

Members of a group called the Concerned Citizens of Lubbock wrote a letter to the LISD Superintendent Jack Clemmons last week expressing serious concerns over the current proposal of the Lubbock Independent School District to the potential closing or substantial status change of four neighborhood elementary schools, two junior high schools and one high school all of which are located on the east side of Lubbock.

The letter was presented to Clemmons at a hearing held at Alderson Junior High at which more than 300 persons attended.

The letter said that the group understood the right and responsibility of LISD to restructure the schools and school programs based on economic factor but further stated that "Nevertheless, the disproportionate impact that will certainly and significantly effect the east side of Lubbock, whose demographic makeup is approximately 95% African American and Hispanic, is unfair and most probably unconstitutional."

"The LISD proposal entitled 'Proposal for Restructuring of

LISD," in a subtle and rather clandestine manner, proposes the closure of Parkway and Posey elementary schools, the elimination of Alderson as a junior high school and its ultimate restructuring. In addition, the plan calls for the reconfiguration of the east side schools of Dunbar Jr. High School and Estacado High School. No other community in Lubbock is being impacted in such a severe manner. This is being done despite the fact that all four of the elementary schools directly effected have experienced increased enrollment over the past five years.

It is further noted that the LISD system is based on a neighborhood educational plan. If the planned school closures occur, there will be sufficient evidence to show disparate treatment when compared to other parts of the district. The plan would also require the bussing of very young children (K-2). Ironically, this would seem to violate LISD's own neighborhood school policy.

Furthermore, there is an appearance of bad faith on your part in the manner in which

things have transpired. For example, when you held the initial board meeting on this matter you chose a small room for the possessing knowledge of a projected large turnout given that the meeting was published in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal. Also, LISD worked on this proposal for several months obviously utilizing paid (taxpayer) personnel and resources. You now have provided the general (volunteer) citizenry only 30 days to produce alternative proposals and allotted only three (3) minutes for the presentation. The unofficial gag order on your teachers and school administrators is additional evidence of bad faith. A-

We respectfully ask that, until an alternative community based plan can be developed. Dr. Clemmons, the School Board and entire LISD administration stay the vote and the implementation of the current proposal with respect to Parkway Elementary, Posey Elementary, Hunt Elementary, Bozeman Elementary, Alderson Jr. High, Dunbar Jr. High, and Estacado High Schools. We point out that all of these schools, which are

physically located in East Lubbock (Quadrant 4), have student bodies consisting primarily of African-American and Hispanic children. Under this plan the change in any east side school inextricably effects every other school and the entire community. We are also cognizant of the fact that with the exception of Stubbs Elementary Schools your proposed plan for redistricting, substantially change in or closing other elementary and junior high schools with declining enrollment in other parts of the City have dropped. The question of equity, fairness, and disparate treatment is again raised.

We acknowledge that LISD has experienced a noticeable drop in enrollment due to students who have transferred out of the district. As you know, LISD has a liberal in a district transfer policy. It is significant to note that students living on the east side of Lubbock (Quadrant 4) comprise a large number of intradistrict transfer students due to a lack of east side school, programs. Most importantly, these students stay within the Lubbock Independent School Dis-

trict. These students are not involved in a flight patten to surrounding school districts. This means that the east side student state and federal funding and local tax dollars remain within LISD. If your plan is implemented, the greater east side community will be negatively and disproportionately impacted to address a south and west side economic night problem out of the LISD.

Finally, the concern citizens of Lubbock TX request that we be given a minimum of 120

days from the date of this letter to present "viable" alternative proposals, with significant community input, and a minimum of a one hour presentation. We also seek input from teachers and school administrators. A free exchange of information is needed in this process. Consequently, we ask that your unofficial gag order be lifted.

For questions please call (806) 747-6400 or (806) 741-1553. Please provide your written response to: concerned citizens of Lubbock, Texas P.O. box 1115, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

Sincerely
Concerned Citizens of Lubbock Texas

"El Respeto al
Derecho Ajeno
es La Paz."

"Respect for
the Rights of
Others is Peace"

Lic. Benito
Juarez

EL EDITOR

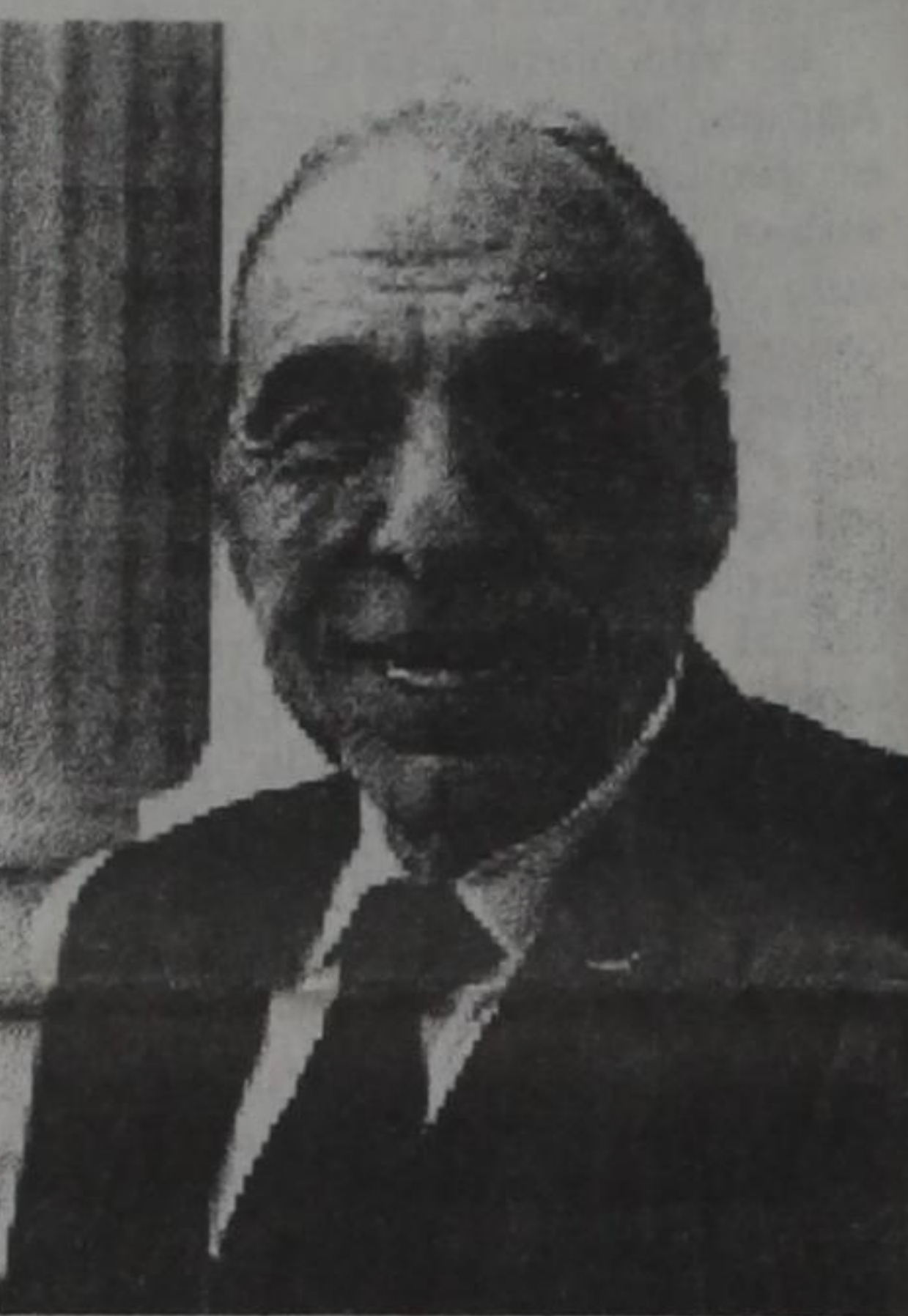
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World Loses Maverick Congressman, Henry B. Gonzalez

By James E. Garcia

San Antonio, Nov. 29 (Politico) -- Former Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, who represented his San Antonio constituents for 37 years before retiring in 1998, died on Tuesday. He was 84.

San Antonio Express-News Columnist Gary Martin, writing in his newspaper's Wednesday edition, described Mr. Gonzalez as "a voice for the downtrodden and racial minorities" who was elected to office in an era of racial segregation. Mr. Gonzalez, a



Mexican American, was the first Latino from Texas to serve in the House of Representatives.

Rev. David Garcia, a Catholic priest who administered the last rites to Mr. Gonzalez, said the former congressman died peacefully and surrounded by family late Tuesday afternoon in a San Antonio hospital.

"It was a very beautiful, a very intimate moment with the family and with Henry," Garcia said.

Hospital officials did not disclose the cause of death, but family members said Mr. Gonzalez awoke Tuesday morning complaining of a fever and dehydration. Two years ago, the congressman announced his plans to retire in 1997 after developing a rare heart ailment.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, who replaced his father in Congress and recently won reelection, told reporters at a brief press conference Tuesday evening, "It is a sad day, but I think we need to remember the contribution that my father made."

Throughout his 42-year political career, Mr. Gonzalez was regarded as an independent and trailblazing public official who

prided himself on challenging authority, sometimes even in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds.

In 1956, Mr. Gonzalez became the first Hispanic elected to the Texas Senate in 100 years. In an era in which blatant racial discrimination was still openly tolerated, it was not an easy victory. It took three recounts to determine Mr. Gonzalez had won - and by only 309 votes.

In the Texas Senate, Mr. Gonzalez forged his reputation in history forever when he filibustered for a record 22 hours to express his contempt for pending bills designed to keep Texas schools segregated.

Five years later, Mr. Gonzalez was elected to the U.S. House and would serve 18 consecutive terms. There, too, he would become a champion of civil rights legislation. As he raised his right hand and was sworn into office, Mr. Gonzalez held gripped in his left hand a draft of a bill to end poll taxes that discriminated against the poor and minorities. His proposal would eventually become part of the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965, a bill signed into law by fellow Texan, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

According to Martin, Mr. Gonzalez told his Democratic colleagues in the House shortly before he retired that when he first joined Congress, "I was something of a curiosity, being the only so-called ethnic minority member in my delegation. I was accepted as a peer, but that was not to say I felt welcomed. And I stand before you today, accepted, but seen by some as an inconvenience and unwelcome obstacle."

"They cannot say that I have failed," Gonzalez said, "only that they fear I will."

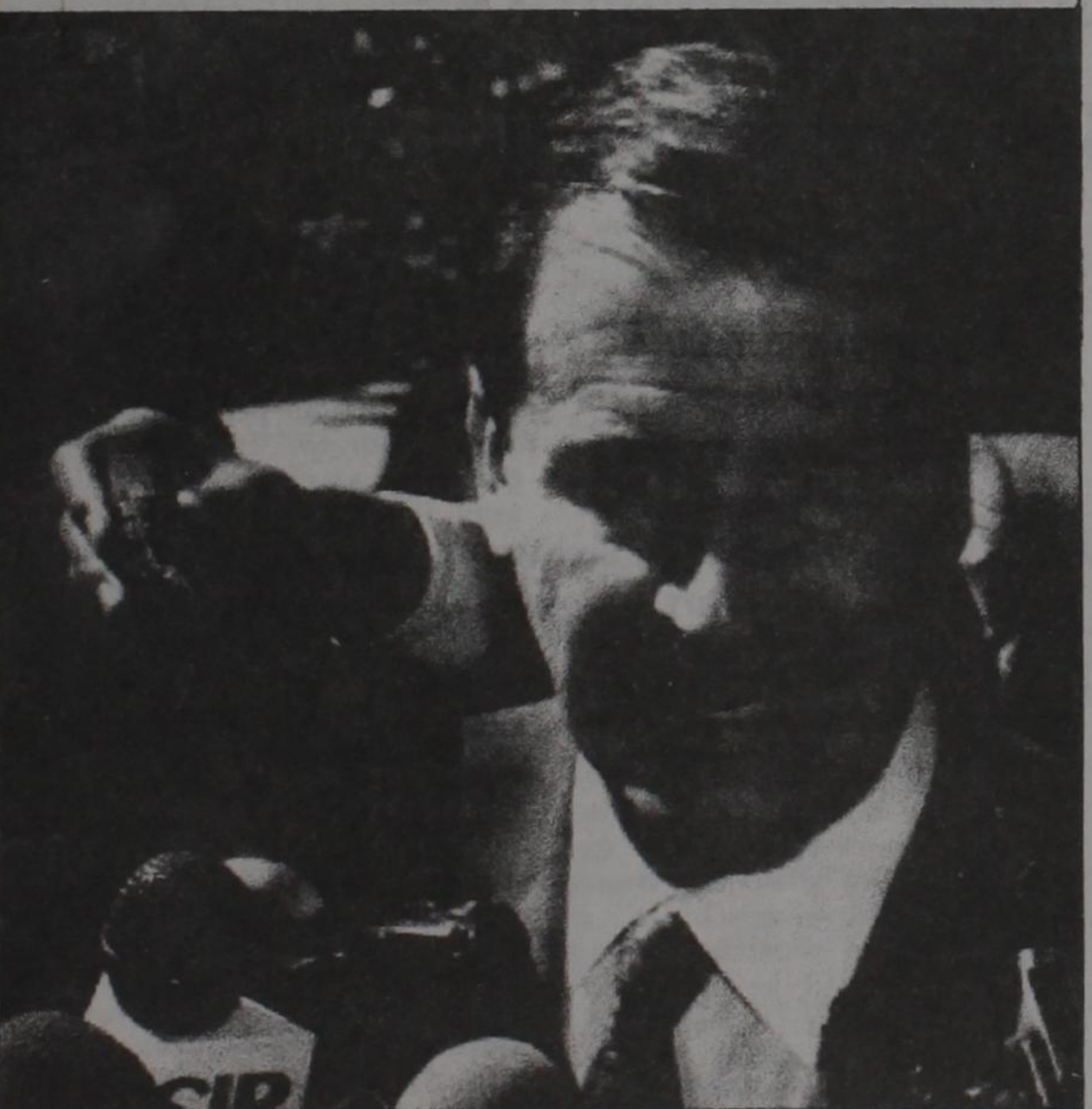
James E. Garcia is editor-in-chief of the online and weekly e-letter, Politico.

Fox Makes History Friday, Set Strategy with Cabinet

Mexico's President Elect Vicente Fox officially will begin a new political era Friday when he ends a 71-year reign of the Institutional Revolutionary Party's control of the highest office. Every decision he has made, including the country's new cabinet, which he named Friday, has tried to prove his administration will establish a "true democracy."

Mexican Embassy officials said in a statement that the team includes Secretariat of Finance Francisco Gil Diaz and Jorge G. Castaneda Secretariat of Foreign Relations. Secretariats of Economy, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Environment, Agriculture, Tourism and a General Coordinator of Public Policies, responsible for overseeing that policies implemented by the secretariats are consistent with the new government's long-term objectives, were also named.

Speaking at a news conference at the Museum of San Carlos in Mexico City, President-elect Fox said that he was committed



Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox

to fostering wealth and economic growth hand-in-hand with human development during his tenure. He also said that better income distribution and the eradication of corruption and the fight against poverty will be the main priorities of the next government.

"The new government will work under the guidelines of a transparent administration and is founded on the principles of honesty and responsibility," he said.

Fox's tasks are large. He must deal with widespread poverty, a suffering educational system, the longstanding cultural conflict in Chiapas, a paradoxical economy and the struggle to rid government of corruption.

He has a vision of fair elections, a respect to human rights and an end to corruption. His strategies to try to accomplish this can be seen in his cabinet appointments.

The new cabinet

Secretary Gil Diaz, responsible for Mexico's tax system reform, holds an undergraduate degree from ITAM, a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago, and is a former deputy finance secretary for revenue and deputy governor at the central bank. The 57-year-old Chief Executive Officer of long-distance telephone operator Avantel, S.A. has said that he would seek to improve public finances by cutting government costs and improving tax collection. He has also stressed that he would promote economic growth by seeking lower real interest rates for Mexican firms.

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El Muro Azul Del Engano

Por Miguel D. Martin

Fuó un momento de definición.

La defensora pública me sonrió, y entonces preguntó: "¿Daría usted más verosimilitud al testimonio de un(a) agente de policía, sencillamente porque él o ella fuera un agente de policía?"

Yo contesté: "Sí."

Ella pareció estar sorprendida. Me había reconocido como el hermano de un colega suyo, defensor público, y como activista de la comunidad mexicanoamericana. Estoy seguro de que ella sintió que yo sería un antagonista de la policía, no un partidario.

Cualesquiera ilusiones que ella tuviera acerca de conservarme en la relación de posibles miembros del jurado se disiparon rápidamente. Después de unas cuantas preguntas vacilantes más, fui eliminado de la relación.

Mi respuesta habría sorprendido a muchos que me hubieran

conocido durante años. En mi juventud, y cuando era un adulto joven, yo compartía la percepción de mis iguales de que los agentes de policía no estaban en la comunidad mexicanoamericana para "proteger y servir," sino para hostigar y arrestar. Pero, a medida que hacía mi recorrido a través de la escuela superior y la escuela de derecho, y que me adentraba en mi vida profesional, mis percepciones cambiaron.

Presté servicios como fiscal de lo criminal en la ciudad de San José, California, en mi segundo empleo después de graduarme como abogado. Aunque sólo tramitaba contravenciones, abarcaba todos los señalamientos, desde el auto de procesamiento hasta el juicio por jurado.

Y defendía a los agentes de policía municipales en los asuntos criminales y civiles.

En el poco tiempo que estuve allí, llegué a conocer a muchos agentes del departamento de policía. Y la cautela y desconfianza

mación propia, sus matrimonios, su cordura, y a menudo hasta sus vidas en el trabajo.

Y, sí, yo estaba convencido de que estos agentes nunca cometerían perjurio en el estrado de los testigos, bajo cualesquiera circunstancias que yo pudiera pronosticar.

¿Cuántos momentos definidores se nos asignan en la vida?

Estoy atravesando otro, precipitado por los casos de Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, Tyisha Miller, Margaret Mitchell, Félix Hernández, Thomas Jones y el escándalo de la División Rampart del Departamento de Policía de Los Angeles.

Diallo, acerbado con 19 balas por agentes de policía de Nueva York, mientras sacaba su billetera; Louima, brutalizado y sodomizado por otros agentes de Nueva York; Miller, sobresaltado desde un estado de semi-conciencia y después herido de bala 12 veces mientras estaba sentado en su auto, por agentes de policía de Riverside, California; Margaret Mitchell, una mujer desamparada y enferma mentalmente, enfrentada y después herida a tiros por un agente de policía de Los Angeles cuando

ella esgrimió un destornillador; Hernández, un joven de 16 años desnudo, desorientado y desarmado, tiroteado por otro agente de policía de Los Angeles; Jones, presunto secuestrador de automóviles cuya golpiza inmisericorde, propinada por la policía de Filadelfia, fue grabada en cinta de video y sacada al aire reiteradamente, al estilo de Rodney Jones.

Entonces llegó el escándalo de Ramparts en Los Angeles, que confirma todos los temores y todas las sospechas de los activistas minoritarios que se han quejado durante mucho tiempo de la brutalidad e ilegalidad de sobre los agentes que había llevado conmigo durante gran parte de mi vida desaparecieron.

Llegué a la conclusión de que el agente de policía racista y caprichoso era una caricatura en mi conciencia, una aberración. La inmensa mayoría de los agentes a quienes yo conocía eran servidores públicos decentes y honrados, que tomaban en serio sus juramentos de proteger y servir.

Tan horribles como fueron estos incidentes, no fué la conduc-

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Texas Credit Unions Trying to Attract More Latinos

According to available U.S. Census figures, a majority of Texas's 6 million Hispanics that are 25 years and older are of Mexican descent, with 83 percent employed in service or skilled jobs and only 31 percent in possession of a high school education or higher.

Although not typically high-earners, with a median earning of \$16,800 for men and \$13,700 for women, Commerce Bancorp's Chief Economist Joel Naroff says that there is no evidence out there that implies that Mexico-born immigrants do not have a desire to save.

"Those of Mexican-descent tend to be family-oriented and often reside in communities that are considered the 'underserved' areas, making them a target group for smaller-type financial institutions, such as credit unions," Naroff aid.

The Texas Credit Union League, which represents nearly 670 of the state's credit unions and six million consumers, agrees, saying that the current influx of Hispanic immigrants increases demands and opportunities in financial services and not just the usual staples of education and employment.

They point to the success of the Border Federal Credit Union (Del Rio, of which ap-

proximately 70 percent of its members are of Mexican-descent. Located on the border of the Mexico city of Acuna, many of the members live and/or work in Mexico, according to Maria Martinez, President of the credit union.

As the Hispanic population continues to rise in Texas, so does the credit union's membership, Martinez said.

"Because of our close proximity to Mexico and the fact that the majority of our members are of Mexican-descent, about 80 percent of our staff are bilingual. In fact, it is our policy that anyone who deals with our members must be bilingual," Martinez said. "Our credit union has a reputation in our community and in Mexico of serving the under-served and we feel it is important for the growth of our credit union and the movement to serve this segment of the population."

In 1999, the U.S. Census reported that 50.7 percent of the United States' 26.4 million foreign-born residents came from Latin America, with Mexico accounting for 28 percent of that number. A large percentage of those that are seeking freedom and financial independence settle in Texas, which the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates to increase to nearly 6.3 million by 2001 and 6.5 mil-

lion in 2002.

Increasing credit union access globally

The Border Federal Credit Union is not alone in its opinion about the importance of serving this often overlooked group. The World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and the Texas Credit Union League (TCUL) have been working closely with Mexico's President-Elect Vicente Fox to devise alternative ways in which to better assist the Hispanic population with their financial needs in both the United States and Mexico. Of primary concern is to offer more efficient and cost-effective ways in which to transfer money from the United States to Mexico.

It is estimated that seven billion dollars a year are sent from the United States to Mexico, and the average "processing fees" by vendors are as much as 20-30 percent of the remittance.

To address this concern, WOCCU created a product called IRnet, which will enable the citizens of Mexico and the Mexico-born immigrants living in the United States to more easily and cost-effectively transfer money between the two countries. The system is currently being offered in Texas and California.

"The greatest benefit of IRnet is that money transactions will occur through a credit union, whose goal is to serve member needs rather than take advantage of them by charging them exorbitant fees for these transactions," said TCUL President and CEO Dick Enswiler, who serves as an Advisor to Fox's Transition Team.

A pilot IRnet transfer was conducted in October from Government Employees Credit Union of El Paso. Harriet May, President of the credit union commented that the IRnet system is an opportunity for credit unions to take the lead in international relations with Mexico and make a positive impact in the credit union movement.

"This is good for members, this is good for credit unions, this is good for the movement and this is good for Mexico," May said.

In addition to promoting the IRnet service, TCUL formed a Texas and Mexico Credit Union Relations Committee to foster relationships with Texas credit unions and those in Mexico.

"IRnet is a wonderful service that credit unions can provide; however, consumers can only benefit from this service if they are aware it is available," said Maritta Bush, TCUL's Senior Vice President.

Bush said that the history of inadequate financial institution legislation and improper management at many of Mexico's financial institutions causes many Mexican citizens to be weary of their financial institutions. She hopes that show the citizens of Mexico that credit unions are different from other financial institutions and they can trust credit unions to handle their money.

Giving Thanks for The Election

by ROGER HERNANDEZ

Hard to tell whether the election mess election is going to make the public more cynical about politics, or more interested.

Check out more coverage at Latino.com's Elections 2000 page. What will they make of the Wise Men called in to lend gravity to the occasion, the gray eminences -- the Warren Christophers, the James Bakers -- who became Wise Guys putting on brass knuckles to lead a mob of lawyers into a battle where dignity is trampled and partisan spin is the only thing that matters.

Hard to believe anybody is fooled by the claim that it was all done to defend The Will of The People. To Bush's forces the people's will is best defended by stopping while he's ahead, no matter how many votes go uncounted. Gore's forces defend it by not quitting until their man is up, no matter how many recounts it takes, under ever-changing rules invented on the fly by local Democratic hacks.

"The importance of getting it right outweighs the importance of rushing to judgment," says Christopher, to whom recounts and re-counts are an essential part of democracy.

"It's all subjective, and therefore it presents terrible problems of human error and potential for mischief," says Baker to whom recounts and re-counts present a grievous harm to democracy.

Does anybody doubt for even one second that if the situation were reversed, with Bush needing an "accurate" count and Gore needing a "rapid" count, Messrs. Baker and Christopher would be saying the exact opposite of what they are saying now?

Actually, it did happen that way. When the Florida absentee votes came in, dominated by pro-Bush military personnel overseas, Democrats looked for ways to disqualify ballots and end the counting quickly while Republicans demanded every single vote be counted and recounted if need be. If the hypocrisy on both sides wasn't clear then...

All we need now is to see the graybeards dive under a table at some ballot-counting room to grab a loose Chad.

Well, they probably have aides to do that. But what great video it would make for the 6 o'clock news. Americans, in fact, are eating it up. We love it. One survey showed the story is being followed by more people more than the trial of O.J. or the death of Princess Diana. Keeping up with the twist and turns in the Bush-Gore battle has become an American spectator sport.

Maybe the tightness of the election will make people decide that each individual vote is of great importance, and turnout will go through the roof in the next election. Or maybe the cynicism of just about everyone involved will discourage even more voters, and turnout next election will hit an all-time low.

I don't know. But I do know this: Nobody is worried. There is utter, complete trust that after all the excitement is over, life will go on just as before.

"There is a lesson in this and I would simply say that I think this country is totally resilient, totally strong," said George Bush, the father. "Leaving out who wins or loses, this country will be just fine."

Poppy Bush is right. So right, in fact, that most Americans do not even see it. The political stability of this nation is so taken for granted that the notion it could be endangered by a mere election dispute is just not a concern.

Some of us came from countries where there are no elections at all, never mind messy ones. Many of us come from countries where an election as contested as this one raises worries about a total institutional breakdown, about the rabble storming the palace, about the military stepping in "to restore order." Here, such thoughts are so unthinkable nobody is even thinking them.

We came here to escape all that. American politics, as full of hypocrisy, cynicism and misguided self-interest as it has shown itself to be these past two weeks, is fundamentally sound. People are angry, but there are no crowds waiting to besiege the White House. The army -- it seems ludicrous even to say it -- is going to stay put. The crisis will be resolved in time for inauguration on January 20. And there will be another presidential election four years from now. Maybe even without an Electoral College to get in the way.

Yawn. For such ordinary certainties, many of us give thanks this season.

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La Asistencia a Una Escuela Superior Comunitaria Reflejo Contra Realidad

Por Anthony McCartney

Recuerdo la sensación de desilusión que tuve cuando me dí cuenta de que no iba a asistir a la escuela superior. Doce años de estudiar en los libros, una promesa hecha silenciosamente a un padre fallecido, y todo lo que yo podía hacer era estar sentado en el sofá, cambiar los canales del televisor y anticipar un otoño de largas horas de trabajo. No más estudios.

Cuando llegó septiembre, yo había dado el dinero de mi matrícula a mi madre para demorar un mes más el juicio ejecutivo de la casa, prometiendo que la escuela superior comunitaria no era para mí. Yo no había asistido a una escuela preparatoria para la escuela superior -- la mejor escuela secundaria parroquial de Los Angeles -- para unirme a los "perdedores" en una escuela superior de dos años, me dije a mí mismo.

Me había unido al 1 por ciento de los graduados de mi escuela que no continuaron su enseñanza.

No fué por falta de querer, según yo estaba convencido. Fué por falta de dinero.

Después de meses de trabajo y una andanada de críticas por parte de un amigo importante, mi alternativa rechazada volvió a entrar en mi cabeza. Aunque la universidad pudiera estar fuera del cuadro, la escuela superior no tenía por qué estarlo.

Al otoño siguiente, me tragué mi orgullo y me matriculé en la Escuela Superior de Santa Mónica, fácil de llegar en el transporte público. Por lo menos, se le consideraba una de las mejores escuelas superiores con cursos de dos años en el país.

Dos días a la semana, 12 horas al día, más un viaje de seis horas en el autobús, ida y regreso desde mi casa.

Al principio hice el papel de víctima. Después, a medida que observaba que muchos de mis antiguos amigos de la escuela secundaria desperdiciaban sus primeros años costosos en las universidades, empecé a mezclarme con mis nuevos compañeros de clases. Gradualmente, \$12 por unidad parecía ser inteligente.

Ahora acepto que, para más de medio millón de otros estudiantes latinos y yo, matriculados en las 1,132 escuelas superiores de dos años de todo el país, las escuelas superiores comunitarias proporcionan una alternativa real, no una perdedora. Entre 1976 y 1996, la matrícula de latinos en las escuelas superiores comunitarias se triplicó. Hacia 1996, 644,200 -- o sea el 11 por ciento de la matrícula estudiantil para cursos de dos años -- eran latinos. Eso se comparaba con los 508,100 que asistían a escuelas superiores de cuatro años. Me imagino que muchos otros jóvenes hispanos estén de acuerdo con mi selección inicial renuente.

Ahora creo verdaderamente que las escuelas superiores comunitarias proporcionan una oportunidad mejor para los estudiantes hispanos de edificar sobre su cultura y su gente, algo que parece perderse en la anonimidad de la estructura universitaria.

Los estudiantes hispanos necesitan asimilarse, pero también necesitan mantener su herencia cultural y adquirir habilidades necesarias para que puedan llevarse al mercado," dice Eduardo Martí, presidente

de la Escuela Superior de Queensborough, en la ciudad de Nueva York. El sistema de 17 escuelas de la ciudad de Nueva York incluye a seis escuelas superiores comunitarias.

Armando Rodríguez, ex-presidente de la Escuela Superior Comunitaria del Este de Los Angeles, vió de primera mano los beneficios de que una comunidad latina se interesara por su escuela. La comunidad circundante era aproximadamente un 70 por ciento hispana cuando él comenzó su presidencia en 1973; sin embargo, sólo el 32 por ciento de los 13,000 alumnos eran hispanos. Cinco años después, la matrícula había aumentado a 20,000, con una proporción hispana del 74 por ciento.

Las escuelas superiores comunitarias proporcionan tres elementos que no incluyen las escuelas superiores de cuatro años -- enseñanza superior preliminar para el ingreso en las escuelas de cuatro años, los grados asociados o vocacionales y programas de enseñanza vitalicia.

Durante decenios, las escuelas superiores comunitarias han combatido a la noción de que sus estudiantes sean víctimas del "darwinismo" -- perdedores demasiado obtusos o pobres como para tener éxito en una escuela superior de cuatro años.

Los maestros y administradores hispanos de las escuelas superiores comunitarias no aceptan esa noción. La presidenta de mi escuela superior, Piedad Robertson, ha enviado a sus cinco hijos a las escuelas superiores comunitarias. La familia del Dr. Amaury Nora, de la Universidad de Texas, su esposa y sus hijos son todos productos del sistema de escuelas superiores comunitarias.

Aunque él valora a las escuelas superiores comunitarias como una institución vital de los Estados Unidos, en su investigación el Dr. Nora manifiesta preocupación acerca de las tasas bajas de traslados a las escuelas de cuatro años.

El problema de lograr que los estudiantes latinos se matriculen en cualquier institución de enseñanza superior continúa siendo grande. En 1999, sólo el 20 por ciento de todos los hispanos entre las edades de 18 y 24 años estaban matriculados en escuelas superiores. Eso contrasta tristemente con el 37 por ciento para todas las demás etnicidades.

Dos organizaciones se destacan a medida que trabajan para enfocarse sobre las necesidades creadas por el 50 por ciento de aumento de los estudiantes en edad de escuela superior que se espera durante los 25 años próximos.

Una es la Asociación Hispana de Escuelas Superiores y Universidades (HACU en inglés). Esta incluye a 107 escuelas superiores comunitarias entre sus 260 miembros. Las 149 Instituciones de Servicio a los Hispanos de HACU tienen todas matriculadas hispanas del 25 por ciento o mayores.

El Consejo Nacional Hispano de Escuelas Superiores (NCHC en inglés), menos conocido, reúne a un grupo de presidentes y administradores de escuelas superiores comunitarias que se enfocan específicamente sobre los problemas singulares de las escuelas superiores comunitarias.

La presidenta del NCHC, Lydia Ledesma-Reese, es presi-

dentada de la Escuela Superior Comunitaria de Skagit Valley (SVC en inglés), en Mount Vernon, Estado de Washington, que es una comunidad con una población en aumento de trabajadores hispanos migrantes. La SVC no alcanza todavía el requisito del 25 por ciento de la HACU.

Skagit ofrece clases gratis de Inglés Como Segundo Idioma (ESL), pero la mayoría de los jóvenes latinos de ambos sexos de la zona no pueden costear el precio de \$54.30 por unidad de otros cursos. En Nueva York, los estudiantes pagan más de \$100 por unidad. En la Florida pagan \$49.65. Todos esos precios contrastan agudamente con el honorario de \$11 por unidad que yo pago en California.

"Debemos prepararnos hoy para lo que vemos en el horizonte," dice Juliet García, presidenta de la Universidad de Texas en Brownsville y de la Escuela Superior Southmost de Texas.

Junto con muchos dirigentes de la enseñanza, ella mira al efecto económico, así como al personal, si más hispanos no asisten a las escuelas superiores. Si los latinos terminaran los cursos de enseñanza superior a la misma tasa que los blancos, observa ella, agregarían \$118,000

millones a la economía de los Estados Unidos.

"Si este país no hace una inversión más importante en la enseñanza superior de la población hispana, entonces su futuro está en peligro," dice ella.

El mío ciertamente lo estuvo. Aunque mi deseo de ser el primer miembro de mi familia en terminar la enseñanza superior ha sido lo suficientemente fuerte como para llevarme de regreso a la escuela, las dificultades familiares y la deshabilitación sistemática bien pueden obstaculizar a otros como yo para que alcancen el mismo camino. Una enseñanza de escuela superior comunitaria está ayudando a convalidar mi pasaporte hacia un futuro que me permita efectuar un aporte verdadero a mi familia, a mi comunidad, y a éste, mi país.

(Anthony McCartney, cuya madre inmigró a California desde Guatemala, está terminando su segundo año en la Escuela Superior de Santa Mónica (SMC) y preparándose para ingresar en una institución con cursos de cuatro años. El ha prestado servicios como editor y columnista destacado con el periódico estudiantil de la SMC.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2000. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate, una división de Tribune Media Services.

Attending a Community College:

Reflex vs. Reality

By Anthony McCartney

I remember the abysmal feeling I had when I realized I wasn't going to college. Twelve years of hitting the books, a promise silently made to a deceased father, and all I could do was sit on the couch, flip the TV dial and look ahead to a fall of long hours working. No more studying.

When September came, I had handed my tuition money to my mom to staff off one more month of foreclosure on the house, vowing that community college was not for me. I hadn't gone to a college prep school -- the best parochial high school in Los Angeles -- to join the "losers" at a two-year college, I told myself.

I had become part of the 1 percent of graduates from my school who didn't continue their education.

It wasn't for lack of want, I was convinced. It was lack of money.

After months of work and a barrage of criticism from an important friend, my rejected option re-entered my head. While university might be out of the question, college didn't have to be.

The following fall, I swallowed my pride and enrolled in Santa Monica College, within reach by public transportation. At least it was touted as one of the better two-year schools in the country.

Two days a week, 12 hours a day, plus a six-hour commute on the bus to and from home.

At first I played the martyr. Then, as I observed many of my old high school friends squandering their expensive first years in universities, I started mixing with my new classmates. Gradually, \$12a unit seemed smart.

Now I accept that for me and more than half a million other

Latino students enrolled in the 1,132 two-year schools nationwide, community colleges provide a real option, not a losing one. Between 1976 and 1996, Latino enrollment in community colleges tripled. By 1996, 644,200 -- or 11 percent of the two-year student population -- were Latinos. That, compared to 508,100 attending four-year schools. I guess many other young Hispanics agree with my initially reluctant choice.

Now I truly believe that community schools provide a better opportunity for Hispanic students to build on their culture and gente, something that seems to get lost in the anonymity of the university structure.

"Hispanic students need to assimilate, but they also need to maintain their cultural heritage and gain skills necessary to be marketable," says Eduardo Martí, president of Queensborough College in New York City. The 17-school City of New York system includes six community colleges.

Armando Rodríguez, past president of East Los Angeles College, saw firsthand the benefits of a Latino community taking interest in its school. The surrounding community was approximately 70 percent Hispanic when he began his presidency in 1973; yet only 32 percent of the 13,000 students were Latino. Five years later, enrollment had bounded to 20,000, with a 74 percent Hispanic student population.

Community schools provide three elements that four-year schools generally do not -- preliminary higher education for transfer to four-year schools, associate or vocational degrees, and lifelong learning programs.

For decades, community colleges have fought the notion

that their students are the victims of Darwinism -- losers too dull or poor to succeed in a four-year school.

Hispanic community college teachers and administrators do not accept that notion. The president of my college, Piedad Robertson, has sent her five children to community colleges. The family of Dr. Amaury Nora of the University of Texas, his wife and his children all are products of the community college system.

While he values community colleges as a vital U.S. institution, in his research Nora expresses concern about low transfer rates to four-year schools.

The problem of getting Latino students enrolled in any institution of higher learning remains great. In 1999, only 20 percent of all Hispanics ages 18-24 were enrolled in college. That contrasts starkly to 37 percent for all ethnicities.

Two organizations stand out as they work to address the needs created by the 50 percent growth in college-age students expected over the next 25 years. One is the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. It includes 107 community colleges among its 260 members. HACU's 149 Hispanic Serving Institutions all have Latino student populations of 25 percent or more.

The lesser-known National Community College Hispanic Council brings together a group of college presidents and administrators focusing specifically on the unique problems of community colleges.

NCHC President Lydia Ledesma-Reese is president of Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Wash., a community with an expanding Hispanic migrant-worker population. SVC does not yet meet HACU's 25

percent requirement.

Skagit offers free English-as-a-second-language classes, but most of the young Latinos and Latinas in the area cannot afford the \$54.30 per-unit cost for other courses. In New York, students pay more than \$100 per unit. In Florida, it's \$49.65. All contrast sharply with the \$11-per-unit fee I pay in California.

"We must prepare today for what we see coming down our way," says Juliet García, president of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Along with many education leaders, she looks at the economic, as well as the personal, impact if more Hispanics do not go to college. If Latinos completed college at the same rate as whites, she observes, they would add \$118 billion to the U.S. economy.

"If this country does not make a more significant investment in the higher education of the Hispanic population, then its future is at stake," she says.

Mine certainly was. While my desire to be the first in my family to finish college has been strong enough to bring me back in, family hardships and systemic disenfranchisement may well block others like me from reaching the same path. A community college education is helping validate my passport to a future that will allow me to make a real contribution to my family and community and to this, my country.

(Anthony McCartney, whose mother immigrated to California from Guatemala, is completing his second year at Santa Monica College and preparing to transfer to a four-year institution. He has served as editor and featured columnist with SMC's student newspaper.)

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MALDEF, Jackson See Recount As a Civil Rights Issue

By Julie Amparano

Jesse Jackson and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund are urging officials to protect voting rights in Florida, saying civil rights issues were at stake.

"Today there is not a constitutional crisis," said Jackson, while on a tour of South Florida. Jackson is president of the Rainbow/Push Coalition Inc., a nationwide civil rights organization.

"There is a counting crisis," said Jackson. "We can afford to lose a race. We've lost many before. We cannot afford to lose a franchise."

In a press statement, MALDEF urged state and federal authorities not to concentrate only on determining who has won or lost, but to focus on the voters and "to take every possible measure to assure that their rights have been respected in the electoral process. Protecting the full promise of American de-



mocracy demands no less." On his tour across South Florida, Jackson rallied Latino, Jewish and Black voters to demand an accurate count in Palm Beach County. Some voters there are complaining that the design of the election ballot was so confusing that it caused them

to mistakenly cast ballots for conservative Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan.

Jackson called the breakdown of the electoral system is a civil rights issue as well as a political issue. He alleged that voters such as students, Haitian-Americans, and Latinos who are new citizens or migrant workers faced unique obstacles during the election.

MALDEF warned: "As the election process goes forward, we believe it is vital not to lose sight of what is truly at stake. Elections are not just about which candidate or political party wins in the end. Even more important than the candidates and their fates are the voters themselves - and whether the fundamental right of each voter to cast a ballot, and have his or her voice heard, has been honored."

havioral Health Services at Covenant Health System, said holiday blues occur when stress levels and expectations are high, which cause the amount of disappointments to be high. People who experience holiday blues may suffer from depression, headaches and inability to sleep. Other people may overeat or excessively consume alcohol.

The NMHA offers ways to cope with stress and depression during the holidays:

- * Set realistic goals for the holiday season and pace yourself. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do;
- * Leave yesterday in the past and look forward to the future. Do not set yourself up in comparing today with the "good ol' days";
- * Do something for someone else. Try volunteering to help others;
- * Enjoy activities that are free, such as window shopping, making a snowperson with children or driving around looking at holiday decorations;
- * Be aware that excessive drinking will only increase your feelings of depression; and
- * Save time for yourself, let others share in the responsibility of activities.

"Keep expectations realistic for yourself and others," Rains said. "When things aren't perfect, people get upset. Holidays are a time of joy. If you understand that people are doing the best they can, then you will have a much better holiday."

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Additional spring schedule information can be accessed through SPC's website at www.southplainscollege.com or by contacting SPC at 806-894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375, SPC Lubbock at 747-0576, ext. 4606 or 4601, or the SPC Reese Center campus at 885-3048, ext. 2902.

South Plains College will offer more than 20 courses via the Internet in addition to hundreds of traditionally-offered on-site classes for the spring 2001 semester.

"We offer courses through the Internet for persons who have access to a personal computer and who want to take college

courses at their own pace," said Andrea Rangel, dean of admissions. Registration for Internet courses will be concurrent with regular spring registration.

The SPC Reese Center campus, 9730 Reese Blvd. in Lubbock, has scheduled spring registration 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 8-9.

SPC Lubbock, 1302 Main in Lubbock, will hold spring registration 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 10 for returning students enrolled in fall 2000 and 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m. Jan. 11 for students not enrolled in fall 2000.

Registration is according to last name. Open registration is 6-7 p.m. Jan. 11.

SPC Levelland, 1401 S. College Avenue in Levelland, will have Financial Aid Award Day for pre-registered students receiving any type of financial aid 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 10. SPC Levelland's spring registration will be 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-6:30 p.m. A registration permit is required prior to evening registration beginning at 4 p.m.

Courses offered through the Internet on the SPC Levelland campus are Agricultural Finance, Cultural Anthropology, General Biology, Introduction to Computer Science, Developmental English, Composition I, Composition II, Technical Writing, World Literature I, World Literature II, American Literature, American Government, Fundamentals, History of U.S.

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El Compadre

Henry B. Gonzalez

By Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez

(WASHINGTON, DC) Long hours working at a Southside San Antonio gas station gave me the opportunity to meet dozens of people every day as I filled their tanks, checked their oil, and washed their windows. I still vividly recall the day -- some 40 years ago -- that a very special customer drove up and asked me to fill his tank. When I realized that Henry B. Gonzalez had parked his car at my pump, I was filled with pride and excitement. Even as a young teenager, I knew Henry B. and the legacy he was hard at work establishing. Congressman Gonzalez was a role model - a strong man with a strong work ethic - fighting for us all. But at that time, from me, he just needed gas.

>From my father's radio, I grew up listening to Henry B. My father referred to him as Compadre, figuratively the Alamo City's loving godfather. Most literally, he was a friend of the people. My dad's Compadre was famous for his blazing honesty, strong convictions, compelling oratory, and undying

dedication to public service. We know him now, and knew him then as a legend.

As the nation pays tribute to Henry B. and the hard-fought battles he championed, the Alamo City mourns the profound loss of one of the most well-known figures in Texas public office. He served proudly in the United States House of Representatives but, long before his famous days in Washington, our Compadre served as a civilian cable and radio censor for military and naval intelligence, as a Bexar County probation officer, the deputy director of the San Antonio Housing Authority, a city councilman, and a Texas State Senator fighting for our community. Henry B. spoke for those who have no voice of their own.

Then-State Senator Gonzalez's famous 36-hour filibuster succeeded in killing legislation which, among other things, would circumvent a Supreme Court ruling to desegregate schools. As a partisan firebrand in the United States Congress and the chairman of the powerful House Banking Committee,

Henry B.'s courage and unquestionable integrity brought honor to our community.

Congressman Gonzalez shepherded the construction of a medical school and veterans hospital in San Antonio, brought the HemisFair exposition to the city, passed measures protecting San Antonio's vital drinking water supply, supported area military installations, and worked to expose the 1980s savings-and-loan scandal.

In 1997, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives, our Compadre introduced me to the country as I was sworn in to Congress. As he introduced me to his colleagues of more than 30 years, I recalled with great pride his leadership throughout the years. I thought back to that afternoon at the gas station on Pleasonton Road, marveling at how far our community and nation had come through the single-handed devotion of Henry B.

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to a true American hero. Our Compadre dedicated his life to public service, and we have all benefited from his kindness and wisdom.

From Page One

mos la apariencia de los delincuentes "cabezas rapadas" -- una imagen que ha llegado a ser compatible con su conducta lamentable.

Y, por supuesto, no reconocen haber hecho nada malo ni haberse equivocado. Sin que importe cuán malamente puedan haber tropezado, ellos niegan la culpabilidad.

"Disfruté" de un momento surrealista recientemente mientras veía la reproducción de televisión repetida de la cinta de video del caso Jones, el presunto secuestrador de autos de Filadelfia, mientras era golpeado por agentes de policía.

Se pidió a las autoridades policíacas que comentaran a medida que se pasaba la cinta, y ellos trataron de convencer a los televidentes de que no estaban viendo lo que estaban viendo.

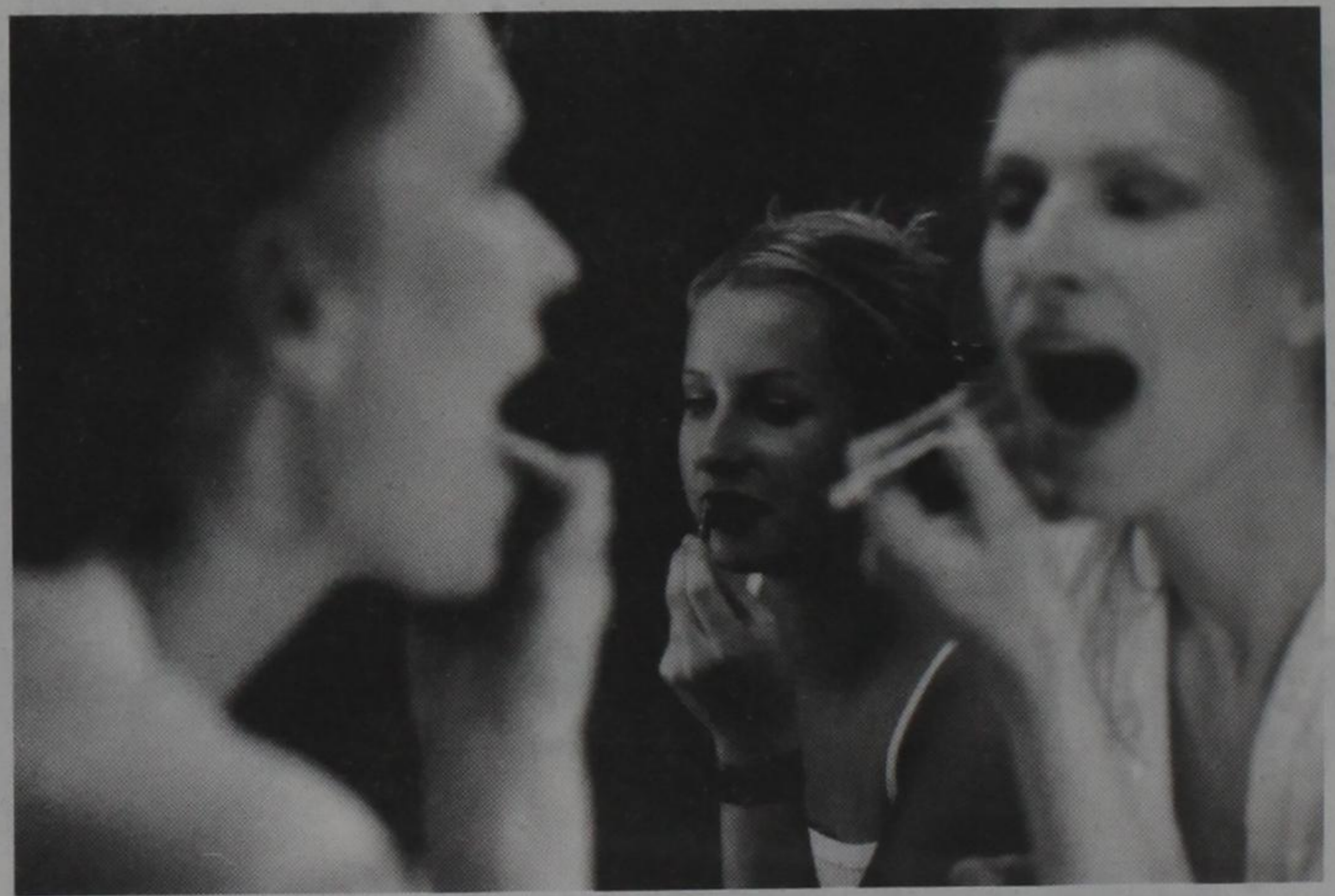
Además, ellos alegaron que el acusado acababa de disparar contra los agentes de policía, hiriendo a uno de ellos. Después, no obstante, nos enteramos

de que no se hicieron disparos por parte del acusado. Un agente hirió accidentalmente a otro.

Si se me preguntara nuevamente, como parte de un grupo de posibles miembros de un jurado, mi respuesta a la pregunta importante sería diferente. No, ya no considero más que los agentes de policía sean más verosímiles que las personas a quienes ellos defienden, sólo porque sean agentes de policía.

Aunque todavía creo que la mayoría de los agentes de policía son servidores públicos honrados y dedicados, ya no presumo más que ellos dirán la verdad, toda la verdad y nada más que la verdad cuando prestan declaración.

Si un abogado conservador de edad mediana (sobre asuntos de ley y orden) tiene una fe que se desvanece en la verosimilitud de los agentes de policía de la nación, eso no es un buen presagio para un agente-testigo en muchas de las salas de tribunales de nuestra nación.



No se puede determinar quién está encinta con sólo mirar en el espejo.

Para eso son las pruebas.

El grupo Childbirth Network (Red de Partos) le ofrece pruebas del embarazo, gratuitas y confidenciales de 8 AM a 5 PM de lunes a viernes. Sencillo, rápido, y recibirá los resultados de inmediato.

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La Childbirth Network es un programa de apoyo a las madres y los bebés, patrocinado por el Centro Médico Highland, el Centro de Manejo de Pacientes Externos de Diabetes de West Texas (The Diabetes Outpatient Management Center of West Texas) y el March of Dimes. Nosotros ofrecemos información de todo, desde cuidados durante el embarazo hasta medidas de seguridad para su bebé, y cualquier persona puede participar.

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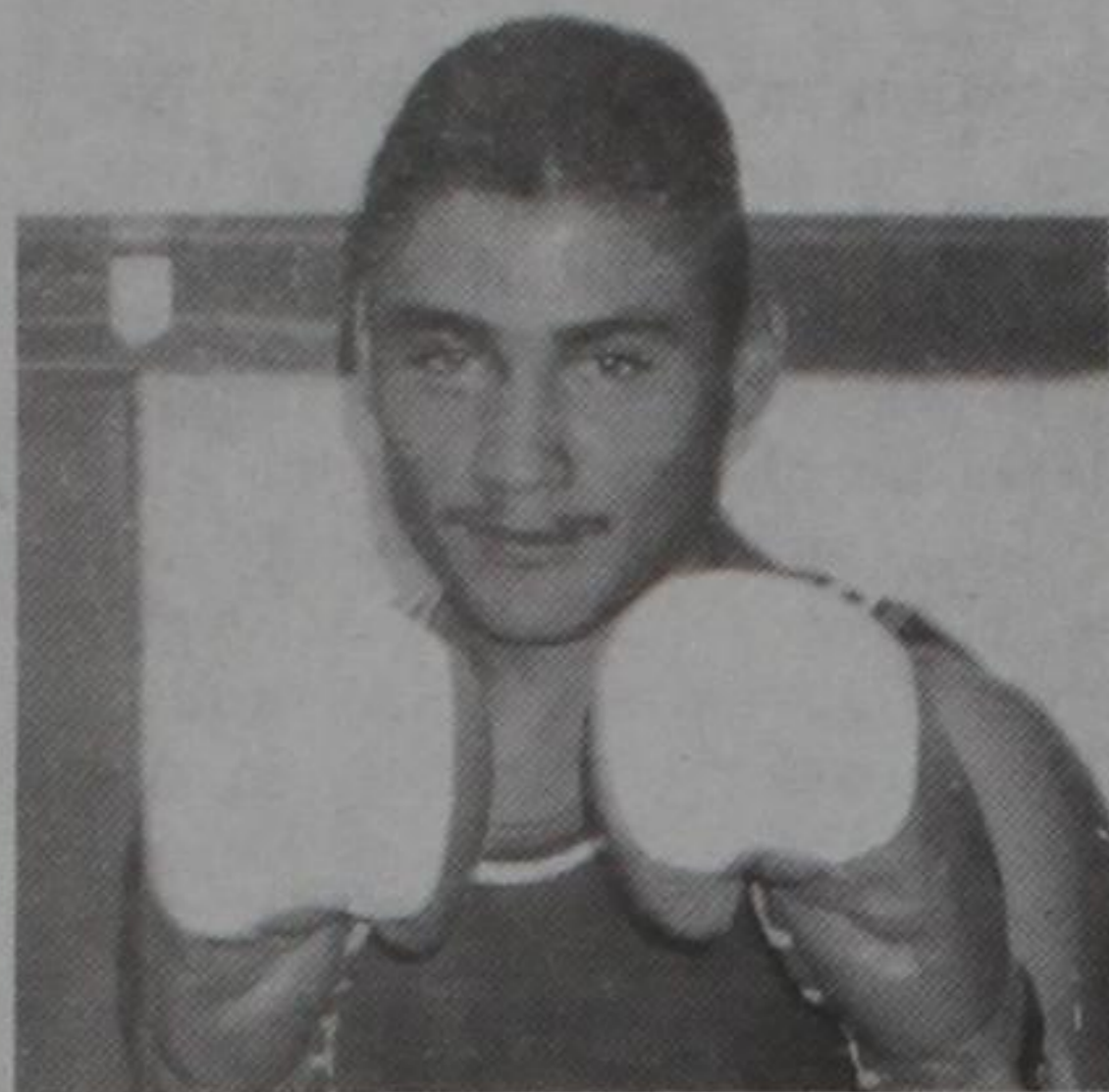
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Lubbock Hosts W.T. Boxing Tourney

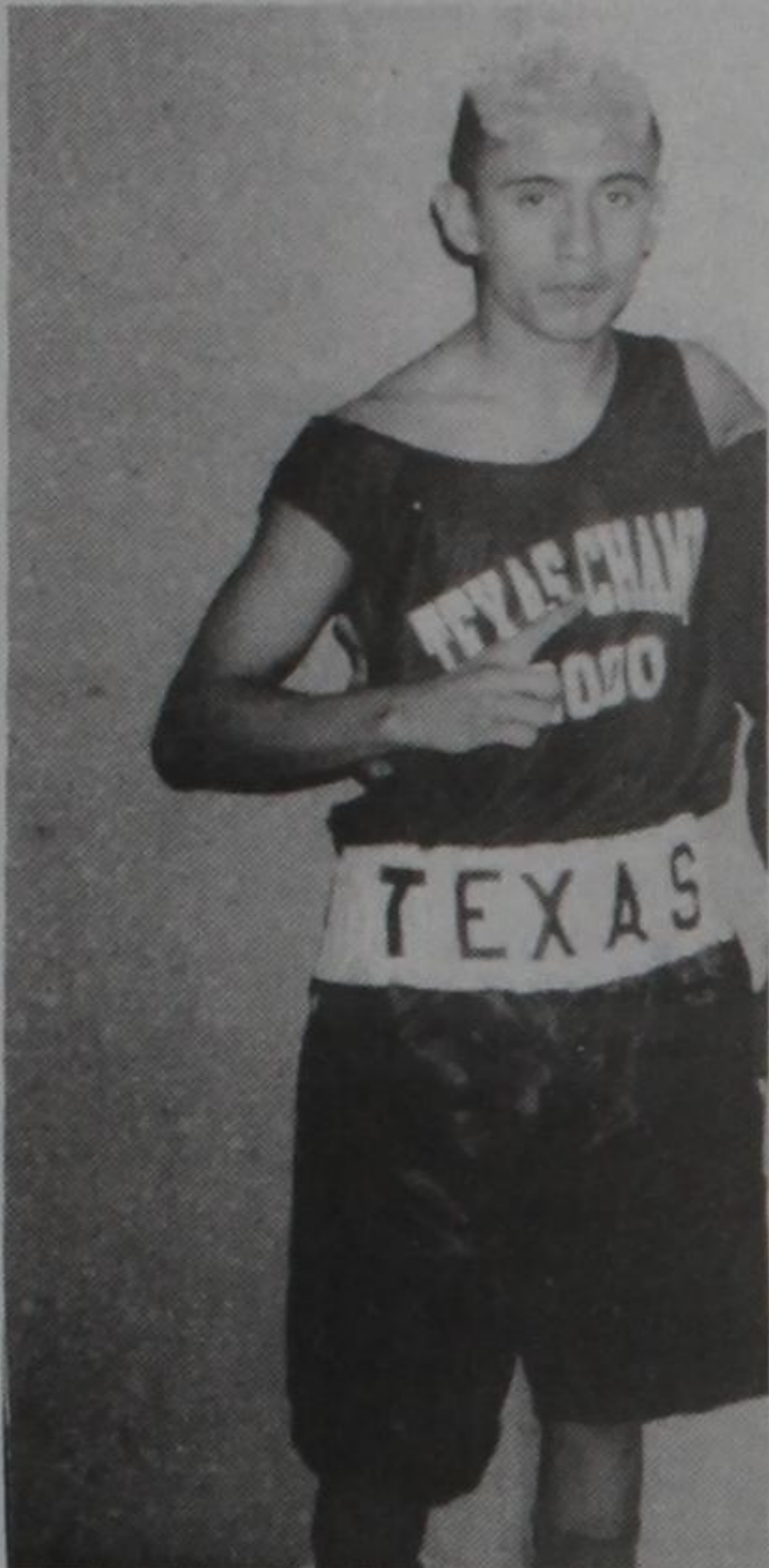
Boxers from throughout the West Texas Area will compete this coming Friday and Saturday at the West Texas USA Boxing Championships to be held here in Lubbock.

The tournament is scheduled to star at 7:30 Friday at the Christina Renewal Center located at 4th Street and Toledo Avenue.

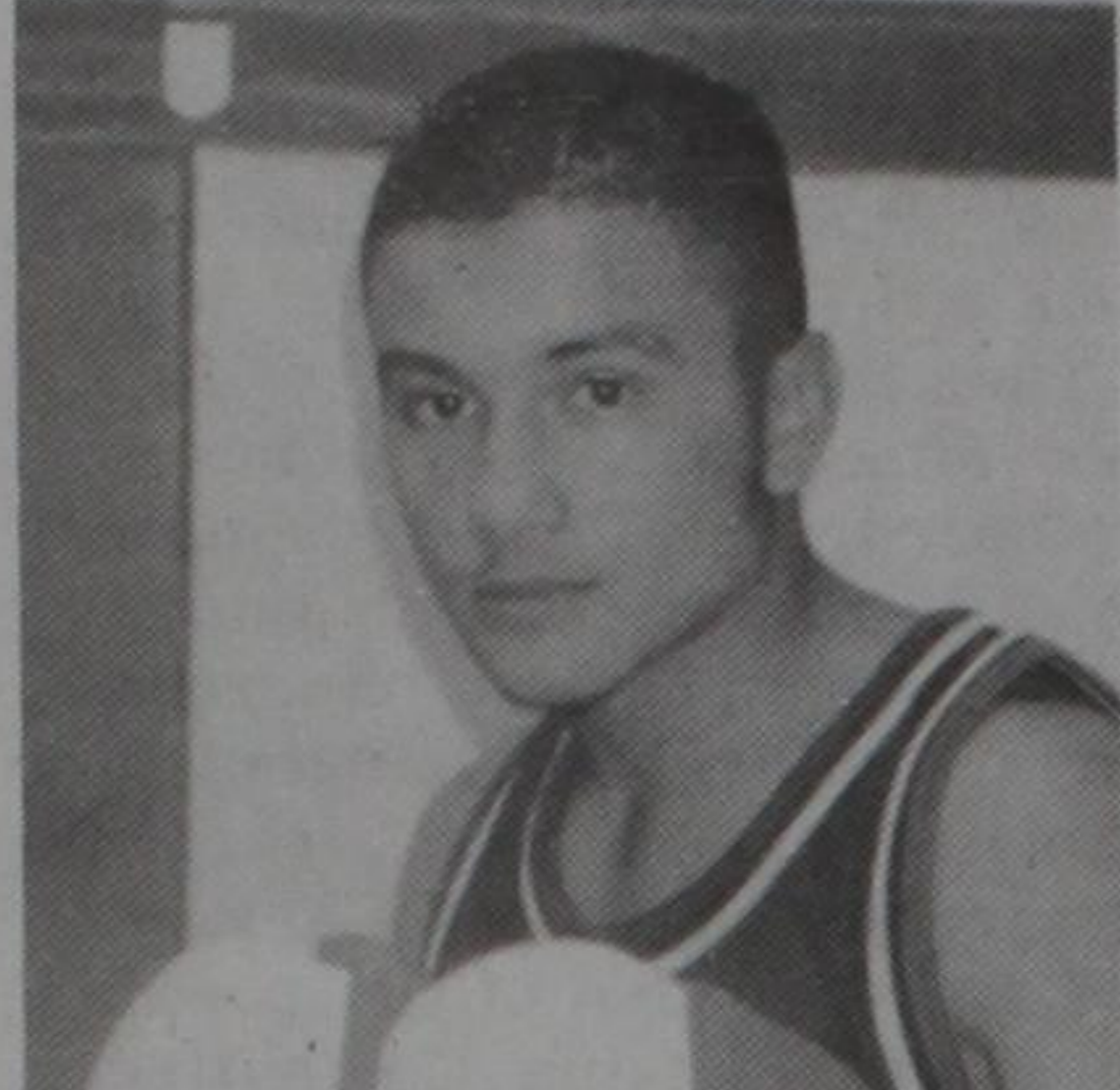
Admission prices are \$6 for Adults and \$4 for children.



Joseph Rosendo Jr. He is the Texas State Golden Gloves Champion at 165# Middleweight division.



Scheduled to represent the Warriors Boxing team is Hector Villarreal. He is the Texas State Golden Gloves Champion at 112# flyweight division.



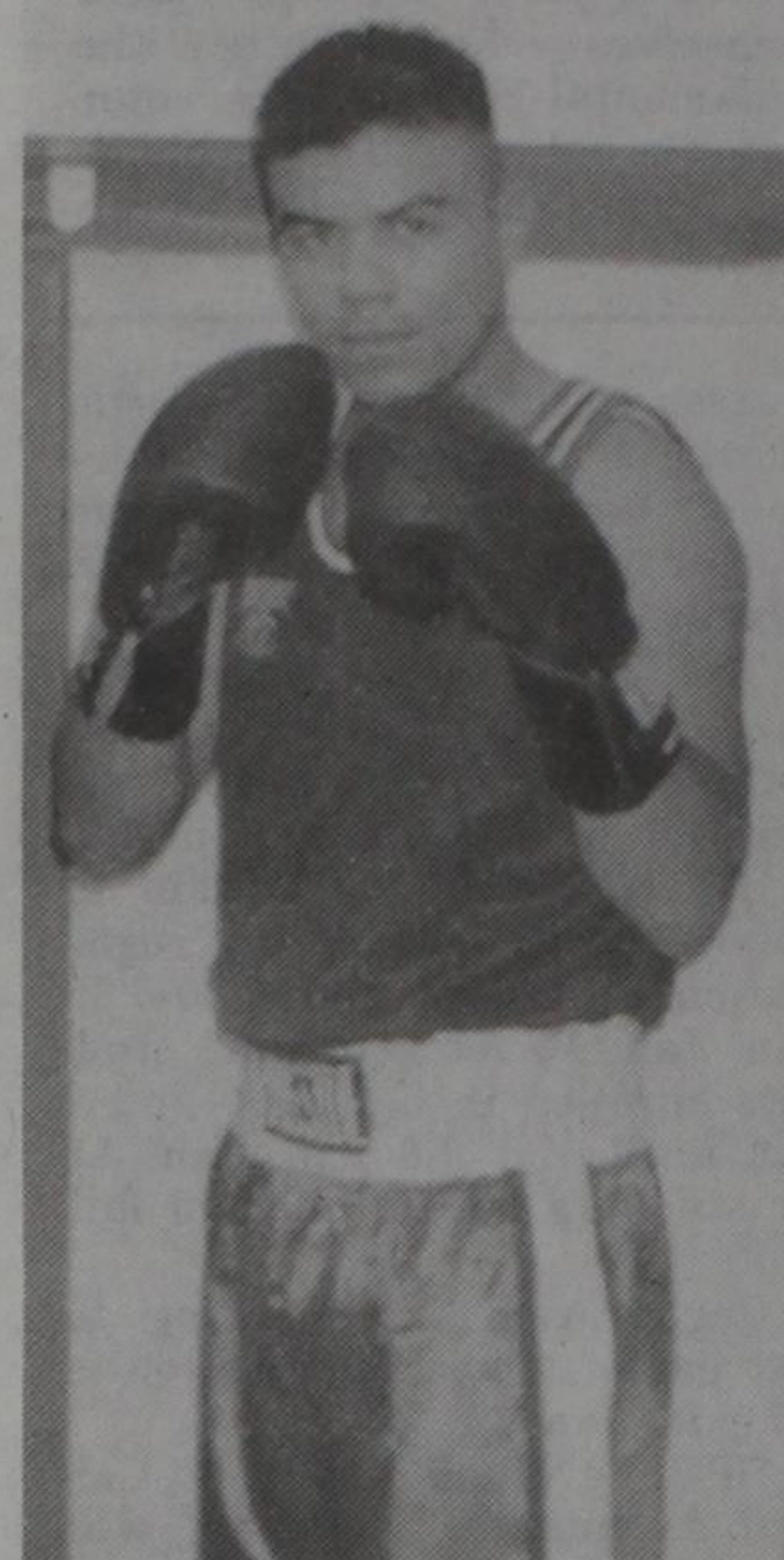
Javier Hernandez: He is the Texas State TAAF Champion at 125#.



Jeremy Perez: He is the Silver Gloves Champion at 119# Bantamweight division.



Manuel Valencia. He is the Texas State TAAF Champion at 132# Light weight division.



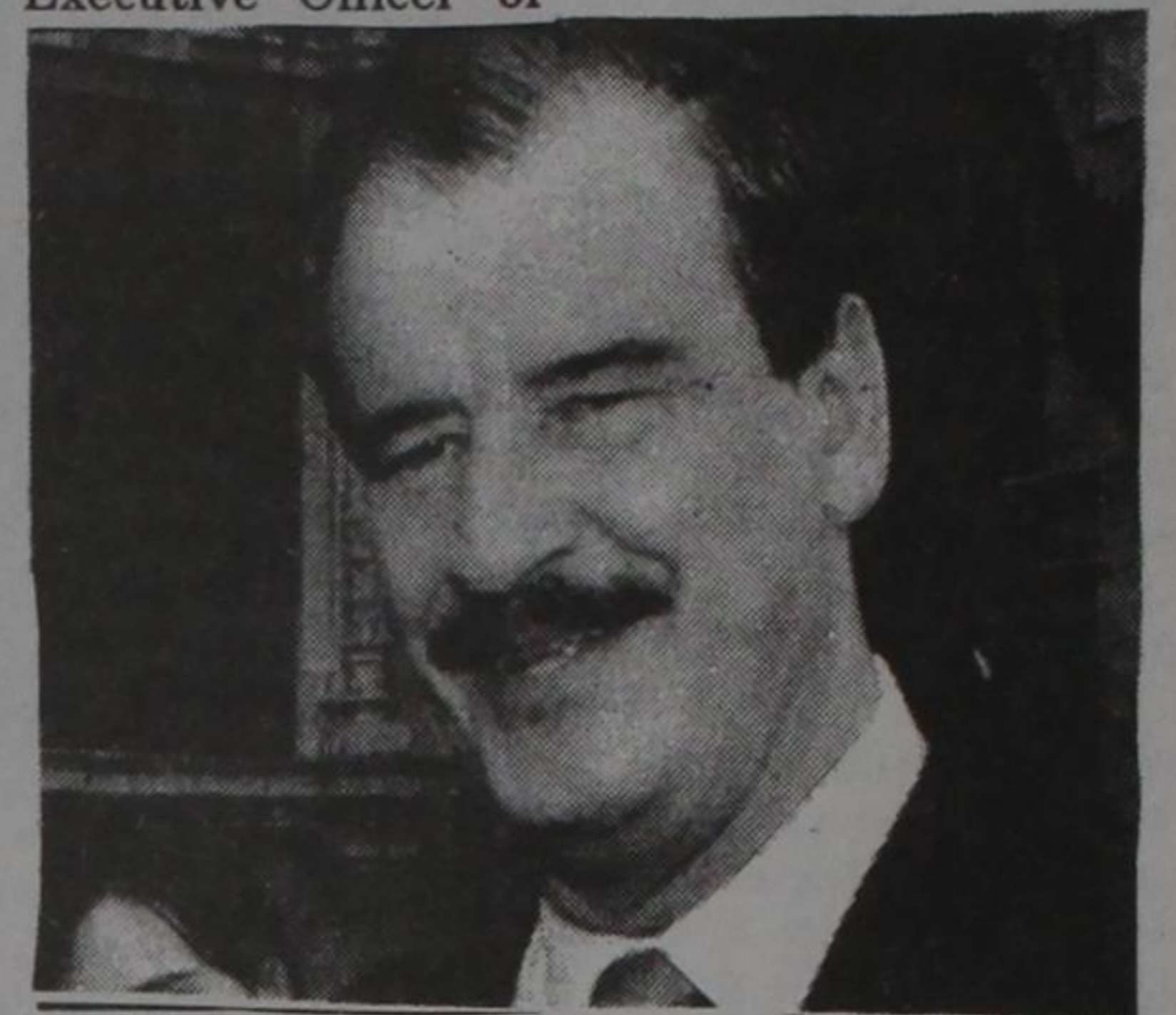
Tommy Aguilar at 147# will be making his Debut in boxing in the welterweight division.

Fox's Cabinet From Page One

Secretary Gil Diaz, responsible for Mexico's tax system reform, holds an undergraduate degree from ITAM, a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago, and is a former deputy finance secretary for revenue and deputy governor at the central bank. The 57-year-old Chief Executive Officer of

development plan, but also a long-term tool for Mexico.

The rest of the team Other members of the economic team include Luis Ernesto Derbez, a 53-year-old economist and advisor in the transition team. Derbez will run the newly created Economy Secretariat, which will take over the functions of the trade ministry with the added task of promoting small business development. Ernesto Martens, a Chemical Engineer will head the Energy Secretariat. Pedro Cerisola was appointed Telecommunications and Transport Secretary. He was Fox's campaign manager for the July election and presided over the privatization of telecoms Telmex, a decade ago. Victor Lichtinger, former director of the Environment Commission of the North American Free Trade Agreement will be Environment Secretary. Javier Usabiaga, a former Agriculture Secretary with Governor Fox in the state of Guanajuato will be Secretary of Agriculture.



long-distance telephone operator Avantel, S.A. has said that he would seek to improve public finances by cutting government costs and improving tax collection. He has also stressed that he would promote economic growth by seeking lower real interest rates for Mexican firms.

Foreign policy key to economic behavior

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Castaneda has said that a main objective of Mexico's diplomacy in the new millennium would be to effectively insert Mexico into the global economy, face the challenges of the new international agenda, and guarantee sustainable development for the Mexican people.

They are objectives that will require new strategies and approaches, said the 47-year-old scholar and a long time fighter for democracy in Mexico at the president's news conference. Author of 13 books, Castaneda has been an analyst of international issues and Mexico's foreign policy and has taught at U.S. universities including Princeton, Berkeley, Dartmouth and New York. He has also been a columnist for Mexican, Latin American, European and U.S. newspapers and owns an undergraduate degree from Princeton and a doctorate in economic history from the University of Paris.

Castaneda believes that the free and pacific transformation that took place in Mexico last July, opens an historic opportunity to develop an all-inclusive foreign policy that will allow to portray a positive image of Mexico around the world.

Consequently, a mandate of President Fox's foreign policy is to show evidences of a democratic, more active, vigorous and plural country. Mexico's foreign policy under President Fox will also be a pro-active instrument that will assist making a reality the changes that Mexico hopes to see at the regional level and regarding its most important neighbors. He stressed the importance of Mexico's foreign policy as an integral element of the government's design, a vital part of the country's national

Ernesto Ruffo, Mexico's first opposition governor, will be the new coordinator for U.S. border issues. Ruffo was governor of Baja California in 1989-95. Marta Sahagun, Fox's long-time media director and Coordinator of Communications in the transition team, will serve as presidential spokeswoman, while Eduardo Sojo, an economist who worked with Vicente Fox in Guanajuato and was an adviser in the transition team, will be the general coordinator of public policies. Businesswoman Leticia Navarro a will become next Tourism Secretary.

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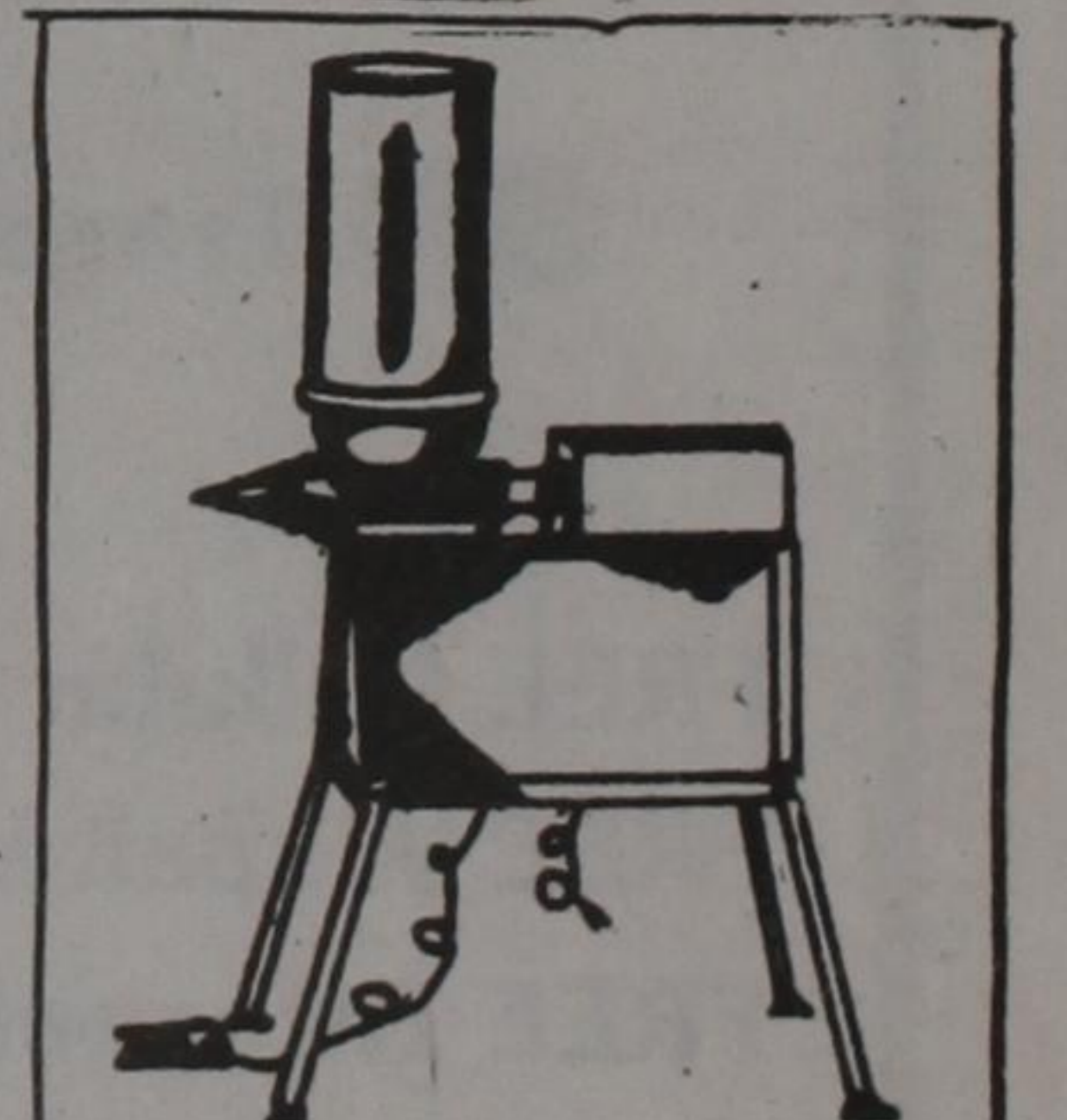
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The Blue Wall of Deception

By Miguel D. Martin

It was a defining moment. The public defender smiled at me, then asked: "Would you lend any more credibility to the testimony of a police officer simply because he or she was a police officer?"

I answered: "Yes." She appeared stunned. She'd recognized me as the brother of a fellow public defender and as an activist in the Mexican-American community. I'm sure she felt I would be a police antagonist, not a supporter. Any illusions she had about keeping me in the juror pool dissipated quickly. After a few more stammered questions, I was bounced.

My response would have surprised many who have known me over the years. In my youth, and in my young adulthood, I viewed law-enforcement officers with suspicion and distrust. I shared the perception of my peers that officers were not in the Mexican-American community to "protect and serve," but to harass and arrest.

But as I made my journey through college and law school and into my professional life, my perceptions changed.

I served as a criminal prosecutor for the City of San Jose, Calif., in my second job out of law school. Although I only prosecuted misdemeanors, I covered every calendar, from arraignment to jury trial.

And I defended the city's police officers in criminal and civil matters. In the short time I was there, I got to know many officers in the police department. And the wariness and mistrust of officers that I had carried with me for much of my life disappeared.

I concluded that the racist, capricious police officer was a caricature in my consciousness, an aberration. The overwhelming majority of the officers I met were decent, honest public servants who took their oaths to protect and serve seriously.

I became privy to the crap these officers endured from individuals they encountered on the beat. I grew weary of the criticism of community activists who were chronically second-guessing police actions.

I hadn't walked a mile in their shoes, but I'd walked beside these officers, figuratively, as they risked their self-esteem,

their marriages, their sanity and often their lives on the job.

And, yes, I was convinced that these officers would never perjure themselves on the witness stand under any circumstances I could foresee.

How many defining moments are we allotted in life?

I'm having another, precipitated by Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, Tyisha Miller, Margaret Mitchell, Félix Hernández, Thomas Jones and the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division scandal.

Diallo, riddled with 19 bullets by New York City police officers while reaching for his wallet; Louima, brutalized and sodomized by other New York officers; Miller, startled from a semi-conscious state, then shot 12 times while sitting in her car, by Riverside, Calif., police officers; Mitchell, a homeless, mentally ill woman, confronted, then shot by a Los Angeles police officer when she brandished a screwdriver; Hernández, a naked, disoriented and unarmed 16-year-old shot by another Los Angeles police officer; Jones, an alleged carjacker whose merciless beating by Philadelphia police was videotaped and aired repeatedly, a la Rodney King.

Then there is the Los Angeles Rampart scandal, which confirms every fear and suspicion of minority activists who have long complained of police brutalization and lawlessness.

As horrific as these incidents were, it wasn't the police conduct during the incidents that resonated in my consciousness. It was the conduct of police officers and police authorities afterward.

The peers of these officers, and their superiors, revised the phrase "Blue Wall of Silence" to the "Blue Wall of Deception" with their post-incident behaviors. They closed ranks, impeded investigations and provided false or misleading information. They attacked their victims and/or attributed culpability to them without benefit of investigation. They intimidated wit-

nesses and, in the case of Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles, deported witnesses.

They planted or fabricated evidence and prosecuted innocents. They shaved their heads in solidarity with disciplined comrades, giving themselves the appearance of skinhead thugs, an image that has become consistent with their lamentable demeanor.

And, of course, they don't admit wrongdoing or mistakes. No matter how badly they may have blundered, they deny culpability.

I "enjoyed" a surrealist moment recently as I watched "Court TV" replay the videotape of Jones, the accused Philadelphia carjacker, being beaten by police officers.

Police authorities were asked to comment as the tape played, and they tried to convince viewers that they weren't seeing what they were seeing. Additionally, they claimed, the accused carjacker had just fired upon officers, wounding one. Later, of course, we learned that there were no shots fired by the carjacker. One officer shot the other.

If I were again questioned as part of a potential juror pool, my answer to the salient question would be different. No, I no longer consider police officers to any more credible than the individuals they arrest simply because they are officers.

Although I still believe that most police officers are honest and dedicated public servants, I no longer presume that they will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth when they testify.

If a middle-aged conservative (on law-and-order issues) attorney has waning faith in the credibility of the nation's police officers, it doesn't bode well for an officer-witness in many of our nation's courtrooms.

(Miguel D. Martin is a journalist and attorney in Elk Grove, Calif.)
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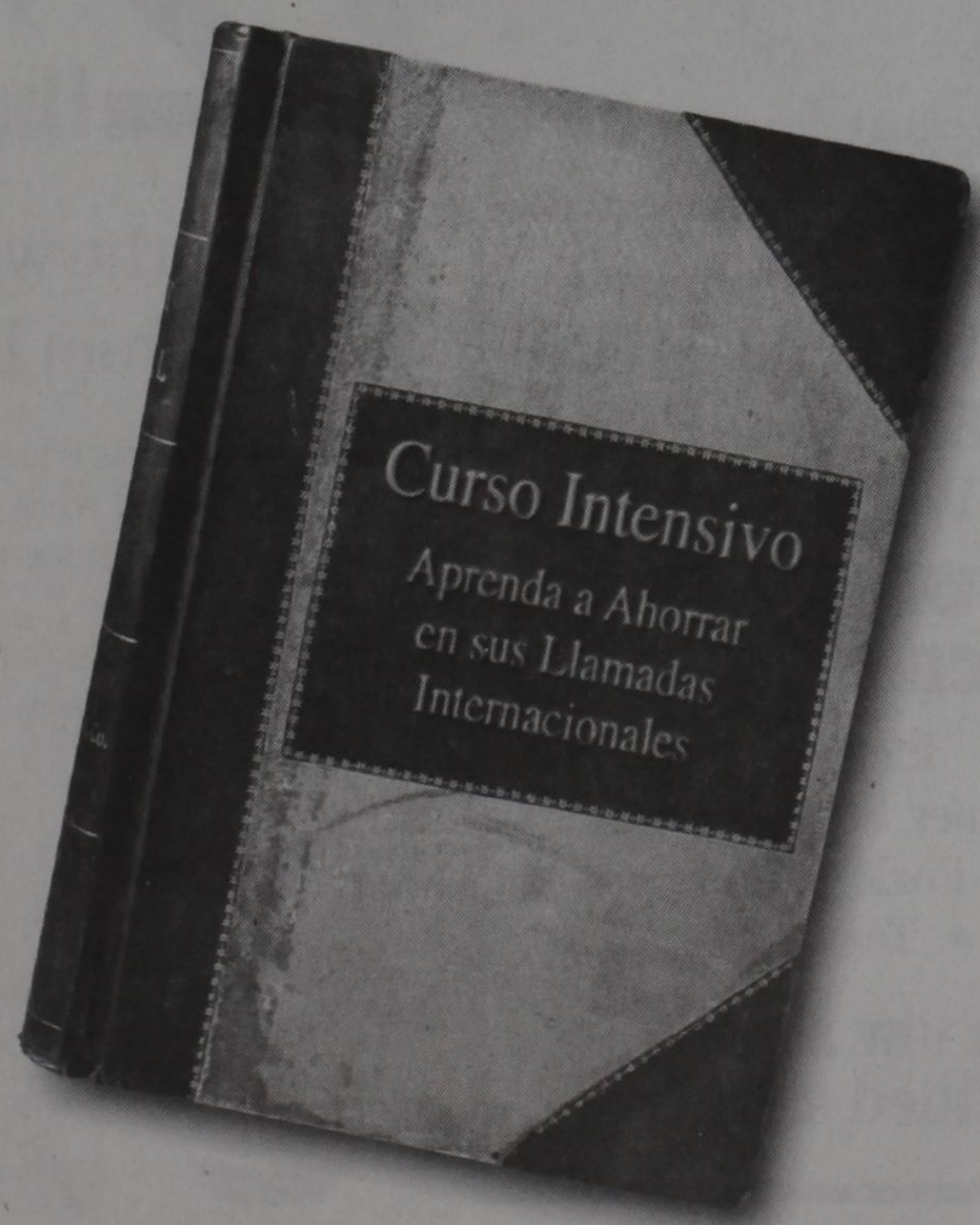
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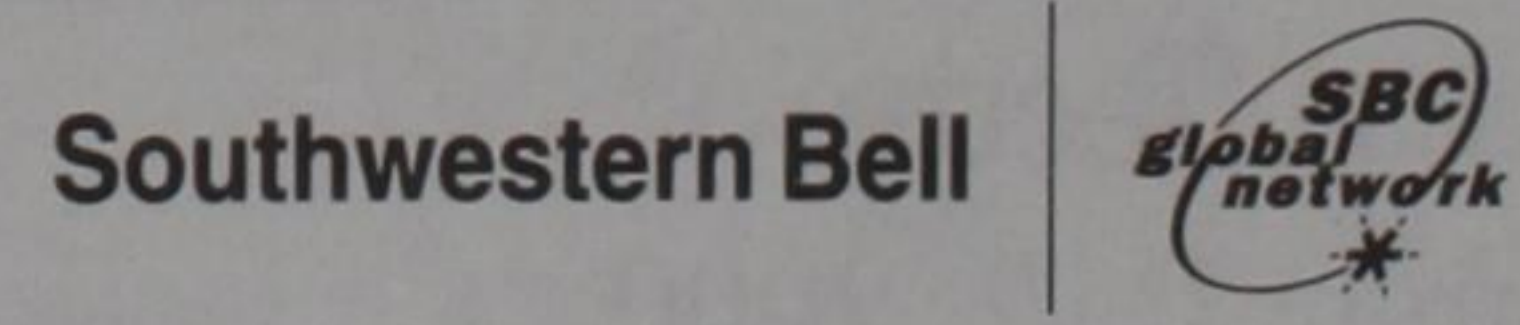


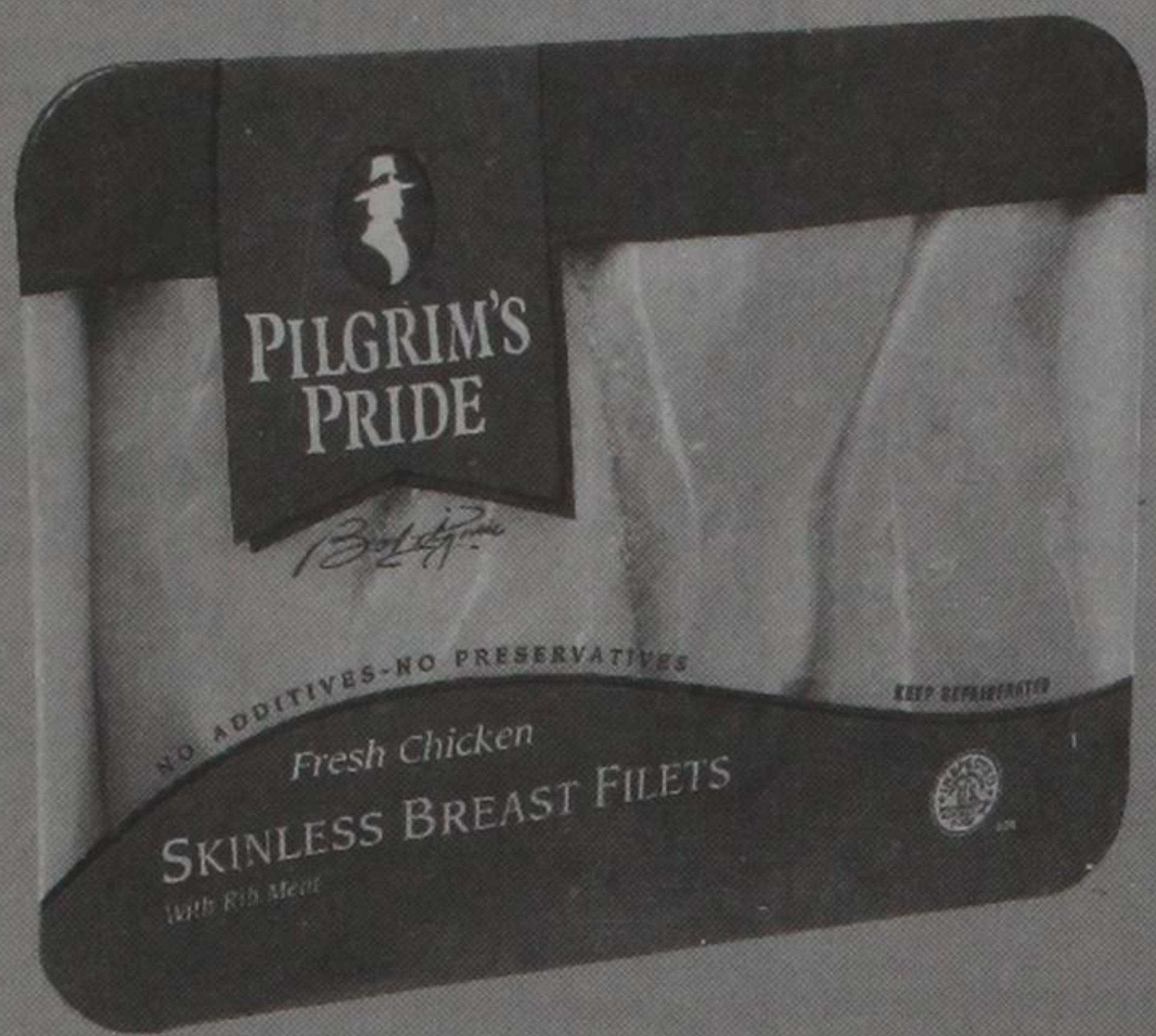
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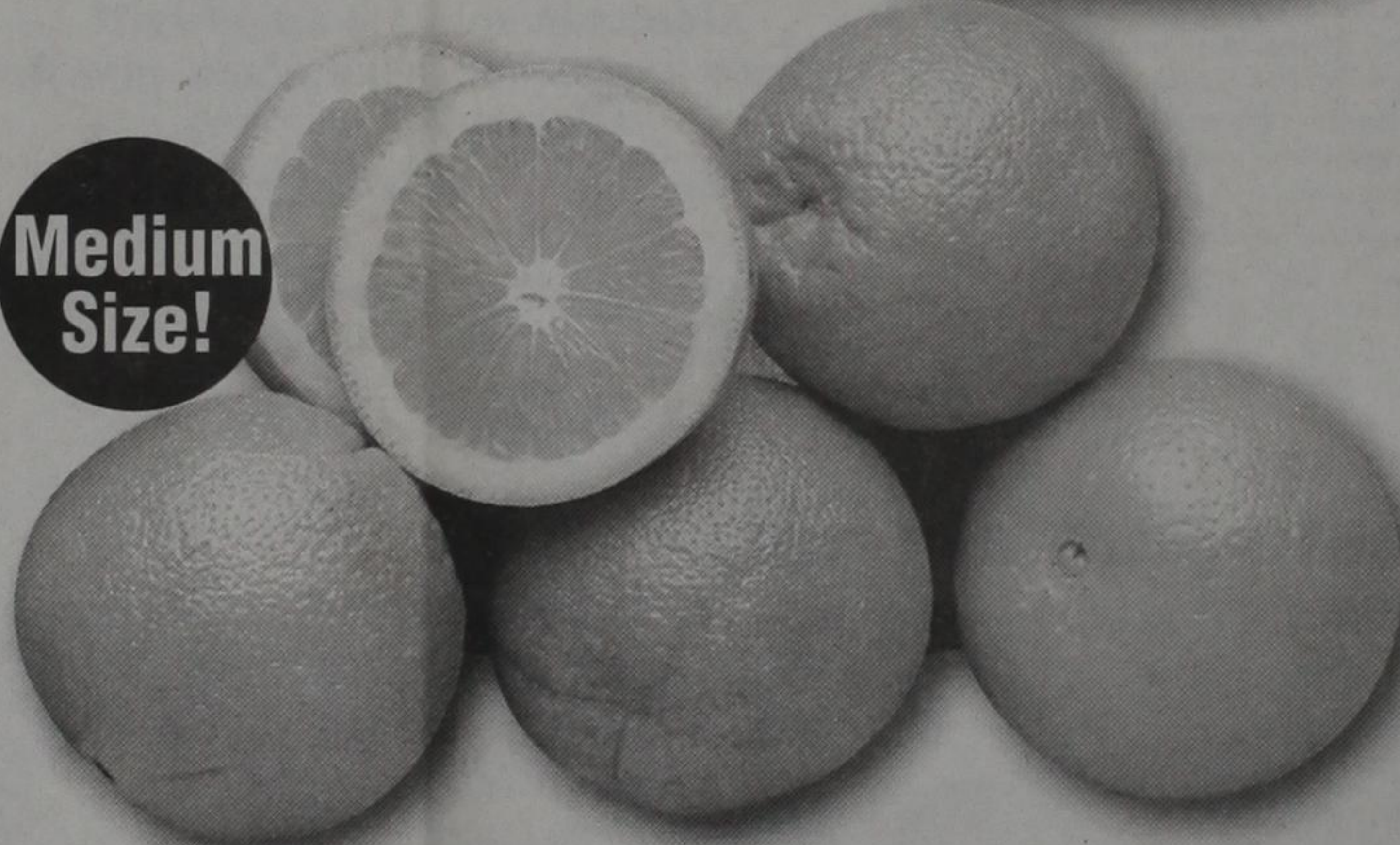


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