

El Editor

"West Texas' oldest Hispanic Owned Weekly Newspaper"

"El Respeto a Derecho Ajeno es la Paz"

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Lubbock, TX USA

Congressional Race Heats Up

Isett Said to Put Republican Party Agenda Above District Interests

Lubbock - Republican Candidate David Langston claimed at a press conference held Wednesday afternoon that his opponent, State Representative Carl Isett, puts his own personal and party agenda above the interests of his district due to the fact that Isett recently voted on a bill cutting CHIP funding.

"Throughout this campaign I have pledged to go to Washington and vote issue by issue based upon the best interest of the 19th Congressional District, not according to strict party lines," said Langston. "Many have



Isett



Langston

asked me for an example how a politician who might have placed his personal or party agenda interest above his constituents. I believe the vote Carl Isett cast last week in Texas House of Representative is such an example." Langston, former Mayor of Lubbock, explained that Isett's vote on the appropriations, cutting state funds from the Children's Health Insurance Program, will cost the counties in the 19th District almost \$187 million. Langston's source came from a study conducted by Ray Perryman from The

Perryman Group, a well-respected economic analysis organization. This study was commissioned by the Texas Hospital Association and the Texas Medical Association.

"This vote will cause the loss of 1575 permanent jobs. Lubbock County will lose 490, Ector County 390, Midland County 217, and the balance throughout the remaining counties of the district," Langston said. "This comes at a time when we already see a layoff at hospitals, rural clinics closing and physicians leaving long established relationships with hospitals to start new ventures. Clearly this is not in the best interest of the people of the district."

The figures put together by Perryman show that more than 200,000 children of the State of Texas will not be able to have access to healthcare as a result of the party agency Isett is following. (Continued age 3)

Some Hispanic Leaders Backing Isett

Isett Criticized by Some Hispanic Leaders

News that some Hispanic leaders are supporting Carl Isett for the District 19 congressional race surprised and upset other leaders within the community. "I can't even understand how anyone from our community can support Isett" said Ysidro Gutierrez. It upsets me that these people who are supposed to look out for our community could even think of supporting a man whose every action is meant to hinder the progress of the Mexican American and for that matter all low and moderate income people in the District. In an editorial published in this week's edition of El Editor, Gutierrez points out that he is especially concerned about education cuts supported by Isett. "Cuts in education hurt all Texans but are especially hurtful to working families, the poor and minorities. Education is the traditional route out of poverty and the vicious cycle of ignorance.... Carl Isett's conservative agenda will increase the numbers of unhealthy and uneducated Texans," said Gutierrez. In order to prevent ill feelings one Hispanic leader preferred to remain anonymous but also became upset with Isett Hispanic supporters. "What in the hell are these people thinking! Isett is the one person in the Texas legislature who has hurt Hispanics the most. Can you imagine what he will do in Congress." The prson also cited concerns including the CHIP program, insurance, education programs and others in which Isett had voted for cuts. "I can understand how some people would support Isett," said Olga Rijas Aguero. "He always seems like such a nice guy. Easy to talk to and intelligent. But his actions in Austin prove that he has one thing in mind. Hurting the poor through what he describes as tax cuts."



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

Last week we read where the A-J endorsed three candidates for the district 19 congressional race. it seemed strange to me but as I thought about it, it kind of made sense.

To follow suit. I decided to not endorse just one candidate but to ask our readers to **VOTE FOR ANYONE EXCEPT CARL ISETT!**

I do this in an effort to prevent a prson who in my opinion would probably hurt the Hispanic community more than anyone has done since the District 19 Congressional seat has been available in West Texas.

In my mind Carl Isett, as a member of the Conservative Coalition in austin has done everything to make big business happy and everything to harm the working persons of Texas.

Under the guise of insisting that Texas residents do not want more taxes, he has worked to cut every program which has helped the low and moderate income people and ease the so called sstrain on business.

The programs he has cut are endless. They include everything from the CHIP program to teacher support programs and even taking away help to disabled persons who need the most help.

For those of you who are even thinking about voting for Isett in the next election, just remember how much poor people have suffered under President Bush and multiply it by 10.

**Vote Early
Vote Against
Carl Isett
You can vote early
now at Most
United SuperMarkets
and the ounty
Courthouse until
Tuesday.
Go Vote today or
Quit Complaining
write Bidal at
eleditor@llano.net**

Latino Groups Coalesce to Challenge Federal Hiring, Contracts

By Arlene Martínez

The omission of Hispanics in portioning out federal government jobs and contracts is an issue six U.S. presidents, dating back to Richard Nixon, have struggled to address.

It is one that countless Latino businesses and organizations have tackled, both collectively and separately, for decades.

In anticipation of the biggest wave of retiring federal workers in history, a coalition of Latino organizations, led by the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE), is quietly mapping a campaign that participants hope will provide final impetus toward achieving parity in federal employment and expanded procurement opportunities for Latino business owners.

Hispanics constitute 6.8 percent of the 2 million-member federal work force as of June 30, 2002. This reflects a growth of just 0.02 percent over the year before. Hispanics are the only ethnic/racial group in federal service with representation below their numbers in the civilian labor force

(11.9 percent) or population (13 percent).

Precise statistics on Latino-owned businesses that receive federal government contracts are fuzzy, but for all businesses of color, the figure is estimated to be less than 5 percent. Hispanic Business magazine publisher Jesús Chavarría recently requested to the U.S. Commerce Department that it document the "true state" of non-white federal contractors.

"These two issues have not been real high on the federal radar screen, but Latino organizations understand this is a dire situation," says Gil Sandate, a 28-year veteran of federal service who is NAHFE's vice president.

Sandate, director of work force diversity at the Library of Congress, adds, "Decisions are made about the delivery of billions and billions of dollars in goods and services at the top levels. If we're not present, how can we expect there will be an equitable distribution for the Hispanic community?"

NAHFE, National Image, the National Association of Latino Elected

and Appointed Officials, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Council of La Raza and business owners like John González of San Antonio, Texas, have met several times in recent weeks to develop a unified strategy to confront the government. It will address a problem exacerbated by the "crisis in human capital," so dubbed by Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio). Half of the federal government's work force will reach retirement age in the next five years.

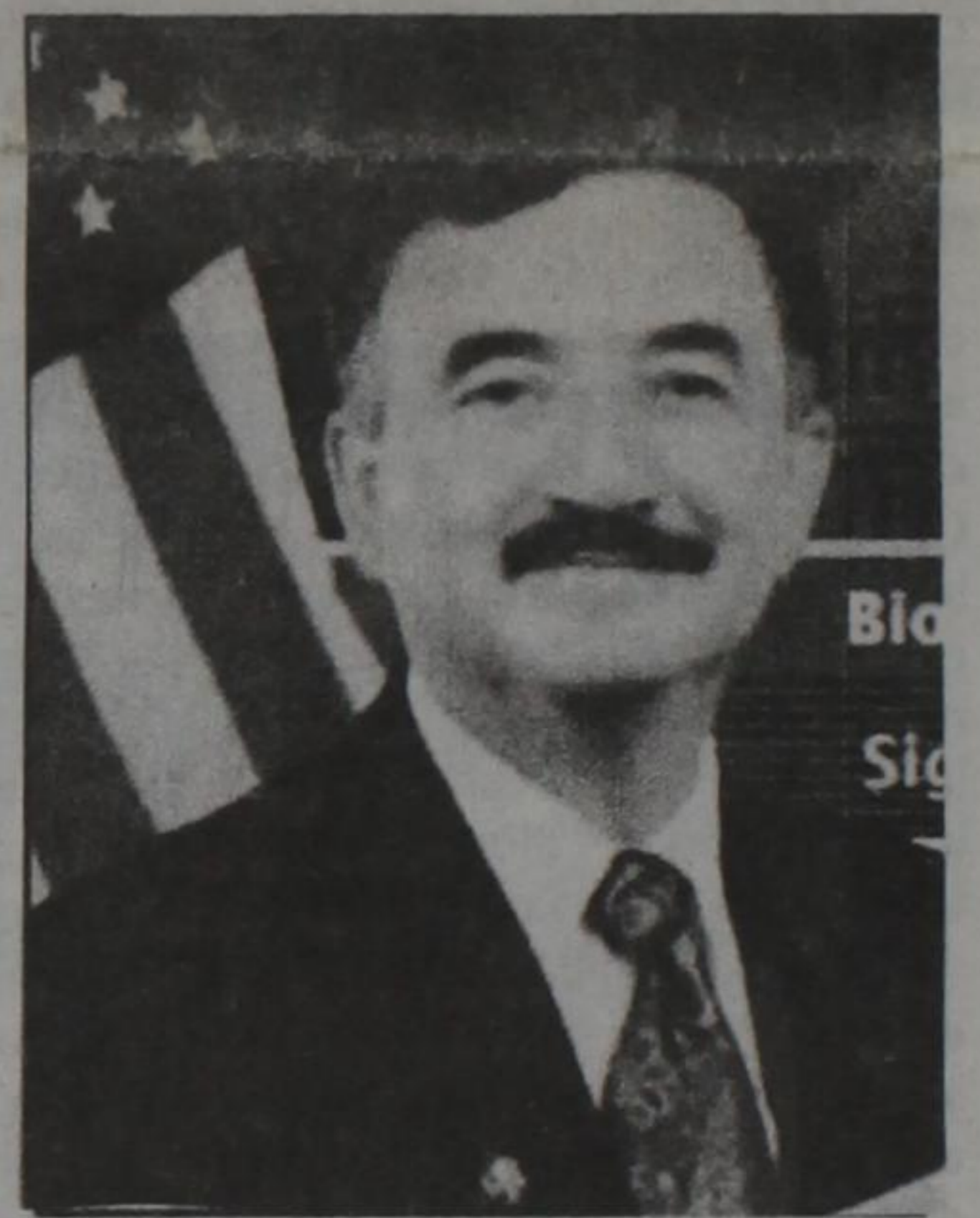
The coalition's soon-to-be-launched Fairness for Hispanics in the Federal Government initiative will particularly target high-level positions, where numbers are most dismal. Of the more than 6,110 persons serving at the elite senior executive service level, only 153 (2.5 percent) are Hispanic.

The initiative also brings to the table the dearth of federal contracting opportunities open to Latino-owned businesses.

Working with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the groups are preparing a series of recommenda-

tions, including one for the Government Accounting Office to undertake an investigation into the failure to correct disparities both in procurement and hiring.

The groups are building bipartisan support for their effort. They have been contacting Republican senators, as well as the all-Democrat CHC on the House side, to press for congress-



sional hearings.

Caucus chairman Ciro Rodríguez (D-Texas) has met with coalition members twice so far and is taking the issue to fellow CHC members. Only Congress can petition the GAO to undertake an investigation.

In 1990, the difference between the U.S. Latinos in the general population and their presence in federal government jobs was 9.0 percent to 5.4 percent. Today, it's 13.0 percent to 6.7 percent.

Latino numbers in all high-level positions actually dropped from 459 (3.1 percent) to 441 (3.0 percent) for 2001. They have not increased at all since Bill Clinton signed the Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government Executive Order 13171 on Oct. 12, 2000, shortly before leaving office. (Continued Page 3).

Grupos Latinos se Unen Para Enfrentar Practicas Federales

Por Arlene Martínez

La omisión de hispanos en la repartición de empleos y contratos del gobierno federal es un asunto que seis presidentes de los Estados Unidos, desde la época de Nixon, han tratado de solucionar.

Por décadas, éste ha sido un asunto que innumerables organizaciones y negocios latinos han intentado abordar tanto conjunta como separadamente.

En la víspera del retiro del mayor número de empleados federales en la historia, una coalición de organizaciones latinas, dirigidas por la Asociación Nacional de Ejecutivos Federales Hispanos (NAHFE, por sus siglas en inglés) está delineando una campaña que muchos estiman finalmente impulsará lo que se necesita para lograr la paridad en los empleos federales y ampliará las oportunidades comerciales para los latinos que son propietarios de negocios.

Los hispanos ocuparon el 6.8 por ciento de un total de 2 millones que componen la fuerza laboral federal hasta la fecha de 30 de junio de 2002. Esto sólo refleja un aumento de 0.02 por ciento comparado con las cifras que se presentaron el año anterior. Los hispanos son el único grupo étnico-racial dentro de los servicios federales que cuenta con una representación menor al número que ocupan en la fuerza laboral civil (11.9 por ciento) o

en la población (13 por ciento).

Estadísticas precisas sobre las empresas latinas que reciben contratos del gobierno federal son confusas, pero las estadísticas para todos los propietarios de color se estima es menos del 5 por ciento. El editor de la revista Hispanic Business, Jesús Chavarría, hace poco solicitó que el Departamento de Comercio de los Estados Unidos documentara la "verdadera situación" de los contratistas que no son blancos.

"Estos dos asuntos no han ocupado un lugar de importancia en la agenda federal, pero las organizaciones latinas entienden que éste es un escenario deplorable", dice Gil Sandate, que hace 28 años trabaja dentro del servicio federal y es vice presidente de NAHFE.

Sandate, quien es director de diversidad laboral en la Biblioteca del Congreso, añade, "Las decisiones sobre la adjudicación de miles de millones de dólares en bienes y servicios se toman en los estratos más altos. Si no estamos presentes, ¿cómo podemos esperar que haya una distribución equitativa para la comunidad hispana?"

La NAHFE, la Imagen Nacional, La Asociación Nacional de Oficiales Latinos Nombres y Electos (NALEO, por sus siglas en inglés), la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos, el Fondo Mexicano-Americano para la Defensa Legal y la

Educación, el Consejo Nacional de la Raza y dueños de empresas como John González de San Antonio se han reunido en varias ocasiones durante las últimas semanas para desarrollar una estrategia común para enfrentar el gobierno. La misma atenderá un problema que la "crisis de capital humano" ha exacerbado, como en repetidas ocasiones lo ha llamado el senador republicano por Ohio, George Voinovich. La mitad de la fuerza laboral del gobierno federal será elegible para el retiro en los próximos cinco años. (Continued Page 3)

Amenazas por investigar en Juárez

Ciudad Juárez, Méx. - La activista de la asociación de familiares de detenidos, desaparecidos y víctimas de violaciones a los Derechos Humanos en México (Afadem) Evangelina Arce, denunció el 3 de abril amenazas de muerte en su contra por investigar la desaparición de su hija en Ciudad Juárez.

Arce dijo que según una investigación que ha realizado a título personal, su hija Silvia Arce fue desaparecida hace cinco años presuntamente por agentes de la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR), quienes ahora la estarían amenazando de muerte "para que no insista en el esclarecimiento del caso".

"Solicité al presidente de la Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH) José Luis Sobranes que intervenga en este caso para que arresten a los responsables, ya que el próximo 23 de mayo se cumplen cinco años de la

desaparición forzada de mi hija", aseguró la activista.

La madre explicó que su hija trabajaba en labores de limpieza en un centro nocturno de Ciudad Juárez (fronteriza con Estados Unidos) y al salir el 23 de mayo de 1998 fue secuestrada junto a otra muchacha y aún permanece desaparecida.

Según Arce, la investigación que ha realizado le ha permitido identificar a los presuntos culpables, pero éstos "no han sido llamados a declarar" por las autoridades.

Desde hace 10 años en esa ciudad han sido asesinadas al menos 300 mujeres, en su mayoría jóvenes trabajadoras de la industria maquiladora, cuyos cuerpos son arrojados en deshabitadas zonas cercanas a la frontera de México con Estados Unidos.

Diputados piden al gobierno que no vote contra Cuba

**El Editor
First in News**

Why this Former Marine Stands Against the Iraq War

By Robert Miranda

Some people find it hard to believe that a former Marine, one of America's best-trained warriors, would go against his president and his country's resolve to engage in war against Iraq. But I am against this war.

I'm not a pacifist. I don't have the courage to be one. As a member of the Green Party I believe nations and people have the right to self-defense. However, I'm against this war because of the teachings I learned from America's most decorated General, this two-time Medal of Honor recipient not only fought wars for us, he fought domestically to ensure wars were fought in our defense, not for profit.

My views on wars were shaped by a real hero to many rank and file Marines, former Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, General Smedley Darlington Butler. General Butler is a hero to many rank and file Marines because, as many senior non-commissioned officers know, he was a Marine's Marine.

I served my country for 8 years by serving in the Marine Corps as a non-commissioned officer. Serving my country gave me an opportunity to see through the obfuscation of the pro-American rhetoric of the Reagan era; however, it was not until I attended college and

earned my degree that I was able to sharpen my political views and beliefs.

During my years as a Marine I was assigned to an infantry division, the 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. My unit deployed to many areas around the world, Central America, the Caribbean, Korea and the Middle East, to mention a few. During these deployments I always took the opportunity to reflect on the military campaigns we were charged to carry through. Then as now I believe many of the battles and peace-keeping missions my unit endeavored upon were actions which benefited a few people.

Many active duty Marines today are unaware of General Butler's notions and opinions about war. If the Marines allowed the rank and file to study General Butler's words, my hunch is that there would be many military leaders questioning our president's actions today.

General Butler's book, "War is a Racket," highly influenced my own opinions about war and the way this country uses its military force. Originally printed in 1935, "War Is a Racket" is General Smedley Butler's frank speech describing his years as a Marine serving as a puppet for big-business interests. General Butler

went against the corporate war machine because he saw how corporations were raping democracy by attempting to take control of our government.

General Butler served our country with honor and distinction. As a Marine engaged in campaigns for the United States his valor and courage were without equal. Later he would acknowledge, but was careful not to renounce the Marines, that the use of US Military forces outside of our borders in campaigns he was involved in, did not serve the interest of the United States Constitution or its citizens. He believed these campaigns to be tools of Big Business.

Once General Butler came to terms with this notion he became a very politically charged and controversial figure. Imagine, the former Commandant of the United States Marine Corps declaring that he was against war? Actually, he didn't go against war, what he resolved to be was an advocate for the prudent use of our military in the defense of the homeland.

"I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long.... Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city dis-

tricts. We Marines operated on three continents" [Maverick Marine, 1998].

This statement is the basis for why I stand against this war. In the closing stages of this campaign one can see the many corporations lining up for contracts aimed at rebuilding Iraq. The New York Times recently published an article outlining the various American corporations about to profit from this war. Some of these corporations clearly have ties to members of the Bush administration.

Are we fighting a just war? I believe that America is engaged in a war that is going to benefit a few people and is going to cost taxpayer billions of dollars. The majority of American workers will not benefit from the war fought by our military men and women because the corporations involved in Iraq are multinational and have no loyalty to America.

Indeed, there will hardly be any jobs as a result of our victory. If there are any jobs, they will be non-union jobs, and the rich will continue to get richer. In the end, it's the American taxpayer who loses, and it's our veterans who will be left out in the cold holding a brown paper bag with an Honorable discharge and Purple Heart in it.

Ultra-Conservative Carl Isett is Bad for Hispanics and Texas

Randy Sanders, Editor of the Lubbock A-J in his commentary "State Program Cuts Costly in Long Run" and the San Antonio Express-News Editorial "Senate Must Undo Damage to Budget" and David Langstons, Republican Candidate for Congress, have sounded the same alarm against Carl Isett. Perhaps the facts surrounding the Front Runner in the race to replace District 19 Congressman Larry Combest beg closer scrutiny. It is certain that he welcomes a fresh review of his record since he consistently boasts of his record and asks voters to judge him based on his record.

Carl Isett says he is a friend of business and a friend of the taxpayer. However his Legislative record clearly demonstrates that he is "Neither. The record shows that Carl Isett consistently votes the Straight Ultra-Conservative Party Line to the detriment of Lubbock and all West Texas.

Carl Isett's most recent vote was cast in favor of the very same House Budget bill that so alarms the Lubbock A-J, the San Antonio Express-News, and David Langston and was opposed by Representatives Pete Laney and Delwin Jones.

Carl Isett voted along Party Lines to redistrict West Texas. His vote resulted in lost clout and prestige and was very hurtful to the region. He voted along Party Lines against Speaker Pete Laney; this also was very hurtful to West Texas. As President of the conservative coalition, he opposes John T. Montford's "Texas Excellence Fund" for TTU; this also is very hurtful to West Texas. TTU will lose \$20 million.

Carl Isett's is sponsoring the security infrastructure bill that will greatly increase police powers of the state at the expense of individual liberty. Carl Isett supports limited liability in medical malpractice cases even when gross negligence is indicated.

Carl Isett speaks with glee of cutting health care and denuding education in the name of "Lower Taxes." The cuts supported by Carl Isett will lower Texas to dead-last in the nation in health care and education.

Los Dictadores en la Vida de Francisco Franco Fabian

Por Marisella Veiga

Mi madre, quien es cubana, me puso el nombre de Marisella en honor a un personaje ficticio con un nombre polisilabo. Marisela es la niña que nació fuera de matrimonio en el clásico venezolano de Rómulo Gallegos, Doña Bárbara.

La madre de mi amigo Cisco le puso un nombre trisilabo en honor a un notorio dictador. Luego de emigrar de Republica Dominicana a los Estados Unidos, él lo abrevió a dos silabas.

Por lo regular, me irrita cuando alguien anglicaniza o acorta su nombre al convertirse en ciudadano estadounidense. Con frecuencia, muchos cambian su nombre porque consideran irritante la larga y melódica versión hispana. En la tierra de la eficiencia reinan los nombres monosilabos: Bob, Max, Ann, Sue.

Francisco Franco Fabian dice que a él le molesta cómo suena su nombre. Me parece que tiene que ver con lo que él piensa sobre el dictador que gobernó en España desde 1936 a 1975.

Es curioso que mi amigo Francisco Franco (conocido hoy en día como Cisco) Fabian, de 40 años, ha pasado la mitad de su vida cultivando un interés muy particular, un singular pasatiempo: estudiar dictadores contemporáneos y modernos. Por lo regular, los que le intrigan encierran historias indeseables. Piense en Hussein, Pinochet, Hitler, Papa y Baby Doc. Trujillo y Franco. Sé que cuando escucho el nombre de Fidel o conozco a alguien que se apellida Castro, me sobrecojo y suspiro.

El dictador Rafael Trujillo, quien aterrizó la República Dominicana desde 1930 a 1961, ha sido parte de la vida de Cisco desde el momento en que fue concebido. El padre de Cisco (cuyo nombre no se mencionará) fue uno de los hombres fuertes de Trujillo. El día que asesinaron a Trujillo, el padre de Cisco estaba destacado en Puerto Rico. Mandó a buscar a su familia y eventualmente se mudaron de allí. Vivieron primero en la ciudad de Nueva York, luego vivieron en Boston. Hoy en día, Cisco reside en Baltimore.

"Mis padres eran seguidores de Trujillo", cuenta Fabian durante nuestra más reciente conversación en un centro recreativo que la ciudad maneja y en donde trabaja como director. "A mi padre le gustaba la actitud estricta y sin rodeos con la que gobernaba Trujillo".

Cisco comenzó a retar seriamente la política de sus padres cuando en 1994 se publicó la novela histórica de Julia Alvarez titulada En el tiempo de las mariposas.

Mientras las historias sobre dictadores abundan en sus conversaciones, sólo existen tres relatos de cómo a Cisco le dieron ¿afortunada o desafortunadamente? el nombre de Francisco Franco.

Una de las historias cuenta que Franco de España viajó a República Dominicana para conocer a Trujillo. El padre de Cisco quedó tan impresionado con el encuentro y habló tanto sobre el mismo en su casa que su esposa nunca olvidó el nombre, tanto así que se lo puso a uno de sus hijos. Otra de las historias relata que su madre leyó el nombre del dic-

tador en un calendario y le gustó la aliteración.

Sin embargo, la historia favorita es la que narra que cuando su hijo nació, estaba destinado a ser grandioso y merecedor de su nombre, lo que se le atribuye a que Cisco nació en envuelto en el saco. El medico que asistió el parto, quien era consciente de dicha tradición, proclamó lo siguiente cuando Cisco nació: "Ha nacido un príncipe".

Todo parecía perfecto, hasta que la madre de Cisco cometió un error: les contó a todos sobre el nacimiento. Esto, supuestamente, le trae mala suerte al niño.

¿Cuál es el dictador favorito de Cisco? Cisco sonríe y hace una pausa. Nos caemos bien. I sabe que soy una exiliada cubana.

"Fidel Castro", contesta.

Me sobrecojo y suspiro otra vez Cisco comenzó a hablar de cómo Castro llegó al poder. Durante sus años universitarios, Castro intentó asesinar a Trujillo con la ayuda de otros en el propio yate del dictador. Sin embargo, cuando llegaron, el yate estaba vacío. Trujillo se había enterado del plan.

Cisco admira a Fidel Castro porque es el único líder latinoamericano que ha enfrentado a la superpotencia, la ha rechazado y ha salido airoso. Cuando Castro depuso al dictador Fulgencio Batista en 1959, la mafia estadounidense controlaba gran parte de La Habana y compañías americanas

eran dueñas de gran parte de la industria del azúcar.

"Por supuesto, Fidel ha hecho muchas cosas con las que no estoy de acuerdo", añade. "Todos los dictadores son una mezcla del bien y el mal. Yo creo fervientemente en la democracia". Revisamos la lista.

"Baby Doc Duvalier quiere regresar a Haití", dije.

"Quizás quiere mantener la tradición dictatorial de su familia, pero las masas no lo quieren".

¿Saddam Hussein? "Tiene una mente enferma".

¿Qué tal el cuestionable Hugo Chávez de Venezuela? "Vamos, él fue elegido por el pueblo. Tienes que darle una oportunidad. Pero la señal de alarma es que tiene el control de la milicia".

Conversamos nuevamente sobre el tocayo de Cisco. ¿Qué tal Francisco Franco?

"El fue el primero que estudié. Como dije, tanto el aspecto negativo como el positivo.

Franco era disciplinado, inteligente y no andaba con rodeos".

Cisco no menciona el aspecto negativo. ¿Para qué molestarse y repetir las mismas historias? "Decidí conservar mi segundo nombre", dice mientras ríe. "Tienes que admitir que no suena tan mal".

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The Dictators in Francisco Franco Fabian's Life

By Marisella Veiga

My Cuban mother named me Marisella, after a fictional character with a four-syllable name. Marisela was a child born out of wedlock in the Venezuelan classic novel "Doña Bárbara" by Rómulo Gallegos.

My friend Cisco's mother gave him the three-syllable name of an infamous dictator. After immigrating to the United States from his native Dominican Republic, he reduced it to two syllables.

Normally, I am annoyed when people Anglicize or shorten their names when they become naturalized U.S. citizens. So often they change their first names because the longer, melodious Spanish versions are thought to be cumbersome. In the land of efficiency, one-syllable names reign: Bob, Max, Ann, Sue.

Francisco Franco Fabian says he didn't like the sound of "Francisco." I think his thoughts about the dictator who ruled Spain from 1936 to 1975 also had something to do with it.

Curiously, my 40-year-old friend (now just Cisco) Fabian has spent half of his life pursuing an interest, a sort of hobby, in studying modern and contemporary dictators. The ones that intrigue him often bring back unsavory histories. Think Hussein, Pinochet, Hitler, Papa and Baby Doc. Trujillo and Franco. I know that when I hear "Fidel" or meet someone whose surname is "Castro," I wince and sigh.

Dictator Rafael Trujillo, who terrorized the Dominican Republic from 1930 to 1961, has been a part of Cisco's life since he was conceived. Cisco's father (to remain unnamed) was one of Trujillo's right-hand men. The day Trujillo was assassinated, Cisco's father was on assignment in Puerto Rico. He sent for the family. Eventually, they moved from the island to New York City, then Boston. Now Cisco lives in Baltimore.

"Both my parents were Trujillo supporters," Fabian says during our recent conversation at the city-run recreation center where he is a facilities manager. "My dad liked the strictness, the no-nonsense approach with which Trujillo ran the country."

Cisco began more earnestly challenging his parents' politics when Julia Alvarez's 1994 his-

torical novel, "In the Time of the Butterflies," was published.

While stories about dictators abound in Cisco's conversations, only three accounts are told of how he was -- cursedly? blessedly? -- dubbed Francisco Franco.

As one story goes, Spain's Franco traveled to the island to meet with Trujillo. Cisco's dad was so impressed by the meeting and discussed it so often at home that his wife never forgot the name. She would give it to one of her sons.

Another story is that Cisco's mother saw the dictator's name on a calendar and liked the aliteration.

But the preferred story is that when her baby boy was born, he was destined for greatness and worthy of the name. The reason: Cisco was born in a sac. Aware of that superstition, the capital city doctor who helped deliver him proclaimed, "A prince is born."

That's all good. But Cisco's mother's made one mistake: She told people about it, which supposedly brings bad luck to the child.

Who's his favorite dictator? Cisco smiles and pauses. We

continued on page 3
Letter to the Editor

Last Saturday, April 20th, the Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) celebrated and reflected on its 20+ years of existence. The group is to be commended for looking back at its history. If we don't know where we came we don't really know who we are.

Saturday, Esther Sepeda and I were recognized as "founders" of HAW but there were countless other founders. These were women who spent endless hours back in 1981-82 toiling to get this organization off the ground. There are so many we couldn't possibly name them all, but if you know any of them or you yourself were involved, give or take credit for this past contribution. It has yielded an organization that has persevered and is a vibrant group of Latinas still supporting the role of "La Mujer" in the Lubbock community. Felicitades Hispanas y Adelante Mujeres! Gracias! Tavita Hernandez Dorow



El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.- April 24, 2003

Langston

From Page 1

Langston commented that many Republicans in the State Senate also say the House bill will hurt the long-term economic stability of the state. The Perryman report concludes that within the 19 counties that make up the 19th District, retail sales will be reduced by \$25.5 million and personal income reduced by \$68 million.

When Langston was asked about what budget changes he would suggest, he mentioned that the Texas State Senate 50 cent tax on cigarettes would raise 1 to 1.5 billion, and cited a study conducted by the Center of Tobacco Control Research and Education which labeled Isett one of the most protobacco legislators in the country. The study also shows campaign contributions to Isett from the Philip Morris Company.

Langston also suggested that \$295 million be taken from the rainy day fund and placed in an economic development fund for the governor, as well as \$40 million in

the legislative budget which is being reserved and not expended as a source for CHIP. Langston takes issue with creating new economic development funds and reserving \$40 million for expenditure by the legislature at the loss of almost 1600 jobs in the 19th Congressional District. For every 28 cents in state money, the federal government puts in 78 cents. Those federal dollars will be lost forever.

During the press conference held in offices of WorkSource of the South Plains, Inc, Langston said that the adverse economic impact is real, but what is even more shocking is that the Texas budget deficit is being balanced on the backs of children, which Langston feels is wrong.

Langston pointed to Elizabeth Madrid in the audience and said, "Elizabeth Madrid and her family is but one of many Texas families which will be hurt by the budget priorities put in place by Carl Isett. She is a good and loyal employee, an office manager for 12 years, but her family cannot afford the high cost healthcare plan offered by her

employer. Now her children will not be able to go to the doctor when they need medical attention, and will have to go to the emergency room to see a doctor."

Langston emphasized that he wants to talk about the issues of the people of the 19th Congressional District. The issue of healthcare will be a high priority for the next Congressman that takes office and the debate on how we deal with the serious problem of our healthcare delivery system must be debated during this campaign.

"I called this press conference today because I want the candidates to talk about education, healthcare, social security and all the other matters which people are talked to me about," Langston said.

Vote Early Today Until Tuesday

Latino Groups Challenge Federal Hiring, Contracts

from page one

To his credit, incoming President George W. Bush did not abolish the Executive Order, although he has taken little action since then to address the problem, Sandate says.

It takes "something akin to a crisis to get real action," Larry González, Washington, D.C., director of NALEO, maintains. The crisis is the pending number of eligible retirees, he says.

Brent Wilkes, LULAC executive director, adds that the time has never been more propitious to tackle this issue with bipartisan, across-the-organizational-spectrum support.

With the creation of the Department of the Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration, Hispanics can be part of new hiring plans from inception, Wilkes says. With U.S. businesses receiving billions of dollars in contracts to rebuild Iraq, it is essential there be pressure by the coalition to include Latinos for contracting and sub-contracting opportunities, he comments.

fia controlled much of Havana, and U.S. companies owned the majority of the island's sugar industry.

"Of course, Fidel has done a lot of things I don't agree with," he adds. "All the dictators have been a mix of good and bad. I'm a strong believer in democracy."

We review the list. "Baby Doc Duvalier wants to return to Haiti," I say.

"He may want to, to keep up with his family's dictatorial tradition, but the people don't want him."

Saddam Hussein? "He's a sick mind."

The questionable Hugo

Chávez of Venezuela? "He was elected, give him a chance. But the big red flag is that he's got control of the military -- a clear warning sign."

Back to Cisco's namesake. What about Francisco Franco?

"He's the first one I explored. Like I said, both good and bad. He was disciplined, intelligent, a no-nonsense kind of guy."

Cisco doesn't describe the bad-why repeat those stories? "I kept my middle name," he says and laughs. "You've got to admit, the name has a certain ring to it."

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Classes de nivel académico más alto en la secundaria benefician a los estudiantes de Texas

Esta primavera, los estudiantes que entran o que cursan la secundaria van a tomar algunas de las decisiones más importantes de su vida. Escogerán las clases que van a tomar el próximo otoño, y esas decisiones afectarán en gran parte su capacidad de aprovechar oportunidades y de tener éxito en el futuro.

"Tomar clases de nivel más avanzado en matemáticas, ciencias e idiomas pueden darles a los estudiantes la preparación académica sólida que necesitan para seguir los estudios en una escuela de educación superior", dijo el Comisionado de Educación Superior de Texas, Don Brown. "Tomar el conjunto completo de clases de preparación universitaria en la secundaria también puede ayudar a los estudiantes a tener derecho al programa de becas TEXAS Grant. Este es el programa que le paga la matrícula y las cuotas de la escuela de educación superior a los estudiantes con necesidad económica".

Para tener derecho al program TEXAS Grant, los estudiantes tienen que haber completado exitosamente el Programa Recomendado para la Secundaria (RHSP), un currículo de preparación universitaria de 24 créditos, que les da a los estudiantes las habilidades académicas que necesitan para tener éxito después de la secundaria.

Seguir el Programa Recomendado para la Secundaria es tan importante que la Legislatura de Texas ha aprobado una ley que estipula que todos los estudiantes que pasen al noveno

Letter to the Editor

In this special election for U.S. Congress, do not be fooled by the Republicans! They will not represent the working Texan. If a Republican gets elected to Congress they will have to follow the Republican leadership against the interests of working Texans.

In particular, Mr. Isett says to judge him on his record. Mr. Isett notes he is friend to business and the only public accountant in the Texas legislature. I do not understand why he did not author bills to protect workers and investors during the ENRON

grado en 2004, o después, serán inscritos automáticamente en el programa, declaró el comisionado Brown.

"Algunos distritos escolares ya están inscribiendo a todos los estudiantes de secundaria en el programa recomendado", dijo el comisionado Brown. "Pero aún donde todavía no se requiera, los estudiantes deberían pensar seriamente en inscribirse en las clases de preparación universitaria".

"Las clases de preparación universitaria también son importantes para los estudiantes que no piensan asistir a una escuela de educación superior", agregó el comisionado Brown. "Años después de graduarse de la secundaria, muchos de estos estudiantes se dan cuenta de que un título de una escuela de educación superior les ofrece mejores oportunidades, y deciden obtener uno".

Para alentar a más padres de familia a animar a sus hijos a obtener una educación superior, es estado de Texas ha lanzado la campaña *Universidad para los tejanos*. La meta de esta campaña motivadora de educación pública, que usará la publicidad y que trabajará con organizaciones locales, es aumentar por 300,000 el número de estudiantes académicamente preparados que se matriculan en escuelas de educación superior para el año 2015. Esta cantidad es por encima de los 200,000 estudiantes que ya se espera que se inscriban.

"Sabemos que la mayoría de las personas ya conocen los beneficios de una educación su-

scandal, by making corporations responsible for accounting procedures used. It seems Mr. Isett will be a friend to business to the detriment of ordinary working Texans. Ms. Strayhorn (Rylander), State Comptroller, thanks Mr. Isett for helping set up a new accounting method for the 2002-2003 state budget process. The same budget with a 10 billion dollars, shortfall, which this present legislative session is having to make drastic cuts in education, healthcare, and other services. During the redistricting process, Mr. Isett made his own deal, to better himself at the

perior, pero muchos estudiantes no luchan por obtenerla porque creen que cuesta más de lo que en realidad cuesta, y no están enteradas de la asistencia financiera disponible para ayudarles", comentó el comisionado Brown. "La meta de la campaña *Universidad para los tejanos* es asegurarse de que los estudiantes sepan cómo prepararse para la educación superior (al seguir el Programa Recomendado para la Secundaria) y cómo pagarla. Para obtener más información acerca de como aplicar, pagar o prepararse para la universidad o escuela técnica, visite www.collegefortexas.com.

"Aunque más gente que nunca se está inscribiendo en las escuelas de educación superior y en las universidades de Texas, el aumento no es proporcional al crecimiento de la población del estado, lo que causará que Texas se convierta en un estado menos educado y menos próspero", dijo Brown. Debemos aumentar la participación de estudiantes y fomentar el éxito de toda la gente del estado con índices bajos de admisión a la escuela de educación superior.

Aumentar la participación en la educación superior y crea más éxito para todos, son las primeras dos metas del plan educativo del estado *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. La Junta Coordinadora adoptó este plan en octubre de 2002 y ha tenido buena aceptación por todo el estado. (Vea el plan *Closing the Gaps* en www.thebc.state.tx.us)

detriment of West Texas. Not only did West Texas lose a vote, we lost a fair and honorable Speaker of the House, Pete Laney.

Mr. Isett wants the minimum wage repealed, cut funding to public schools to give to private schools, and wants to privatize Social Security. In this special election, ask yourself, are you better off today than yesterday? If you are a blue collar worker, the answer is NO! I hope you will vote for Jerr Simmons-Asmussen, a Democrat, who is committed to working for ordinary working Texans. Yolanda Guerrero

Grupos Latinos

de la primera pagina

La iniciativa de la coalición que se lanzará próximamente, titulada Justicia para los Hispanos en el Gobierno Federal, estará dirigida a posiciones importantes, donde los números son los menos alentadores. De las 6,110 personas que ocupan las posiciones de ejecutivos de servicio de alto rango, sólo 153 (2.5 por ciento) son hispanos.

Esta iniciativa también pondrá sobre la mesa la escasez de oportunidades de contratos federales para los latinos que son propietarios de negocios.

Con la ayuda del Grupo de Congresistas Hispanos, estos grupos preparan una serie de recomendaciones que incluyen una sugerencia para la Oficina General de Contabilidad (GAO, por sus siglas en inglés): que investigue el fracasado intento de corregir las disparidades en los procesos de adquisición y contratación.

Los grupos están buscando apoyo bipartita para sus esfuerzos. Han contactado tanto a senadores republicanos como a todos los demócratas de la Cámara que pertenecen al Grupo de Congresistas Hispanos para que presionen y finalmente se lleven a cabo audiencias congresionales.

El presidente del Grupo, el demócrata Ciro Rodríguez, se ha reunido con miembros de la coalición en dos ocasiones ya y se ha comprometido a discutir la situación con los demás miembros del grupo. Sólo el Congreso puede pedirle al GAO que lleve a cabo una investigación. En 1990, la diferencia entre los latinos en los Estados Unidos y su presencia en los empleos en el gobierno federal era 9.0 por ciento ver-

The Dictators

from page two

like one another. He knows I'm an exile from Cuba.

"Fidel Castro," he says. I wince and sigh again. Cisco begins telling of Castro's rise. As a university student, Castro and others tried to kill Trujillo aboard the dictator's own yacht. However, when they arrived, the yacht was empty. Trujillo had learned of the plan.

Cisco admires Fidel Castro as the only Latin American leader who has confronted the superpower, rejected it and basically succeeded. When Castro overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959, the U.S. Ma-



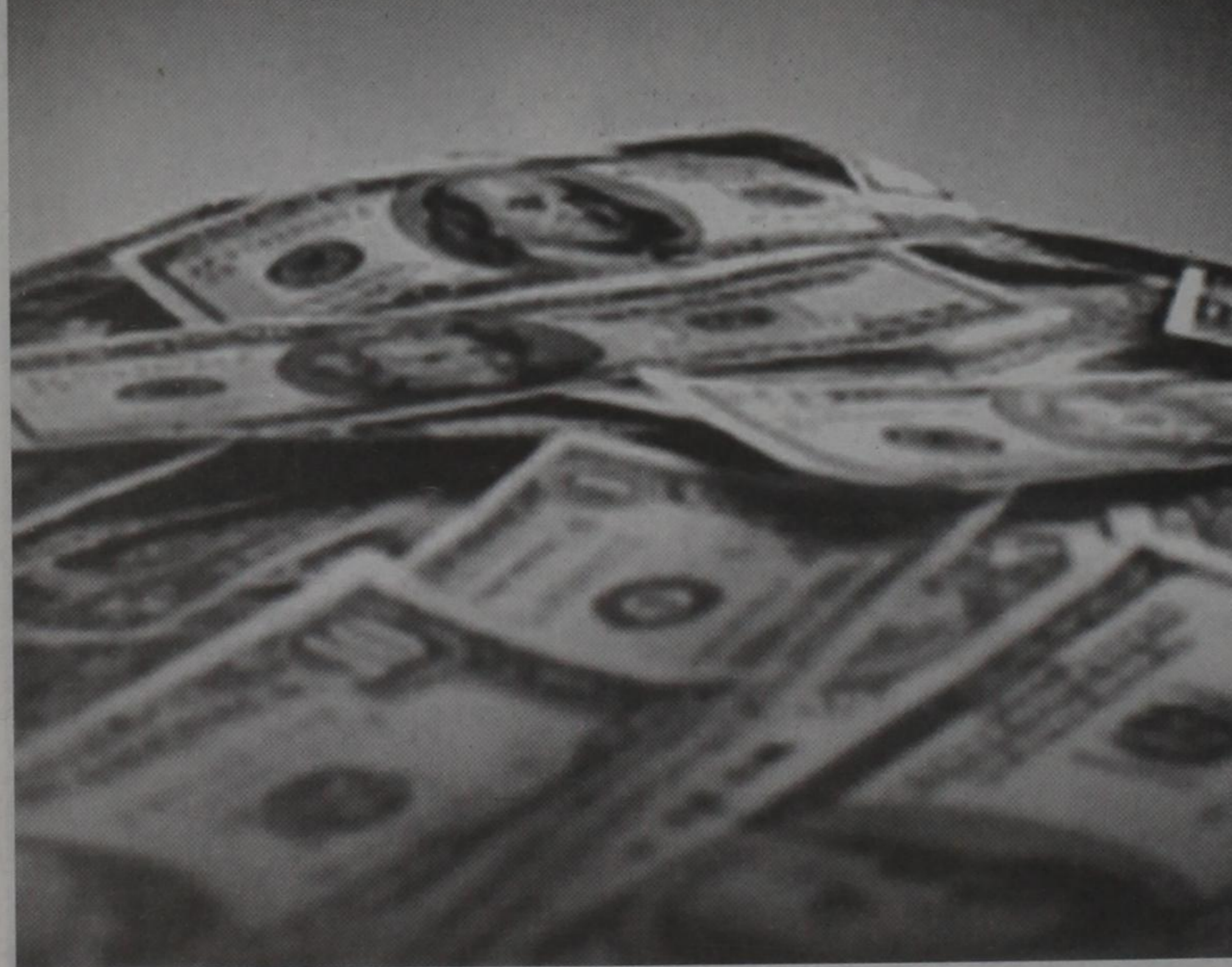
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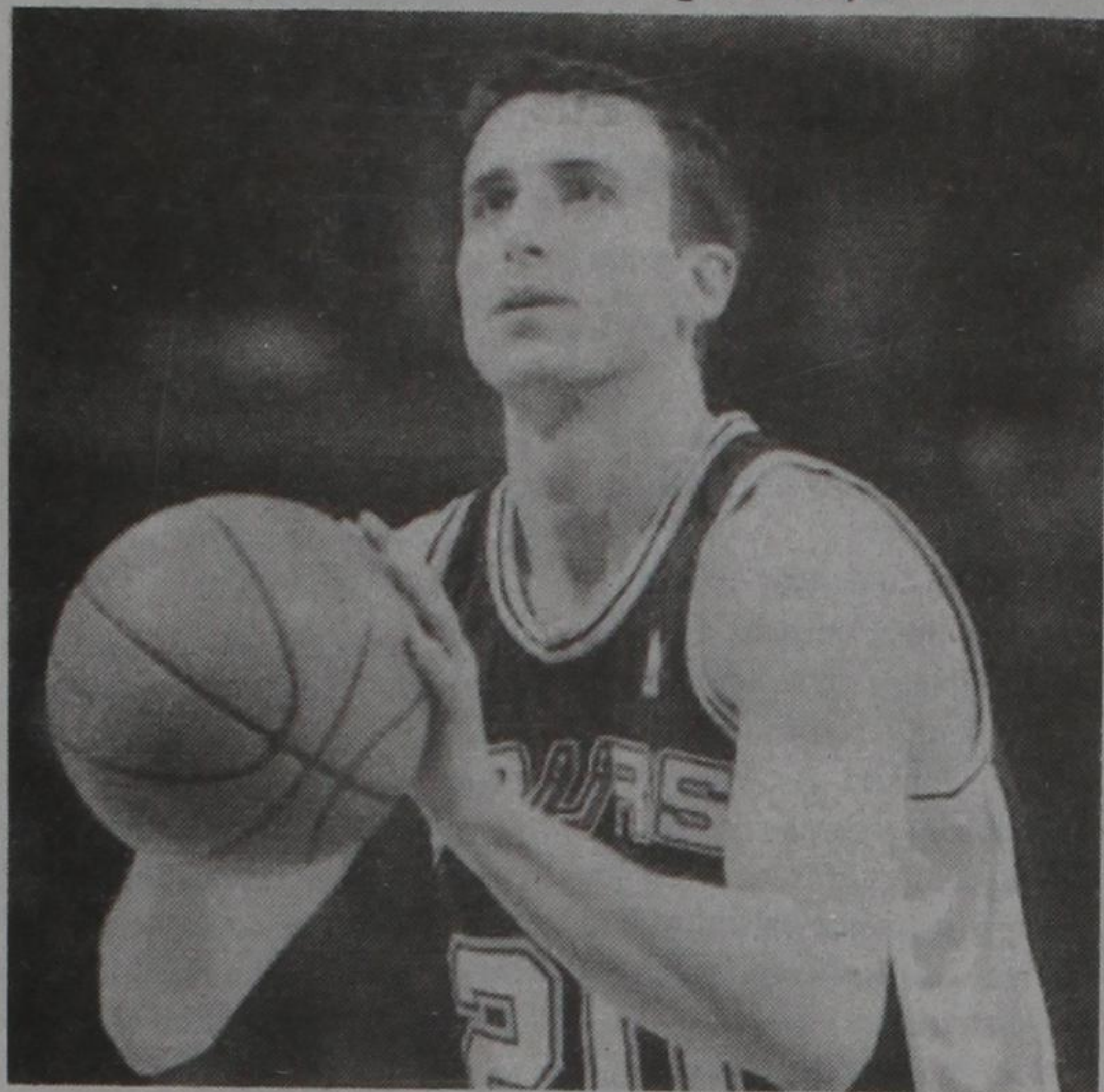
El año pasado, estudiantes en Texas recibieron más de dos mil millones de dólares para ayudar a pagar la universidad o la escuela técnica. Parte de ese dinero puede ser para ti. Tú podrías ser elegible para recibir el subsidio Texas Grant, que paga matrícula y otros gastos de escuela, si tienes necesidad económica y completas el Programa Recomendado de Secundaria.

¿Necesitas ayuda para llegar a la universidad o la escuela técnica? Habla con alguien que te pueda ayudar a salir adelante; padres, maestros o hasta un amigo. También puedes llamarnos gratis al 1-888-311-8881 o visitarnos en Internet al collegefortexas.com.

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Nowitzki, Nash and Finley lead Mavs to 2-0 series lead



Dirk Nowitzki knew he couldn't keep doing it alone. Steve Nash and Michael Finley made sure he didn't have to.

Steve Nash scores 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter. With each member of Dallas' Big Three coming through in the clutch, the Mavericks withstood a career-best 45 points from Bonzi Wells and beat the Portland Trail Blazers 103-99 Wednesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Nash had 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, Nowitzki scored 25 and Finley added 17 as the Dallas moved halfway to winning its best-of-7 matchup. Game 3 is Friday night in Portland.

This was more like what Dallas expects from its trio of stars, unlike Game 1 when Nowitzki had 46 points, a career best and team playoff record, and Finley and Nash combined for 23.

"That game was one for the ages in Mavericks history. We can't expect him to do that every night," said Nash, who was 5-of-6 on 3-pointers and had eight assists. "Tonight was more indicative of the balance we need."

The Trail Blazers have lost nine straight playoff games dating to 2000 and are in jeopardy of getting swept out of the playoffs for the fourth time in five years.

"Being down 0-2 is really tough, but we're definitely going to try to get this thing to come back to Dallas," said Wells, who broke Clyde Drexler's team playoff record of 42 points. "We're not going to give up."

The Blazers proved that in this game, going up by four early in the fourth period after trailing throughout the second and third quarters. Even with the Mavs making 10-of-14 shots in the final period, Portland still tied the game at 98 with 48.2 seconds left on a three-point play by Dale Davis.

Then Nash hit a 3-pointer over Davis with 29.7 seconds left, even if replays showed his toes were on the line. Finley soared for a rebound of a missed free throw by Wells on the other end, leading to two

eight straight shots. Finley started it with a 3-pointer and Nash followed with two more. Nowitzki had a jumper and capped it with a 3-pointer.

Wells was just as hot. He scored 14 of Portland's first 17 points in the final period. He finished 16-of-24, hitting 5-of-6 behind the arc and 8-of-11 at the line.

"We tried different defenses, but he was in a good zone," Finley said. "We're happy time ran out."

The Blazers never found a second consistent scorer. Wallace had 18 points, but went 6-of-17. He even shot an airball on an uncontested 3-pointer with 5:40 left that would've put the Blazers ahead.

Portland also got only three minutes out of its usual starting backcourt as Scottie Pippen didn't dress and Derek Anderson left with an injury. Both have injured left knees. Their status for the next game hasn't been announced.

"Not having them takes away from our whole team chemistry," Wells said.

Wells' final miss led to Davis' tying basket and free throw. Then Nash made his go-ahead 3-pointer over Davis, which the Blazers insisted should've been a 2-pointer.

"You saw it, everybody saw

it," Davis said. "It's no secret."

Wells also missed his second free throw with 26.2 seconds left. Had he hit both, Portland still would've trailed by one.

"They did what they're supposed to do, which is defend their home court. Now we've got to do the same," said Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks.

Portland harassed Nowitzki from the start, and he was 8-of-25 with nine rebounds and four turnovers. Nowitzki missed his first six shots after making his first six in the opener. His first basket wasn't until 10:49 of the second quarter.

"They pressured me a lot and they made me put the ball on the floor," Nowitzki said. "I knew they would be a lot more physical with me."

Dallas used only eight players, but only got points from seven. And two of them fouled out: Raef LaFrentz (six points, three rebounds) was gone with 8:44 left and Shawn Bradley (three points, six rebounds) joined him with 4:34 to play.

Damon Stoudamire, who started in Pippen's place, had nine points and five assists. Davis had seven points and 15 rebounds. The Blazers' reserves had only 18 points, a huge drop from 39 in the opener.

San Antonio y Dallas dividen a Texas en carrera por anillos

Emanuel "Manu" Ginobili, el escolta argentino, es una pieza fundamental para los Spurs de San Antonio. Foto:

Los equipos de Dallas Mavericks y San Antonio Spurs, tan distantes en el mapa como en las preferencias de los aficionados a la hora de elegir al mejor equipo de su tierra, (y por qué no de la NBA toda) dividen al sureño estado de Texas donde el hecho de haber sido lugar de nacimiento del actual presidente de los Estados Unidos (George W. Bush) o de poseer una gran riqueza petrolera parecen haber pasado a un definitivo segundo plano.

Dallas capitaneado por el fantástico base canadiense Steve Nash, cuenta entre sus filas al mejor jugador alemán de todos los tiempos y uno de los mejores de la NBA, Dirk Nowitzki, más los aportes invaluable de otro grande como Michael Finley y el mexicano Eduardo Najera, necesario a la hora de pelear en los tableros la suerte de los partidos más cerrados.

San Antonio es hogar de las espuelas, campeones de la Conferencia Oeste y máximo aspirante al título. Los Spurs son allí sinónimo de genuino orgullo y parte de su geografía cotidiana. Con el MVP (jugador más valioso) de la temporada pasada Tim Duncan como abanderado, líder en go-

leo y rebotes, cuenta con el joven, rápido y talentoso base de origen francés Tony Parker, la experiencia del "almirante" de mil batallas David Robinson y el aporte del sorprendente argentino Emanuel "Manu" Ginobili, en constante alza.

Son los dos mejores equipos de la conferencia del oeste y probablemente de la liga. Al cierre de esta edición San Antonio, primero en su conferencia detentaba el mejor récord de la temporada regular de la NBA con 60 victorias y 21 derrotas (posee además el mejor récord de conferencia 36-15) y Dallas muy cerquita suyo, con un juego por detrás, sumaba 59 victorias y 22 derrotas, y se encontraban frente a frente en el último partido de la primera fase en el SBC Center de San Antonio.

Ambos estarán en los playoffs pero la ventaja queda del lado de San Antonio (1º) que en el primer turno deberán enfrentar a los Suns de Phoenix (8º), mientras que Dallas (3º) se las verá con los Lakers en alza o los Blazers de Portland que se disputan la sexta posición.

Es muy difícil decir cual es mejor o quien aventaja a quien en nivel y eficacia de juego, las opiniones en tal sentido no dejarán de ser subjetivas y sin embargo de algo estamos seguros: cualquiera de los dos está para ganar el campeonato.

free throws by Nash with 14.5 seconds left.

The Blazers' last gasp ended when Rasheed Wallace and Jeff McInnis missed hurried 3-pointers. Eduardo Najera snagged the final rebound and dribbled out the clock to the joy of a crowd of 20,356, a team record for the second straight game.

"We knew this would be a lot tougher than Game 1," Finley said. "They battled for all 48 minutes. We knew we had to keep our composure and stay together as a team, and that carried us through."

The Big Three worked best as a unit during the fourth quarter when Dallas made

extra strength and courage.

"This potion is apparently historical," promoter Bob Arum said Wednesday after trying some of it himself. "In the battle of Puebla, 300 Indians armed with machetes and wooden spears fought 2,000 fully armed French troops in 1862 when the French invaded Mexico.

"The Indians drank this po-

tion. They killed 1,000 and routed the other 1,000 and won the battle."

The Cinco De Mayo celebration stems from this conflict.

Campas offered the 71-year-old Arum the potion Wednesday following a media session in San Diego, and the promoter felt compelled to try it.

"For the first 40 minutes, I felt absolutely nothing," he said. "Then, I started feeling tingles in my fingers and my toes. The tingling was all over my body."

Arum said the feeling began easing less than two hours after he drank the potion.

"I don't feel any tingles now, nothing," he said. "It was almost like it was charging a battery. Maybe it's my imagination, but I feel energized, almost like I drank too much coffee. I don't have any idea what's in it, but I know there's something in it."

"It's not like drinking a glass of soda, a glass of water. I really and truly feel energized now. I just feel like I'm ready to go. He's going to bring it with him to Las Vegas. He plans on taking it right after the weigh-in and right before the fight."

Arum said De La Hoya, 35-2, with 28 knockouts, has sent a letter to the Nevada Athletic Commission expressing his concern. In the aftermath of De La Hoya's 11th-round knockout of Fernando Vargas last September, Vargas tested positive for steroids.

"I've been trying to get some of it to give to the Athletic Commission," Arum said. "Campas has refused to turn over the potion. He says he takes it before every workout and it energizes him. Nobody knows what's in it, nobody knows if it's legal."

"The commission wants to test it, but the Campas people are saying no. They're saying all the commission can do is test him after the fight."

Campas will enter the ring at the Mandalay Bay Events Center with an 80-5 record and 68 knockouts.

Campas to drink Mexican potion for DeLa Hoya Bout

Yory Boy Campas believes he's found a secret weapon -- a peppy potion -- for his super welterweight championship bout against Oscar De La Hoya.

He'll probably need it in their fight May 3 in Las Vegas.

A prohibitive underdog, Campas has for more than a month been taking a potion given to him by a medicine man in Puebla, Mexico. The

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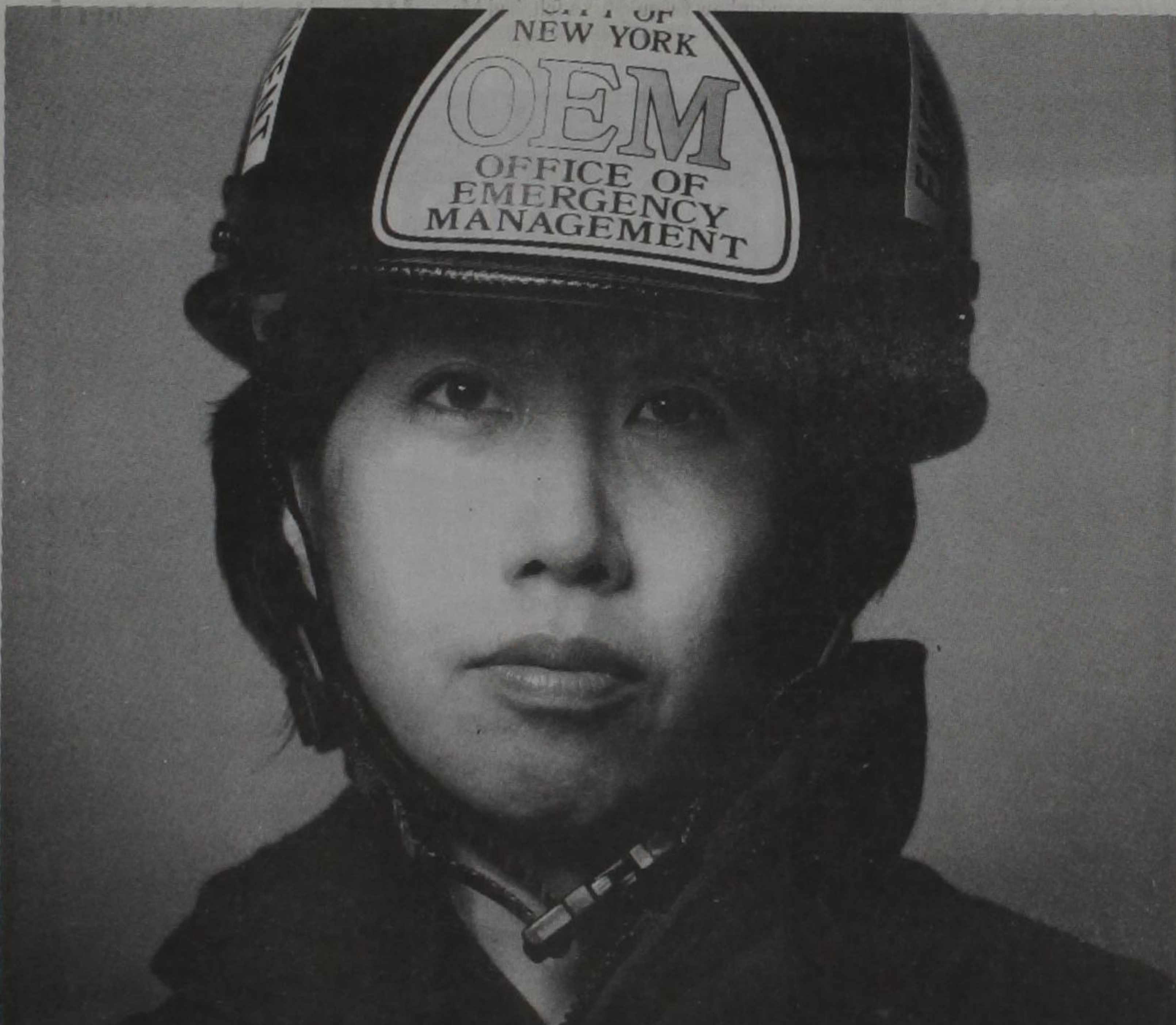
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Internet Descuentos en Medicamentos

Médicos y líderes comunitarios se han unido a organizaciones voluntarias de la salud y de la industria farmacéutica, en las oficinas del Proyecto Return del Mental Health Association en Los Angeles, para inaugurar el nuevo sitio de Internet www.ayudandopacientes.org (o www.helpingpatients.org). Este sitio ayuda a consumidores que hablan inglés o español a navegar los programas de asistencia a pacientes, ofrecidos por la compañías farmacéuticas para proveer medicamentos con receta médica gratis o a bajo costo.

desproporcionadamente de asma y alergias, sino que muchos también no cuentan con un plan de seguro de recetas médicas", señaló Francene Lifson, directora ejecutiva de la Asociación de Asma y Alergia de América (AAFA). "Este sitio de Internet provee un recurso invaluable que ayudará para que los consumidores tengan acceso a las medicinas que necesitan, a precios más bajos". Ayudandopacientes.org, ha estado disponible en Internet desde finales de marzo y ya ayudó a muchos consumidores a obtener medicinas gratis o con descuentos. Preguntas sencillas sobre la edad, ingresos y medicamentos necesarios, diri-

gen al consumidor a los programas para los cuales califican. La base de datos en Internet ayudará a que pacientes sin cobertura de recetas médicas, tengan acceso a información fácil de usar sobre más de 1,400 medicamentos de marca, ofrecidos gratuitamente a través de programas de asistencia al paciente, patrocinados por la industria farmacéutica y otros. Christine González, directora ejecutiva de la Asociación Médica Latina de California, expresó: "Una reciente encuesta revela que como grupo, el número de hispanos en Internet está creciendo más que la población en general, esto hace del sitio Web una manera eficiente de ayudar a que la gente encuentre el programa adecuado".

"Ayudandopacientes.org, enlaza a personas mayores al igual que a personas sin seguro o con seguro insuficiente a una gran variedad de programas que existen, para proveer asistencia

con los medicamentos con receta", dijo Mark Grayson, director principal de asuntos públicos del Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). En el 2001, 189,424 pacientes de California recibieron medicinas a través de programas de asistencia patrocinados por la industria y en el 2002, compañías miembro de PhRMA ayudaron a casi 5.5 millones de pacientes a obtener los medicamentos que necesitaban, una cifra mayor que los 2.4 millones de pacientes que recibieron ayuda en el año 2000. Se estima que desde 1996, los programas de asistencia han ayudado a 11.4 millones de pacientes. En el 2002, se calcula que los programas de asistencia de compañías despacharon un total de 14 millones de recetas para pacientes alrededor del país. Ayudandopacientes.org es la herramienta que hace este proceso más fácil. © La Raza.

Shelly Lares' "encore"

By Roger Ruiz
With her recent released CD Encore this past week, female Tejano artist star Shelly Lares has withstood the roller coaster ride of the Tejano industry. Lares not only has withstood the test of time in the Tejano world but has moved in great strides to accomplish many feats and pave the road for many upcoming artists. Lares recently added to her list of accomplishments when she won Vocal Duo of the year along with Elida Reyna for the song "Amiga" at the 23rd annual Texas Talent Musicians Association awards (TTMA). "Winning this award was a historic moment for the both of us," said Lares who remembers being nominated in the category since the early eighties when she was singing with the Hot Tamales band. The duo came about when Lares asked Reyna if she could record the song. "When I asked her if I could re-record it she told me yes but I do not think she knew that I wanted her to sing it with me," said Lares. The relationship of the two has gone back to the beginning of the two artists early careers. "We have always wanted to collaborate with each other, said Lares. "Elida and I have always been fans of each others music." The duo wanted to be the first girls that recorded together, a change from the past where the only female duos were only back up singers. "We wanted to prove to the Tejano world that females can collaborate as well as the men do," said Lares. At last year's TTMA Lares picked up the awards for Female Vocalist of the Year and Female Entertainer of the Year, something she had been striving for. Upon winning these awards in 2002 Lares said, "I live by the model that patience is a virtue and things come to those who wait." In her recently released CD Encore Lares reaches back from the years 1989 to 1994 to re-release ten of her greatest hits when she was with the record label Manny Guerra. "I had many of my hits during this time including "Soy Tu Amor" and "Apaga la Luz", said Lares. "These are songs that you cannot find any more unless you go onto the Internet where you are possibly going to pay over a hundred dollars." Lares worked on the CD of her early work so fans did not have to pay the outrageous price on the Internet. Shelly has been one of a few Tejano artists that have lived to tell the change of the uprising of Tejano music in the early nineties to its present state. Back when every other car was tuned in to a Tejano station and venues where being sold out by the artist of the industry. Though Lares agrees that Tejano has suffered since its rise in the early nineties she believes that it is not an industry that will die all together due to that it is a culture and a way of life for people in Texas. Shelly Lares will be one of the stars fetured at this year's cinco de Mayo Festival sponsored by Magic 93.7 at the West Texas Amphitheater



War Songs Latino Soldiers Used to Sing

By Raymond Rodriguez
Cuando me encuentre en campaña muy lejos ya de mi tierra, les probare que la raza sabe morir donde quiera!
"When I'm fighting so far from home, I'll show them our raza knows how to die wherever we are."
It has been many years since I served my country in World War II, but I still remember that phrase from a then-popular song *El Soldado Razo*. We sang it in the barracks as we relaxed in the evening. All the Mexicans (we weren't Latinos then) were determined to do our best and not bring shame upon ourselves or our families. I recall the final words my mother said to me as I boarded the bus that would take me to the induction center in Los Angeles: "I will not take you back in disgrace."

paid-for college education that otherwise seems beyond their reach. So it is that the offspring of the rich are much less likely to end up in the springtime of their lives in a body bag. In a military comprised of volunteers, they can easily ignore the call to serve. They can disregard it, despite the fact that they are the ones who benefit the most, who enjoy an abundant and secure life style. Their mothers do not have to light candles or set up miniature altars and shrines to *La Virgen de Guadalupe*. They do not have to fear of the terror of war, the knock on the door or black-bordered telegrams from the war department, euphemistically called the Department of Defense. Those mothers never have to listen to the sad lament: (*Me voy de soldado razo al divisar nuevo dia, con los valientes muchachos que dejan madres queridas, que dejan novias llorando, llorando su despedida.*) "I leave as an army private to find a new day, with brave young men whose dear mothers remain behind, whose girlfriends cry, cry for them as they say goodbye."

It was my mother's way of letting me know that she expected me to do my duty. I am certain that in every conflict in which the United States has been involved, *mamacitas* have given their sons the same advice. Like so many other immigrants, my mom loved her adopted country with a passion. Then, as in this war, young Latinos and Latinas were sent forth wrapped in a mantle of their mothers' prayers, rosaries, novenas and supplications to the Blessed Virgin for their safe return. There were, as there are today, mothers' tears shed in the lonely solitude of a mystic evening, tears that only mothers can weep, tears that scar their souls. This all rushed back to me as I read about the 23 young Latinos, two of them just 18 years old, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, who gave their last full measure of devotion. Together, they constitute 18 percent of this country's troops killed in Iraq combat. Half of those 23 young men were not even native to the United States. Six were born in Mexico; the other five immigrated here from Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Still another was born in the U.S. commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In all those lands, as well as across the United States from New York to California, they left families and loved ones who grieve and try to console one another. "Why?" "Por qué?"

Heading their country's call, young Latinos and Latinas have indeed proved that *la raza sabe morir donde quiera!* ... We know how to die wherever we are. U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike lay down their lives for all of us. Whether we approve of or support Bush's war or not, we should all be proud, not only of the Latinos but of all the brave troops who must face death. For them all we say a prayer for their safe return. (c)2003, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Tribune Media Services International.

In two languages, they beseech. But their questions never have answers that fully satisfy a grieving wife or mother. The saying goes that old men start wars, but the young die in them. And as so often happens, the children of the poor bear the brunt of the battle. Hispanic immigrants are advised, even by President Bush, that a stretch in the military can speed the day their "American dream" comes true. It will grant them early citizenship. When the father of Tijuana-born Marine Cpl. Jesús Suárez del Solar, killed in Iraq at the tender age of 20, was offered that prize for his son posthumously, he declined it. "I feel bothered, betrayed and proud," he said. "Bush has not demonstrated to me or to thousands of other people that the war is justified." Military recruiters add the promise to poor Latinos of a

Beauty and Grace

By Abel Cruz
It has been close to three weeks since this year's broadcast of the academy awards telecast. The name Salma Hayek has not been in the news very much since then. Prior to the awards show, the name Salma did not conjure up images of my Mexican culture. But after the broadcast, I'm certain it will in the future. Ms. Hayek was nominated in the category of best actress in a motion picture for her role in *Frida*, a story about Frida Kahlo, the great Mexican painter. Unfortunately for Ms. Hayek, academy voters decided that Nicole Kidman's performance in *The Hours* warranted her receiving the Oscar for best actress in a motion picture. Too bad!

industry. Yet, when it comes to the movie industry recognizing our contributions, we fail yet again to get a seat in the front row. Oh sure, Frida won for original score and for make-up. And Pedro Almodovar's win for original screenplay in *Talk to Her* should soothe our ruffled feathers, but it doesn't. I think the old adage "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride" would fit in here rather nicely; don't you think? If you'll recall, much fanfare was made last year about Halle Berry's being the first African American actress to win the academy's blessing. Although I never saw *Monster's Ball*, I'm sure Ms. Berry's performance was outstanding. But don't tell me that her being an African American actress, and the possibility of her being the first, went unnoticed by the academy. Believe me, academy voters were very much aware they had an opportunity to make history, they felt a nudge from the African American community, and they seized the moment. And as usual, nothing was heard from our usual place in the theater, the back row. In a lot of ways, it's our own fault that recognition does not come our way as often as it should. It is as if our cultural upbringing tells us to "only speak when spoken to", and to be grateful for what we get. In this case, with the wins in the lesser categories. If you watched this year's telecast though, you were witness to something very unique. Something that may take another 42 years to come along again.

The academe apparently did not recognize that because of the way Hollywood operates, the opportunity to celebrate the work of a Hispanic artist doesn't come along very often! In fact, had Ms. Hayek won, she would have only been the second actress of Hispanic descent to win an Oscar for her work. By doing so she would have followed in the footsteps of Rita Moreno, a Puerto Rican, who won as best supporting actress for her role in *West Side Story* in 1961. Think about that for a minute. Not since 1961, 42 years ago, has a Hispanic actress won an Oscar, let alone been nominated. We live in a country where the Hispanic population has grown to 13%, about 40 million, and where Hispanics pump millions of dollars into the movie

A beautiful and gracious nominee by the simple name of Salma. An actress of Mexican descent nominated for an academy award. And as I watched Ms. Hayek walk gracefully across the stage, I felt a deep sense of pride in my own Mexican heritage. Unfortunately, I'm only left to wonder how I would have felt, had Ms. Hayek won. (c)acruzisc write Mr. Cruz at cruzisc@aol.com

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Canciones de Guerra que los Soldados Solian Cantar

Por Raymond Rodríguez

"Cuando me encuentre en campaña muy lejos ya de mi tierra, les probaré que la raza sabe morir donde quiera!"

Han pasado muchos años desde que serví a mi país en la segunda guerra mundial, pero aún recuerdo esta estrofa de la entonces canción popular "El soldado raso". La cantábamos en los cuarteles mientras descansábamos en las noches. Todos los mexicanos (para aquel entonces no éramos latinos) estaban empeñados en dar lo mejor y a no deshonrar ni a nuestras familias ni a nosotros mismos.

Recuerdo las últimas palabras que mi madre me dijo mientras me subía al autobús que me llevaría al centro de conscripción en Los Angeles: "No te recibiré deshonrado".

Fue la forma en que mi madre me dejó saber que ella esperaba que yo cumpliera con mi deber. Estoy seguro que en todos los conflictos en los cuales los Estados Unidos se han involucrado, las mamacitas les han dado el mismo consejo a sus hijos. Como muchos otros inmigrantes, mi madre amaba a su país adoptivo con pasión.

En aquella guerra, como en ésta, jóvenes latinos y latinas fueron enviados envueltos en un manto de oraciones de sus madres, rosarios, novenas y súplicas a la Virgen Bendita para que regresaran a salvo.

Entonces, al igual que hoy, corrían las lágrimas de las madres que lloraban en la soledad de una noche mística, lágrimas que sólo las madres pueden derramar, lágrimas que marcan sus almas.

Todo esta imagen vino de repente a mi mente mientras leía sobre los 22 jóvenes latinos, dos de ellos con apenas 18 años, quienes hicieron su sacrificio final en Irak, quienes ofrecieron su última devoción. Entre todos, comprenden un 18 por ciento de las tropas asesinadas en combate en Irak.

La mitad de esos 22 jóvenes no nacieron en los Estados Unidos. Seis nacieron en México; los otros cinco emigraron de Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, Cuba y la República Dominicana. Y otro nació en el Estado Libre y

Asociado de Puerto Rico.

En todos estos países, al igual que alrededor de los Estados Unidos desde Nueva York hasta California, quedaron familiares y seres queridos que sufren y tratan de consolarse unos a otros.

"Why?"

"¿Por qué?"

Suplican en ambos idiomas. Pero sus preguntas nunca tienen respuestas que puedan satisfacer por completo a una esposa o madre entristecida.

Hay un dicho que reza que los viejos comienzan las guerras, pero son los jóvenes los que mueren en ellas. Y como pasa muy a menudo, los hijos de los pobres son los que sufren la batalla.

A los inmigrantes hispanos se les dice, incluso el presidente Bush, que un periodo en el servicio militar puede acelerar el día en que "el sueño americano" se convierta en una realidad. El servicio militar les garantizará la ciudadanía temprana. Cuando al padre del cabo de la marina de guerra nacido en Tijuana, Jesús Suárez del Solar, quien fuera asesinado en Irak a la temprana edad de 20 años, se le ofreció póstumamente ese premio para su hijo, lo rechazó. "Me siento traicionado y orgulloso a la vez", dijo. "Bush no me ha demostrado a mí ni a otras miles de personas que esta guerra tiene justificación".

Los reclutadores militares añaden la promesa de una educación universitaria pagada para los latinos pobres, que de otro modo parece estar fuera de su alcance.

Así resulta que los hijos de los ricos tienen menos prob-

abilidades de terminar en la primavera de sus vidas envueltos en una bolsa. En el reclutamiento de para un ejército compuesto de voluntarios, con facilidad los ricos pueden pasar por alto el llamado para servir. Pueden hacer caso omiso del llamado a pesar del hecho que son los más beneficiados, los que disfrutan de un estilo de vida de abundancia y seguridad.

Sus madres no tienen que encender velas o preparar pequeños altares y santuarios a La Virgen de Guadalupe. No tienen que temer al terror de la guerra, a la llamada en la puerta o a los telegramas con cintas negras del departamento de guerra, que con eufemismo se llama Departamento de Defensa.

Esas madres nunca tienen que escuchar el triste lamento: "Me voy de soldado raso a divisar nuevo día, con los valientes muchachos que dejan madres queridas, que dejan novias llorando, llorando su despedida".

Haciéndole caso al llamado de su país, los jóvenes latinos y latinas ciertamente han probado que "¡la raza sabe morir donde quiera!". Tanto ciudadanos estadounidenses como no ciudadanos dan su vida por todos nosotros.

Ya sea que aprobemos o apoyemos la guerra de Bush o no, deberíamos sentirnos orgullosos no sólo de los latinos sino también de todas las valientes tropas que tienen que enfrentarse a la muerte. ¡Para todos ellos una oración para que regresen a salvo!

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Citywide Cleanup Scheduled

A Citywide Cleanup event is scheduled for Sat., April 26, 2003 from 8 am-12 noon at 10 LISD school campuses.

Residents can take unwanted furniture, appliances, trash, yard waste, and tires (limit 4 tires per person) from their homes to the drop-off campus locations for proper disposal. The 2nd Saturday Cleanup and annual Citywide Cleanup events give residents an opportunity to help keep our city clean and to properly dispose of unwanted items at no charge.

This event is one of several being held this month to join in national and state efforts and to focus on environmental issues and to clean up our City.

Local groups and organizations are invited to join in at collection sites located throughout the City at the LISD school campuses listed below. The groups who collect the largest amount of trash will win cash prizes at the end of the event. Only trash collected from 8 am to noon on Saturday, will be tallied for the award.

The event begins at 8 am at the different sites and will conclude at 12 noon with award presentations at Cavazos Jr. High. A hot dog lunch will be served at Cavazos for the participants.

Different sites: Alderson Academy, Atkins JH, Cavazos JH, Dunbar JH, Evans JH, Hutchinson JH, Irons JH, Mackenzie JH, O.L. Slaton JH, and Smylie Wilson JH.

For more information contact Solid Waste Services at 775-2482.

Campesinos festejan "histórico acuerdo"

Las organizaciones campesinas que representan en México a unos 25 millones de personas, festejaron como una victoria el acuerdo logrado con el gobierno para aliviar la crisis que ha sufrido el campo en las últimas dos décadas.

Para algunos líderes agrarios, el acuerdo suscrito es fruto de las movilizaciones campesinas que se celebraron a comienzos del año y que mostraron su mayor fuerza el 1º de febrero, cuando unos 100,000 manifestantes paralizaron Ciudad de México y advirtieron de su poder para hacerlo en todo el país.

El gobierno decidió entonces

conformar mesas de diálogo para buscar soluciones con todos los sectores y después de tres meses, se logró el Acuerdo Nacional para el Campo, que incluye la renegociación con Estados Unidos y Canadá del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLC).

Según el TLC a partir de enero del 2008 quedan exonerados de arancel esos productos, lo que para Suárez es como condenar al campo a una "pena de muerte", debido a los subsidios que reciben los productores estadounidenses.

El Gobierno también se comprometió a crear un Fondo de Emergencia para el Campo de \$2.800 millones de pesos (\$260 millones de dólares) para atender contingencias de los productores.

TEXAS TECH

NEW JOB APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TEXAS TECH

Applying for a job will be quicker and easier beginning 8:00 am, Monday, April 28, 2003 when all Texas Tech components will go completely on line for staff employment services.

To search for job vacancies and complete an employment application, simply access the internet from any computer and log on to <http://jobs.texas-tech.edu>

All Texas Tech Recruiting offices will have computers and staff to assist applicants in this process. *No paper applications will be accepted.*

All applicants who currently have active applications with Texas Tech must re-apply in the new online system.

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