Departamento de Justicia. Se volvió a negar una apelación. Nueve grupos - incluyendo el Concilio Nacional de La Raza -- abrieron un caso judicial en el tribunal distrital estadounidense del sur de Nueva York a fines de abril para obligar que la opinión sea emitida públicamente.

(Continúa en la Pagina 3)

## Senators reach accord on child tax benefit for minimum wage families

By MARY DALRYMPLE, AP

WASHINGTON - June 5, 2003 - Senators struck agreement Thursday to expand a \$1,000 child tax credit for minimum wage families, while also granting high-income married couples a full or partial credit later this decade.

Unable to shake Democratic demands that minimum wage workers get the same benefit from a \$1,000 child tax credit as other families, Republicans in the Senate agreed to expand the benefit for low-income families and also extend the benefit to more high-income couples.

The strategy, designed to defuse a growing storm over a bigger child tax credit for middle-income but not low-income families, gives both Republicans and Democrats a reason to back the bill.

Minimum wage workers would get the same rebate check, worth \$400 per child, that will be going to other families later this summer — giving Democrats a rare victory in a Republican-ruled Congress. If sent to the president by June 23, the checks would arrive at the same time as checks to other families.

"I'd like to see all of these folks included when the round of checks are sent out this summer," said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.

The bill would also increase the amount married couples can earn before the credit starts to decrease, a priority of Republicans. In 2008 and 2009, carried couples making up to \$115,000 could claim the full credit. In 2010, couples making up to \$150,000 could claim the full credit. For two years at the end of the bill's 10-year horizon. At higher incomes, couples could claim a partial credit.

Republicans resisted changing the law, which currently offers the credit to families who pay income tax and gives minimum wage workers — those who get enough tax benefits to see their income taxes eliminated — a partial refund.

Some Republicans have historically supported refundable tax credits, such as the much larger earned income tax credit, as a way to encourage low-wage workers to stay in the labor force and avoid welfare.

Backed by a strong push from community activists, Democrats pointed to the tax cut enacted last month as concrete proof that Republicans favor the wealthy over the poor.

"This administration is waging war on poor children," said Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. "The reality is that they are steadily and surely trying to turn the clock back on all of the programs and supports that working families and their children need and deserve."

The legislation also reduces the five definitions of a "child" used for different tax deductions and credits to a single definition. The bill's \$10 billion cost will be offset by an extension of customs fees.

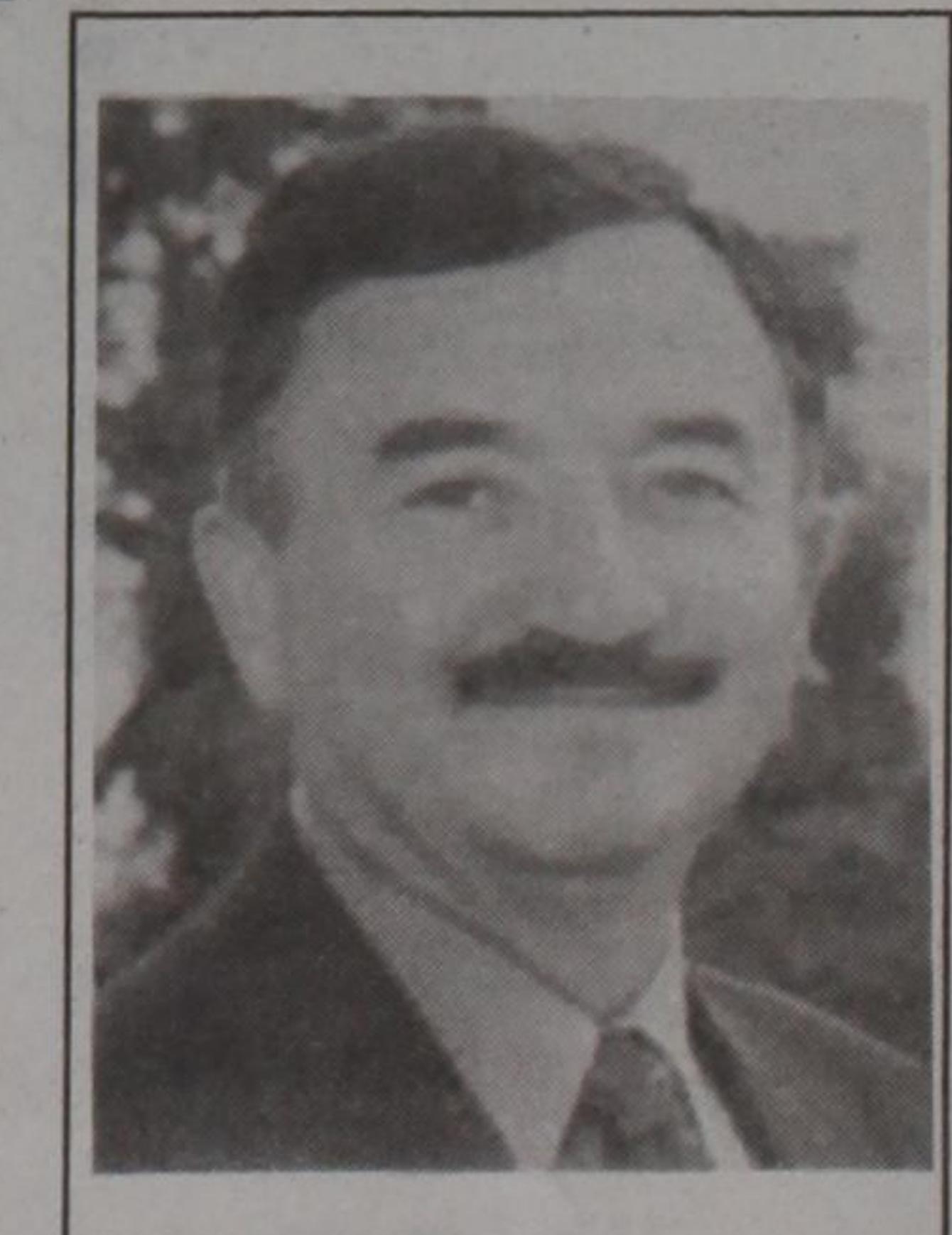
critical were turned out and that we would have the proper resources to make that happen in 2004," Mr. Ybarra said, in reference to the DNC chairman. "And none of that happened."

"It will make the job in 2004 all the tougher," Mr. Ybarra added.

The "job" entails overtaking Republican gains in luring the Hispanic vote, which has become a Republican Party mandate. Republicans were further encouraged by a May 2002 poll sponsored by the Democratic Party that found allegiance waning among Hispanics.

"This is a situation that will be and needs to be monitored," said Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez, the Texas Democrat who leads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

(Continúa en la Pagina 3)



Rep. Ciro Rodriguez

In Texas:

# El Hurto de Palabras es el Apropiamiento de la Tierra

Por Bárbara Renaud González

Vivir en la frontera de San Antonio, Texas, es como bailar debajo de y a través de un volcán. La tierra que la familia de mis padres alguna vez conquistó vive ahora la reconquista -- por una nueva lengua que roba y enriquece, como el acordeón del maestro Esteban Jordan, que rompió con lo tradicional creando su propio e inolvidable sonido.

Es por ello que entendí el dolor de mi amiga Macarena, cuando me llamó para decirme como su antiguo compañero de pasantía del New York Times había plagiado su más reciente ofertorio a la divinidad de las palabras. Blair copió más que su artículo -- de hecho se apropió de su conciencia -- con respecto a lo que narró sobre la muerte del último prisionero de guerra en Iraq, soldado Edward J. Anguiano, ("A Family's Fear Confirmed", publicado el 18 de abril de 2003).

En realidad, Macarena y yo hemos luchado con y sin éxito (ella como periodista profesional, y yo como escritora independiente) para convencer a los editores del único periódico en esta ciudad de que nuestra lengua es un mestizaje de inglés y español, y por lo tanto, de culturas, lo cual debe verse reflejado en los artículos que se escriben a la sombra del Alamo. Del "hola dude" de saludo, al perrito de raza poodle llamado chote y a la despedida bueno bye, me tropiezo con los diamantes Elizabeth Taylor resplandeciendo desde la cloaca y en las manos correctas, júrale! esta lengua fluye como el río, subversiva, con sus dif-

erentes y confusos significados.

*Entiendes, Mendes?*

Ha sido más seguro para muchos periodistas que luchan por salir adelante el censurar el modo en se comunican en casa por lo que nuestras palabras ponen de manifiesto a los poderosos editores el mucho más profundo poder de la lengua. Imitando la corriente y su jalapeñización de quienes nosotros somos es una forma de mantener el status quo, en tanto que la mayoría de la raza aquí sólo se empobrece, se engorda y no vota o lee. Mientras tanto, las palabras se desgarran y enriquecen.

En el pasado, Macarena me comentaba de cómo había pasado horas luchando por la poesía original de la lengua vernácula (menos la traducción torpe). Después de que utilicé la palabra gringo en una columna que trataba de como demasiados de estos visitaban México sin conocer el idioma, la palabra fue extraoficialmente prohibida en el periódico. Un editor hasta me llamó racista.

Después de estas confrontaciones, nosotros juramos siempre continuar aventando piedras, defendiendo el derecho a la autonomía de nuestra gente y sabímos que algún día el New York Times querría copiarlos, porque ¿cómo podrían dejar de ver la evolución de esta milenaria y mágica realidad?

Comprenderá usted que el territorio de las palabras es nuestra más preciada aportación en compartir las lecciones del pasado. Es la única tierra que nos queda.

Por lo tanto, así es que otro

columnista independiente como yo, Julio Noboa, entiende la lucha por la tierra. El primero de marzo de 2003, el Express-News publicó su ardiente columna sobre el asalto israelí al campo de refugiados de Jenin. Repentinamente, sus columnas fueron concluidas por "falta de atribución", una suave y más amable palabra para decir "plagio". Noboa ha sido previamente criticado por sus puntos de vista a favor de Palestina, los cuales dice no rebasan el 11 por ciento de todos sus ensayos.

El era el último escritor progresista en el San Antonio Express-News.

Pocas semanas después de que fuera despedido, Jonathan Gurwitz, un columnista conservador, tomó las palabras de Colin Powell tan sutil y violentamente como la tierra ha sido apropiada en Texas. En su ensayo publicado en el San Antonio Express-News (publicado en Internet el 6 de abril del 2003) defendió la bíblica postura americana y concluyó con estas palabras: "El heroísmo de nuestras fuerzas armadas está marcado por el humanismo y el acato. Y por su sacrificio, no pedimos ni petróleo ni imperio, nada más que tierra suficiente para sepultar a aquellos hombres y mujeres que no regresarán".

El 13 de abril, Thomas Friedman del New York Times dijo lo mismo, aunque citó a Colin Powell, al mencionar que había defendido a los Estados Unidos de un periodista egipcio con la siguiente frase: "Los Estados Unidos es tan poderoso como cualquier imperio en la historia, pero

cuando ha invadido otros países el único trozo de tierra que alguna vez ha pedido fue para enterrar los soldados que nunca regresaron a casa".

Ambos, al parecer, compilaron estas líneas del emocionante discurso que Powell dio al Foro Económico Mundial en Davos, Suiza, el 26 de enero de 2003. Era una respuesta parcial a una consideración de "potencia suave". Elegante y memorable, Powell expuso en la conferencia que: "Nosotros no hemos pedido nada excepto tierra suficiente para sepultarlos". Pero como dijo el 14 de febrero de 2002, en una discusión global de MTV: "¿Y nosotros pedimos tierra? No, la única tierra que alguna vez hemos pedido es para enterrar a nuestros muertos. Y ése es el tipo de nación que somos".

Como escritora y columnista, mis palabras deben ser revelaciones, porque son el génesis de un nuevo mundo. Como tal, son las piedras que llevo en mis manos y son la roca de lava que forma el paraíso que todos buscamos proclamar. Quiero compartirlas, y nadie me las puede quitar, ¿o pueden? Al parecer personas como Jonathan Gurwitz, Rick Bragg y otros poderosos van a tener siempre la capacidad de tomar lo que no es suyo por derecho.

En tanto que Macarena Hernández, Julio Noboa y Colin Powell luchan por un poco de tierra para sepultar a sus muertos.

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# Tax-Cut Package Leaves Low-Income Families Behind

In his weekly radio address on May 24, President Bush called a just-passed \$350 billion tax-cut package a "victory for every family struggling to pay the bills." But details of the plan that emerged this week show millions of "struggling" taxpayers aren't getting any promised benefits.

Those shortchanged include low-wage individuals and families with children, including members of the U.S. military. The law's fine print also reveals that middle-income families will bear a heavier tax burden because they get less generous breaks than those making more than \$200,000.

The inequities are so glaring that they have prompted a scramble in Congress, with the White House's blessing, to make corrections. On Thursday, the Senate voted to provide relief to low-income families.

Certainly, the law's wrongs can be righted -- and without adding to the growing federal deficit. But that can happen only if legislators fund needed revisions by closing corporate tax loopholes or mining new revenue sources instead of conducting another raid on the U.S. Treasury.

Making the tax law fairer to low- and middle-income groups would serve several useful purposes. It would fulfill Bush's promise to give something back to everyone who pays federal taxes. It would bolster the long-time consensus behind a progressive tax code that takes a bigger bite as incomes rise. It also would provide the sluggish economy with an additional jolt, since families that live from paycheck to paycheck are likely to spend the extra dollars. Remember, stimulating the economy was a main reason for cutting taxes in the first place.

Among those left out of the tax cut:

\* Singles. Some 8.1 million

taxpayers would get nothing under the new law, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank that advocates for the poor. Most are unmarried, have no dependents and make less than \$14,000 a year. They pay as much as \$600 in income taxes, plus Social Security and Medicare levies. Also denied relief are some singles who have children or care for elderly relatives. Those with two dependents make as much as \$54,200 and pay \$5,200 in income taxes.

\* Working poor. Although the law increases the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000, that doesn't benefit an estimated 6 million working families whose incomes are so low that they don't pay income taxes. Yet these are the very low-wage families that are supposed to be protected by current tax policy so they don't slip back onto welfare rolls. Plans to expand the child tax credit to include them had been in the Senate version of the tax bill, but were dropped to preserve corporate tax-avoidance schemes.

The Senate passed a bill on Thursday that would expand Customs Service fees to provide families \$10 billion in relief, a third going to the working poor. While the plan is fiscally responsible, plugging corporate tax loopholes would be a better way to pay for it.

Yet some lawmakers in the House want to blow another hole in a deficit headed for a record \$400 billion this year. They will help the working poor only if higher-income groups get an additional \$100 billion in new tax cuts. And they won't identify spending cuts or new revenue to offset the costs.

Changes in the tax law are needed to fulfill Bush's promises. But they will be a victory for every taxpayer only if the corrections are better thought out -- and more mindful of the deficit -- than the original bill.

# El Gobierno Arriesga los Derechos de los Latinos

Por Raymond Rodriguez

Como a muchos latinos, a mí me preocupa la creciente erosión de nuestros derechos legales y civiles.

Ofreciendo el ataque terrorista del 11 de septiembre como justificación, el gobierno federal promulgó el Acta Patriota de los Estados Unidos, lo cual le permite realizar acciones drásticas en nombre de la seguridad nacional. Como si esto fuera poco, el gobierno intenta ampliar la fuerza vigente que le otorga el acta al promulgar el Acta Patriota II.

Si el segundo acta se aprueba, las agencias como la CIA, FBI, la de Seguridad Territorial y el Pentágono tendrían autorización para espionar y usurpar los derechos tanto de los ciudadanos como de los que no lo son. Entre sí, las varias agencias podrían acumular todo tipo de información y datos.

Los derechos a la privacidad como los conocemos hoy serían cosa del pasado. Ningún expediente o archivo personal se salvaría del escrutinio gubernamental. Nuestra información médica, cuentas bancarias y caseras, contratos de arriendo y prácticamente cualquier otra actividad que nos concierne estaría apta a ser recogida por las agencias sin nuestro conocimiento ni permiso.

Hasta las conversaciones telefónicas y el uso de computadora podrían verse intervenidos. Hoy las agencias como la FBI deben solicitar una orden judicial para poder monitorear las conversaciones telefónicas.

No obstante, bajo la ley propuesta, la orden no se requeriría. Las llamadas a la familia en el extranjero podrían ser grabadas y analizadas. Los latinos, sea cual fuere su estado legal, podrían verse sujetos al acoso arbitrario. Los latinos y personas consideradas sospechosas podrían caer en una redada por su aspecto físico y ser detenidos sólo por la forma en que caminan, hablan o actúan o por con quién se asocian.

A los latinos les preocupa esto por lo que recuerdan lo que les ocurrió a muchos residentes estadounidenses con ascendencia árabe. Se les detenía indefinidamente, sin poder contactar a un abogado, violado su derecho a un proceso judicial, hasta deportados siendo aun ciudadanos naturalizados.

A los inmigrantes se les pide quitar la ciudadanía estadounidense sin someterse a un proceso judicial. Con esto, muchos latinos están amenazados gravemente.

La tendencia hacia una ideología conservadora en toda la nación resulta en que las cortes ya no son el baluarte de la protección de nuestros derechos civiles. Una decisión reciente tomada por el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos, 6 a 3, en referencia al trabajador agrícola Oliverio Martínez limitó severamente las garantías contra la auto-incriminación hechas explícitas en la decisión anterior, Miranda.

Bajo la guía de la decisión Miranda, un sospechoso debe ser informado de sus derechos antes de ser interrogado. Debe oír que tiene el derecho de mantenerse en silencio, que lo que dijera se podrá usar en su contra, y que tiene el derecho de contar con un abogado presente durante la interrogación, y si no tiene los medios para contratar a un abogado, que el estado le proveerá con uno, sin cobrarle.

Estos requerimientos tienen la intención de prevenir que se intimide a un sospechoso ni obligarlo a que confiese un crimen. En un altercado con la policía, a Martínez lo dispararon cinco veces, dejándolo minusválido y ciego. Sin embargo, no le habían informado de sus derechos, y la policía continuó interrogándole mientras un médico le atendía las heridas.

Al llevarse a cabo un proceso contra la policía por violar sus

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In Texas:

## The Stealing of Words is the Taking of Land

By Bárbara Renaud González

Living on the border that is San Antonio, Texas, is like dancing under and through a volcano.

The land my father's family once conquered is now a *reconquista* of a new language, juiced-up and riffling like the accordion that the *maestro* Esteban Jordán has broken open, creating his own unforgettable sound.

That's why I understood my girlfriend Macarena's *dolor* -- her pain -- when she called to tell me how her former New York Times intern-colleague, Jayson Blair, had plagiarized her recent offering to the divinity of words. Blair copied more than her article -- in effect he took her *conciencia* -- taking the words she wrote concerning the death of the last POW in Iraq, Army Spc. Edward J. Anguiano. ("A Family's Fear Is Confirmed," published in the San Antonio Express-News on April 18).

You see, Macarena and I have battled -- she as a professional journalist, and I as a free-lance writer -- trying, and failing, to convince the editors of this one-newspaper-in-town that our language -- a *mestizaje* of English and Spanish, and therefore, culture, must be reflected in the stories written in the shadow of the Alamo. From the *hola, dude!* greeting to a runty poodle named *Chote* to *bueno bye*, I find Elizabeth Taylor diamonds shining from the gut-

ters, and in the right hands, *órale!* This language flows like the river, and is therefore subversive because of the confounding and multiple meanings.

*Entiendes, Mendes?*

It has just been safer for most struggling journalists here to censure how they speak at home -- because our words remind the powerful editors of the even deeper power of language. Imitating the mainstream and their ITAL *jalepenización* of who we are maintains the status quo while the majority of *raza* here just get poorer, fatter and don't vote or read. While the words get riper and richer.

In the past, Macarena told me how she spent hours fighting for the original poetry of the vernacular (minus the clumsy translation). After I used the word *gringo* in a column about how too many of them visited Mexico without knowing the language, the word was officially banned from the newspaper. I was called a racist by an editor.

After these confrontations, we always swore to keep throwing rocks, defending our *gente's* rightful autonomy, and we just knew that someday The New York Times would want to copy us -- because how could they not see the evolution of this millennial, magical, reality?

The territory of words, you see, is our stake in sharing the lessons of the past. It is the

only land we have left. So it is that another free-lance columnist like me, Julio Noboa, understands the struggle for land. On March 1, 2003, the Express-News published his fiery column on the Israeli assault of the Jenin refugee camp. Suddenly, his columns were terminated for "lack of attribution," a softer and kinder word for "plagiarism." Noboa had been previously criticized for his pro-Palestine views, which he says account for barely 11 percent of all his essays.

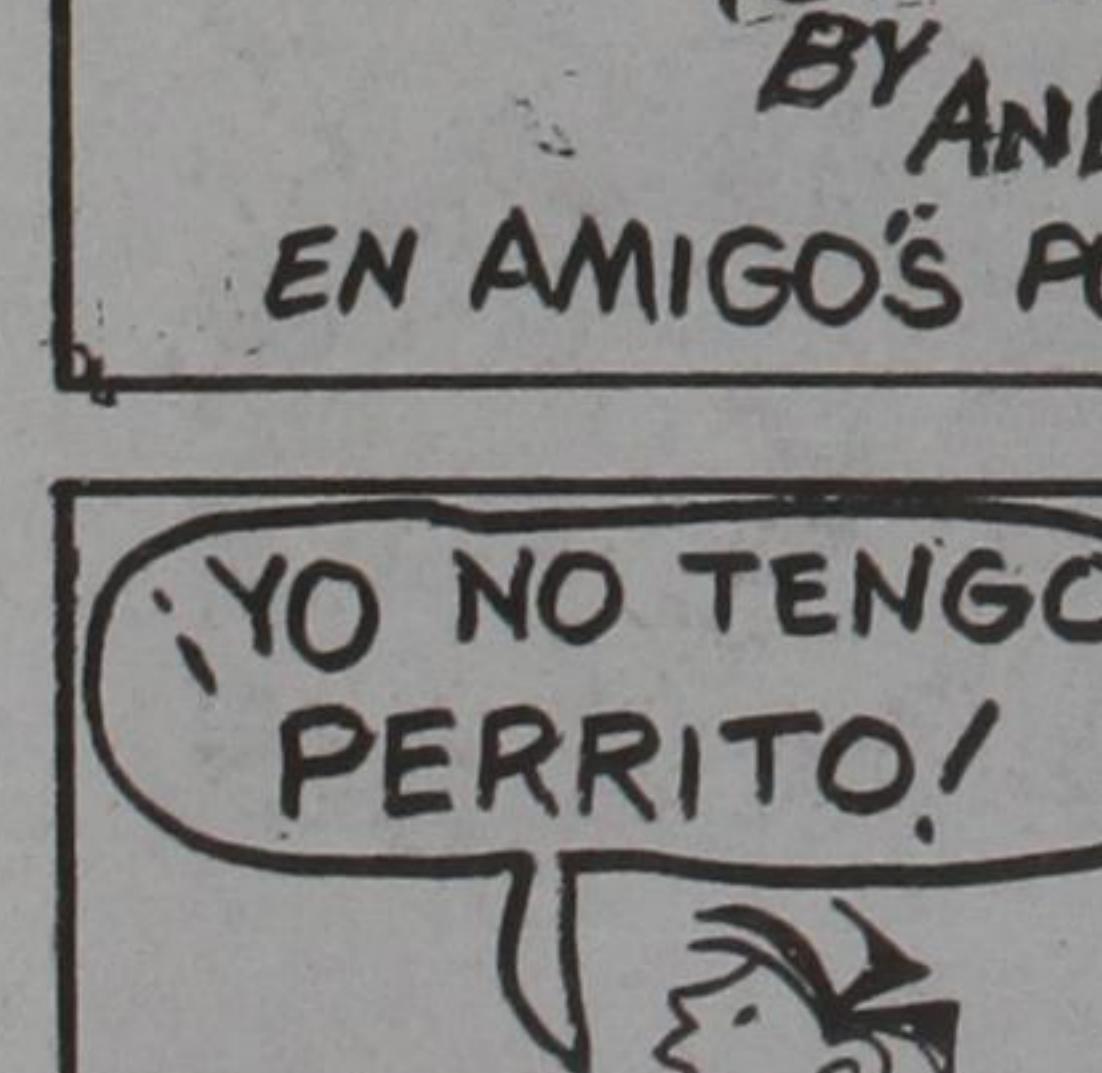
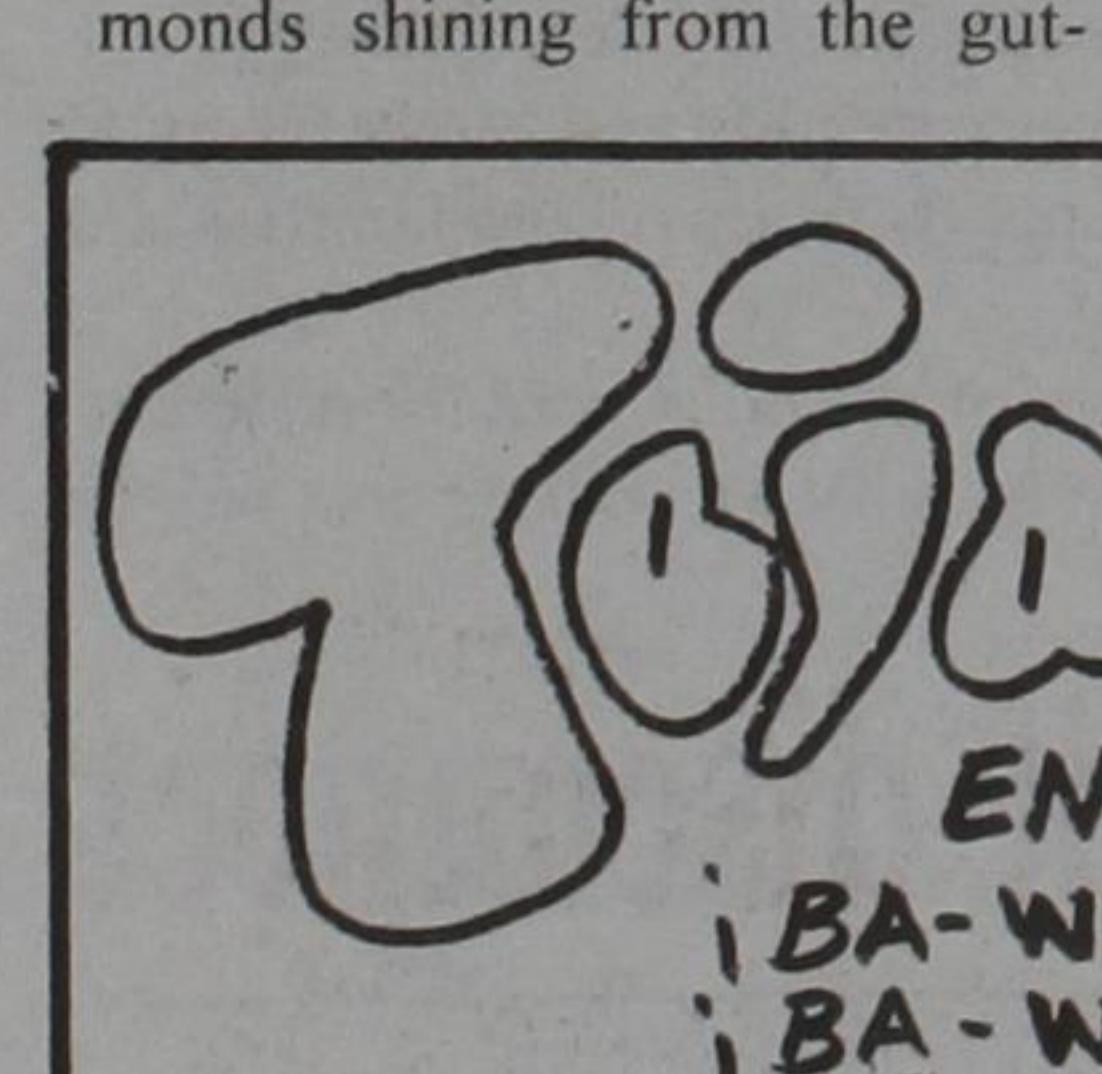
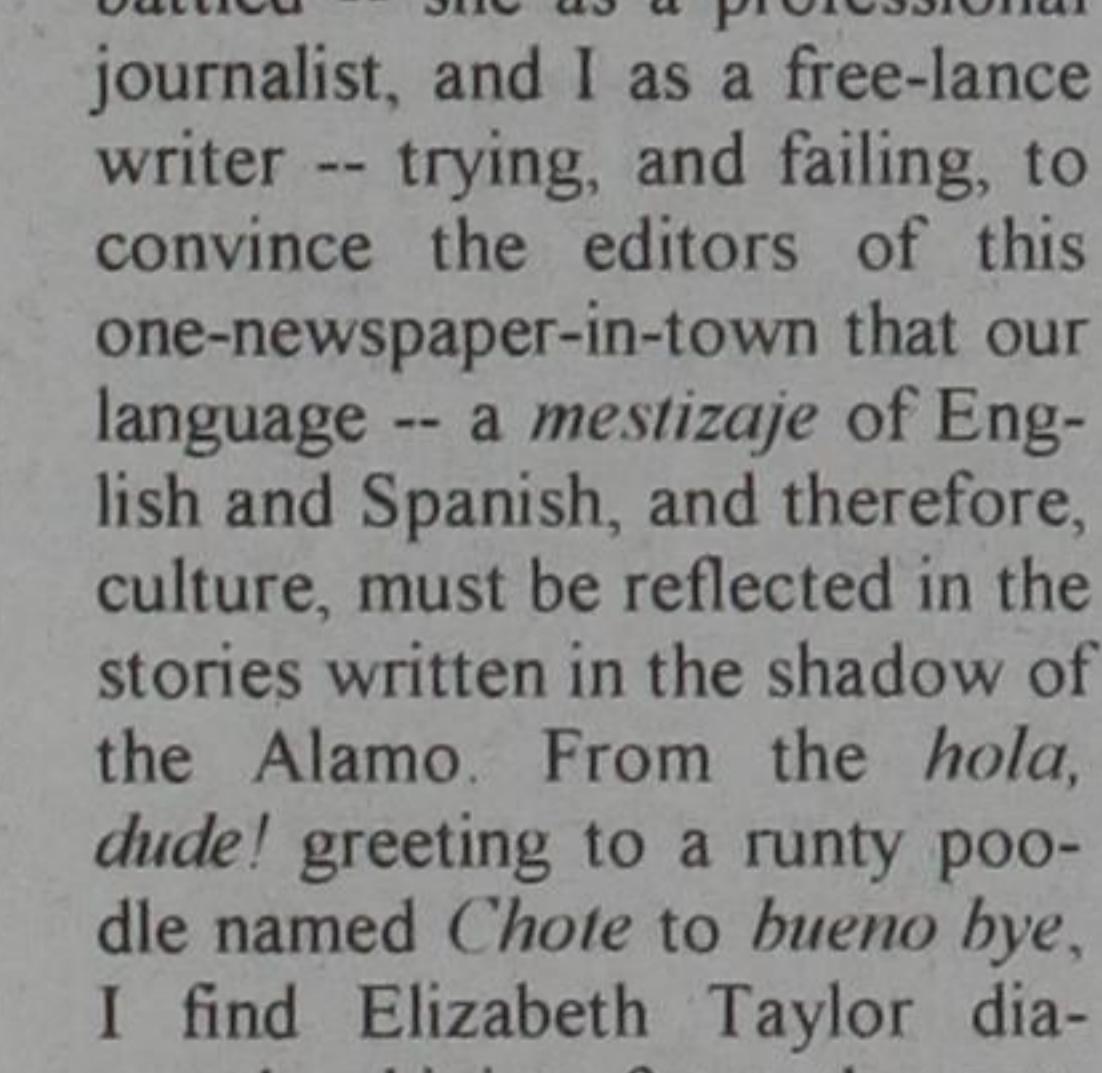
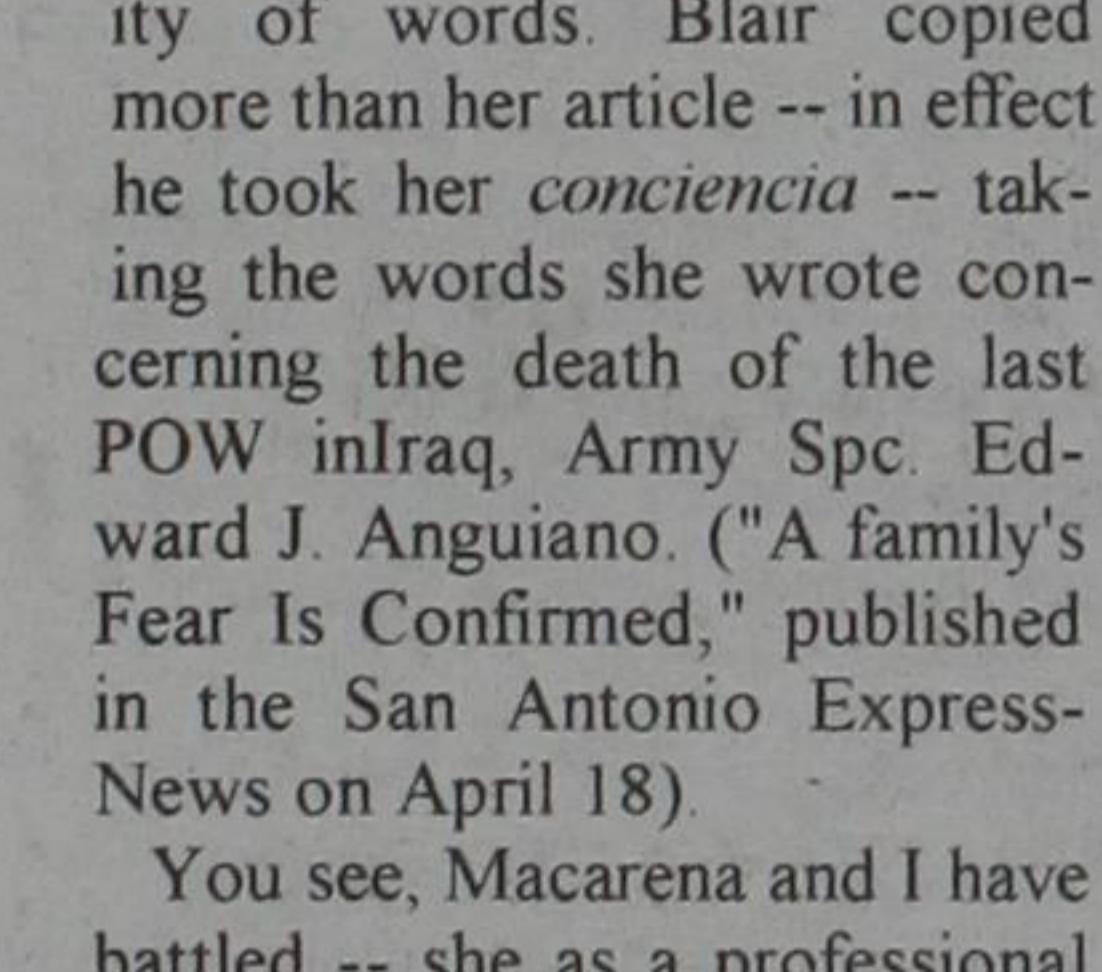
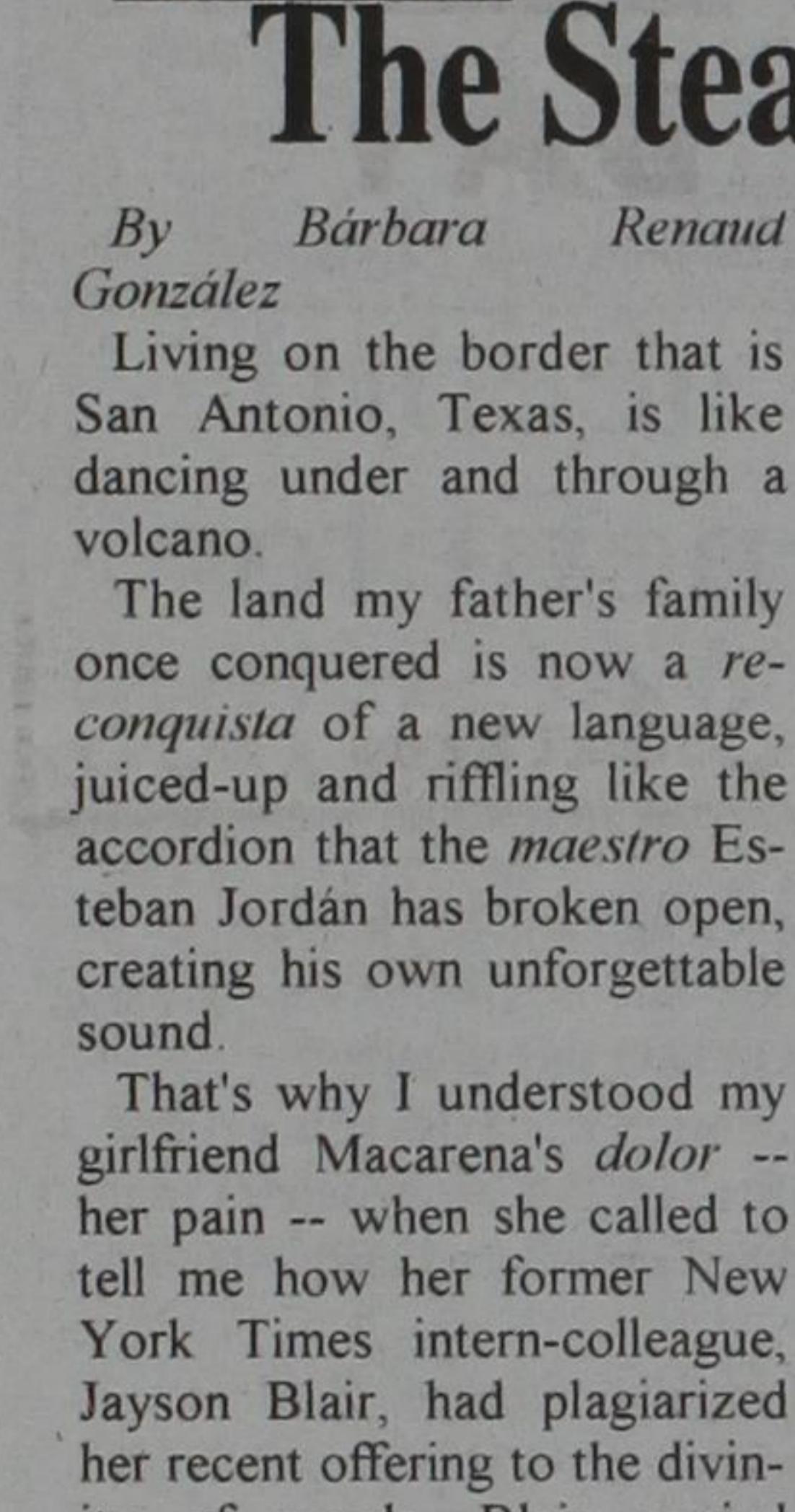
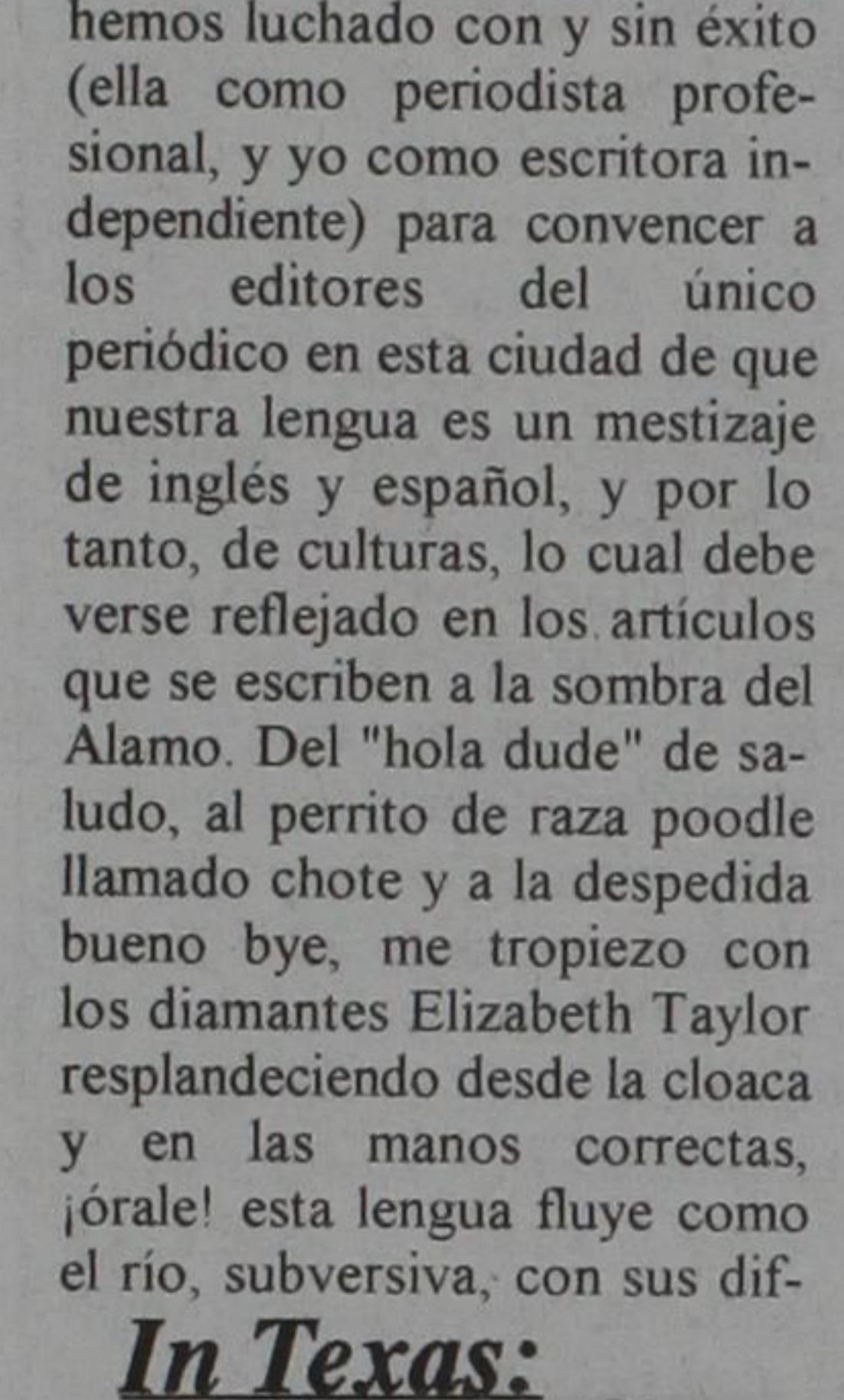
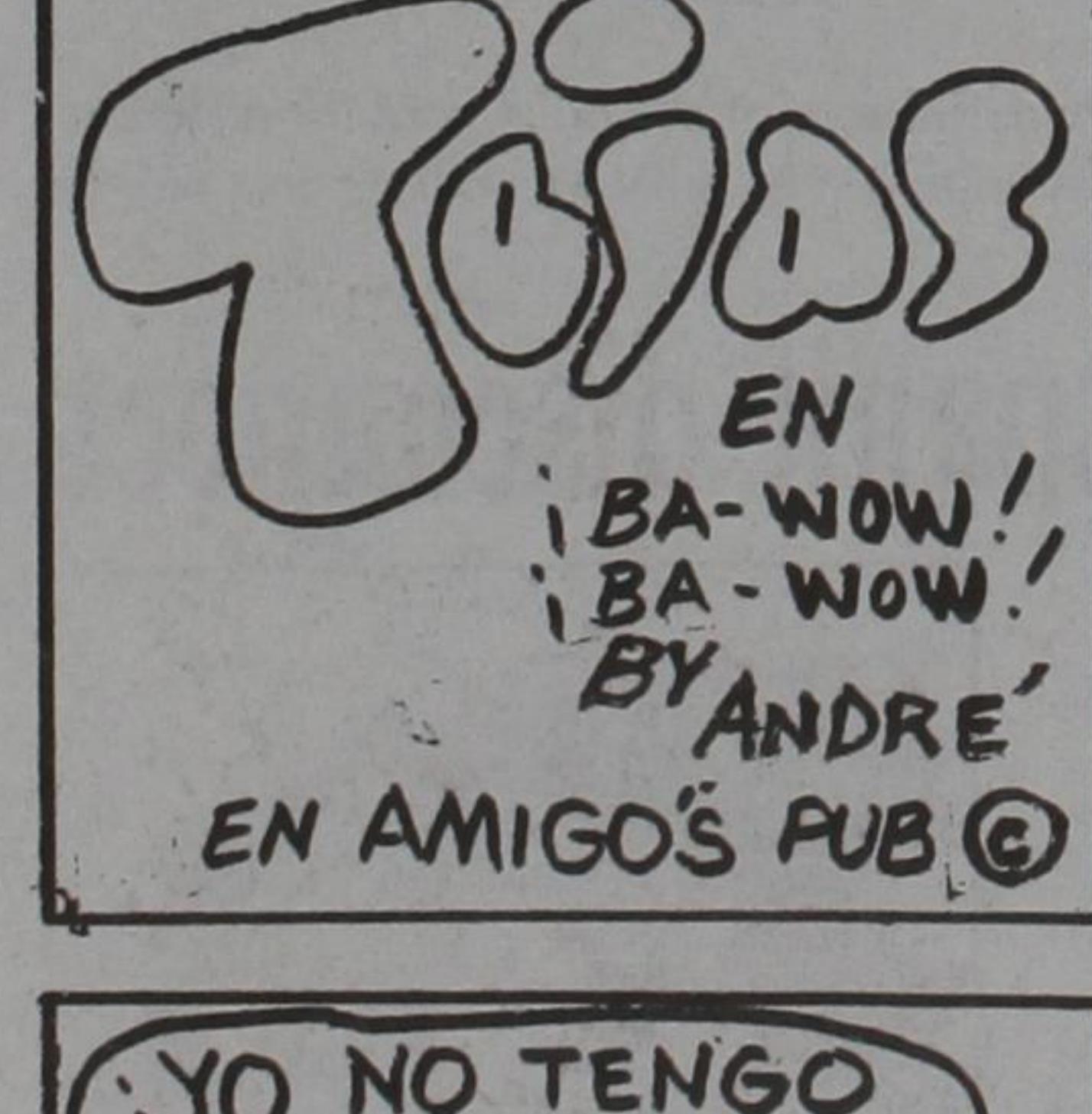
He was the last progressive columnist at the San Antonio Express-News. A couple of weeks after he was terminated, Jonathan Gurwitz, a conservative columnist here, took Colin Powell's words as smoothly and as violently as land has been taken in Texas. In his essay published in the San Antonio Express-News (Web-posted April 6) defending the United States' warring posture, he concluded with these words: "The heroism of our armed forces is marked by humanity and restraint. And for their sacrifice, we ask not for oil or empire, but only enough land to bury our dead. And that is the kind of nation we are."

As a writer and columnist, my words must be revelations because they are the genesis of a new world. As such, they are the rocks in my hand and they are the lava-rock of the paradise we are all seeking to claim. I want to share them, and no one can take them from me.

Or can they? It seems that people like Jonathan Gurwitz, Rick Bragg and other powerful people can take what is not rightfully theirs.

While Macarena Hernández, Julio Noboa and Colin Powell ache for a little land to bury their dead.

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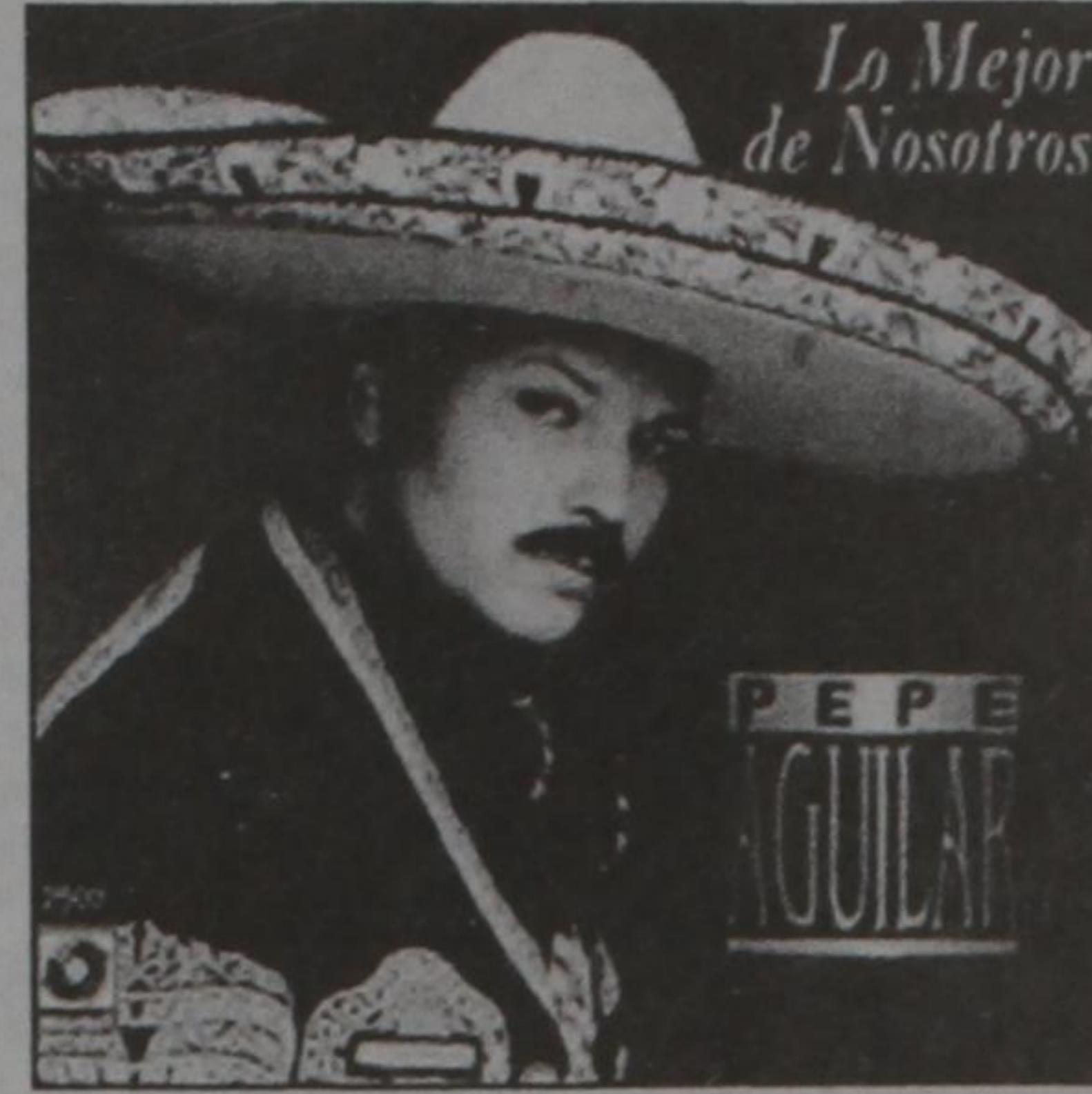


# Pepe Aguilar Estrena Disco Nuevo

Pepe Aguilar, acreedor a un GRAMMY, ganador de múltiples discos de platino y uno de los ídolos principales de la música ranchera mexicana lanzó el día de hoy su disco de debut "Y tenerte otra vez" para el sello discográfico Univision Records. En esta nueva producción el charro favorito de México no solamente regresa como productor e intérprete, sino que ahora también enseña su otra faceta creativa, la de un inspirado compositor.

Hijo de la legendaria pareja formada por Flor Silvestre y Antonio Aguilar, Pepe es sin duda uno de los artistas más completos y excepcionales en el género de la música ranchera y considerado por muchos como uno de los cantantes y productores más populares de nuestro tiempo; un cantante dotado que ha aportado un estilo propio al género y que ha tenido éxitos continuos en los primeros lugares de popularidad en la radio internacional.

La canción cuyo nombre le da su título al álbum, "Y Tener Otra Vez", es obra del propio Pepe Aguilar, junto a Juan Manuel Pernas. Su otra composición, "Indispensable", la compuso en asociación con Miguel Luna, su "cómplice" creativo en varias ideas. "Este es un disco muy variado", in-



forma su intérprete y productor. "Somos trece compositores para 14 temas. Son muchas propuestas dentro de la música mexicana. Conceptos diferentes. Las rancheras son muy rancheras. Las escogí yo mismo. Me fascinan. La ranchera es lo más cercano al rock. Se me hacen llenas de energía, llenas de vitalidad, sin tapujos, sin compromisos. Es algo mágico. Mucho de eso es el rock".

"Y tener otra vez" cuenta

romántico, la balada ranchera. Una buena expresión de este tipo de música es el primer corte promocional, una composición del famoso Teodoro Bello, que se llama "Me Falta Valor".

Otro aporte personal de Pepe Aguilar en esta nueva producción suya es que él mismo se encargó de tocar la guitarra en el estudio, alternándose con

Tito Ruelas, joven músico de sólo 21 años e integrante de su grupo. Dentro de su equipo de trabajo en este álbum también participaron eminentes de la música mexicana como Paulino Vargas, el creador de 'Camelia La Tejana' y 'Lamberto Quintero', autor esta vez de la canción "Va Por Tu Suerte", una super ranchera que tiene un arreglo muy tradicional; Manuel Durán Durán, que escribió "El Hombre Es Hombre"; Manuel Monterrosas, autor de "El Mecate"; y Martín Urieta, compositor de la ranchera "A Pierna Suelta".

Su amplia discografía, que abarca más de 12 años de éxitos, da fe de su espíritu innovador y arriesgado, de su alejamiento de prejuicios musicales pues lo mismo ha interpretado con banda que con mariachi y cosechado algunos de los galardones más codiciados de la industria tanto en México como en los Estados Unidos.

Con la responsabilidad a custodiar de ser parte de una de las familias musicales más respetadas y con mayor tradición y logros artísticos de México, Aguilar está más comprometido que nunca con su música y no ha hecho sino triunfar con canciones contundentes como Por mujeres como tú, Perdóname, Corazón estéril, Ya vete, Me vas a extrañar, entre otras.

## Corriendo a la fama:

### Tres Latinos Acompañan a Eva Mendes en millonaria producción 2 Fast 2 Furious

Eva Mendes y otros latinos compiten en "2 Fast 2 Furious".

Tienen la madera necesaria para convertirse en estrellas de cine, y parece que nadie los va a detener en su rumbo preciso. Se diferencian enormemente uno del otro, sin embargo, todos tienen ese sabor que los hace tan apreciados en una industria que por fin aprendió a reconocer más sabores que la vainilla y el chocolate. Son Eva Mendes, Matt Gallini, Roberto Sanz y Amaury Nolasco, los actores latinos de 2 Fast 2 Furious, quienes charlaron sobre su nueva aventura con Nuevo Mundo.

Ambientada en Miami, esta segunda parte del vehículo veraniego que convirtió a Vin Diesel en una estrella, tiene como protagonistas a Paul Walker y Tyresse, y el aderezo étnico de una camada de jóvenes actores latinos, responsables por el color local de las agrestes calles del sur de la Florida.

"Éste es el personaje que siento va a cambiar mi carrera. Lo he estado esperando desde hace mucho tiempo", expresó Matt Gallini, quien ha estado haciendo personajes se-



Eva Mendes y otros latinos compiten en "2 Fast 2 Furious".

cundarios durante más de diez años. "No es lo más interesante que he hecho, pero si me permitió explorar lados de mí que no conocía como actor", recalco Matt.

Gallini personifica a Enrique,

quien junto a Roberto (encarnado por Robert Sanz)

son los esbirros del malvado Carter Verone, encarnado por Cole Hauser. Ellos se encargan de seguir cada paso que los protagonistas dan y reportar a Verone los detalles del mismo.

Mientras, Eva Mendes es Mónica Clemente, una agente secreta encargada de enamorar a Verone mientras prepara su arresto.

2 Fast 2 Furious es pre-

### Thalia prepara sorpresa al lado de cantante Robbie Williams

La cantante mexicana Thalia dijo hoy que prepara una sorpresa al lado del intérprete británico Robbie Williams, aunque no quiso adelantar de qué se trata.

"Los dos estamos en la misma casa discográfica, él y yo nos conocimos en una fiesta en Nueva York y compartimos muchas cosas, se dio ese contacto y quedamos muy entusiasmados, hay planes de hacer algo con él", indicó.

Thalia no quiso aclarar si en un futuro ella abrirá algunos conciertos de Robbie Williams en Europa, como se ha especulado, o grabarán algún dúo, señalando que "se sabrá a su debido momento".

La intérprete, que reside en Estados Unidos casada con el empresario musical Tommy Mottola, está en México para promocionar la versión en español de su disco "Thalia" con canciones en inglés.

La cantante manifestó su satisfacción por estar en México, "del que nunca me he ido (...), siempre está en mi corazón".

Sobre la posición política que ha tomado su hermana Laura Zapata, candidata a diputada federal en las elecciones del 6 de julio, la intérprete expresó que respeta su decisión y rechazó algún día seguir los pasos de ésta.

Explicó que su política es "llevar mucha felicidad a la gente", pues ella salió de un barrio llamado Santa María la Rivera para convertirse en una artista con éxito.

"Fui Thalia la del barrio para convertirme en una artista con glamour... y hasta dónde he llegado", precisó.

Indicó que una de sus metas como mujer es la de tener un hijo, aunque por el momento prefiere esperar, pues tiene mucho trabajo.

La versión en español del álbum en inglés "Thalia" saldrá al mercado el 8 de julio; la intérprete realizará su primera gira mundial para finales de año, cuando visitará países de América Latina, Europa y Asia con su repertorio de 15 años como cantante.

cisamente lo que promete: pura diversión escapista y fácil, una excusa para mostrar persecuciones frenéticas al volante y una historia que, aunque no tiene mucho sentido, entretiene a más de un fanático de la velocidad.

"Decidi no desnudarme en esta película, aunque me lo pidieran", aseguró Eva Mendes. "Yo no tengo mayor problema con el desnudo por sí, siempre y cuando esté bien justificado. Lo hice para Training Day (su película anterior), pero aquí no tenía sentido".

La joven actriz conoce muy bien el terreno, a pesar de su corta carrera. Con cuatro películas este año, es considerada la gran promesa entre las futuras estrellas de Hollywood, éstas que atraen las masas y cobran veinte millones de dólares por película.

"Tuve la fortuna de ser el único actor del patio escogido en un papel importante", expresó Roberto Sanz, con un certero acento cubano. "Yo no había actuado profesionalmente con anterioridad, tan sólo había modelado. Con este chancé en la película no tuve más remedio que mudarme a Los Ángeles, esto es lo que quiero hacer durante el resto de mi vida".

Asentado de Miami, a donde llegó muy joven desde Cuba, Sanz dejó atrás a su familia por alcanzar ese sueño dorado de Hollywood. Sin embargo, si todo sale bien, planea traerse a sus más allegados a la costa oeste muy pronto.

Amaury Nolasco se ha destacado anteriormente en personajes televisivos, pero es en 2 Fast 2 Furious donde tiene la oportunidad de demostrar su talento y su interés por esas máquinas de la velocidad. Este joven actor puertorriqueño quiere llevar a la pantalla una de las figuras más importantes del deporte en su país: Roberto Clemente.

"No te voy a decir que no me diverti haciendo esta película. Fue una maravilla trabajar con John Singleton (el director) y el resto del elenco. Pero también sé lo que estoy haciendo. Este film es puro escapismo", aseveró Nolasco. "Puedes ser honesto con tu personaje y dar lo mejor de ti, pero lo que realmente cuenta aquí son las máquinas. Ellas son las verdaderas protagonistas", dijo con una sonrisa de oreja a oreja.

### Early Ed Director to Testify before

#### Congressional Subcommittee on Head Start

Trust for Early Education Executive Director Amy Wilkins to Testify Before Congressional Subcommittee on Head Start

As Congress continues to consider Head Start reauthorization legislation, Trust for Early Education Executive Director Amy Wilkins will testify before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Education Reform. The Subcommittee's hearing will focus on the recently introduced School Readiness Act of 2003 - H.R. 2210 -- which would strengthen education and training standards for Head Start teachers and allow states that meet a specific criterion to participate in a federal-state partnership.

Wilkins will praise provisions in the Act which would raise teacher quality by requir-

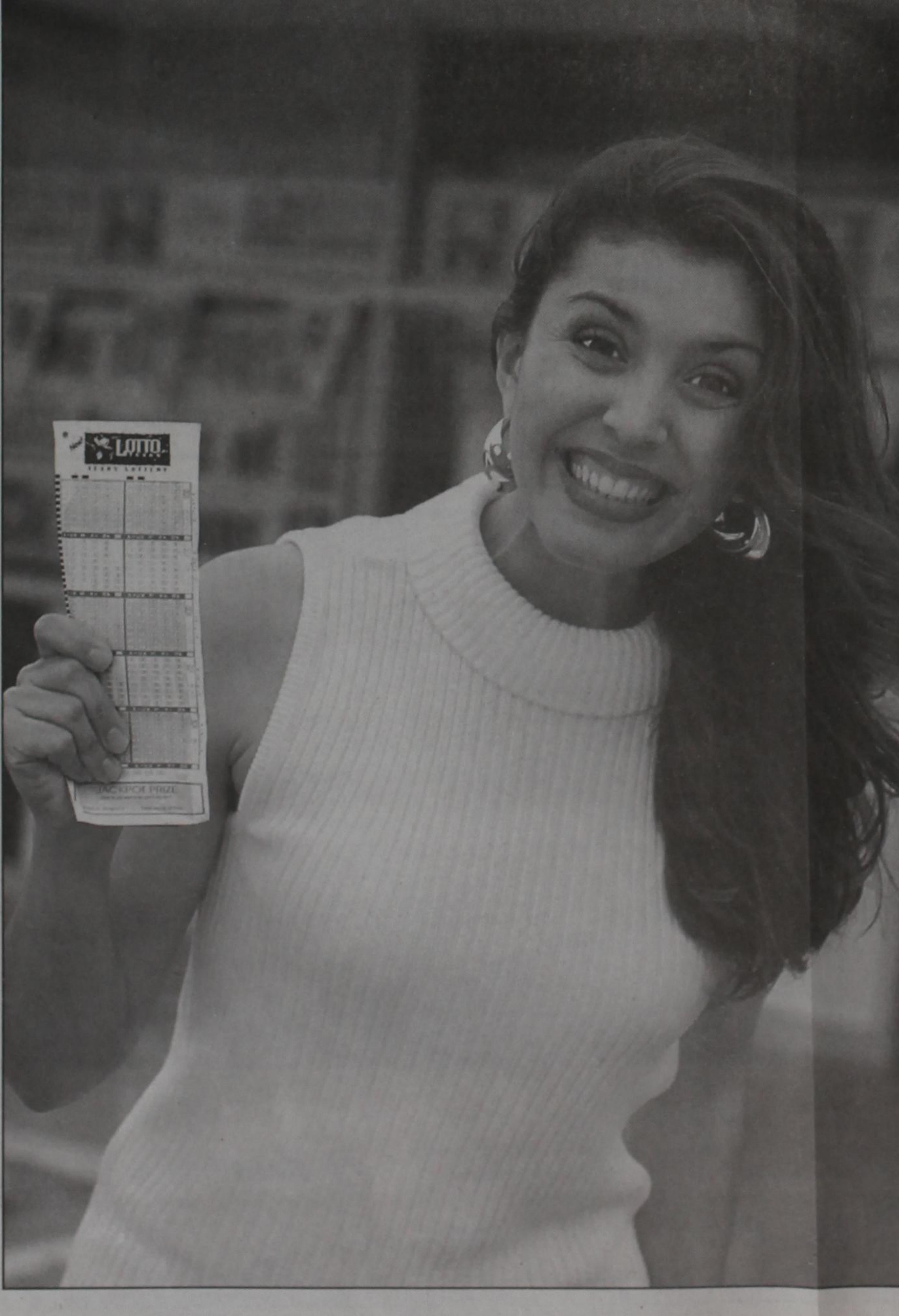
ing half of all Head Start teachers to hold Bachelor's degrees with specialized training in early education by the year 2008 and comment on the need for improved legislative language that ensures the maintenance of existing Head Start services while offering opportunities to coordinate Head Start with a limited number of state financed pre-Kindergarten programs.

WHO: Amy Wilkins, Executive Director, The Trust for Early Education

WHAT: Wilkins will testify before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Education Reform as the Subcommittee reviews Head Start reform legislation.

WHEN: June 3, 2003, 10:00 AM, EDT

WHERE: 2175 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C.



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## Foreman leads class of '03 at Boxing Hall of Fame

For once, George Foreman wasn't the dope at the end of Muhammad Ali's rope. And he wasn't selling anything, either.

And it felt so good.

"It's wonderful. Finally, I'm not the Grillman," Foreman said Sunday with a big smile, holding aloft his new ring signifying his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. "I'm a boxing Hall of Famer, and I love it."

And he didn't let the moment pass without poking a little fun at that.

"Michael Moorer was fighting me and I was fighting him," Foreman said. "About the ninth round, he started asking in his own way, 'Is that all you got George?'

"And I remember thinking, 'No, I've got the George Foreman Lean Mean Grilling Machine.'"



Foreman, who ruled the ring in reigns separated by two decades and became the oldest heavyweight champion in history during an improbable comeback a decade ago, led this year's induction class.

Fifteen other boxers, officials and ring personalities also were enshrined, including: Mike McCallum of Jamaica, a champion in three divisions; Nicollino Locche, a world lightweight champion from Argentina with a reputation as one of the finest defensive boxers in history; welterweight champion Curtis Cokes, one of Foreman's idols; Oscar-winning writer Budd Schulberg, and journalist Jack Fiske.

Foreman grew up in Marshall, Texas, and was a self-proclaimed mugger and street brawler by age 15. He found the sport that would make him famous after joining the Job Corps, where a counselor and boxing coach redirected his life.

Foreman won the National AAU heavyweight championship in 1968, then Olympic gold at the Summer Games in Mexico City in just his 25th amateur bout.

With ex-heavyweight champ Sonny Liston as his sparring partner, Foreman turned pro in 1969 and ripped through opponents, winning his first 37 fights, 34 by knockout.

On Jan. 22, 1973, the hard-punching Foreman claimed the heavyweight crown by dropping champion Joe Frazier to the canvas six times in two rounds before knocking him out in Jamaica.

After successfully defending his title twice, Foreman met Ali in the "Rumble in the Jungle" in Zaire, on Oct. 30, 1974. Ali KO'd the seemingly invincible Foreman in the eighth round, using his famed tactic to tire Foreman and pull off one of boxing's greatest upsets.

"You know about the rope a dope?" Foreman asked. "I'm the dope."

Foreman continued boxing until March 17, 1977, when he dropped a 12-round decision to Jimmy Young. In the locker room after the fight, Foreman said he underwent a religious experience that took him from the ring to the pulpit. He continues to preach at his Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After a 10-year absence, Foreman astounded the boxing world by returning to the ring despite being overweight, out of shape and long past his prime. He recalled the moment to boisterous laughter from the hundreds of fans looking on.

"I got back into boxing, and it was rough going," Foreman said. "People were making jokes, 'How is George Foreman ever going to become the prodigal son of boxing if he still looks like the fatted calf?' He can't be heavyweight champ of the world as long as his training camp is Baskin Robbins."

"I heard it all, but I knew how to box," he said.

And he proved it on Nov. 5, 1994. At age 45, Foreman KO'd 26-year-old Michael Moorer in the 10th round to win the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles.

Foreman retired for good in 1997 with a record of 76-5 with 68 KOs and has made far more money outside the ring than he did in it by pitching his fat-cutting grill across the country.

## Martin's tenacity pulls Nets even, 77-76

By CHUCK CARLTON

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

To Kenyon Martin, the New Jersey Nets needed the urgency of a Game 7.

In Game 4 of the NBA Finals, he delivered the emotion that comes from desperation.

His 20 points, 13 rebounds and dogged determination led the Nets to a 77-76 win

Wednesday night over the San Antonio Spurs to even the series at two games apiece.

"It was a must-win game for us," Martin said, aware that no team had ever rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the Finals.

Game 5 is Friday at Continental Airlines Arena before the series returns to San Antonio for Game 6.

"A series lots of people thought wouldn't be a series is a series," New Jersey coach Byron Scott said. "Now, it's best two out of three."

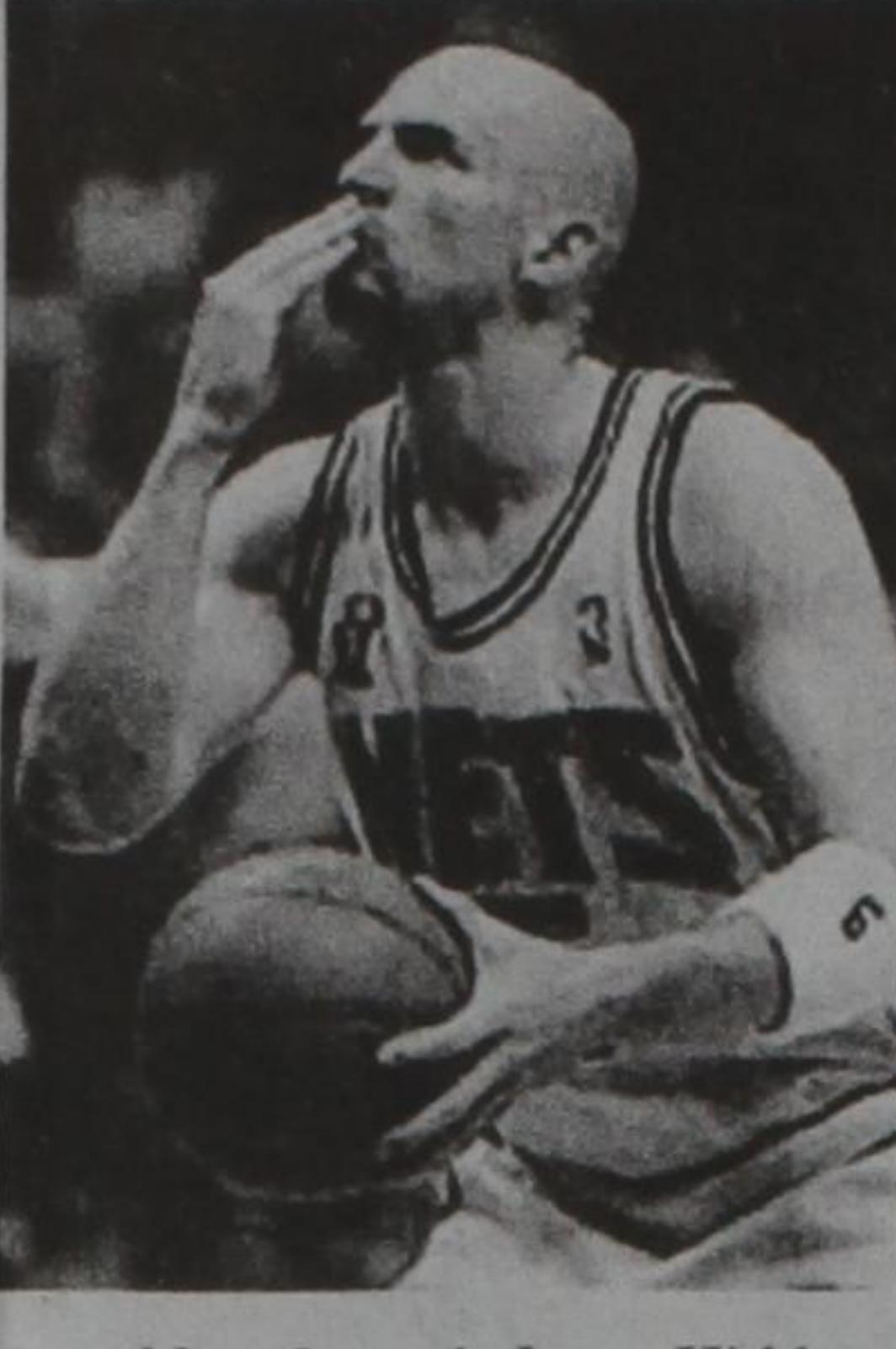
Martin's tenacity came in a key sequence for the Nets.

He took the ball against Tim Duncan and the heart of the

Spurs' defense three times in one sequence.

The first two times, his shot came back in his face courtesy of Duncan.

The third time, Martin got the foul call on Duncan and converted both free throws for a 73-72 New Jersey lead with 1:12 remaining.



New Jersey's Jason Kidd goes through his routine of blowing a kiss before shooting a free throw.

"I was just trying to get a call ... and I got it," said Martin, a Bryan Adams graduate. "I was going to make something happen. I was in attack mode, getting to the rim."

The Nets never trailed again after Martin's two free throws.

Even before his effort inside, Martin set a tone with his attitude, refusing an offer from Duncan to be helped up after a scramble.

"That was sheer determination. He wasn't going to be denied," Scott said. "Every time he got one blocked, he outmuscled and outhustled people to get it back. It was pretty much indicative of how we played."

New Jersey's Jason Kidd bounced back from his torching by Tony Parker in Game 3 with 16 points, nine assists and eight rebounds. He made four consecutive free throws in the final 9.1 seconds to hold off the Spurs.

The Spurs had one last chance to tie and appropriately

misfired.

Manu Ginobili missed an open 3-pointer with three seconds remaining, and Duncan's putback at the buzzer left San Antonio a point short. Duncan led the Spurs with 23 points and 17 rebounds.

The Spurs shot 28.9 percent from the field and the numbers were even worse on closer review.

Malik Rose missed all nine of his field goal attempts. Stephen Jackson was 1-for-9. Parker shot 1-for-12 and was replaced for a long stretch of the second half by Speedy Claxton.

Outside of Duncan and David Robinson (14 points, seven rebounds), the rest of the San Antonio roster combined to make 12-of-62 shots.

Robinson singled out Parker after the game.

"Tony has to do a better job of staying involved in the game and picking and choosing his moments," Robinson said. "And I don't think Tony did a very good job of that."

## Lewis to defend title against Klitschko

Vitali Klitschko is getting his chance to fight Lennox Lewis earlier than expected.

Lewis will defend his heavyweight title against Klitschko on June 21 at Staples Center.

Klitschko's scheduled opponent, Kirk Johnson, dropped out of the fight after tearing a chest muscle in training. That accelerated the Lewis-Klitschko bout that was planned for later this year.

Klitschko is the No. 1 contender for Lewis' WBC heavyweight title and was scheduled to fight on the undercard. His fight against Cedric Boswell was canceled.

"When he first signed to fight Kirk Johnson, I was surprised. I was surprised again when Kirk Johnson got hurt. Now I am even more surprised."

"When he first signed to fight Kirk Johnson, I was surprised. I was surprised again when Kirk Johnson got hurt. Now I am even more surprised."



Klitschko said Monday. "This has been a lifelong dream of mine to fight Lennox Lewis. I'm very excited about the opportunity. It is going to be a great fight."

Promoting the revamped card on short notice should not be a problem, according to Steve Brener, the public relations manager for the fight.

"We had a heavyweight championship before. This is just a tougher opponent for Lennox," he said.

Lewis (40-2-1, 31 knockouts)

hasn't fought since successfully defending his WBC-IBF crown by knocking out Mike Tyson in the eighth round in Memphis, Tenn., on June 8, 2002.

He said he was pleased about the rescheduling because he otherwise probably wouldn't have fought until November.

Vitali Klitschko replaces Kirk Johnson, who pulled a muscle in his chest (Getty Images)

"This way, I can fight now and again in November," Lewis

said. "It's like an early Christmas present."

Klitschko (31 years old, 32-1, 31 knockouts) thought he had a deal to fight Lewis in April. Lewis wanted to fight a rematch against Mike Tyson instead, but Johnson was scheduled for the bout when Tyson didn't agree to it.

Lewis, 37, previously had agreed to meet the 6-foot-7 Klitschko by December to stop litigation over whether Lewis owes him a mandatory title defense.

Lewis predicted the fight won't go the 12-round distance.

"I do not get paid overtime," he said. "Klitschko has been calling me out for some time. But he is in big trouble. He should be careful what he wishes for. On June 21, he is going to find out what it is like to be in with an A-class world champion."

The fight card will be broadcast live on HBO.

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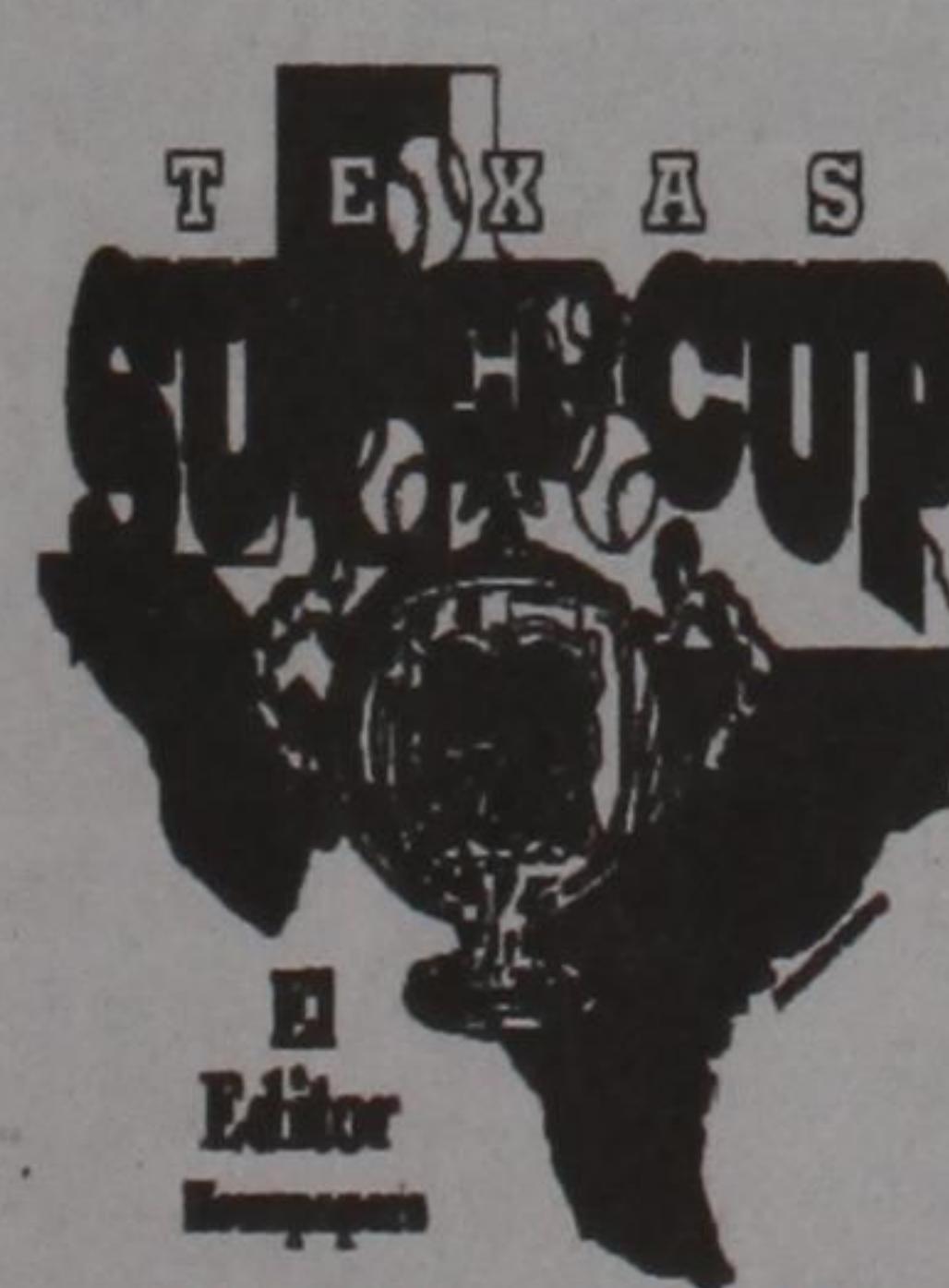
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# Bush Pledges to 'Reveal Truth' on Weapons of Mass Destruction

President Bush defended the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq on Thursday and pledged that "we'll reveal the truth" on Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. He surveyed Baghdad from Air Force One as he flew back to Washington.

"We've made sure Iraq is not going to serve as an arsenal for terrorist groups," Bush said in a speech at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, his coat off and shirt sleeves rolled up as he spoke to a sea of tan camouflage-clad U.S. soldiers manning the command center for the Iraq war.

Bush noted the recent discovery in northern Iraq of what U.S. intelligence agencies say are probably each part of a mobile biological weapons production facility.

No complete production system has been found. Neither trailer had any biological agent inside, nor showed any signs that they had been used to produce biological weapons.

"We're on the look. We'll reveal the truth," Bush said, without specifically promising weapons would be found. "But one thing is certain: no terror-

## From Page 2

derechos civiles, el Tribunal Supremo falló en su contra. Dictaminó que Martínez no había sido perjudicado legalmente al no ser informado de sus derechos por los policías.

Con este fallo absurdo estamos todos amenazados.

También víctima de un ataque severo es la cuestión de la acción afirmativa, la cual establece que es necesario hacer un esfuerzo de buena fe en las prácticas laborales, admisiones universitarias y contratación gubernamental, para asegurar una representación diversa de la población.

Esta práctica aumentó la aceptación de latinos, negros y mujeres entre otros grupos a las instituciones de educación superior. Pero ahora los opositores a la acción afirmativa la acusan de ser discriminación contra los hombres blancos. Muy convenientemente hacen caso omiso del hecho que si no hubiera existido la discriminación en primer lugar, no habrían sido necesarias las leyes de acción afirmativa. En California, muchas veces la primera en aprobar iniciativas que perjudican el bienestar de los latinos, se promueve una propuesta que prohibiría que las agencias públicas recojan datos en cuanto a la raza de los solicitantes.

A pesar del maluso que se le da, esta información tiene mucha utilidad positiva. Permite que las agencias públicas determinen patrones o áreas de necesidad para poder responder a ellos con mayor efectividad. Esto incluye la entrega de mejores servicios educacionales, de salud y de seguridad pública, servicios de los que dependen muchos latinos.

Francamente, si fuéramos ciegos al color de la piel en esta sociedad, no habría razón de recoger información racial. Por degracia, no es así. Como consecuencia, hasta que la raza no sea un factor importante en el trato de individuos, tales datos juegan un papel crucial en querer promover la igualdad de trato a todos.

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ist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi regime because the Iraqi regime is no more."

Bush's visit came as questions swirl around his primary justification for the conflict in Iraq - that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction and was poised to use them.

U.S. and British forces have yet to find tangible evidence that Saddam had stocks of chemical and biological weapons ready to use. In a recent interview with Polish television, Bush pointed to the two trailers to say, "We found the weapons of mass destruction."

The president, fresh from a two-day mission aimed at bringing peace to the Middle East, emphasized the improvements the war brought to Iraq. He mentioned the word "freedom" repeatedly and spent little time on the weapons issue.

The troops are trying to thwart a wave of crime that Bush blamed on Saddam, who he said emptied jail cells of "common criminals" just before the war and left his people hungry and desperate.

"The world is now learning what many of you have seen," Bush told about 1,000 troops, who cheered every other sentence. "They're learning about the mass graves. They're learning about the torture chambers. Because of you, a great evil has been ended. Because of you, the dignity of a great nation is being restored."

Bush blamed Saddam for neglecting his country's infrastructure, without mentioning damage from the war.

"A more just political system will develop when people have food in their stomachs, and their lights work, and they can turn on a faucet and they can find some clean water - things that Saddam Hussein did not do for them," Bush said.

Bush spoke to troops in a warehouse at Camp As Sayliyah, the temperatures climbing despite the air conditioning. After his remarks, the president paused to shake hands with troops. Soldiers held cameras and video recorders above their heads to get pictures.

"I've been on the road for a while and I hope you didn't mind us stopping by," Bush said. "I'm happy to see you and so are the long-suffering people of Iraq."



Earlier Thursday, Bush met privately with Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of all U.S.-led forces in the Persian Gulf and with L. Paul Bremer, the new head of the occupation authority in Iraq, to discuss the progress of Iraqi reconstruction.

He also paid a courtesy call to the emir of Qatar, a country that has been a longtime U.S. ally. Bush said he was the first U.S. president to visit the tiny Persian Gulf nation, and left for Washington immediately afterward.

Escorted by four F-18 fighters, two on each wing, Air Force One made a pass over Iraq as Bush left the Middle East. It was just after noon local time, and the pilot tipped the wing to improve the view from 31,000 feet.

Bush sat on a bench looking out a left-side window with Secretary of State Colin Powell, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and White House chief of staff Andrew Card beside him.

The president pointed out landmarks in Baghdad, including two airports, a predomin-

nantly Shiite area known as Saddam City and the site of the first night's attack.

The president's major ally in the war, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is embroiled in the biggest controversy of his six years in power, accused of exaggerating the dangers posed by Iraq.

But Bush's approval ratings remain high in U.S. polls. And his visit here, his first to the region since combat ended, was akin to a victory lap after a seven-day trip to Europe and the Middle East.

Bush has blunted criticism of his role in the Iraq war by throwing his energy into drumming up support for an internationally drafted peace plan that would result in the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

He won support for the effort from Arab leaders on Tuesday, and was able to wring concessions on Wednesday from both the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers.



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Additional information or questions regarding the Request for Qualifications should be addressed to

the Texas Tech University System: Project Manager: Robert Cameron. Contact via phone (806) 742-7330, Fax 806-742-7337 or e-mail: [robert.cameron@ttu.edu](mailto:robert.cameron@ttu.edu).

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"Great and hopeful change is coming to the Middle East," Bush said in Aqaba as he shared a platform with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority and the king of Jordan.

On the way from Aqaba to Qatar, Bush told reporters he was pleased with his initial successes on the Israeli-Palestinian front.

"It's progress," Bush said. "These first signs of peace hap-

pen when people make up their minds to work toward peace, and that's what you saw."

Still, he added, "I am the master of low expectations. We accomplished what I hoped we'd accomplish. We met expectations."

Qatar has been a close U.S. ally in the region since the 1991 Gulf War. During the latest war, the United States used Qatars as command headquarters for the conflict.

## Para todos los Padres del mundo Happy Father's Day!

### El Editor Newspapers

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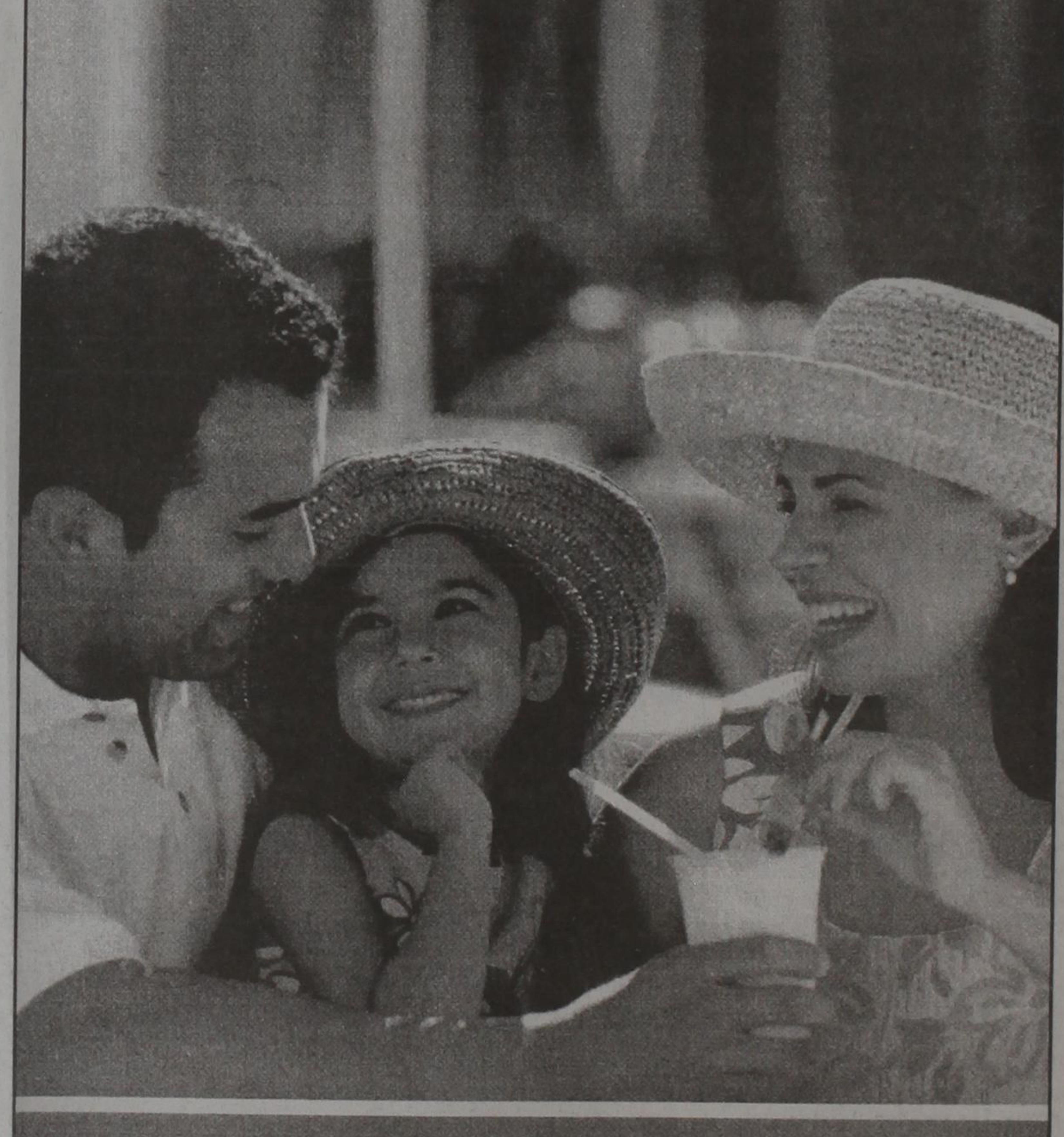
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