

El Editor

Pro-Immigrant Groups Building Opposition to U.S. Senate Immigration Bill

Alex Meneses Miyashita
Dozens of Hispanic and immigrant rights groups nationwide joined in opposition to legislation passed by the U.S. Senate May 25 that could legalize the majority of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.

The list includes Hispanic groups in Arizona, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Washington State and Washington, D.C.

Numerous Asian, black and Arab groups have also come out against the bill.

National groups joining this opposition include the AFL-CIO and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The organizations are raising strong concerns regarding the bill's enforcement provisions, as well as its three-tiered approach to legalizing undocumented immigrants.

Peter Schey, president of the Los Angeles-based Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, expressed their sentiment, "We are deeply disappointed with and must now oppose the Senate's immigration bill unless it is dramatically improved in conference committee, the chances of which are exceptionally slim."

He predicted that the bill "will increase the size of the undocumented population over time because of its draconian enforcement measures."

Schey expressed to Hispanic Link News Service that it would be best for immigrants not to have a bill this election year, stating, "As bad as the situation is, we don't want it to get worse."

The bill would allow undocu-

mented immigrants who have lived in this country for more than five years to remain and apply for residency. Those here between two and five years would be allowed to apply only from outside the country. The bill would require those here less than two years to leave.

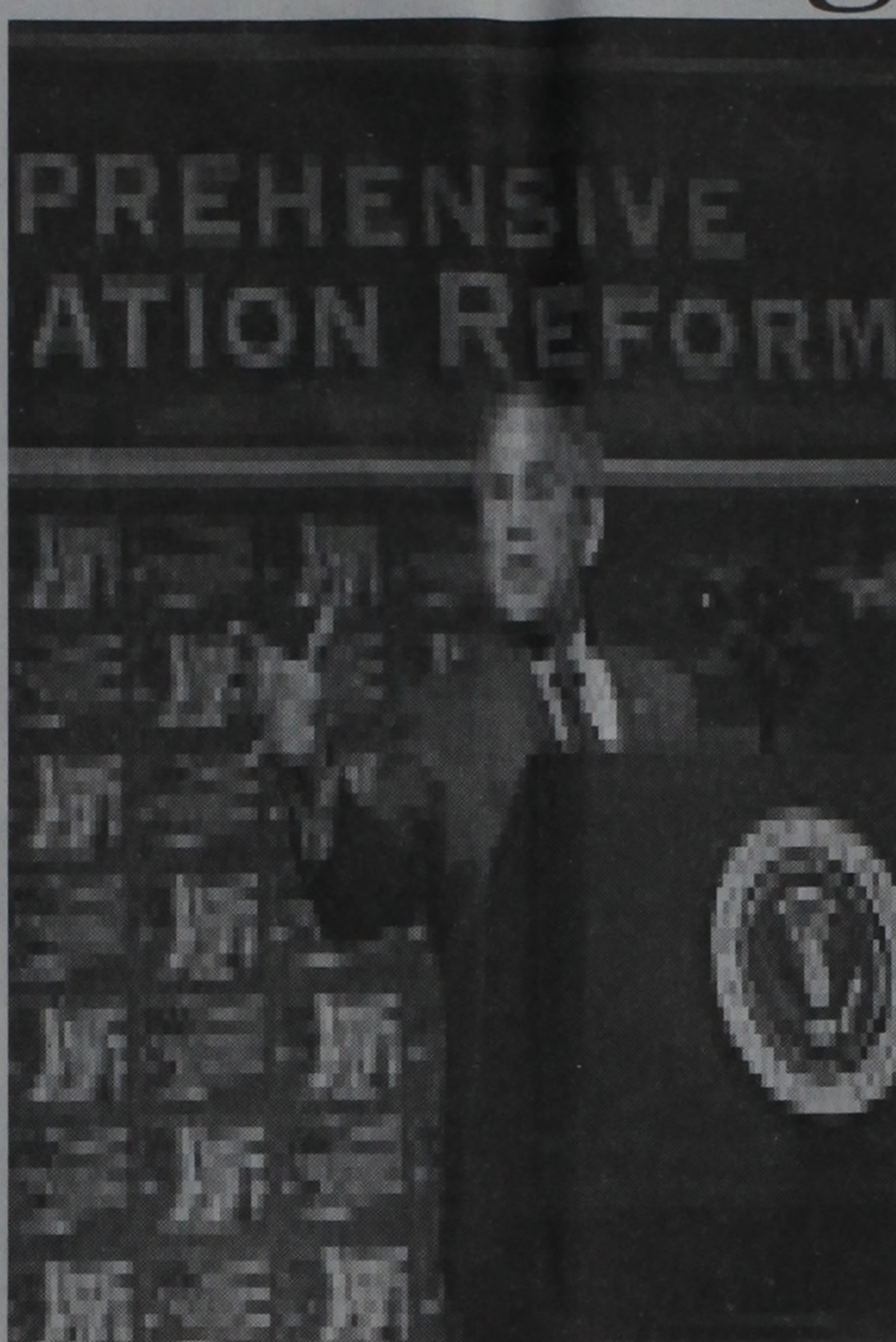
Groups such as Latino Movement USA and the March 25 Coalition opposed the Senate compromise bill from the beginning. They organized massive pro-immigrant demonstrations and helped in organizing a national May 1 boycott.

Reacting to the bill's exclusion of some undocumented immigrants, March 25 Coalition spokesman Oscar Sánchez told Hispanic Link, "All or nothing."

Cecilia Muñoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, pointed out that the bill's approach of splitting undocumented immigrants into categories would complicate procedural and administrative workability. Others mentioned the high cost of the program.

Additional provisions which cause concern include the use of state and local police in immigration law enforcement, authorizing the presence of National Guard members at the southern border and building extensive fences along parts of it.

John Trasviña, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund interim president, added in a statement, "The Senate bill also includes unacceptable provisions such as the Inhofe Amendment which would make it harder for the government to communicate with citizens and non-citizens who are not yet proficient in



English."

While most all supporters of the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill have expressed concerns with some of its details, several have nevertheless praised its passage as an important step forward. Among such

major Hispanic groups active in the capital are La Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens, MALDEF and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. The National Immigration Forum and the American Immigra-

Bush busca que los inmigrantes se asimilen

El presidente, George W. Bush, destacó la necesidad de que los inmigrantes se asimilen y aprendan inglés si quieren convertirse en ciudadanos del país, dentro de una gira para promover la reforma migratoria.

En un discurso tras visitar un centro de inmigrantes en Omaha (Nebraska), Bush afirmó que "un aspecto de la estrategia para asegurarnos que tenemos un sistema de inmigración que funciona, que es ordenado y justo, es acercarnos y ayudar a la gente a asimilarse en este país". "Eso significa aprender los valores, la historia y el lenguaje de EU", agregó.

Bush anunció que a su regreso hoy a Washington firmará una orden ejecutiva para crear un grupo de trabajo que se centre en ampliar las clases para inmigrantes sobre esas materias, con el fin de ayudar a los extranjeros que quieran quedarse permanentemente en EU a integrarse.

En su discurso, Bush reconoció que el debate en torno a una reforma integral del sistema migratorio, en un país donde se calcula que existen doce millones de extranjeros "sin papeles", es "un debate duro para Estados Unidos".

Esta reforma se ha convertido en uno de los principales contenciosos en el Congreso en un año electoral.

El Senado ha aprobado un proyecto de ley que combina medidas más duras de seguridad en la frontera con un programa de trabajadores temporales y una vía para regularizar a los "ilegales" que lleven más tiempo en el país y que no hayan cometido delitos.

En cambio, el proyecto de ley que ha pasado la Cámara de Representantes pone el énfasis únicamente en el endurecimiento de la seguridad, sin proporcionar ninguna vía para la regularización al considerar que cualquier concesión en ese sentido equivaldría a una amnistía.

Ambas cámaras deben ahora iniciar un proceso de armonización de sus respectivas propuestas para que el resultado final pueda convertirse en ley.

El proceso se promete duro y lleno de agrios debates, ante lo enconado de las posturas.

En este sentido, no es casual la elección de Nebraska para poner punto final a la gira de dos días de Bush sobre la reforma migratoria.

Este estado en pleno corazón de Estados Unidos y de inclinación marcadamente republicana ha visto crecer gradualmente su población inmigrante.

Entre los años 2000 y 2004, la cifra de hispanos residentes en este estado creció en 26 mil personas, o el 70% del aumento total, mientras que el número de habitantes blancos cayó en 500.

Uno de sus senadores, el demócrata Ben Nelson, se alinea con la Cámara de Representantes y su posición de adoptar sólo medidas de seguridad en la frontera.

Según Nelson, "los residentes de Nebraska que yo conozco y con los que hablo lo primero que quieren es reforzar la frontera".

En declaraciones que publica hoy el periódico Omaha World Herald, Nelson apuntó la posibilidad de que ni siquiera llegue a reunirse el comité bicameral para unificar los dos proyectos de ley, lo que impediría su aplicación legal.

"No puedo ver cómo se va a hacer. Tendríamos más gente que querría cruzar la frontera que en cualquier momento del pasado. El problema se haría mayor", apuntó el senador.

En su discurso de hoy, Bush, que el martes visitó Texas y Nuevo México, expresó en cambio su optimismo acerca de que las dos cámaras lograrán resolver sus diferencias y aprobar la reforma migratoria.

El presidente afirmó que, pese "a que la gente opina, y grita, y arma bulla, y se insulta está emergiendo un consenso en torno a este tema".

El gran obstáculo, reconocido, es qué hacer con los inmigrantes que ya se encuentran en el país en situación irregular.

Bush, que apoya la versión del Senado, opinó que quienes lleven más tiempo deben demostrar que tienen un trabajo, pagar sus impuestos atrasados y una multa y carecer de antecedentes penales, para que se les permita solicitar la residencia y, eventualmente, la ciudadanía.

Hispanic Attitudes Toward Learning English

Hispanics by a large margin believe that immigrants have to speak English to be a part of American society and even more so that English should be taught to the children of immigrants, according to recent surveys conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center.

The endorsement of the English language, both for immigrants and for their children, is strong among all Hispanics regardless of income, party affiliation, fluency in English or how long they have been living in the United States.

The Pew Hispanic Center, in collaboration with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, probed attitudes toward the English language in public opinion surveys conducted in 2003 and 2004. In one of these surveys, Latinos were asked whether they think immigrants have to speak English to say they are a part of American society. In another they were asked whether teaching English to immigrant children is very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all.

A clear majority of Latinos (57%) believe that immigrants have to speak English to be a part of American society while a significant minority (41%) says that they do not. Latino immigrants are slightly more likely (57%) to say that immigrants have to learn English than native-born Latinos (52%). The view that immigrants have to learn English is held by a majority of Latinos regardless of how much money they make or their level of education, according to the 2004 National Survey of Latinos: Politics and Civic Education.

Do immigrants have to speak English to say they are part of American society, or not?

There are some differences depending on party affiliation, religion and age, though majorities on this question prevail in all instances. Almost two-thirds (64%) of Latino Republicans

believe immigrants have to speak English to say they are part of American society. By comparison, 58% of Latino Independents and 52% of Latino Democrats say immigrants must speak English to say they are part of American society.

Two-thirds of Protestants (67%) and those who say they are born again take this view, compared with a little more than half (54%) of Catholics. Older Latinos are more likely to say immigrants must speak English to be a part of American society than younger Latinos. For example, among Hispanics 65 and older 69% held this view compared with 48% of Hispanics ages 18 to 29.

By overwhelming margins, Latinos say it is very important that English be taught to children of immigrant families, according to the Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos: Education. Hispanics hold stronger views than either non-Hispanic whites or blacks (92%, 87% and 83% respectively).

How important is the goal of teaching English to the children of immigrant families? Is it?

This support is equally high regardless of party affiliation, income or language ability. Foreign-born Hispanics are even more fervent that English be taught to immigrant children compared with native-born Hispanics (96% to 88%).

As telling, perhaps, is a look at how many people said teaching English to immigrant children is not important. Among Latinos, only 2% held this view compared to 27% of non-Latinos.

Daniel Keith Flores was awarded **Valedictorian of Estacado High School**. He is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Mary Helen Flores.** **CONGRATLATIONS!**

tion Lawyers Association have also welcomed passage of the bill.

"The architecture of the Senate bill is the right start," La Raza's Muñoz said. She emphasized that it contrasts sharply with the enforcement-only legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last December.

"There's a lot of appreciation for that in the Latino community and with its leadership," she said.

Schey didn't appear to buy that thought. The "beltway groups" are not pointing out that the Senate legislation is nearly as punitive as the House bill, he emphasized.

COMMUNITY VOICES

At last count, over 2,480 American soldiers have died in Iraq and in at least 2 instances; U. S. Marines are alleged to have killed innocent Iraqi civilians. On Tuesday, it was reported that severed heads of Iraqis had been discovered for the second time since Saturday.

What is your opinion on Iraq; is this war winnable or should we begin to withdraw and let the Iraqis take care of their country; or should we "stay the course" as the President wants?

This week our readers tackled the tough question:

En primer lugar no tenemos negocios, Los Estados Unidos en Iraq, que weapons of mass destrucción ni de que nada si esta guerra se trataba de que se le hizo fácil a los gringos creando de que podían sacar el aceite durante la guerra cuando tenían todo en control durante después del primer año o dos. Ellos no se les alcanza pensar que trabajo les esta costando. Pero ahora es muy tarde para arrepentirse porque si salemos de allí, ellos nos van a traer la guerra aquí a Los Estados con mas fuerza que 911.

J. Albiar, Lubbock via Email

We have spent enough time and lives in Iraq it is time for our troops to come home we should let the Iraqis and the Iraqi Government take care of their own problems. The United States should concentrate on the problems we have here such as Social Security, Medicare, Health Care and the high price of gas and oil among other things. Nothing good has come out of this. The United States should just cut our losses and bail.

Angel Maldonado, Lubbock via Email

This is a question to really think about. I know the war is winnable, but why is it taking so long? The best solution is to withdraw and let Iraq take care of it. The United States has helped enough. It is apparent that the Iraqi government has enough weapons to defend themselves. It seems that Iraq does not want to use up all of their weapons just yet. So they are depending on other countries to help. One has to ask that why Iraq is not self-sufficient yet. They must have ulterior motives. †But who is willing to find out what those ulterior motives are?

One more question that should be asked is: How many wars has the United States been involved in that they didn't have to be in? Have those countries been grateful for the United States' help? It seems they are not grateful enough because they keep coming back for more.

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email

The Iraq government, as new and feeble as it is, should be given a deadline (perhaps 6 or 9 months) to get its act together and then all U. S. troops withdrawn.

The administration is making un-realistic and unreasonable demands on our service personnel.

In Korea I saw soldiers die from enemy action, and it has a huge emotional effect. Repeated scenes of ones military buddies being killed can only result in actions that are not always rational, and not always humane.

Madison Sowder, Lubbock via Email

First of all, in war, there are no winners. Both sides have lost loved ones forever. Wars are punishment for man's inability to respect his brother or respect the natural laws that govern him. When man wants to play God, wars happen.

The war has hurt our credibility as well as our standing as a world power. Our real enemies, Russia and China, have been taking notes about our weaknesses as well as our reduced capability as a result of useless wars over oil and American business interests. George Bush is personally responsible for giving away our military weakness through these mismanaged wars; thus emboldening our enemies to do dumb things like the eventual invasion of Taiwan by China, Ukraine and Belarus by Russia, and South Korea by North Korea.

If these invasions took place all at once, America would not have enough soldiers, even with a draft, to deal with the 3 largest armies in the world. Now that our military is demoralized by useless wars, our enemies now have recourse to follow through with their plans.

I pray that we will have enough sense to not become involved with these future conflicts, unfortunately we have security agreements with South Korea and Taiwan that will put millions of American in harms way in defense of those nations. If and when the invasions take place, this new war, World War III, will make Iraq look like a Sunday school picnic. This current president has made World War III a possibility now that our enemies know how we can be defeated: through a useless war on terror hunting down ghosts, running up national debt bankrupting America to fund useless wars, and stealing liberties from Americans to make them good slaves ready for conquest by the one world government.

We should get out of Iraq and Afghanistan as soon as possible. In the end, these countries will go back to the Muslims and will be run just as if the USA were never there: women enslaved, foreigners and Christians abused, and the rule of Sharia law running the place with plenty of heads being chopped off for indiscriminate reasons.

Wake up America!!! We cannot teach the world to be like us. We need to let other countries figure out what is best for themselves without the USA forcing them to learn democracy from the muzzle of an American gun.

We need to be careful that we do not become like the rest of the world, especially Europe, and lose our Democracy forever through security laws that make citizens suspected criminals and prisoners in their own homes.

Already, the US Patriot Act has opened the doors to a fascist state here in America. Make sure to vote for candidates who will repeal the Patriot Act whenever you can and be sure to be vocal about how much you love this great country of ours. We are suffering because of traitorous people in our government who wish to give away our country to please the one world bankers and war merchants who profit the most from wars.

Jerry Perez, MBA, Lubbock via Email

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The Chavira Story -

136 Years of Fathers and Sons

By Ricardo Chavira

For a few years, Jesús Chavira, my great grandfather, had anticipated his uncertain journey. Orphaned in his native Ciudad Camargo, Chihuahua, Jesús found a new home with his grandfather, Gregorio. The old man lived alone on his ranch and was happy for the newfound companionship.

Jesús, a tall, thin pre-teen, was welcomed also because he provided badly needed labor on the cattle ranch near Satevò in Mexico's sprawling northern state. Fertile plains, prime cattle-raising country where cowboys still ply their craft, surround the 300-year-old town. While dedicated to caring for his grandson and the ranch, the old man sensed death creeping up on him.

Because the region was lawless, Gregorio was certain Jesús wouldn't be able to hold onto the ranch once he died; ruthless land grabbers might even kill him. In the event of his death, Gregorio told his grandson, he should head for Texas where work was fairly plentiful.

One day in 1870, Gregorio died, and Jesús, all of 14 and astride a white mare, made for Fort Davis, Texas, a U.S. Calvary base. Several days after he set out, he arrived at the army fort and solicited work. He was hired as a stable boy. The army was at war with the Apache and Comanche. Before long, the soldiers began using him to scout ahead of

military patrols.

In time, my great grandfather put down roots in the inhospitable west Texas wilderness. He married and soon had eight children, among them my grandfather, José. Together, they struggled to make a living raising crops and cattle on unforgiving land. And they endured virulent racism.

Their story is noteworthy for its near-epic quality. But it is also typical of the hardships other Mexican families confronted at the time. Perhaps most important, it reminds us that Mexicans, today painted with a broad brush that makes them all seem like recent arrivals in el norte, have always been here moving ahead in the most adverse conditions.

The Chavira history underscores something else. They, like millions of others who made the short trip north, labored hard for little money, served their new country in three wars and asked for little in return. Some degree of respect and fair play was the extent of what they hoped for. It took a couple generations for that hope to be realized.

José was illiterate. There were no schools where he grew up. He and his wife Maria started off as itinerant cotton pickers, traversing Texas and ranging into Oklahoma. The work was brutally debilitating and living conditions sub-human. To escape that dreary life, the Chaviras moved to El Paso, where they hoped their two children would receive the

education denied them.

My grandfather had to hustle up a job, no easy task in a border town with perennially high unemployment. The year was 1928, and times would get dramatically harder with the onset of the Great Depression.

Like many unemployed Mexicans these days, José headed for a street corner where day laborers were hired. "I remember my first day out there," said José, "this mean-looking gringo came by in a truck. He looked us over and picked a few, including me. He put us to work at a construction site, and I did my best to show I was a really hard worker. If you looked weak or slow, the gringo would tell you not to come back. He told me to return."

Between stints working the fields, my father David managed to graduate from El Paso's Bowie High. He went straight into the U.S. Army. His tour began a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and extended throughout World War II. "When I got out, I really thought being a high school graduate, which was rare in those years, and the time I put in the army would mean good jobs," David

recalls. "I found out El Paso hadn't changed. What mattered most was that I was Mexican, and jobs were damn scarce."

He and my mother Helena struck out for Los Angeles, where my two brothers and I were born and reared. Just as my grandparents had worked to put education within reach of their children, so did my parents. Their three sons earned college degrees and went on to rewarding careers.

Today, some 136 years after a bold teenage orphan rode from Mexico into Texas, his descendants include business executives, a scientist, police officers, a university professor and a budding journalist.

With the country in the throes of what to do about immigrants, my family's tale is instructive. Starting with my great grandfather, all of us worked honestly for what we have. We're proud Americans and equally proud of our Mexican heritage. The xenophobes who would deport or bar other Jesús Chaviras should take comfort in the fact that we did not tear apart this nation's social fabric. In our small way, we helped enrich it.

Mexican Voters' Delima: Who Can Make Things Better

By José de la Isla

Two days before the United States celebrates its independence on the Fourth of July, Mexico will conduct its second national election since the beginning of its new democracy. Some 71 million Mexican voters will select their leader for the next six years.

As the second and final debate between our neighbor's three presidential candidates took place June 6, surveys showed a virtual dead-heat between Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) and Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD.

Roberto Madrazo, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate, is running a not-too-distant but still embarrassing third. After 70 consecutive years in power, the PRI lost in 2000 to PAN, led by departing incumbent Vicente Fox.

The trio's campaigns have been shaped by the underlying issue about Mexicans migrating abroad to find work, and with it, the country's relationship with the United States and Canada.

The PRD's López Obrador recently proposed to increase the living standard, an income supplement program for low-wage workers. The PRI's Madrazo compared it to his own plan, while Calderón has offered to cut taxes mainly to help the middle class. The country's political and economic experts have jumped in, mostly to call López Obrador's plan too costly and inflationary for the country's slowly advancing economy.

The big question for July 2 is which candidate, as the country's new president, can best deal with issues that cross over to the rest of North America. Neither the United States nor Canada is well served when Mexico, as a North American partner, lags behind the rest of the continent.

Paradoxically, Mexico has already proven itself as an emerging economy. To put things in perspective, it is the 15th largest world economy and a partner in the second largest regional world trade zone. It has a free trade agreement with the European Union and is a leader for proposed development in the Caribbean and Central America.

Cartas al Editor

Sr. Aguero,

I read your "Cartas al Editor" in this week's edition. I have a lot of opinions about the immigration dilemma because I can understand both sides of the issue. I believe that Hispanic organizations in the southwestern states should try to organize and educate Mexican immigrants on what exactly is being done by the government and what they can do to help the issue.

It's a shame that we have no strong political or civil rights leader that compares to Cesar Chavez. His Teatro Campesino helped open the eyes of immigrant farm workers. Anyway, it's just my two cents. Take care. Molly Gonzales, Lubbock via Email

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Appealing to People's Fears and Prejudices

By Abel Cruz

As we reach the midway point of 2006, this country seems to be caught in a sort of déjà-vu in where we are still fighting the un-winnable war in Iraq, the city of New Orleans still isn't ready for another hurricane season, and once again Republican politicians are beginning to define the 2006 November Election by manufacturing wedge issues which will be used to scare their base into going to the polls. Unfortunately, based on the coverage we see, or rather do not see, on the front page of the local daily, I often wonder if people are really paying attention; or at least know what is going on?

One thing that Republicans do well is identify a particular set of issues to energize their voting base to go out to the polls. Many times these are issues that when framed in a certain way, appeal to either the fears, apprehensions or even prejudices of people. For example, many political observers believe that in 2004, the issue of same-sex marriage and the many anti-gay marriage amendments that were on several state ballots, managed to mobilize the religious right; thereby increasing the number of voters that went to the polls; allowing Bush to win a second term and allowing the House and Senate to retain control of both houses.

In 2006, once again at least 2 wedge or divisive issues will develop; among them will be:

Border Security/Immigration Reform

Make no mistake, this issue will be used more and more as the election nears. Already the House has passed HR4437, which in April and May triggered some of the largest marches and demonstrations that this country has seen since the demonstrations against the Viet Nam War. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives were not listening.

Then 2 weeks ago the Senate, caving in to pressure from the conservative right, passed a watered down immigration reform bill. While the bill started out as a bipartisan effort and indeed was passed on a bipartisan vote, two compromises, a 350 mile border fence and the "English as the National Language" part of the bill were not included in the original version. These two items were placed in the bill in an effort to pacify people like Texas' 2 Senators, Comyn and Hutchison; especially Comyn who uses every chance he has to mislead people about the bill's pathway to citizenship provision, which he calls "complete amnesty". I still wouldn't look for a compromise on the bill between the House and the Senate before the November Elections; unless, Democrats continue to cave in to conservative demands.

Already our local "Bush Boy Extraordinaire", Congressman Randy Neugebauer, has been on the campaign speaking circuit, speaking to the local Rotary Club last week, about the "Immigration Reform" issue. Although, I would suspect that he might have used terms like "Border Security", and "illegal aliens", and "amnesty", and "felony crime".

But I would also guess that he did not mention that on May 1, the Lubbock Immigration March organizers had hand carried a resolution to his office calling for the repeal of HR4437 and informing him that they were not in agreement with the provisions of the bill. Of course, my guess is that he, one, didn't read it, and, two, really doesn't place too much importance on the source of the resolution. After all, they are only his constituents; and ahem, surely we shouldn't expect our local Congressman to listen to those opposing concerns; when he's so busy listening to those that agree with him.

Funny, nobody ever complains about all the profits that have been made even more lucrative over the years due to the availability of these so called "invaders" who have left their sweat and tears on the farmlands of West Texas; as they worked tirelessly to provide for their family. And, all the while, the "patron" conveniently looked the other way and laughed all the way to the bank. Those are the interests that our local Congressman makes sure to point out that he represents.

It seems that nothing arouses people's fears and gets them to the polls more than talk about the "global war on terror", national/border security, and the supposed "invasion" of the unwelcome "Mexicans" or "illegal aliens" from the south. And the chorus will grow stronger as we get closer to November.

Think not, didn't you hear the first verbal shot from our local Congressman?

Same-Sex Marriage

The second wedge issue we should expect to see, albeit on a smaller scale than 2004, is once again the same-sex marriage theme. In a dual effort to legislate morality and revive the party faithful, President Bush recently resurrected this emotional issue and called for a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage between a man and a woman; knowing full well that the amendment had no chance of passage, but betting that it would once again energize his political base.

So what we have is a President who concerns himself more with an issue that should be left up to the states, than the atrocities and crimes we see in Iraq. On Wednesday, the Senate managed to act reasonably for once, and rejected the amendment.

But this is an issue that resonates with conservatives and the religious right. And you can be assured that Republicans will drag it out this November to squeeze out a few more votes at the polls.

Iraq: the "could be" Democratic wedge issue

It has been 3 plus years since the invasion by the Bush administration into Iraq in an effort to "find the WMD's" or "fight the global war on terror", or "fight them over there so we don't have to fight them here", or "remove a tyrant; Sadaam Hussein", or whatever phrase/marketing slogan/or sometimes falsehood of the day you prefer to use.

And three years later, we are still stalled in the same old "kill or be killed" mentality that has definitely taken its toll on our American soldiers, on the Iraqi people, and on American families who have lost a son or daughter to the senseless war.

The only ones that don't seem to notice it are Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Gonzales, and blindly patriotic people who seem to place more importance on party affiliation than the realities of this war; people who will never admit that it was a mistake to invade Iraq in the first place.

For now, we are left to wonder when the madness and the massacres will end. We are left wondering if there is someone out there that will take this issue into the November election and have a clear plan for troop withdrawal and an end to the insanity.

Don't hold your breath though, my guess is that it won't be our local Congressman; Randy Neugebauer.

Among other issues that should surface, and I say should because sometimes, living out here in the "Giant side of silence", we don't hear much; are the economy, outrageous gas prices and huge oil profits, unaffordable health care, unattainable education because of cutbacks in student loans and grants, and possibly another Katrina catching FEMA with their drawers down again!

Email: acruzts@aol.com

In Memoriam

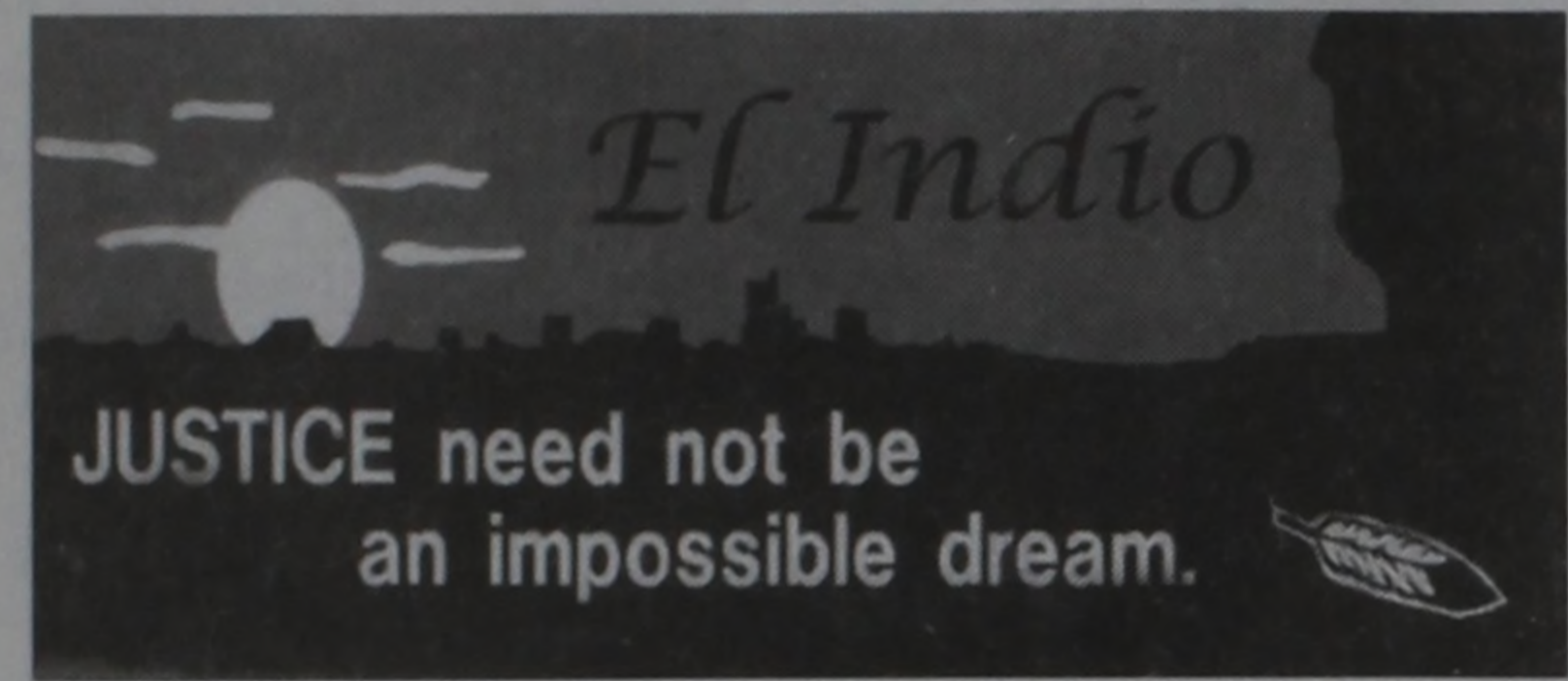
Esequiel "Alejandro" P. Reyna April 10, 1933 - Junio 09, 2005

It has been a year since you met the Lord face to face. We have heard so many times, "He's in a better place", and so many times we rejoice for you. Although we know that you are in the presence of our Savior, we greatly miss you.

Our hearts still ache and long to be with you. We miss your smile, laughter, and sense of humor. We miss your hugs and kisses. We miss listening to your words of wisdom and loving encouragement.

We just miss you, all of you. We may not understand the Lord's ways, but just as He is holding you at this very moment, we have known what it is like to be held by Him to get us through this past year.

Although you are not here, you remain alive in our hearts. We are comforted by knowing that one day we will see you again. Until that day, we cherish and cling to our wonderful memories of you. We love you. Carmen V. Reyna and Family



WHAT'S SHAKIN' AT CITY HALL?

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Now that the City Council elections are over, it is time for a new beginning...or is it?

While newly elected Mayor DAVID MILLER is busy establishing a kinder, gentler Mayor's office...the time has indeed come...We The People are looking to some of the other Council members to see what's shakin' at City Hall.

LINDA DeLEON is smiling...again...but nothing much new. FLOYD PRICE, GARY BOREN and JIM GILBREATH are quiet. PHYLLIS JONES was on the news recently, defending the lavish new Council meeting room at the Hall, which came in just short of 1 million dollars...a bitter pill for all of the folks who are suffering from relentless code enforcement, stepped-up police harassment and even higher utility bills...complete with higher fees and no early discounts.

Of course, LINDA was there too, saying that the Council really needed these creature comforts. When Marie Antoinette of France was confronted with the fact that the French peasants were starving, and needed bread, she famously said, "Let them eat cake!"

Newly elected Council member JOHN LEONARD, before he was sworn in, lamented the fact that he couldn't vote for the fire sprinkler exemption...for CERTAIN companies only...the mind boggles at which Builders and Developers would benefit from such an exemption...you remember, the last meeting of the old Council, when Mad Marc McDougal tried to secure one more perk for his family before leaving office...and Taliban Tom Martin, after receiving heavy Firefighter support in the election, rewarded his supporters by mocking the Fire Chief with candles on the dais. What a deal! No doubt where JOHN LEONARD is going to come down...as Calvin Coolidge once said, "The business of America is business!"

We need to hold their feet to the fire...the special-interest saturated City Council, the insensitive School Board, the timid County Commissioners, the almost invisible State legislators...We The People deserve better than this! Get involved...and let these folks know that in a Republic, the people are in charge...or should be!

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [people] to do nothing." -Edmund Burke



EL EDITOR

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at http://www.eleditor.com and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at eleditor@sbglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

Publisher Bidal Aguero Business Manager - Olga Riojas Aguero Circulation - Gilbrt Acuna Copy Editor - Almalia Aguerp

Estacado High School Seniors



Linda Acosta



Johnny Aguilar



Krystle Alonso



Ariell Altamirano



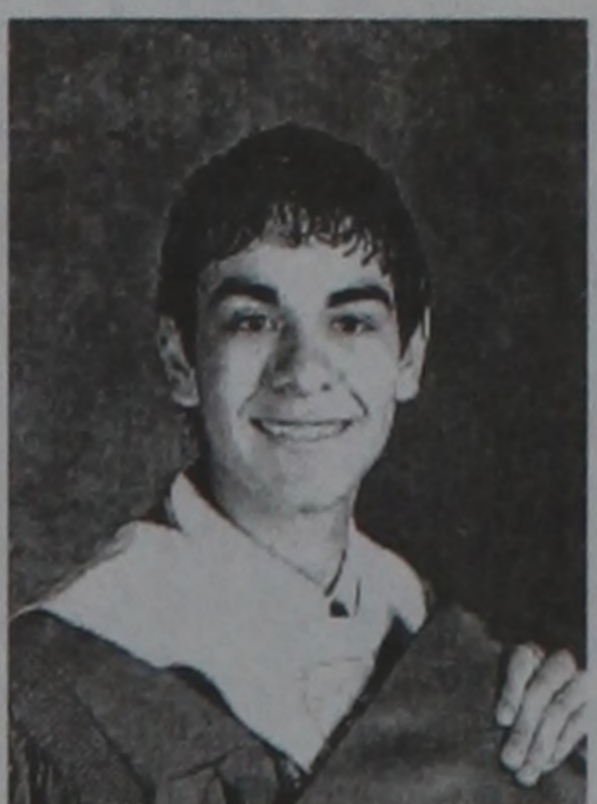
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Esmeralda Arguello



Luis Arguello



Valentin Baca



Sergio Balderas



Santiago Carrizales



Arlene Castaneda



Olivia Cervantes



Lori Cuellar



Mitzi Cuellar



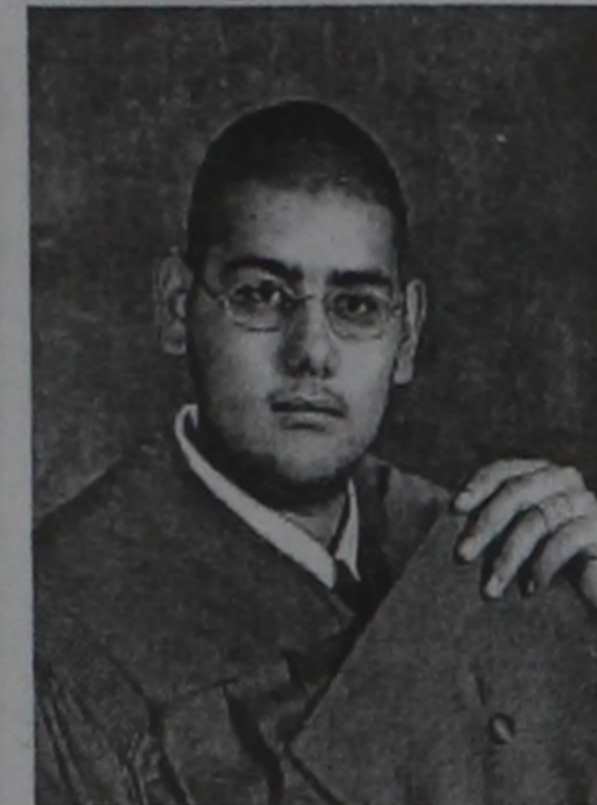
Alexandra Cuevas



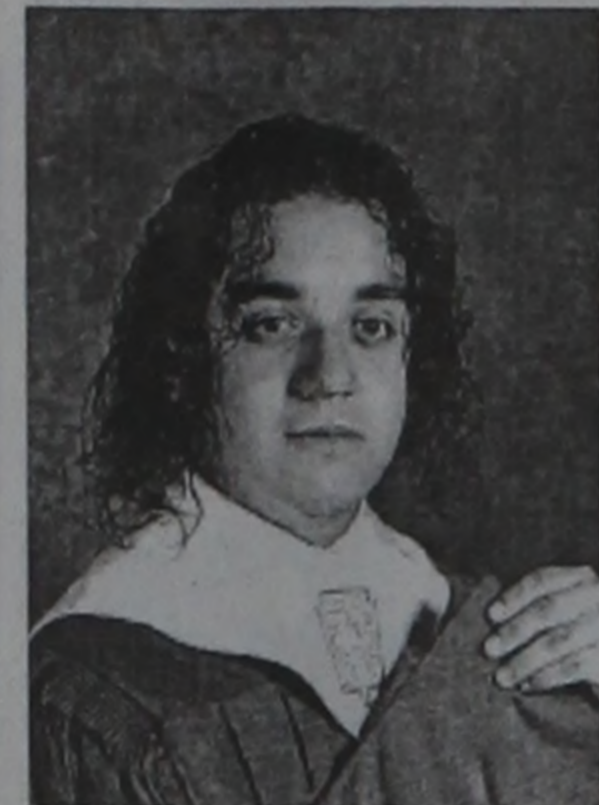
Erica Esquivel



Oscar Falcon



Michael Ferrazas



Daniel Flores



Fabian Flores



Dulce Garcia



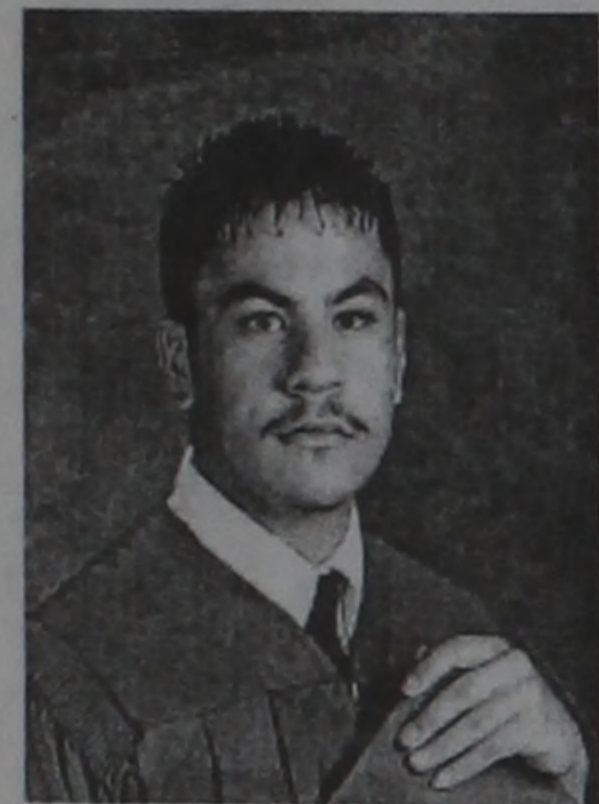
Manuel Garcia



Tanya Garcia



Mikel Gatica



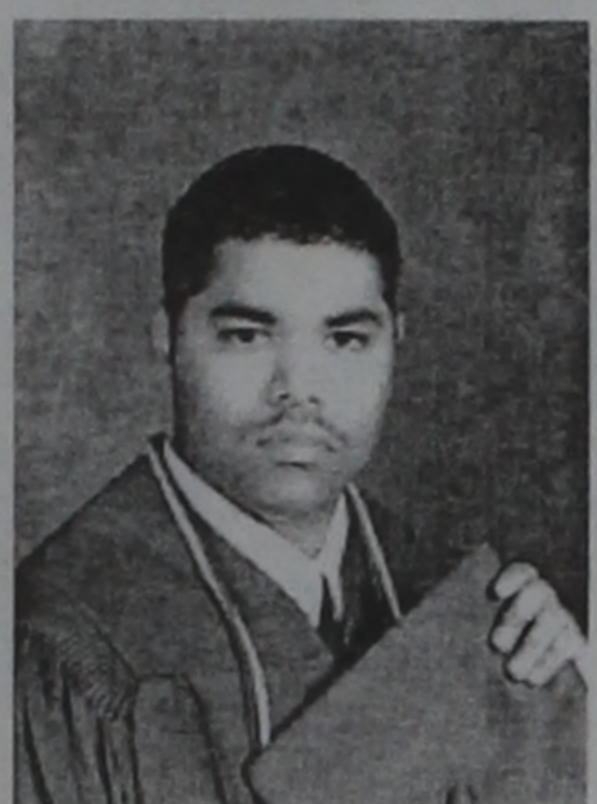
Gustavo Giron



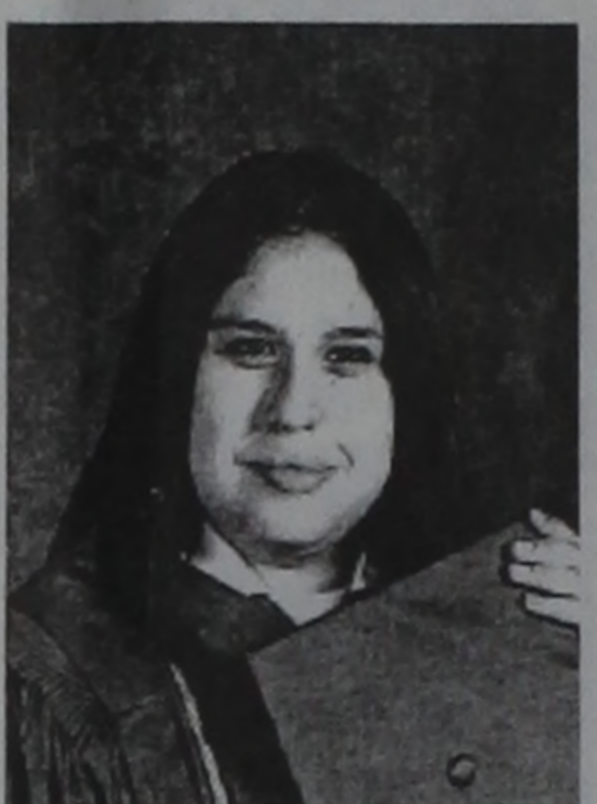
Ayla Gonzales



Jose Hernandez



Robert Hinojosa



Ashley Ibarra



Alexandria Leija



Gabriela Lopez



Anthony Luna

Bush busca que los inmigrantes asimilen los valores de EU

El presidente, George W. Bush, destacó hoy la necesidad de que los inmigrantes se asimilen y aprendan inglés si quieren convertirse en ciudadanos del país, dentro de una gira para promover la reforma migratoria.

En un discurso tras visitar un centro de inmigrantes en Omaha (Nebraska), Bush afirmó que "un aspecto de la estrategia para asegurarnos que tenemos un sistema de inmigración que funciona, que es ordenado y justo, es acercarnos y ayudar a la gente

Bush urges immigrants to learn English, US History

US President George W. Bush said Wednesday that immigrants to the United States must assimilate by learning English and US history and said he was creating a task force to help them.

"It's going to work to help people at the grassroots level expand the teaching of English and civics and history instruction programs to help others assimilate into America," he said during a speech here.

Bush said he would sign a presidential order upon his return to Washington later in the day creating a "task force on the new Americas" led by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

"One aspect of making sure we have an immigration system that works, that's orderly and fair, is to actively reach out and help people assimilate into our country. That means to learn the values and history and language of America," he said.

Bush also stepped up pressure on the sharply divided US Congress to "get something done" and agree on a comprehensive immigration reform package that he hopes will include a temporary guest worker program.

The US House of Representatives has passed a bill largely focused on border security, while the Senate has approved a measure that could give millions of undocumented immigrants now in the United States a path to US citizenship.

Many in Bush's conservative base strongly oppose making it possible for any of the estimated 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in the United States to naturalize.

a asimilarse en este país". "Eso significa aprender los valores, la historia y el lenguaje de EU", agregó.

Bush anunció que a su regreso hoy a Washington firmará una orden ejecutiva para crear un grupo de trabajo que se centre en ampliar las clases para inmigrantes sobre esas materias, con el fin de ayudar a los extranjeros que quieran quedarse permanentemente en EU a integrarse.

En su discurso, Bush reconoció que el debate en torno a una reforma integral del sistema migratorio, en un país donde se calcula que existen doce millones de extranjeros "sin papeles", es "un debate duro para Estados Unidos".

Esta reforma se ha convertido en uno de los principales contenciosos en el Congreso en un año electoral.

El Senado ha aprobado un proyecto de ley que combina medidas más duras de seguridad en la frontera con un programa de trabajadores temporales y una vía para regularizar a los "ilegales" que lleven más tiempo en el país y que no hayan cometido delitos.

En cambio, el proyecto de ley

que ha pasado la Cámara de Representantes pone el énfasis únicamente en el endurecimiento de la seguridad, sin proporcionar ninguna vía para la regularización al considerar que cualquier concesión en ese sentido equivaldría a una amnistía.

Ambas cámaras deben ahora iniciar un proceso de armonización de sus respectivas propuestas para que el resultado final pueda convertirse en ley.

El proceso se promete duro y lleno de agrios debates, ante lo enconado de las posturas.

En este sentido, no es casual la elección de Nebraska para poner punto final a la gira de dos días de Bush sobre la reforma migratoria.

Este estado en pleno corazón de Estados Unidos y de inclinación marcadamente republicana ha visto crecer gradualmente su población inmigrante.

Entre los años 2000 y 2004, la cifra de hispanos residentes en este estado creció en 26 mil personas, o el 70% del aumento total, mientras que el número de habitantes blancos cayó en 500.

Uno de sus senadores, el demócrata Ben Nelson, se alinea con la Cámara de Representantes

y su posición de adoptar sólo medidas de seguridad en la frontera.

Según Nelson, "los residentes de Nebraska que yo conozco y con los que hablo lo primero que quieren es reforzar la frontera".

En declaraciones que publica hoy el periódico Omaha World Herald, Nelson apuntó la posibilidad de que ni siquiera llegue a reunirse el comité bicameral para unificar los dos proyectos de ley, lo que impediría su aplicación legal.

"No puedo ver cómo se va a hacer. Tendríamos más gente que querría cruzar la frontera que en cualquier momento del pasado. El problema se haría mayor", apuntó el senador.

En su discurso de hoy, Bush, que el martes visitó Texas y Nuevo México, expresó en cambio su optimismo acerca de que las dos cámaras lograrán resolver sus diferencias y aprobar la reforma migratoria.

El presidente afirmó que, pese "a que la gente opina, y grita, y arma bulla, y se insulta (...) está emergiendo un consenso en torno a este tema".

El gran obstáculo, reconoció,

es qué hacer con los inmigrantes que ya se encuentran en el país en situación irregular.

Bush, que apoya la versión del Senado, opinó que quienes lleven más tiempo deben demostrar que tienen un trabajo, pagar sus impuestos atrasados y una multa y carecer de antece-

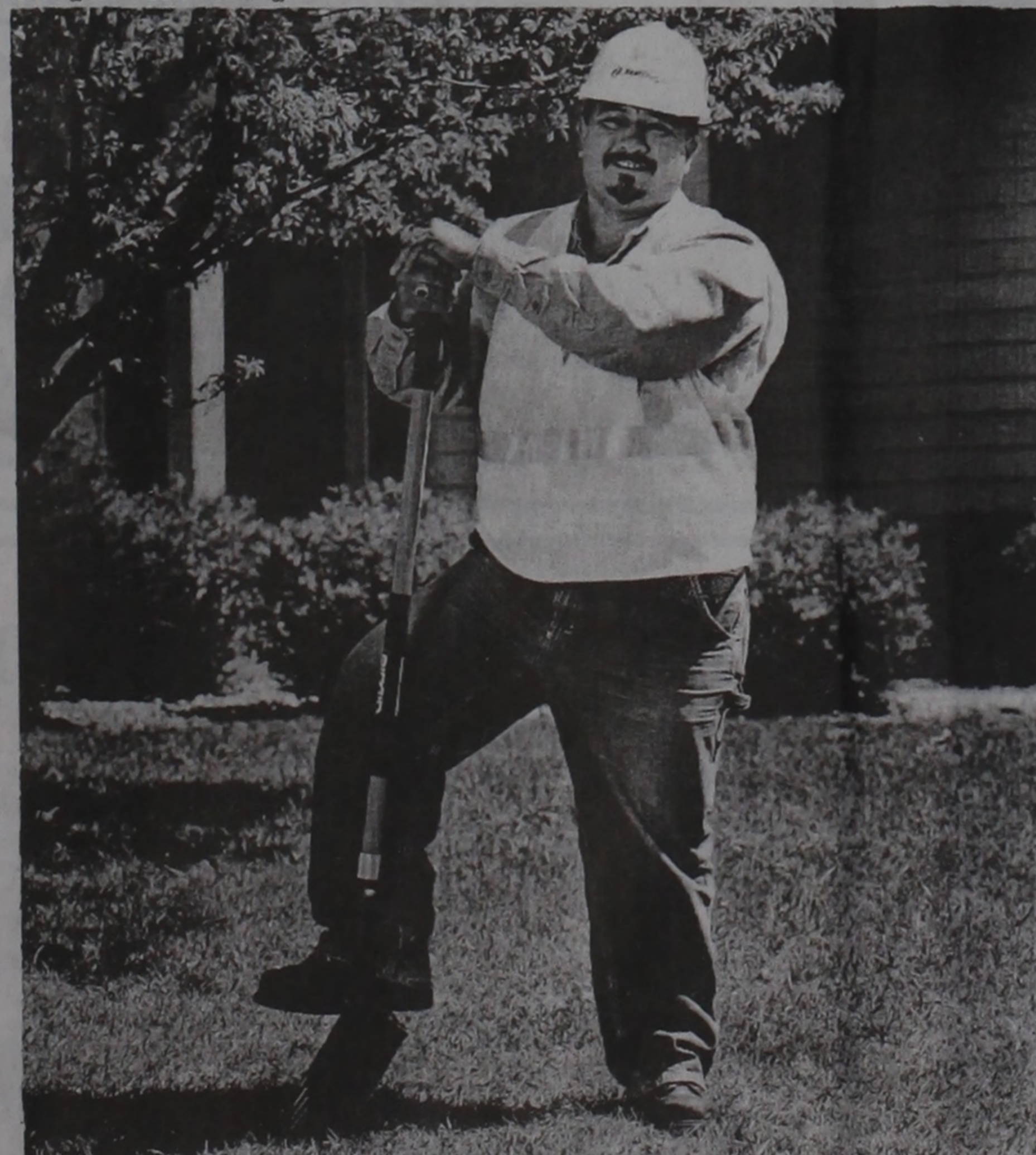
dentos penales, para que se les permita solicitar la residencia y, eventualmente, la ciudadanía.

Bush, que afirma que el asunto le "importa mucho", proseguirá el jueves su campaña en favor de la reforma migratoria al participar en un desayuno de oración hispano en Washington.

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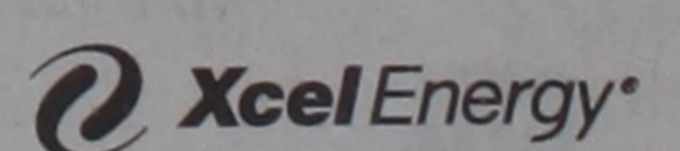
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Adelina Martinez



Illiana Martinez



Iris Martinez



Isaac Martinez



Destiny Mendoza



Noelle Miles



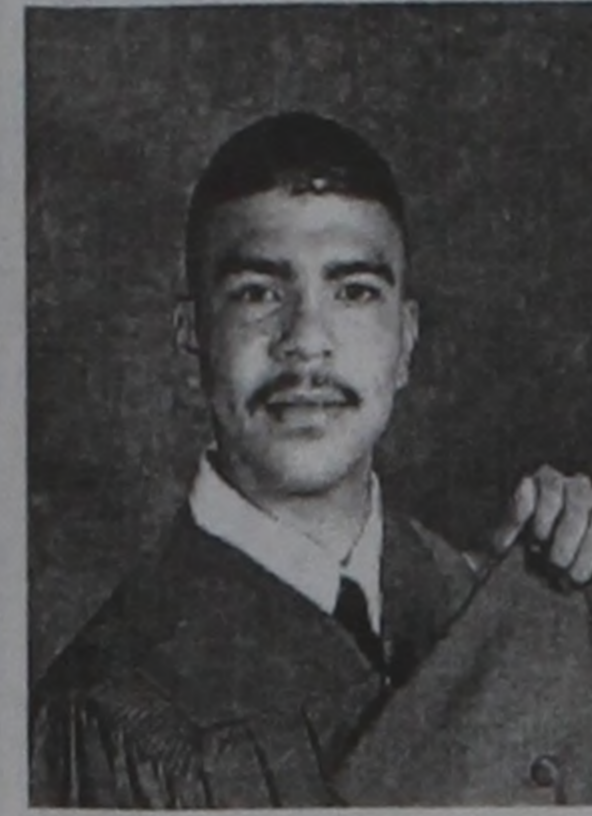
Juanita Montalvo



Ashley Pena



Lillie Peralez



Alfredo Perez



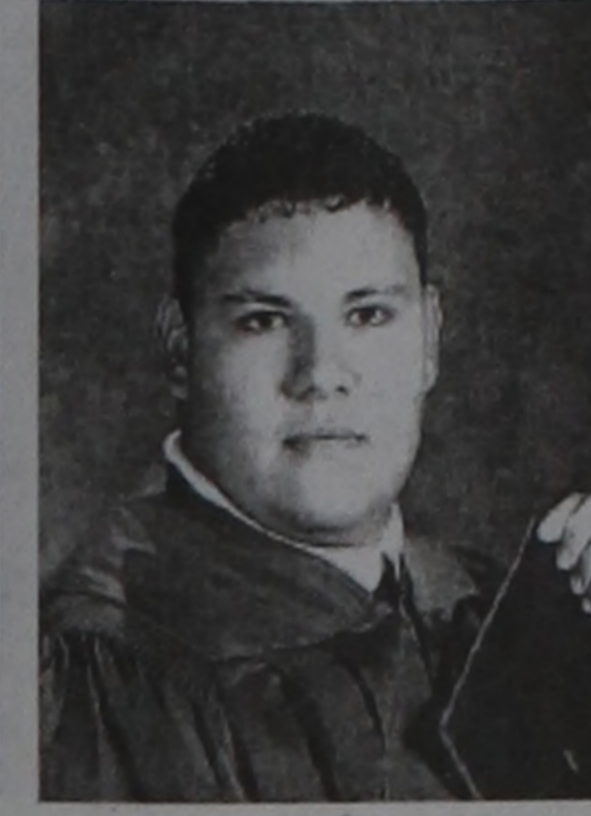
Crystal Perez



Jesse Perez



Maria Perez



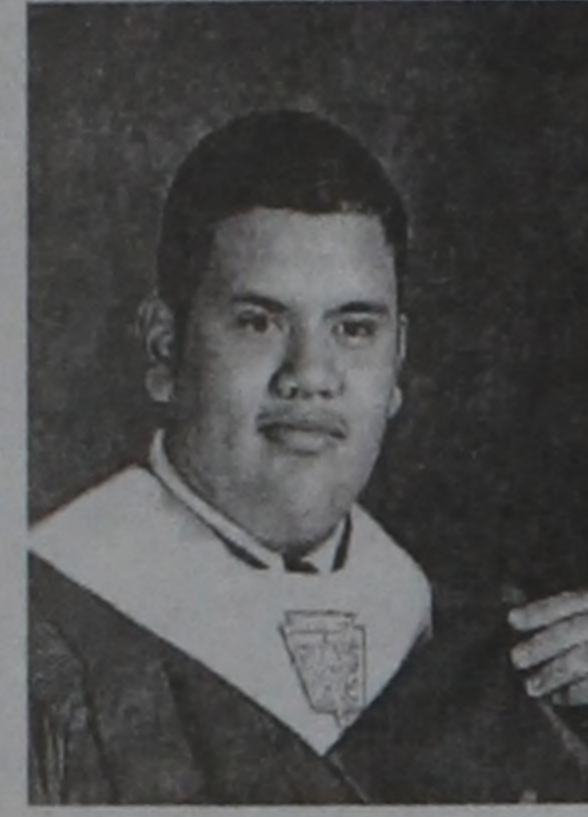
Gabriel Pizarro



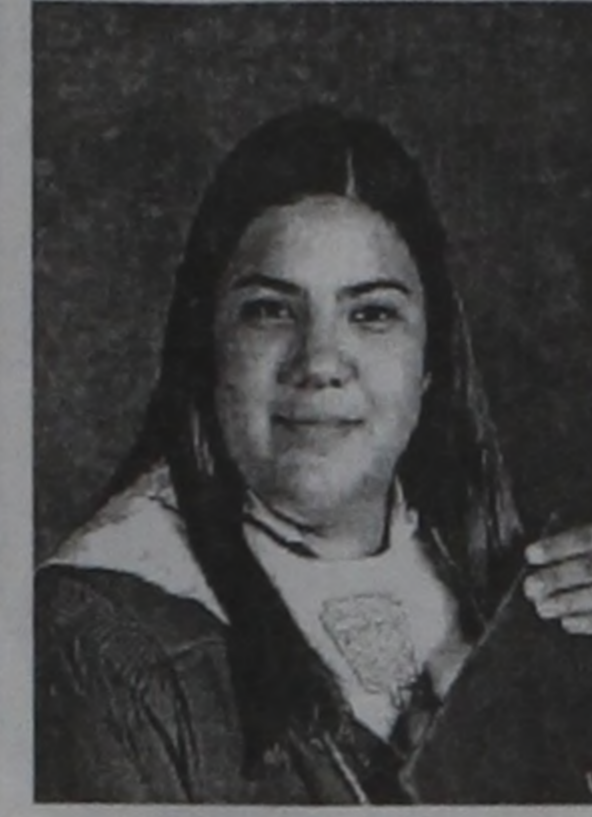
Edward Ramirez



Jasmine Regalado



Yovanny Rico



Ester Rios



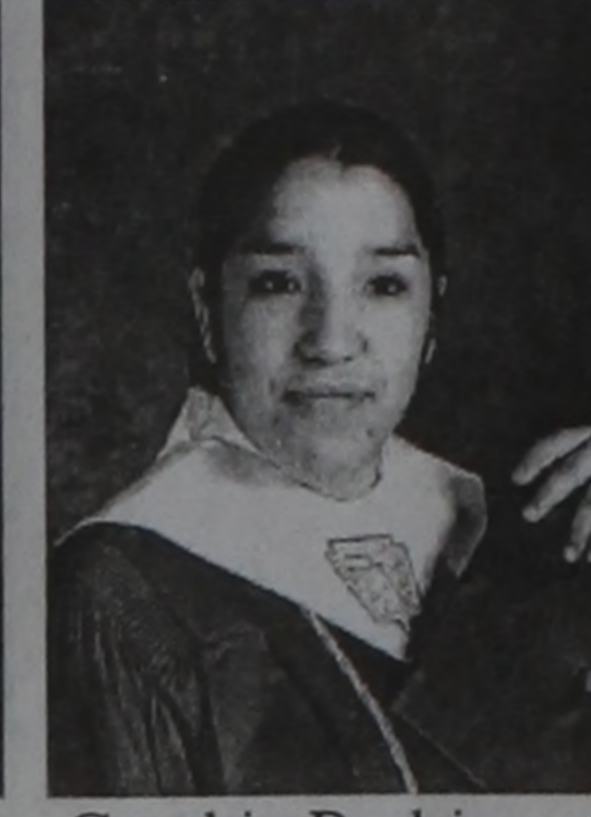
Ramero Rivera



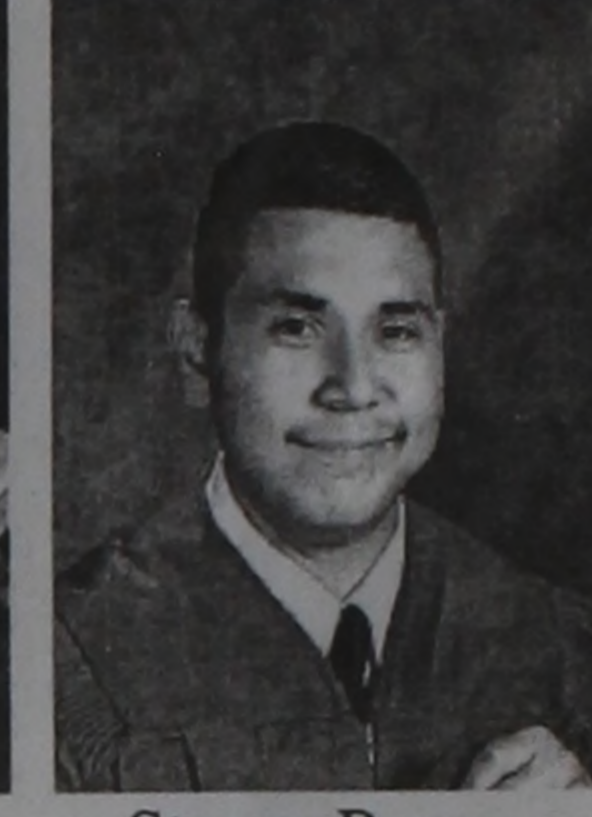
Anna Rodriguez



Maribel Rodriguez



Cynthia Rodriguez



Steven Romo



Joey Sanchez



Manuel Sanchez



Sylvia Solis



Margarita Subia



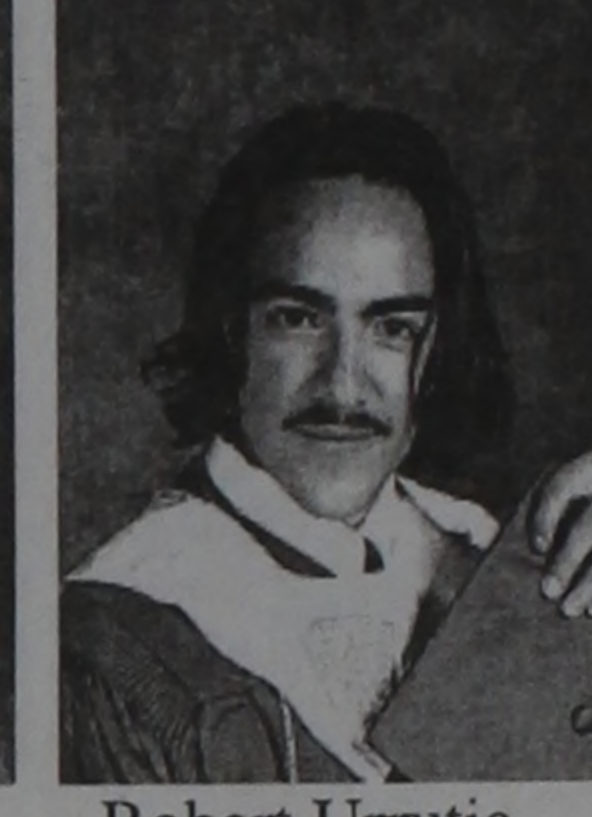
Justin Sustaita



Anastasia Trevino



Leslie Urrutia



Robert Urrutia



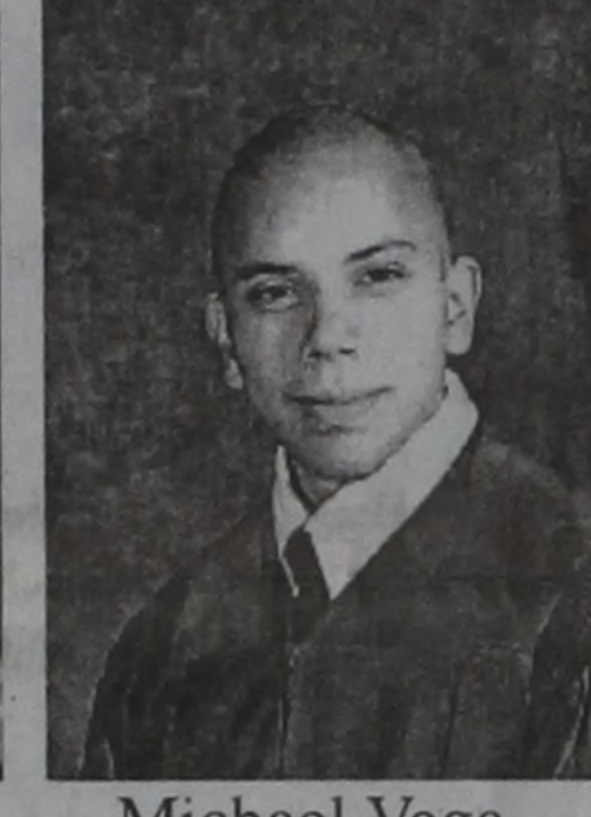
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Hispanic 3-year-olds More Likely to be Obese than Black or White Children

Researchers know that by the time U.S. children reach adolescence, there are disparities in the prevalence of obesity among racial and ethnic groups. According to an article in the June issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, one of the JAMA/Archives journals. However, little is known about the age at which these differences begin to appear. Their origins may lie in the preschool years because eating and exercise habits develop early and because a mother's obesity before and immediately after birth may influence her child's risk.

Robert C. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., and Sean M. Orzol, M.P.H., of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Princeton, N.J., studied 2,452 children born in 75 U.S. hospitals between 1998 and 2000. Mothers were surveyed in the hospital after giving birth and again one and three years later, answering questions about their ethnic background, education level, income and access to food. The three-year survey was an in-home interview, during which researchers also measured the height and weight of the children. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated by dividing the children's weight in kilograms by the square of their height in meters. Children who had BMIs at the 95th percentile or higher for their age and sex were considered obese.

About 19 percent of the children were white, 52.2 percent were black, 25.4 percent were Hispanic and 3.1 percent were another race or ethnicity. At the three-year interview, 18.4 percent of all the children were obese, including 25.8 percent of Hispanic children, 16.2 percent of black children and 14.8 percent of white children; Hispanic children had significantly higher odds of being obese than black or white children. Hispanic children continued to have higher odds when the researchers adjusted for three socioeconomic factors that have been linked to childhood obesity: mothers' education level, household income and food security, or access to food.

"This disparity in obesity be-

tween Hispanic and non-Hispanic children seems to develop early in life, so future research into modifiable determinants of this disparity should focus on the period from conception to school entry," the authors conclude. "This research might benefit from more emphasis on qualitative studies across racial/ethnic groups of those cultural factors that can influence energy balance, such as how young children are nourished or spend their time."

Anuncio de Servicio Público sobre fraude en la comunidad Latina

Recientemente el Senado aprobó un proyecto de ley sobre el tema de la inmigración. Usted necesita saber que este proyecto de ley no es ley final y que aún no existe un programa de legalización. Cualquier persona que le pida dinero para arreglar su estatus de inmigración, está cometiendo fraude. Mientras una ley no sea aprobada, su estatus no podrá cambiar. Para más información visite www.nclr.org. Esto es un mensaje del Consejo Nacional de La Raza.

EL EDITOR #1 In News, Sports, Local, National & International

So now we know: Jose Luis Castillo's secret role models are Roberto Duran, George Foreman and James Toney.

All right, so that's a semi-cheap shot at Castillo after the Mexican failed to make weight for the second straight time in his now-infamous series with Diego Corrales. What had started out 13 months earlier as a rivalry which could have -- and should have -- become legendary has become a punch line for fat jokes. Jose Luis Castillo is by no means flabby, but perhaps it's time to give up on the idea of being a lightweight.

Corrales-Castillo III, which was to have been televised Saturday night by Showtime, was canceled when Castillo twice failed to come within hailing distance of the 135-pound lightweight limit. The final scale reading, as was the first, was 140 pounds. Castillo, who had assured the media in a conference call only days earlier that there would be no foul-ups on his part, now has been branded as a cheat and a liar.

"I'm mortified and embarrassed," Castillo's promoter, Bob Arum, told a disbelieving crowd which had come for Friday's weigh-in at the Augustus Ballroom at Caesars Palace. "It's inexcusable. There's no explanation for what happened."

No explanation? Actually, there are quite a few. Castillo could have held off on that extra enchilada for dinner. Or the larger portion of refried beans at lunch. Or ... oh, never mind.

The absolute physical and



mental discipline required of a non-heavyweight fighter to make weight separates boxing from almost every other sport except horse racing, where jockeys who can't put down the fork and knife either find themselves out of work or developing serious health problems, such as bulimia.

Perhaps the most extreme example of the self-denying fighter is former middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, who insists he has not eaten so much as a single doughnut in 20 years.

Think other sports are held to

such a rigid standard? Ask disgruntled Pittsburgh Pirates fans about Dave Parker's huge weight gain after he signed a multimillion-dollar, guaranteed contract and then showed up at spring training looking like the Michelin Man. Hey, Parker obviously reasoned, I've got mine. So send over the dessert cart, and let's all forget about me ever making the Hall of Fame.

Basketball has had its Derrick Colemans and John "Hot Plate" Williamses, football its Nate Newtons and William "The Refrigerator" Perrys. But while coaches presumably can make overly hefty players run punishment laps, there is no requirement by the NBA or NFL that mandates that those leagues' athletes must make a specific weight on a specific day. Tubbies might be frowned upon, but, in the NBA's case at least, they can play and be paid until their contracts expire. They have union reps, too.

Boxing, once described as the "red-light district of sports" by New York columnist Jimmy Cannon, is not nearly so strictly governed. There are times -- usually from midnight to 11:59 p.m. -- when the heads of the most widely recognized sanctioning organizations appear to be auditioning to replace Curly, Larry, Moe and Shemp in a Stooges revival. But that's another story.

No matter how inept boxing's overall administration is, it still might be surmised that someone scheduled to earn \$900,000 for a lightweight championship bout should weigh in at the class limit of 135 pounds on the appointed day. That Castillo did not -- again -- casts more aspersions on him and, by extension, his sport.

Duran, in my estimation the greatest lightweight ever, had a propensity to pack on 40 or 50 pounds between fights. When it

continue on page 6

Free Summer Lunch Program for Youth

The City of Lubbock is pleased to announce the Summer Food Program for Children, sponsored by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. This program is provided through the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department. The Program will provide a free and nourishing Noon meal to youngsters ages one through eighteen. This program began on Tuesday, May 30 and will end on Friday, August 4, 2006. Meals will be served at the following locations:

Rawlings Community Center - 40th Street and Avenue B 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Trejo Supercenter - 3200 Amherst 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Simmons Community Center - E. 23rd and Oak Avenue 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

George Woods Center - Erskine and Zenith 12:10 - 1:10 p.m.

Phea Branch of the Boys and Girls Club - 1801 E. 24th Street 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

In addition to these sites, LISD will be participating in the program from June 1 through June 23 only. Meals will be served at 11:30 a.m. and last until 12:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Bean Elementary - 3001 Avenue N

Ramirez Elementary - 702 Avenue T

Harwell Elementary - 40th and Avenue B

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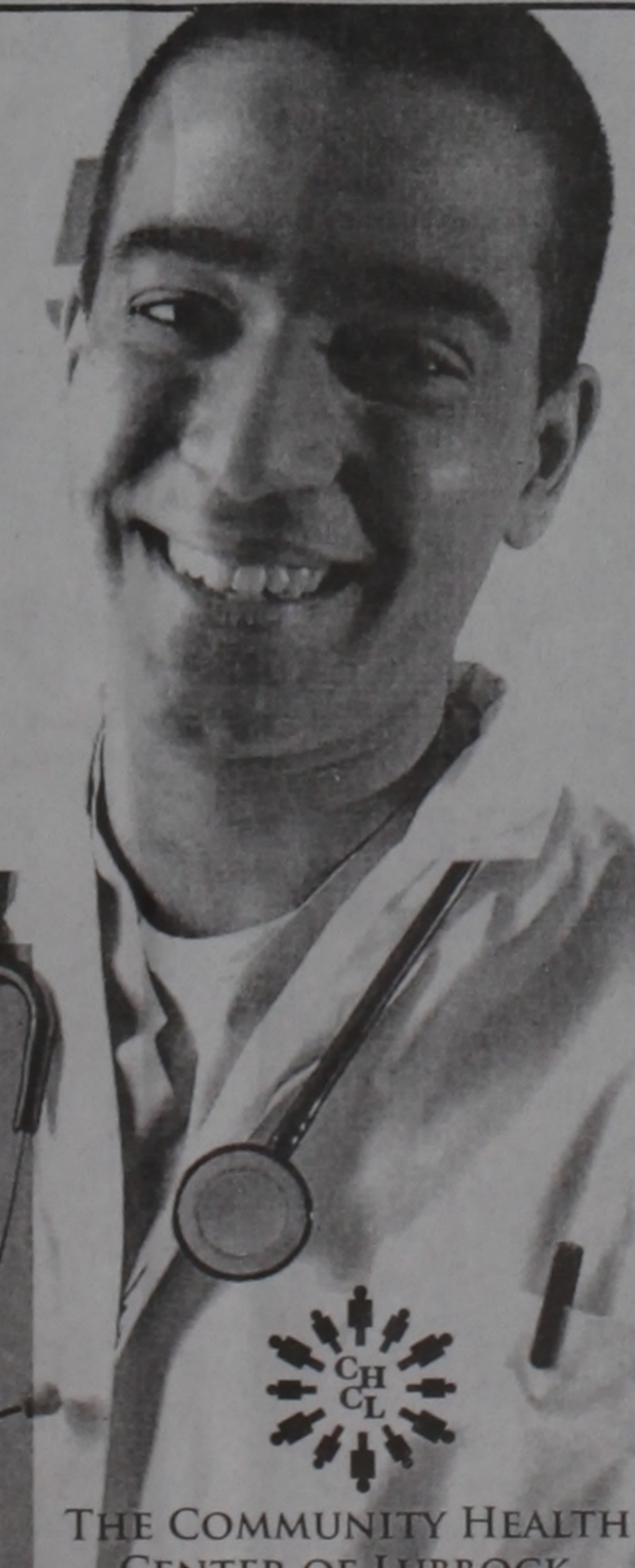
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Who'll Win High-Octane Finals? Diesel-powered Heat

The boys in Vegas have established Dallas as a slight favorite to beat the Heat for the NBA championship, no doubt believing the Mavs' home-court edge will be the deciding factor.

That's really the only reason to give the Mavericks any legitimate advantage, because other than potentially getting an extra game in Dallas, this series looks like a toss-up.

Throw away Dallas' commanding pair of victories during the regular season. These are now two much different teams, with both carrying newfound swagger from having reached the NBA Finals.

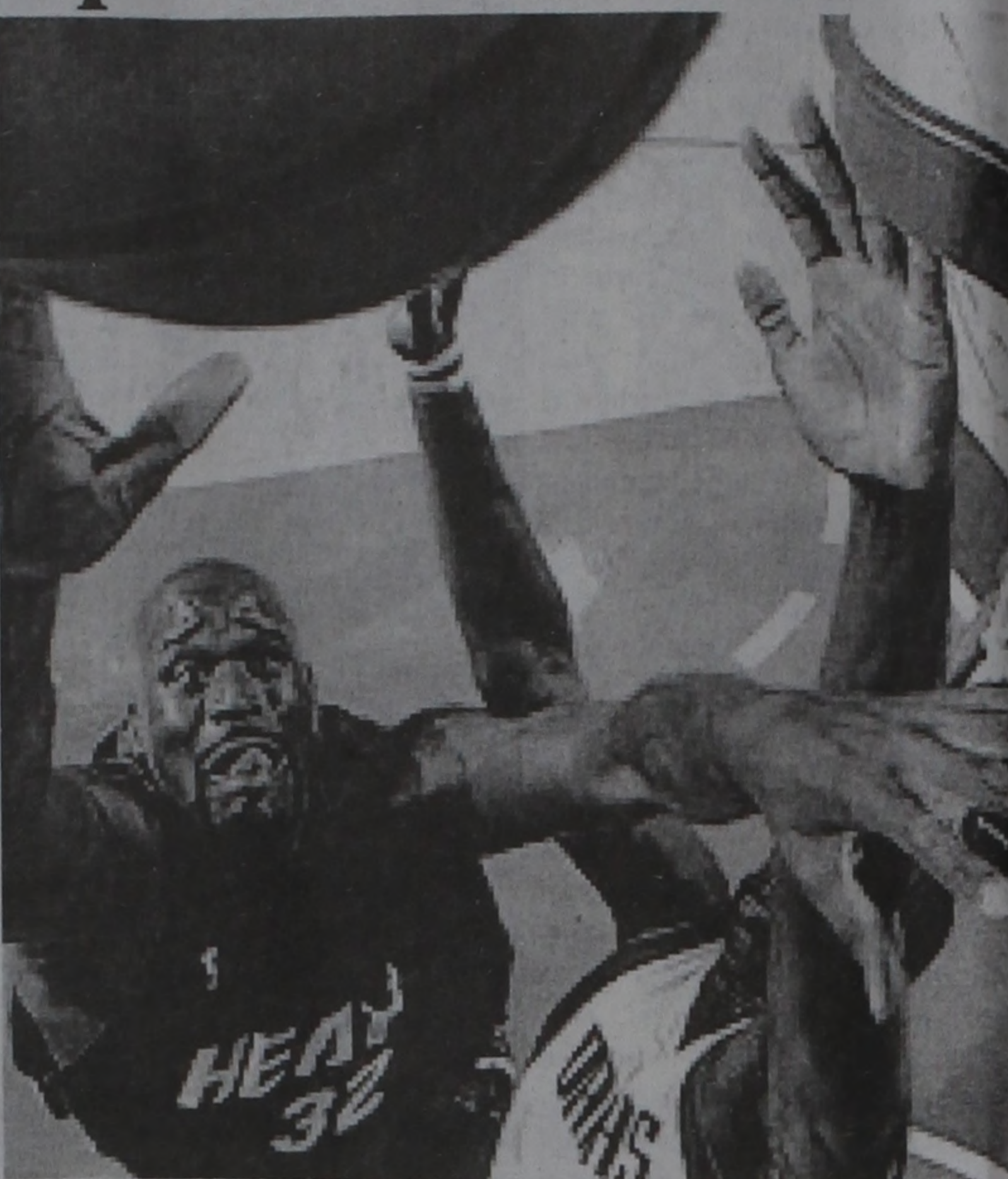
Miami has put it together at the perfect time. Shaquille O'Neal doesn't look like he needs a walker to get from the training room to his locker. Members of his supporting cast no longer play like wasted investments.

Dirk Nowitzki has proved to be clutch, finally able to put Dallas on his back after a few postseasons where he struggled. Avery Johnson, wrapping up his first full season as head coach, has gained invaluable experience for this opportunity to test his X's and O's against the legendary Pat Riley.

So who wins? I've given it a lot of thought and am leaning toward Miami in seven games. Reason: I can't doubt the Diesel -- again.

O'Neal's energetic play against the Pistons offered proof that he has been conserving himself for this time of the year, and that was a nasty surprise Detroit's tired legs weren't ready for.

There are televisions, radios and computers in Dallas, so O'Neal having shaved off about five years off his age won't come



as a shocker, but the Mavs are still pretty powerless to stop him.

Though they do have big bodies in DeSagana Diop, Erick Dampier and even Keith Van Horn, the likelihood of those guys ending up in quick foul trouble is far better than any of them having extended success against a determined Shaq Daddy.

"We need him a lot," Johnson said of Dampier, who didn't play after Game 2 of the Western Conference finals. "Obviously, nobody out there is going to stop Shaq. But you need bodies."

Bodies like D.J. Mbenga -- who won't be available until Game 5 due to suspension. So expect Johnson to find ways to

compete by going small.

Luckily, adjustments have been his strength throughout the postseason, and it's not going to take him long to figure out that the best remedy for stopping O'Neal might be to turn the series into a track meet with a heavy dose of small ball, forcing the Big Fella to hustle up and down the court.

"Shaq's going to get points, he's going to get some easy opportunities. Just don't get discouraged about that," Dallas' Jerry Stackhouse said. "We didn't get discouraged by Tim Duncan. Those are just things that can happen. True dominant players are going to find a way to get their numbers. We have to find a way to control the other guys."

Five Red Raiders Chosen on Final Day of MLB Draft

LUBBOCK, Texas - The 2006 MLB First-Year Player Draft concluded late Wednesday afternoon and five current Red Raiders and one 2007 signee were selected in the final rounds.

Departing seniors Joey Callender and Brian Capps were both drafted during the afternoon with Callender going in the 21st-round and Capps in the 30th. Callender, a First Team All-Big 12 selection in 2005, was taken by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays as the No. 619 overall pick. Brian Capps, an All-Big 12 honoree this past season, was taken by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 30th-round and was the 907th pick overall.

Juniors Josh Tomlin, Aaron Odom and Jon Plefka were also taken in the draft but have not yet indicated whether or not they will accept professional contracts. Right-handed pitcher Josh Tomlin, a transfer from Angelina J.C., was

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Castillo

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became increasingly difficult for him to come all the way down, he began stopping the elevator at increasingly higher floors, until he topped out as a super middleweight with jiggly jowls. That the erstwhile "Hands of Stone" could succeed as long as he did, and at as high a level, as the "Belly of Jelly" speaks to just how remarkably gifted he was.

You have to wonder, though, how much more sensational the great Duran might have been had he been more capable of ignoring the growling noises that forever reverberated in his stomach.



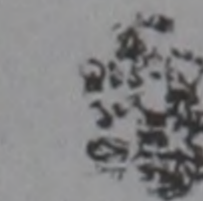
Delegates from the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce participated in the ribbon cutting of the House of Furniture last week. Owner Robert Narvaiz welcomed the delegate to the new store located at 2710 Ave. Q. The store features the best in furniture for the clients home.

Date:
June 17, 2006
Time: 7:00pm
Admission
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Come see La Guelaguetza, a traditional harvest festival observed in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Enjoy traditional Oaxacan dances in a festival setting performed by Ballet Folklóricos Nuestra Herencia, Paso Del Norte, and Aztlan. Location of event will be at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater.
1501 Mac Davis Lane

La Fiebre del Futbol Llega a La Cocina

En Latinoamérica el futbol es sinónimo de fiesta, de reunión familiar y amigos. Por ello es la euforia general que se vive a sólo unos cuantos días de iniciarse el Campeonato Mundial en Alemania.

Si bien los jugadores de las 32 selecciones participantes se han estado preparando y ya están listos para ofrecer lo mejor de sí; en casa, en restaurantes y en otras entidades relacionadas con la industria de la cocina también se están preparando para crear recetas acordes con la celebración, porque un buen partido de futbol tiene que estar acompañado de una buena comilona.

Por ejemplo, la Junta Nacional de la Miel, con base en Colorado, contactó a chefs de diferentes nacionalidades para que crearan un menú inspirado en los seis países latinoamericanos que participan en el Mundial. Así, tienen en su sitio en la internet recetas de Argentina, Brasil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, México y Paraguay.

"Pensamos en recetas que fueran de preparación simple y que utilizaran ingredientes frescos y fáciles de conseguir como el queso, las frutas y la carne marinada", dijo el chef.

El experto recaló que hoy día

es más sencillo hacer recetas internacionales gracias a la apertura comercial que existe a nivel mundial, que permite que haya una fusión de ingredientes y técnicas para cocinar.

"Ahora conseguimos productos de todas partes del mundo y a la vez que crece nuestra creatividad culinaria, aumenta el paladar de nuestra clientela; se vuelve más exigente", dijo el chef que confesó que le va a la selección mexicana, aunque también siente simpatía por los equipos de Argentina y Brasil.

¡Buen provecho!
Salsa Ecuador

Ingredientes
1 tomate grande pelado, sin semillas y bien picado
1 pimiento rojo o verde
1 taza de miel 100% pura
? libra de queso fresco o ricotta
1 cebolla mediana finamente picada
1 huevo duro/cocido finamente picado

Preparación
Sal y pimienta recién molida, al gusto
Preparación
En una licuadora o procesadora de alimentos licuar el tomate, el pimiento, la miel y el queso hasta obtener una salsa espesa. Condimentar con sal y pimienta. Colocar la mezcla en un reci-

ente hondo y añadir la cebolla y el huevo picado.

Esta salsa se sirve con papas cocidas, verduras crudas o en rodajas y trozos de tomate y aguacate.

Se puede servir la salta en un recipiente, rodeada de la verdura y servir la verdura y bañarla con la salsa.

Da para aproximadamente dos tazas.

Queso México
Ingredientes
? de taza de miel 100% pura
7 onzas de chiles chipotles (Si usa enlatados, escúrralos y corte finamente antes de mezclar)
2 cucharadas de vinagre de manzana

1/3 de taza de aceite de oliva
1 libra de queso tipo fresco.

Preparación
Corte el queso en cubos pequeños y colóquelos en un recipiente hondo; deje reposar.

Aparte, licúe el chile chipotle con el vinagre. Agregue la miel y el aceite poco a poco. Continúe licuando hasta obtener una salsa de consistencia espesa.

Para servir, vierta la salsa sobre los cubos de queso y colóqueles palitos de madera o plástico para bocadillos.

Da aproximadamente 1? tazas de salsa.

Estados Unidos se pone a dieta para combatir el sobrepeso

El gobierno del país de la hamburguesa, las papas fritas y la pizza ha decidido poner a dieta a sus ciudadanos para intentar reducir el sobrepeso y la obesidad, que amenazan la salud del 65% de los estadounidenses.

La Oficina de Alimentos y Medicinas (FDA) ha instado con ese objetivo a los 925 mil restaurantes de Estados Unidos, donde comen el 25% de sus habitantes, a reducir el contenido de las raciones para ayudar a controlar la obesidad, que se ha convertido en un verdadero problema nacional.

"Esta y otras recomendaciones ayudarán a la industria, los educadores, al gobierno y a los profesionales médicos a reducir la obesidad, así como las cargas médicas y económicas que generan", dijo Andrew Eschenbach, comisionado de la FDA, en un comunicado.

La gordura excesiva, en concreto, afecta a 60 millones de estadounidenses de más de 20 años y, según la investigación realizada por la agencia federal, cada año provoca miles de muertes, además de gastos sanitarios superiores a 117,000 millones de dólares.

Esta enfermedad ha crecido de manera exponencial en EU desde 1980, y se ha convertido en un problema de salud nacional que amenaza el crecimiento de casi nueve millones de niños y adolescentes de entre 6 y 19 años.

Según una investigación del Departamento de Agricultura que se cita en el estudio de la FDA, los estadounidenses consumen diariamente 300 calorías más que hace 15 años.

Hace unos meses el cardiólogo español Valentín Fuster, jefe del servicio cardiovascular del neoyorquino Instituto Médico Monte Sinaí y presidente de la Organización Mundial del Corazón, denunció el exceso de comida en las raciones que se sirve en los restaurantes de EU y sus efectos negativos, en particular los de Nueva York.

En declaraciones, Fuster aseguró que "no es normal lo que sucede aquí, que cuando pides algo de comer te traen el doble de lo necesario. Hay que parar esta costumbre".

El sobrepeso multiplica las posibilidades de padecer fallos coronarios, además de diabetes del tipo 2 y determinados procesos cancerosos, según la FDA.

En Nueva York, los ataques al corazón son la primera causa de mortalidad, muchos de ellos provocados por un coctel fatal compuesto por obesidad y estrés, por lo que el verano pasado el ayuntamiento inició una campaña para evitar el consumo de grasas artificiales en los restaurantes de la capital.

Sin embargo, el sector restaurantero no cree que el informe de la FDA refleje la verdadera realidad de esta industria, en la que

según la Asociación Nacional de Restaurantes (NRA) se ha conseguido avances en la mejora de la calidad nutritiva de las comidas.

En un comunicado, Steven Anderson, presidente de la asociación, aseguró que el estudio "se queda corto" a la hora de analizar la influencia del sector, al que toma como diana "de manera injusta".

"El informe no toma en consideración las nuevas opciones que hay en los restaurantes norteamericanos hoy, muchas de las cuales están orientadas a acomodarse a las peticiones de alimentos bajos en calorías y grasas, además de comida rica en fibra", señaló Anderson.

El impacto económico del sector es significativo en un país en el que el ciudadano medio gasta en las comidas que realiza fuera de casa el 46% del presupuesto para alimentación, lo que genera un negocio anual cercano a los 500,000 millones de dólares.

Entre otras medidas, la FDA aboga también por incrementar la presencia en el menú de alimentos bajos en calorías y proporcionar a los clientes una completa información nutricional.

Pero la NRA asegura que el coste del análisis nutricional de cada menú "costaría entre 11,500 y 46 mil dólares", un monto inasumible por una industria en la que los menús varían en cada estación del año, cada mes o incluso cada día.

www.CovenantHeartInstitute.org

Are you or a loved one affected by heart health issues? Covenant Heart Institute invites you to join us for our "Heart Matters" breakfast club. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings

and experiences with others who are dealing with matters of the heart. The Heart Matters breakfast club is open to the public and free of charge. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

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