

El Respeto a Derecho Ajeno es la Paz Lic Benito Juarez

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Hispanics Expected to Be Balance of Power in Presidential Elections

Most politicians agree that Hispanics don't have a voting history to match their numbers. In the last presidential election an estimated 7.4 million Hispanics were registered to vote. Only 2.4 voted.

In a year in which some people are saying that Hispanics will be the deciding factor as to who will be the next President of the United States, the Southwest Voter Registration Project is working to increase the rolls to 10 million. Up to Nine million are expected to vote.

But it will be up to the individual political candidates' campaigns to get them out to vote. If Arizona and New Mexico are samples of their efforts, the candidates are hard at work and realize the importance of Hispanics. Adam J. Segal, director of the

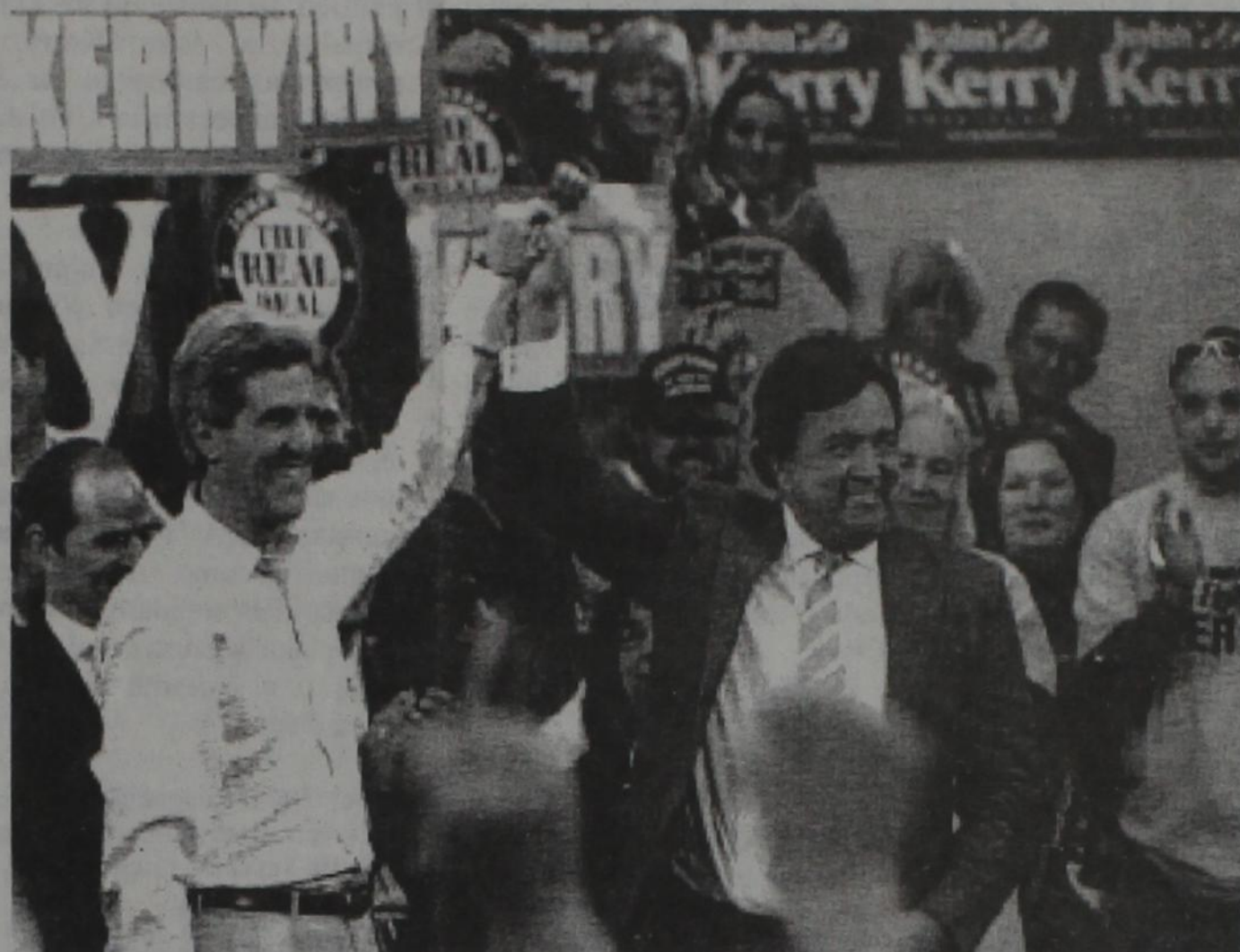
Hispanic Voter Project at Johns Hopkins University, said that not only will Hispanic voters have more power this year in deciding who will represent the Democratic Party in the general election, but they can also make the difference for Democrats in another close presidential election — making them "power brokers" for the first time.

So what will persuade Hispanics to vote. Jobs, immigration, Iraq? And will Democratic front runner John Kerry be able to adequately address those issues?

Political leaders, activists and academics say no single issue is likely to dominate among Hispanics voters.

Rather, Hispanics will pick a candidate based on an array of issues - like every other voter.

"Latino issues are the same issues



care. Education is very important," she said "They are the same for every American."

Immigration was catapulted to the forefront of the campaign two weeks ago

election year.

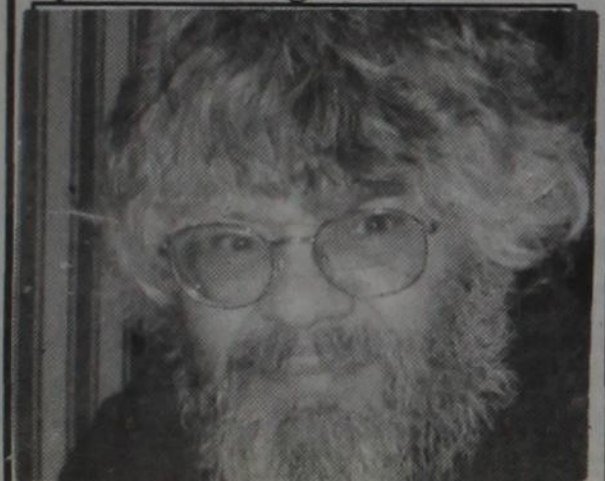
"It was the top story in the Spanish-language media for a week, followed by coverage of Bush's trip to Monterrey" to meet with Latin

American leaders, Segal said.

But while immigration is "extremely important" to Hispanics who will cast ballots, Lopez said it would

be a mistake to consider it paramount "You can't have brown skin in this country and not see how huge it is," she said "But you can't live in Arizona and not care about immigration." (Continued Page 5)

Comentarios by Bidal Agüero



Un poquito de todo

A forum to introduce the candidates for West Lubbock made the front page of the A-J last week. Although I mentioned the Commissioner's race for north and east Lubbock a couple of weeks ago, there is still no word from any of our organizations whether they will have forums to allow the residents on our side of town to meet the candidates in order to present their platforms. It seems that the race is kind of being taken for granted and is being given little importance.

The position can be an important position in our community and our organization would do our community an injustice if they ignore their responsibility of providing a forum and to allow resident to have input into selecting the best person. With all the talk about discrimination lately, it will be interesting if the forum makes the front page.

Although the series "La Cultura Hispana, A Growing Voice" being presented by Ramar Communications is addressing many of the issues being confronted by Hispanic in West Texas, it also seems to be bringing out the true colors in many people. This happening to the point of some "gringos" reverting back to calling us "damn meskins" without any hesitation. The series is good and something similar to it should continue.

The City Council elections are getting more and more people interested in running. Although not officially announced rumors are that Janie Landin, Floyd Price, Byron Walker and Issac Garnett will file against T.J. Patterson. Porfirio DeLeon, Bobby Lee Baggerman and Daniel Alsbrooks will file for District One. Chris Gallerneau, Todd Overholser will file against Frank Morison. Gilbert Montes will file for Mayor...again.

This list is probably not complete yet and we can probably expect more candidates to file in the next few weeks.

Our congratulations to LULAC on the celebration of their special week. LULAC has played an important part in the progress of Lubbock and we appreciate all the work that all of their members are doing and have done.

Contact and Write Bidal at eleditor@llano.net

everyone has," said Debbie Lopez, director of the Phoenix-based Latino Vote Project, a nonpartisan group aimed at registering voters and increasing participation in the political process. "It's crime. It's health

when Bush proposed granting temporary legal status to millions of undocumented workers. It is by design. Segal said, that an initiative about an issue of deep concern to Hispanics was unveiled at the outset of an

Language Learning Regaining Favor in U.S.

By Domenico Maceri

Although the United States is a land of immigrants, when it comes to language fluency, it retains a global reputation as a monolingual country. A recent survey by the Modern Language Association of America suggests, however, that U.S. residents are trying to shed their reputation of being tongue-tied.

According to MLA data, about 1.4 million college students are studying languages other than English, up 18 percent between 1998 and 2002. Virtually all the languages surveyed increased their enrollments.

American Sign Language had the highest increase -- 432 percent, while Russian and French had the slightest increases -- 0.5 percent and 1.5 percent respectively.

Other languages including Arabic (92 percent), Italian (29 percent), Modern Hebrew (28 percent), and Portuguese (21 percent) registered significant gains.

What are the most popular languages with U.S. college students?

You guessed it. Spanish. More than 746,000 students (53 percent of the total foreign-language enrollment) are studying Cervantes' language. The others attracting most students are French (202,014), German (110,112), Italian (63,866) and American Sign Language (60,849).

Other languages with more than 10,000 students include Japanese, Chinese, Latin, Russian, ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew and Arabic.

The increase in enrollments is certainly a positive change. The interest in the perception of languages is also reflected in the population at large. A recent Gallup poll found that a majority of U.S. residents (53 percent)

support bilingual education. That is also a change, since in the last decade voters in California, Arizona, and Massachusetts virtually eliminated bilingual education through the initiative process. Yet in Colorado voters retained it, believing that the opportunity to be bilingual should not be denied to children in the state.

Although the MLA enrollments figures are certainly worth celebrating, one needs to understand that the vast majority of U.S. college students taking foreign languages stop after one or two semesters. That is clearly not enough to become fluent in the language and be able to use it professionally.

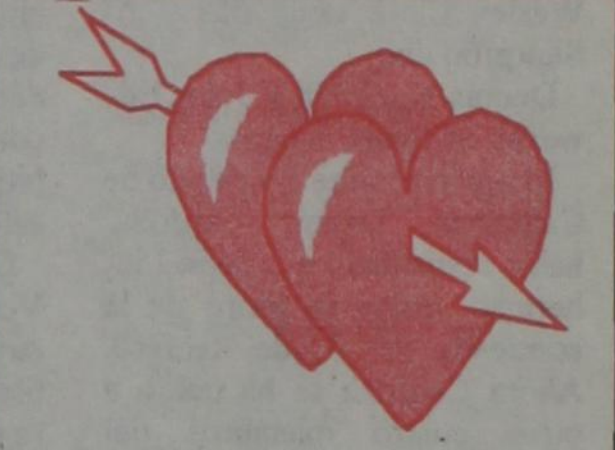
According to the Foreign Service Institute, which teaches languages to our diplomatic personnel, one needs to reach level of 2+ on a scale of 0-to-5 to be able to function at a minimal professional competency (0 means little or no knowledge, 5 is the knowledge of an educated native speaker). To reach level 2+ with an "easy" language to learn, such as French, Spanish, Portuguese or German, takes about 500-600 hours of instruction. That would be the equivalent of several semesters of college study.

To reach level 2+ with a "difficult" language, such as Chinese, Japanese or Arabic, probably takes 800-1,000 hours of instruction.

Obviously, the U.S. government cannot find many linguistically qualified individuals for its needs among students at U.S. colleges and universities. The shortage became very clear a few years ago, when the FBI announced soon after 9-11 that it needed Arabic speakers to translate large amounts of data that had been collected through various means. It eventually held a job fair in a New Jersey mosque to hire bilingual agents.

(Continued Page 5)

Latinos for **John Kerry** PRESIDENT? So what will persuade Hispanics to vote?



The History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day has been celebrated for many centuries. February 14 was a 3rd Century A.D. holiday at which Romans honored Juno, the Queen of the Roman gods, goddesses, women and marriage. The following day, marked the Feast of Lupercalia. In one ritual at the festival, noble boys ran through the streets and lashed girls who wore hide thongs called februa (February).

Although there were over fifty Christian martyrs who claimed the name

Pope Gelasius in 496 A.D. set aside February 14th to honour St. Valentine. On the eve of Saint Valentine's Day, young people would gather, and each young man would draw by lot a young lady's name. The couples were then "valentines" for the year and would exchange tokens of love.

Early in the 1800's valentine cards, exchanged as messages of love, became popular. Soon the tradition developed into a wide spread exchange in cards and gifts, such as candy and flowers.

Read Tejas On Page 2

Reclamos en Washington por los indocumentados

Una coalición de organizaciones nacionales que defienden los derechos de los inmigrantes demandaron que la Casa Blanca y ambos partidos en el Congreso avancen una reforma migratoria real y viable porque de lo contrario habrá un precio político que pagar, aseguraron.

Los grupos, entre los que figuraron el Centro de Recursos Centroamericanos (CARECEN) de Los Angeles y de esta capital, la Hermandad Mexicana, también de Los Angeles, y la Federación Zacatecana del Sur de California, entre otros, convocaron una reunión de "emergencia" para ejercer presión sobre la Casa Blanca y los legisladores, particularmente por tratarse de año electoral, cuando los políticos buscan complacer a sus representados.

En una rueda de prensa en el Club Nacional de Prensa de esta capital, los grupos indicaron que las propuestas formuladas por el presidente George W. Bush y por los demócratas abren la puerta al diálogo y al debate, pero que es necesario desarrollar un plan integral, amplio y viable que permita a los indocumentados obtener la residencia permanente y por ende, la eventual ciudadanía.

Angela Zambrano, de CARECEN de Los Angeles, dijo que es vital que la comunidad inmigrante y los líderes que la representan sean escuchados para desarrollar el lenguaje de la potencial reforma.

"Urge que nuestra comunidad responda a ese diálogo que lleve a una reforma migratoria justa, integral y visionaria", sostuvo Zambrano, y agregó que hay que aprovechar la coyuntura del año para que las promesas pasen de ser sólo eso: promesas.

"Si dejamos que las propuestas sólo sean retórica política, esto no va a llevar a ningún cambio", indicó Zambrano.

La activista respondió a una pregunta sobre el potencial costo político de que se ignoren los llamados a una reforma migratoria sustancial.

El costo político sería, dijo, que los latinos no votarían por los candidatos que ignoren los pedidos por una reforma migratoria.

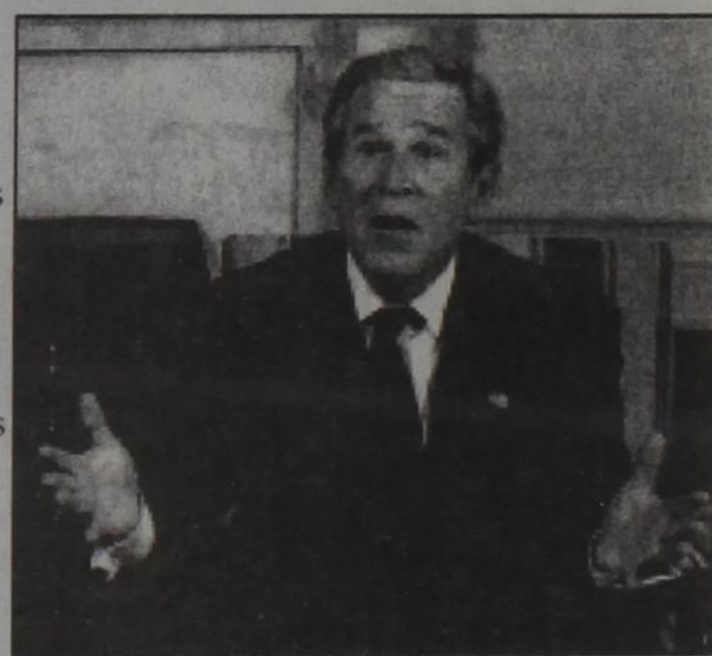
"Ya pasamos de las palabras y de hablar en español. Queremos hechos concretos", afirmó.

A fines del mes pasado los demócratas presentaron los cinco lineamientos de lo que catalogaron como una "auténtica reforma de inmigración" que se suma al debate del potencial plan de legalización de indocumentados que obtuvo un soplo de vida cuando Bush anunció su propuesta el 7 de enero.

Los demócratas aseguran que su propuesta si legalizará a millones de indocumentados contrario al plan propuesto por el presidente Bush.

Los cinco lineamientos esbozados en el plan demócrata contemplan: la reunificación familiar; camino a la legalización "ganada", ajuste migratorio para estudiantes inmigrantes, protección y seguridad de las fronteras y los puertos de entrada, y un programa de trabajadores huéspedes que garantice que eventualmente éstos puedan solicitar la residencia permanente.

El plan del Presidente crea un programa de trabajadores temporales y crea un programa de visados por tres años para los inmigrantes que prueben que están empleados o que reciban una oferta de trabajo de un empleador que haya probado que no encontró a un ciudadano estadounidense que quisiera la plaza.



Léa El Editor

Dean Mantiene Su Popularidad Entre Los Hispanos

Hassan Brown

Pese a su pobre demostración en las elecciones primarias de demócratas hasta hoy, Howard Dean tiene ocho avales políticos de miembros del Caucus Congressional Hispano, más que todos los demás candidatos a presidente. Muchos de ellos se habían comprometido con él desde el comienzo de la campaña.

John Kerry le sigue con tres. Wesley Clark tiene dos y Al Sharpton uno.

Dennis Kucinich y John Edwards no tienen ninguno.

El representante del estado de California, Dennis Cardoza, había respaldado a Joseph Lieberman, quien se retiró de la contienda el 3 de febrero. Ahora Cardoza se ha unido a otros cuatro miembros del Caucus Hispano como miembro no comprometido.

Diecinueve miembros, todos demócratas con derecho al voto, pertenecen al Caucus Congressional Hispano. Un vigésimo miembro, el Comisionado Residente del Estado Libre-Asociado de Puerto Rico, Anibal Acevedo Vilá, representa a la isla en la Cámara, pero no goza del privilegio del voto en el Capitolio.

Los cinco representantes en la cámara del partido republicano apoyan la reelección de George W. Bush.

Ya que los analistas políticos de ambos partidos reconocen que el voto latino puede ser

determinante para la victoria de noviembre en la carrera presidencial de varios estados, el aval de figuras públicas latinas reconocidas es valioso. Los candidatos demócratas, por lo general, atraen dos terceras partes del voto hispano. Se espera que en este año eleccionario los números en las encuestas aumenten por más de un millón que en el 2002.

Cuando comenzaron las elecciones por el candidato demócrata, varios de los candidatos carecían de influencia y conexiones con los votantes latinos más allá de sus propios estados.

Dean, el ex-gobernador de Vermont, venía de un estado cuya población es 97% de raza blanca y no hispana, por ende rápidamente comenzó a reclutar apoyo de latinos renombrados en el ámbito de la política nacional.

La representante del estado de California, Grace Napolitano, se incluyó en el grupo de los muchos que Dean encontró receptivos a sus ideas. Ella lo ve ahora como el candidato menos favorecido. El 6 de febrero, en conversaciones con el servicio de noticias Hispanic Link, reafirmó su apoyo por el otrora primer candidato quien no ha logrado motivar a los votantes en ninguna de las elecciones primarias estatales.

"Yo siempre estoy con los que están abajo. Personalmente, siempre he sido la desfavorecida", dijo al mencionar una

serie de contiendas electorales donde desafió encuestas y expertos y obtuvo la victoria.

Dean comprende las necesidades de la clase trabajadora, enfatizó Napolitano. "El habla nuestro idioma, escucha y comprende los asuntos que hay en nuestro distrito".

Dolores Huerta, co-fundadora del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos también apoya a Dean.

Varios líderes latinos, incluyendo a Henry Cisneros, antiguo secretario del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano, Toney Anaya, ex-gobernador de Nuevo México, Anthony Villaraigosa, concejal de la ciudad de Los Angeles, Ben Luján, vocero representante de la cámara por Nuevo México y Aida Alvarez, directora del programa de Administración de Pequeñas Empresas de Estados Unidos son todos avales que activamente hacen campaña por Kerry.

Patricia Madrid, la procuradora general de Nuevo México se ha aliado con Edwards mientras que otros dos nuevos-mexicanos, Ed Romero, antiguo embajador estadounidense en España y Jerry Apodaca, ex-gobernador del estado, obran por elegir a Wesley Clark.

El actual gobernador del estado, Bill Richardson, ha sido seleccionado para llevar a cabo la convención demócrata en Boston del 26 al 29 de julio y por eso se ha mantenido en una

posición neutral. En este momento, Richardson es el único gobernador hispano de la nación. Mencionado a menudo como un potencial vice-presidente para cualquiera que gane la nominación del partido, Richardson reitera enfáticamente que cumplirá a cabalidad su término como gobernador de la tierra del encanto.

¿Qué peso tienen los avales?

Muchos expertos en política los ven como más útiles para llegar a trabajadores de campaña y donantes potenciales que en influenciar a los votantes.

Mickey Ibarra, el antiguo asesor principal del Presidente Bill Clinton, ahora consultor político en Washington, D.C., respalda a John Kerry, y sugiere que es posible dar demasiada importancia a los avales. Al final, dice, "Depende del candidato cerrar el negocio".

Andy Hernández, antiguo activista demócrata en Washington, quien regresó a San Antonio como profesor universitario, consultor y escritor, les da crédito a los votantes latinos por ser selectivos. "Los avales ayudan", dice. "Pero no puedes tomarlos como un cheque en blanco. El candidato debe mantener una postura igual a la del aval o el votante hispano se dará cuenta".

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An Unfinished Landscape

By Abel Cruz

This week, the local Fox channel is running a series on Hispanics during their 9PM newscast. It includes stories about the history of the community and interviews with individuals who happen to be Hispanic/Latino (take your pick) and who have somehow played a role in the history of the Lubbock Hispanic community. In fact, El Editor's publisher, Bidal Aguero, was the subject of an interview that ran Monday the 9th.

This I suppose is the fallout from the Tommy Gonzalez issue.

As usual you have some people very appreciative of Fox for airing the series, but there also those that are expressing the typical response such as the one I heard on Wednesday's voicemails that ran on the 4 PM newscast. The caller sounded Anglo of course, and his message was that if "Mexicans" weren't happy here, why not go back to Mexico?

Never mind that some people of Hispanic descent have never been there and do not even speak the language. Such comments are typical, stupid, and prejudicial reactions to something that they are ill informed to address. Yet they have no reservations about calling in and expressing their views, warped as they may be. And of course, other viewers who also happen to be uninformed agree with them and the cries of "go back to Mexico" only get louder and louder!

As I watch the series, I am struck by the fact that there is not one sole person or voice that seems to be heard above the rest. In other words, the opinions are as varied as the people that are being interviewed. Unfortunately, the community may come across as a community bound by skin color and a variety of issues, but when it comes to ranking the importance of the issues and getting them resolved, the opinions will be as varied and disjointed as the voices.

All political or social movements related to race issues that have been brought to the forefront in this country have been done so because one person took a leadership role and decided to guide the direction of the movement or the cause. A good example would be Caesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Union movement back in the 70's. Is that the case here in Lubbock?

Granted there are many voices, but has one person come to the forefront and seen as the voice that represents the community? You be the judge of that. But until that happens, I'm afraid that the community will be seen as just another minority group with a lot of complaints about the system but no real solutions to the problems. We will be left to go in different directions and by doing so, may be viewed as a disorganized community that is disgruntled about one thing or another, but cannot decide on who will guide the ship.

I do applaud Fox News for running this series. I am sure that they are hearing some complaints from their mainstream viewers who have no interest in these issues whatsoever and who just wish that we would all just go away! You have to give them credit for having the guts to devote airtime to this issue and I encourage you to watch these reports on the 9PM newscast.

Unfortunately it's only the opening scene in the exploration of the race relations landscape in this city. A landscape that so far, is lacking its own Michael Angelo to complete the picture.

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Dean Remains Popular With Hispanics

By Hasaan Brown

Despite a poor showing in the presidential primaries to date, Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean holds the most endorsements by members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, with eight. Many of them committed to him early.

John Kerry follows with three. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark has two, and the Rev. Al Sharpton one. Rep. Dennis Kucinich and Sen. John Edwards have no endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Cardoza of California had backed Sen. Joseph Lieberman, who quit the race Feb. 3. Now Cardoza has joined four other CHC members as uncommitted.

Nineteen voting members, all Democrats, belong to the CHC. A 20th member, Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo-Vilá, represents the island commonwealth in the House, but does not enjoy voting privileges on Capitol Hill.

The five GOP House members support George W. Bush's reelection.

Because analysts for both parties are warning that the Latino vote could be key to victory in the presidential race in a number of states, endorsements by popular Latino public figures are prized. Democratic candidates normally carry two-thirds or more of the Hispanic vote, and this year the number of Hispanic voters is expected to increase by more than a million over 2002.

When the primaries began, several of the Democratic candidates had little currency and few connections with Latino voters beyond their own states.

Dean came from a state that is 97 percent white non-Hispanic, so he went to work quickly to enlist Latino supporters nationwide whose names carried political weight.

U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano of California is one of several he found receptive to his ideas. She sees him as an underdog now. Speaking to Hispanic Link News Service on Feb. 6, she reaffirmed her support for the early front-runner, who has yet to excite voters in a single state primary. "I'm always with underdogs. I've always been the underdog myself," she said, mentioning a series of election battles where she defied the polls and experts to claim victory.

Dean understands the working-class person's plight, she stressed. "He talks our language and listens and understands the issues in my district."

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, also is in Dean's corner.

Several Latino leaders, including former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, former New Mexico governor Toney Anaya, Los Angeles City Councilman Anthony Villaraigosa, New Mexico House Speaker Ben Luján and former U.S. Small Business Administration chief Aida Alvarez are endorsing and campaigning for Kerry.

New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid has aligned with Edwards, while two other New Mexicans, former U.S. ambassador to Spain Ed Romero and former Gov. Jerry Apodaca, are working to elect Gen. Wesley Clark.

Its current chief executive, Bill Richardson, has been chosen to run the Democratic Party's July 26-29 convention in Boston, so he's staying neutral. Richardson is the nation's only sitting Hispanic governor. Often mentioned as a potential vice-presidential teammate for whoever wins the party nomination, he says he will complete his full term as governor.

How valuable are endorsements? Many political experts see them as more useful in leading to campaign workers and potential donors than influencing rank-and-file voters.

Washington consultant Mickey Ibarra, a former senior aide to President Clinton who

is backing Kerry, suggests they can be overemphasized. "It's up to the candidate to close the sale," he says.

Former Washington Democratic activist Andy Hernández, who returned to San Antonio, where he teaches, consults and writes, gives Latino voters credit for being discerning.

"Endorsements help," he says. "But you're not going to take it as a blank check. The candidate must stand for the same thing as the endorser, or the Hispanic voter will see through it."

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Latinos Divided on Bush Immigration Plan

Hispanics generally approve of President Bush (news - web sites)'s proposal for a national guest worker program, but their opposition grows after they learn its details, according to a poll released Thursday.

The survey found 42 percent of respondents supported Bush's immigration reform plan, with 20 percent opposed and the remainder undecided. But opinions split 45-45 once respondents were informed that most immigrant workers would have to return home once their legal status expired.

"They seem to think that the proposal is incomplete," said Sergio Bendixen, who conducted the poll for New California Media, a nationwide coalition of ethnic news organizations.

Bush's proposal would give currently undocumented immi-

grants renewable three-year permits to work U.S. jobs.

Three-quarters of respondents said they preferred a plan that lets foreign workers earn citizenship through their work — a central theme among proposals from members of Congress since Bush announced his plan earlier this month.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said Thursday that Bush opposes giving illegal immigrants a direct path to citizenship.

"This president doesn't make decisions based on polls, he makes decisions based on what he thinks is right," Duffy said.

Duffy also questioned the value of the poll because a key question mischaracterized Bush's proposal as limiting immigrants to a six-year stay. Bush opposes letting undocumented workers stay indefi-

nately, Duffy said, but details of how many times workers could renew their initial three-year visas will be negotiated with Congress.

Bendixen responded to Duffy's objection by saying that the number of years was less important than the fact that immigrants would be forced to leave eventually.

Pollsters between Jan. 20-26 conducted a telephone survey of 800 people with Latino surnames who identified themselves as being Hispanic. Such methodology is sometimes used by pollsters but critics say it is not as reliable as drawing a sample through random-digit dialing. The sampling error margin was plus or minus 3

percentage points.

Bush's guest worker plan was big news in Hispanic communities: Three-quarters of poll respondents said they had heard about it, but nearly two-thirds saw it as an election year attempt to woo Hispanic voters.

The policy debate will likely have implications for the presidential race, in which both parties are courting Hispanics, who account for an increasingly important voting bloc in national elections.

Hispanics were important to Bush's election in 2000. He garnered just 35 percent of their votes, but Hispanics traditionally have voted more solidly Democratic.

Journal Will Produce Insert In Spanish

The Wall Street Journal will produce a weekly, tabloid-sized Spanish-language insert for the Tribune Co.'s Hoy newspapers in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, reflecting the growing clout of the Hispanic media market.

The insert will appear on Thursdays under the Journal banner and focus on personal finance and technology, careers and small business. Articles will be culled from the Journal's American, European and Asian editions and translated into Spanish by Journal editors, said Dow Jones & Co., parent company of the Journal.

Hoy also will have access to well-known Journal columnists, such as political writers Alan Murray and John Harwood and personal-technology guru Walter Mossberg. Hoy will pay for the content, but terms were not disclosed.

"Hoy's commitment to its readers is to provide news and information on matters that are important to Hispanics in the

United States," Louis Sito, Tribune publishing vice president/Hispanic media, said in a statement.

Hispanics make up the nation's largest minority, with about 13 percent of the population. Marketers and demographers have compared the segment to the baby boom generation — a fast-growing group with increasing spending power and political clout, each of which is predicted to continue expanding.

Last month, Los Angeles's La Opinion merged with New York's La Prensa/El Diario, mating the nation's largest and oldest Spanish-language newspapers and laying the foundation for a new newspaper chain, as the combined company, Impremedia LLC, promised to begin buying other papers.

El Editor No. 1 In News!



Regulating Wedded Bliss

By Marisa Treviño

I think it's a safe assumption that the White House won't be asking Britney Spears to be the poster girl for its \$1.5 billion "healthy marriage initiative." Though the pop star swears she believes in the sanctity of wedlock, apparently it wasn't enough to keep her from saying "I do" to a childhood friend at the Little White Wedding Chapel on the Las Vegas Strip. After only 55 hours, the 22-year-old was singing another tune and crying that Sin City took her over when she agreed to the marriage "just for the hell of it."

We are told her marriage was nothing more than an impulsive act. And I believe it.

For anyone who remembers what it's like to be a teen and a young adult, impulsive acts are as much of this stage of development into full adulthood as forgetfulness is in the golden

years. That's why it's disheartening to realize the Bush administration's "healthy marriage initiative" includes targeting single parents to marry -- most of whom are parents because of an impulsive act.

Wade Horn, assistant secretary of health and human services for children and families, and who would be in charge of implementing the initiative if it passes Congress, assures everyone that it's not the White House's intention to force marriage on anyone.

What Horn didn't know was that thanks to the latest White House announcement there will probably be a lot more candidates queuing up for his services.

By pledging, in his State of the Union address, to double federal funding for abstinence programs, President Bush is pushing one vulnerable segment of the population -- teens

-- into a corner.

According to Census Bureau, 89 percent of all teenagers who gave birth were not married. With a history of discouraging, and in some cases, forbidding educators to teach about contraceptive options, this administration is offering only one alternative to those too inexperienced to disregard their body's most basic impulsive instincts: marriage.

I have to admit I used to think this way, too. Any kids who felt adult enough to have sex should also be adult enough to take responsibility for their actions by marrying the parent of their child.

I rethought that logic when I met Victor.

Victor was a 17-year-old, soft-spoken teenage dad who still couldn't believe he was a father. Yet what dumbfounded him even more was the expectation that he would marry the mother of his child. "I don't even really know her," he said.

Victor's story is not unique. He was attracted to a pretty girl, they went out and had sex on their first date. She found herself pregnant, and both found their lives changed forever.

Because of that impulsive act, the government will expect them to marry for the sake of that child. Their reasoning is that a two-parent household is less likely to live a paycheck-to-paycheck existence.

However, sociologists and financial experts advise the opposite. A study by sociologist Daniel Lichter found that even though women from disadvantaged families gained some

economic benefits from marriage, those who later divorced had higher poverty rates than those who never married at all.

Even financial guru Suze Orman advises women that it's a bad idea to marry or stay in a bad marriage for the sake of the children because of the fear of destitution. Orman feels it hurts women on two fronts. First, it sends the wrong message to children that money is more important than people, and second, a woman's net worth for job prospects diminishes the older she gets. In other words, it's harder to be a 56-year-old divorcee looking for work.

Couple that knowledge with a Kaiser Family Foundation study from last year which found 56 percent of marriages among 18- or 19-year-olds dissolve within 20 years.

Reports on the effectiveness of abstinence programs don't fare much better. Several have found that abstinence programs, at the most, delay up to three months the time kids will have sex. And when they finally do, those same "just-say-no-to-sex" kids are less likely to use contraceptives to keep them safe from unwanted parenthood and sexually transmitted diseases.

It is unfortunate that in today's society sex does not necessarily equate to love. If it did, then there would be no need for federal intervention and everybody could croon "Love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage."

Instead of, "Oops, I did it again."

Alejandro Sanz Celebra el Grammy de gira

El cantautor español Alejandro Sanz celebraba desde ayer su primer Grammy con el concierto que ofreció anoche en Panamá, punto de partida de su nueva gira mundial 12 x 8 en promoción de su más reciente álbum No es lo mismo.

Sanz recibió el pasado domingo la noticia de que había obtenido el Grammy de la Academia de Artes y Ciencias Discográficas de Estados Unidos para su concierto de hoy en el Figali Convention Center (FCC), a orillas del Canal interoceánico.

"La celebración del Grammy empieza [el martes] aquí en Panamá, pero vamos a estar celebrándolo durante toda la gira", señaló el lunes Sanz en una rueda de prensa.

"Lo celebraremos tocando y con todos los que vayan" al concierto, dijo.

Alejandro Sanz obtuvo el pasado domingo el Grammy en la categoría de Mejor Álbum

Study:

Nielsen Ratings Slight Hispanics

Hispanic television viewers are undercounted by the company that has a monopoly on measuring TV audiences, hurting the odds of success for Hispanic-oriented programs, a group claims.

Nielsen Media Research's methodology is at fault, a study released by the National Latino Media Council contends.

Among other problems, the council said, is that the company fails to include enough U.S.-born Hispanics in its sample, skewing its ratings for Hispanic viewers of English-language shows.

The exclusion of Hispanics from the ratings is "shameful" and Nielsen "has been slow in

Pop Latino por su más disco No es lo mismo.

El cantautor español ha ganado siete Grammy Latinos por sus álbumes El alma al aire (2000) y MTV Unplugged (2002).

Sanz destacó que todos los Grammy, incluyendo los latinos, son importantes y son un "espaldarazo" al trabajo que se está haciendo.

Recordó que cuando tenía 14 años "empezaba a soñar con el Grammy que me dieron [el domingo] porque no existían los Grammy Latinos", pero subrayó que tiene "mucho con-fianza" en estos últimos y los apoya "porque creo que son los que representan a toda nuestra música".

En cuanto a su gira, reconoció que siempre se tienen "nervios" porque hay muchas ilusiones puestas "de mucha gente, de todos los músicos, la de uno mismo y de la gente que va a ir a los conciertos".

El artista señaló que lo que él continúa en la página 5

Las intenciones del corazón

Dra. Ana Nogales

Especial para Vida y Estilo
Establecer objetivos en la vida es de suma importancia porque nos permite crear un futuro ideal. No es tarea fácil, ya que implica preguntarse a uno mismo qué es lo que se quiere. Esta puede ser una tarea muy complicada; puede llevar toda la vida encontrar la respuesta apropiada.

Sin embargo, diseñamos nuestros objetivos a corto y largo plazo y vivimos esperando su logro. Mientras esperamos, no es sorprendente que los objetivos cambien porque la vida nos lleva a nuevos intereses o preocupaciones.

De una manera u otra, al establecer objetivos visualizamos nuestro futuro, planeamos y aplicamos una disciplina acorde, nos esforzamos por llegar a ellos y disponemos del tiempo y la energía que requieran. Vivimos para ellos.

Si bien los objetivos dan dirección a la vida, en algunos casos se convierten en algo imaginado e idealizado y, por lo tanto, la perfección nunca es alcanzada y la frustración es la consecuencia, ya que la vida es imperfecta de por sí.

Cuando vivimos en función del futuro nos desvinculamos del presente. Es más, el futuro a veces llega, pero la mayoría de las veces NO.

Cuando vivimos con las "intenciones del corazón", el camino está en el presente, en lo que nos importa día a día y en el compromiso que establecemos con nosotros mismos y con las personas que nos rodean.

Establecer objetivos mientras nos olvidamos de ellos en la vida diaria, tal como comúnmente hacemos al principio de un nuevo año, nos lleva a vivir engañados, sólo respondiendo a las presiones de lo que hay que hacer hoy, olvidándonos de nuestro ser. Sin embargo, vivir cada día con las mejores intenciones del corazón nos provee un sentido de integridad y dignidad estrechamente vinculado con nuestros valores más profundos.

Cuando es así, irónicamente, somos más efectivos en valorar nuestros objetivos. Con ello

nos brindamos el respeto personal y la paz que muchas veces esperamos que nos llegue de otros.

Los objetivos podrán alcanzarse o no, nos irá bien o mal, saldremos victoriosos o frustrados, pero nuestra vida no puede depender de alcanzarlos. La felicidad no depende de ellos, como tampoco vivimos o morimos por ellos. Los objetivos nos traen entusiasmo y excitación, pero son sólo ilusiones de un futuro, muchas de ellas no realistas, demasiado perfeccionistas, mientras que las intenciones del corazón en el diario vivir son realidad, una realidad que sólo uno mismo puede diseñar y vivir de acuerdo con ella.

Una buena forma de vivir cada día intencionalmente es despertarse a la mañana sin el apuro de saltar de la cama para llegar a tiempo, y agradecer el nuevo día con la esperanza de aprender algo nuevo.

Al final del día, podemos recolectar los pensamientos y sentimientos, reflexionar sobre lo que hemos aprendido y elegir los recuerdos positivos que queremos guardar en el archivo de nuestra memoria.

Así es como diseñamos nuestro paso por la vida, y al mismo tiempo nos acercamos a aquellos valores que apreciamos, viviendo cada jornada con la intención del corazón y con el entusiasmo de celebrar lo que aprendemos nuevo.

Leá EL EDITOR Hoy Mismo!


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Elect: Ysidro Gutiérrez

A Candidate with Education
B.B.A. and MBA from Texas Tech

A Candidate with Experience
20 Years of Military Service

A Candidate with a 13 Year Record of Community Service
American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year 2003



Democrat for Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct 3

Visit my web page to read about my vision for Lubbock: www.ysidrogutierrez.com

Political advertisement paid for by Ysidro Gutiérrez for County Commissioner Precinct 3. Madaleno Hernandez - Treasurer

"Fall In Love With Your Heart"

A special Valentine's Day program from Covenant Heart Institute

Covenant Heart Institute invites you and "that special someone" to join us for a morning devoted to heart-healthy living

When: Saturday, February 14 • 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Where: Knipling Education/Conference Center
Atop the West Parking Garage at 21st St. and Louisville Ave.

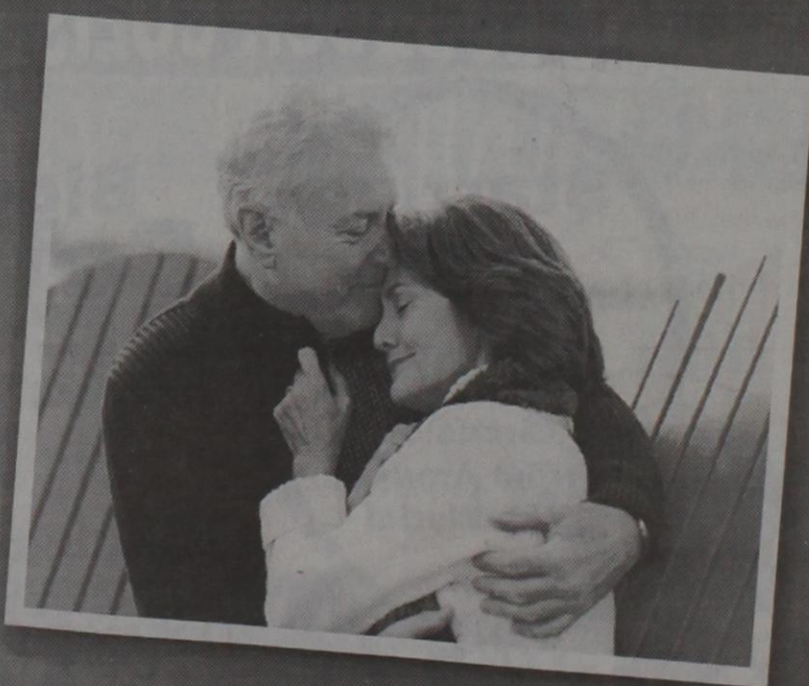
Program:

- 8:15 a.m. Doors Open; "Breakfast Bake" Buffet
- 8:30 a.m. Cooking/Exercise Demonstrations by the Covenant LifeStyle Centre
 - "Cooking For the Healthy Hearts In Your Life" - Shelley Fillipp
 - "A Dynamic Date: Exercising With Your Spouse/Family" - Ryan Rives
 - "Sweets for Your Sweetheart" - Shelley Fillipp
 - "Heart Health on the Home Front" - The Covenant Heart Program
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. "Hearts and Minds" - Michael Rotman, M.D., Founder of Hearts and Minds

Door Prizes include:

- Free heart-healthy cookbook for everyone who attends!
- Free Women's Heart screenings
- Free One-Year Memberships at the Covenant LifeStyle Centre
- Free EBT screenings
- Grand Prize: Valentine's Dinner for 2 at Chez Suzette

Admission is free; however, seating is limited and reservations are required.
Call the Covenant LifeStyle Centre at 725-4386 to make reservations.



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Leá
El Editor
para noticias
importante para
usted y su familia,
y su comunidad!

Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Championships

The Golden Gloves this year features a record number of entries. Lubbock has never be-

This years event is expected to be the best ever. The Golden Gloves is scheduled to

toughest. Also new this year is the fraternity College division. This division has entries from

the Golden Gloves.

The Open Class Division remains as popular as ever. These are the experienced boxers that will compete for a berth in the State Championships in Ft. Worth on March 2nd through March 6th and then possibly advance to the Nationals in Kansas City, Mo.

The entire West Texas area will be well represented with several champions in the various Junior Olympic and Open Class Divisions.

Locally entered are: Lubbock Warriors Boxing Club, Jackson Bulldogs (Lubbock) North Lubbock Boxing, Lubbock Crossroads Boxing Team, Lubbock Matadors, Slaton Boxing Team, Littlefield Hardknocks, Plainview Xtreme, Levelland Boy's Club, Brownfield, Hereford and many teams, and from the Amarillo and upper Pan Handle area.

If you like boxing this year's event will definitely feature athletes that street brawl in the Macho Man Division. To the pretty Lady like and ruff approach of the women's division.



Slaton Boxers

begin Thursday, Feb. 19 and run through Sat. Feb. 21st at the Lubbock memorial Civic center. Bouts are scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm nightly. This years event will feature 3 new divisions. The Macho Man di-

vision which is similar to th Toughman division will feature boxers who have just come in off the street and will brawl to see who has the bragging rights as the best and

fore received as many boxing participants as they have this year.

Foreman, 55, getting back in shape for possible 1-fight comeback

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman, whose last fight was seven years ago, said he is in training for a one-fight comeback.

Foreman told Houston television station KRIV on Monday he began training Jan. 10, his 55th birthday.

"I've been training and working out to get down to 225 pounds," he said. "If I do, I'm going to have one more boxing match."

He said he has already lost 25 pounds.

Foreman has not fought since losing to Shannon Briggs in 1997. He said he knows people will make fun of him, but said he is used to it.

"A lot of people say, 'Boy, you must be out of your mind. Don't even try it,'" he said. "But I've heard that since I was 19 years old."

Foreman's career record is 76-5 with 68 knockouts.



Midwest Boxers

Miss Knockout. There is a record number of entries in the women division. They will be competing for the toughest and best female not to mention also the best looking one of

To top it off the finest and best in the Open Division with Boxers that have proven state and national recognition.

Mark Your Calendar for this special event! Come Out Lubbock!

Sanders, V. Klitschko begin talks for heavy-weight title bout

Less than a week after heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis retired, Corrie Sanders and Vitali Klitschko have begun talks for a bout for the vacant WBC title.

Promoter Vernon Smith said Wednesday he hopes for an April 24 fight date, preferably in New York or Las Vegas, with HBO the broadcaster. Discussions with the Klitschko camp started Tuesday night, he added.

The title was vacated Friday when Lewis left boxing rather than defend his crown in a rematch with Klitschko.

Lewis said he will help promote Sanders and the Klitschko fight. Lewis is director of the management company representing Sanders.

"I know they are very scared of (Sanders) because of his unorthodox style," Lewis said at Wednesday's news conference. "Corrie Sanders is the next champion. Corrie has been working very hard for a long time and deserves this opportunity. I think he'll make a fine champion."

Sanders, the former WBO champion from South Africa, knocked out Klitschko's brother, Wladimir, in the second round last March in Hano-

ver, Germany. The 38-year-old Sanders is 39-2 with 29 knockouts.

"When I beat Vitali, I'm sure I'll be the only person that can beat two brothers in the same division," Sanders said Wednesday.

Vitali Klitschko, a Ukrainian based in Germany, was leading Lewis on all three scorecards after six rounds before being stopped on cuts last June in Los Angeles.

"I'm going to whack Klitschko like he's never been whacked before," Sanders said. "Nobody gave me a chance against Wladimir. That was a good fight and this one will be even better."

Sanders said he wasn't worried about fighting the 32-year-old Klitschko.

"I still feel like a 31-, 32-year-old," he said. "I still believe I have a year or two in me."

Sanders said if he beats Klitschko he would give a rematch to his brother.

"I believe he wants me again and I think it would be great for the whole world to see again because everybody thought it was a lucky punch," he said.

2004 Lubbock Regional GOLDEN GLOVES Boxing Championships

Lubbock Municipal Coliseum February 19-21 • 7:00pm

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(At gate on day of show only)

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4 pm Show - Buy 1 adult (reg. price) get 1 Free or \$2 OFF single adult ticket

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EWC Activity Center 1102 70th (east of Lowery field)
Lubbock, Texas

Mission: To Build Strong Boys rather than Repair Broken Men

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The U.S. Hispanic Electorate Report

The Democratic Party is losing some of its footing with the Hispanic electorate in a shift that could be pivotal for over twenty states in November's presidential election, according to the HispanTelligence (R) research report - 2004 U.S. Hispanic Electorate Profile, Issues and Projections - released today by Hispanic

Business Inc. The data rich report shows a drop of 6.5 percent from 2000 to 2003 in Hispanic Democrats. The timely report also details:
 -- U.S. Hispanic electorate political activity and influence
 -- Voting characteristics among different demographics of the Hispanic Population
 -- Geographic voting trends

-- Pivotal issues for this year's elections
 Several of the key insights in the data-rich report follow:
 -- A decreasing majority of registered Hispanic voters in 2003 called themselves Democrats (39.8 percent, with 24.9 percent registering as Republican and 35 percent registering as Independent).

Can Kerry Persuade Hispanics

from Page 1

For example, he said because many Latinos are working class, their economic concerns are more about jobs and health benefits than about access to capital and the stock market. And while Latino families have high rates of military service, the patriotism arguments candidates might make have to recognize the economic realities, Garcia said.



"Their sons and daughters, husbands and wives are out there (in Iraq)," he said. "Many of the reservists and National Guard members had to leave their jobs, which has left many families hurting economically."

As in other campaign years, Democrats have jumped to the front in attempting to woo the Hispanic vote. During Hispanic Tuesday, as February 3rd in Arizona and New Mexico came to be known because of large Hispanic turnouts, the John Kerry campaign brought out Henry Cisneros

"I think Latinos are looking for the Democrat that captures the aspirational message, someone who identifies with our desire to succeed and our willingness to sacrifice today for a better tomorrow," Cisneros stated in an interview. Asked if any of the crop of Democratic presidential contenders does that, Cisneros didn't gild the lily. "I don't

think any of the candidates have an inherent feel for the Latino community," he said.

But Kerry is trying hard and Hispanics seem to be responding.

At this year's National Conference of La Raza convention, the Democratic hopeful has lambasted the president's record on the issues of health care, education and immigration, while making a powerful pitch for the sought-after Hispanic vote.

"Last election, he promised so much to win your votes," Kerry said. "But President Bush won't be running on his rhetoric this time, he'll be running on his record."

Kerry, the front-runners for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, was a guest speaker at the annual conference. "I think the Hispanic community just wants to be respected like every other American and to see

that promises made are promises kept," Kerry said. "My Hispanic agenda is this: the American agenda."

That agenda, he said, includes improving schools, access to health care and creating more jobs to combat the high unemployment rate.

"There's one American in the United States that deserves to be laid off, and that's George W. Bush, and we're going to do it," Kerry said as the mostly Hispanic crowd cheered.

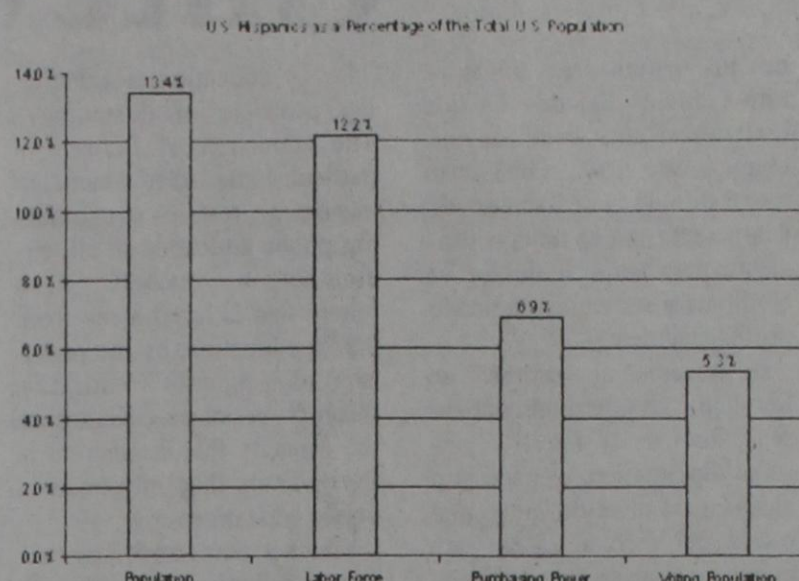
Kerry criticized the administration's policy on health care, noting that one in four Hispanic children in the United States is without health insurance. Kerry said that, if elected, he would fight to ensure health coverage for every child.

Kerry also criticized Bush's corporate tax cuts.

"My vision of America doesn't put CEOs' golden parachutes in front of senior citizens' golden years," Kerry said.

Raul Yzaguirre, president of NCLR, also criticized Bush's record as president, calling his administration "two and a half years of neglect, disinterest and disrespect."

"The truth is, that for the issues that matter to us, this administration has been a major disappointment for the Latino community," Yzaguirre said.



-- Females age 25 to 44 years represent the largest Hispanic voting segment at 23.21 percent.

-- Education is the issue that will determine the vote of 58 percent of Hispanic voters in the coming election.

-- Education directly corre-

lates to political participation, especially among high school graduate Hispanics who are 10 percent more likely to vote in an election than non-graduates counterparts.

Hispanics: From Demographic Power to Purchasing

que serán dirigidos por el maestro Alberto Menéndez, quien también estará en el teclado, según los organizadores del espectáculo.

Después de Panamá, Sanz continuará su gira

Viene de la pagina 3

espera es que "cuando salgan del concierto se vayan con la sensación de que han visto y escuchado algo que vale la pena".

Añadió que el mensaje que trae al concierto es un poco el que hay en el disco, "y es la apuesta por los individuos, por las personas, por la forma diferente de ver las cosas, por los seres humanos".

De acuerdo con Sanz, esto es lo que se verá reflejado en los conciertos que ofrecerá en su gira, "porque es un mundo en el que todo está tan politizado que apenas se da oportunidad a los individuos".

Sanz consideró que es "importante" subrayar esto, porque ése es el mensaje que quiera dejar en esta gira.

Señaló que incluso la banda que le acompaña está formada por músicos de muy diversos sitios y con formas de ver la música muy diferentes, "y que todos ante una misma canción dicen lo mismo: que no es lo mismo; eso es lo que me interesa plasmar".

Sanz viaja en esta gira acompañado de 40 personas entre músicos, coristas, asistentes y técnicos.

La banda está integrada por 13 músicos de Estados Unidos, Cuba y España que reflejan una fusión de culturas y

and Political Power

Census data indicates significant potential for Hispanic voting power to increase - although Hispanics make up 13.4 percent of the total U.S. population, they comprise only 6.9 percent of total U.S. purchasing power and 5.3 percent of all votes cast in the 2000 presidential election.

Hispanic Vote Critical in 22 States

During the 2000 Presidential Election there were 22 states where the number of votes cast in total for George W. Bush and Al Gore differed by less than 10 percent (Table below). "The Hispanic voting-age population in some of these key states is expected to increase by as much as 41 percent, which could swing the outcome in several states like Arizona or Florida. It will be essential for both candidates from the dominant political parties to capitalize on this increase in potential votes if they are to win the election in 2004," state authors of the study Tabin Cosio and Dr. Juan Solana.

Language Learning

from page one

That there is an increase in the number of students taking foreign languages is a positive sign. Even if a significant majority of students only takes a smattering of a non-critical language, that knowledge can translate into an easier time in learning a third foreign language. It's easier for someone who knows both English and Spanish to learn Arabic than for someone who only knows English.

Learning languages, however, is something that needs to start much earlier than college. U.S. schools need to do what other countries have been doing for years. A language other than English needs to be offered to all elementary-school children. The study needs to continue in junior high and even in high school.

The Italian government recently restructured its education system. In Italy, children in elementary school begin the study of a foreign language in the first grade. In the sixth

grade, a second foreign language will be introduced.

It's a model the United States may wish to adopt.

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4 Nobel Prizes and 70 Patents Worldwide!
 Autoimmune diseases are on the rise. These nutritional tools help the body heal itself at the cellular level due to improved cell-to-cell communication. Carbohydrates have always been considered as "energy food", but it was not until the mid 1990's that glyconutrients were discovered. An average of 54 papers a day are being published on this new science of Glycobiology. It is even included in the prestigious medical textbook, Harper's Biochemistry. There are eight monosaccharides (Super Sugars), that are essential to maintaining good health. Did you know that six of the eight essential monosaccharides are no longer in most of our diets? Without all the saccharides the immune system cannot properly identify the good cells from the bad cells. This can lead to the immune system attacking the body which can cause the following disorders:
ADD/ADHD, Addictions, Alzheimer's, Arthritis, Asthma, Bronchitis, Cancer, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes, Ear Infections, Hepatitis C, Fibromyalgia, Gulf War Syndrome, Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis, Strokes, and Other Immune Disorders.
 Monday, February 16, at 6:45 P.M.
 County Library Community Room
 1306 9th Street (about 4 blocks east of Ave Q on 9th street)
 For more information please contact Lee Johnson at (806) 632-4507 or (806) 748-0060

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Bridal Quinceañera

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 Style Show 3pm
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If it's Tejano, it's...

Domenico Maceri

A pesar de ser una tierra de inmigrantes, en materia de facilidad para aprender idiomas, los Estados Unidos conserva una reputación global de monolingüe.

Sin embargo, una encuesta realizada recientemente por la Asociación de Lenguas Modernas (MLA por sus siglas en inglés) sugiere que los residentes estadounidenses están tratando de acabar con la noción de que se les dificulta aprender otros idiomas.

De acuerdo con datos de la MLA, alrededor de 1.4 millones de estudiantes universitarios están estudiando otros idiomas además del inglés, cifra que aumentó un 18 por ciento entre 1998 y 2002. Prácticamente todos los idiomas examinados aumentaron sus matriculas.

La lengua de señas de los Estados Unidos tuvo el mayor aumento, 432 por ciento; mientras que el ruso y el francés tuvieron el menor aumento, 0.5 por ciento y 1.5 por ciento respectivamente.

Otros idiomas, como el árabe (92 por ciento), el italiano (29 por ciento), el hebreo moderno (28 por ciento) y el portugués (21 por ciento) registraron aumentos significativos.

¿Cuáles son los idiomas más populares entre los estudiantes universitarios de los Estados Unidos?

Ya lo sabe: el español. Más de 746,000 estudiantes (53 por ciento del total de la matrícula en lenguas extranjeras) están aprendiendo la lengua de Cervantes. Los otros que atraen a más estudiantes son el francés (202,014), el alemán (110,112), el italiano (63,866) y la lengua de señas estadounidense (60,849).

Otros idiomas con más de 10,000 estudiantes son el japonés, el chino, el latín, el ruso, el griego antiguo, el hebreo bíblico y el árabe.

Ciertamente, el aumento en matrícula es un cambio positivo. El interés en la percepción sobre los idiomas también se refleja en la población en general. Una encuesta reciente de Gallup encontró que una mayoría de los residentes de EEUU (53 por ciento) apoya la educación bilingüe, lo cual indica otro cambio, dado que en la pasada década los votantes en California, Arizona y Massachusetts prácticamente eliminaron la educación bilingüe mediante consulta electoral. Sin embargo, en Colorado los votantes lo retuvieron porque consideraron que a los niños del estado no se les debería negar la oportunidad de ser bilingües.

Aunque las cifras de matrícula de la MLA son sin duda dignas de celebrarse, hay que entender que la gran mayoría

de los estudiantes universitarios de los Estados Unidos que toman cursos de lenguas extranjeras los abandonan luego de uno o dos semestres. Claramente, no es tiempo suficiente para adquirir fluidez en el idioma y ser capaz de usarlo profesionalmente.

De acuerdo al Instituto de Servicio Extranjero, el cual enseña idiomas a nuestro personal diplomático, es necesario alcanzar un nivel de 2+ en una escala del cero al cinco para poder funcionar a un nivel profesional mínimo (0 significa poco o ningún conocimiento, 5 es el conocimiento de un hablante nativo con educación). Se necesita de 500 a 600 horas de instrucción para alcanzar el nivel 2+ en un idioma "fácil" de aprender, como el francés, el español, el portugués o el alemán, lo cual equivale a varios semestres de enseñanza universitaria.

Obviamente, el gobierno estadounidense no encuentra en las universidades del país muchos individuos lingüísticamente capacitados para cubrir sus necesidades. La escasez fue evidente unos años atrás cuando el FBI anunció poco después del 11 de septiembre que necesitaba personas que hablaran árabe para traducir una gran cantidad de información recopilada a través de diversos medios. Al final, celebró una feria de empleo en una mesquita de Nueva Jersey para contratar agentes bilingües.

El que haya un aumento en el número de estudiantes que toman cursos de lenguas extranjeras es un cambio positivo; ya que, aun cuando la gran mayoría de los estudiantes alcance sólo un conocimiento básico de un idioma cualquiera, ese conocimiento podría ser de gran ayuda al aprender una tercera lengua extranjera. Es más fácil aprender árabe para alguien que sabe tanto inglés como español que para alguien que sólo sabe inglés.

Sin embargo, aprender idiomas es algo que se necesita comenzar a hacer mucho antes de llegar a la universidad. Las escuelas de Estados Unidos tienen que hacer lo que otros países han estado haciendo por años. Debe ofrecerse un idioma, que no sea inglés, a todos los niños de escuela primaria, y el estudio del mismo debe continuar en la escuela intermedia y hasta en la escuela secundaria.

Recientemente, el gobierno italiano reestructuró su sistema educativo. Los niños italianos de escuela primaria comenzarán el estudio de una lengua extranjera en el primer grado. En el sexto grado, se les presentará una segunda lengua extranjera. Este es un modelo que los Estados Unidos querría adoptar.

Public Education:

Gateway to the Future

Public education is a founding principle of democracy. The education of Latinos in particular and other Americans in general, rests in strengthening public education at all levels, not in vouchers. Each family that is lured away from public education, by the promise of superior education through vouchers, diminishes the capacity that is inherent in the diversity that only exists in public education.

Voucher plans have been invented and proposed out of the frustration with the seeming lack of progress toward the worthy but elusive goal of quality education for everyone. Public education has a rocky history and has zigzagged its way from one guru to another, from one method to another and from outstanding success to outstanding failure, sometimes simultaneously. Should we throw out public education with the bath water?

In the last few decades, many private schools have had the luxury of picking their students from a pool of qualified applicants who could afford to pay for the opportunities they offered. Their students may have been successful in measurements such as standardized test and university acceptance. This leads to the conclusion that the school did it to the student who could pay.

Consider the following before you jump on the voucher bandwagon.

In 2000, California voters rejected statewide vouchers for

all students by 71 percent to 29 percent.

Research suggests that parental involvement in the education of their children is a key to academic success. Fostering greater parental involvement in our schools will do more good than vouchers.

If a student does not have proven academic ability he/she will not be accepted regardless of ability to pay. A voucher would not make a difference.

If a student is attracted to a newly founded private school with no track record, he/she may receive a substandard education. A voucher would not make a difference.

Thomas Jefferson said that we need a "wall of separation between church and state." The First Amendment provides for that separation.

Sectarian schools account for 85 percent of the total private school enrollment in the United States.

Sectarian schools serve as arms of religious ministries and integrate religious values and doctrine throughout their curriculum, indoctrinating students on controversial subjects such as abortion, creationism and the subservient role of women in society.

There is no documented research that indicates a better education is provided in schools supported by vouchers.

The education of children with disabilities is costly, what makes you think that private and religious schools are going to accept the disabled child?



Council 263 - Lubbock, Texas

You Are Invited To

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

14th Annual Council 263 Professional Night
 Recognizing Hispanic Media
 Food, Refreshments, Entertainment
 Caprock Home Health Care Offices
 7:00PM No Charge

Thursday, February 19, 2004

25th Annual Council 263
 Membership Night
 Learn about LULAC, Open House
 For New Membership Prospects
 Recognition of Supporters & Sponsors
 LULAC Hall 5:30 PM
 Food, Refreshments, Entertainment
 Open to Everyone - No Charge

Friday, February 20, 2004

2nd Annual Youth Councils Mixer
 Mixer and recruitment of new Youth Members
 Open to All Youth
 LULAC Hall 7:00PM Free
 (Council 263 sponsors 3 Youth Councils)

Saturday, February 21, 2004

21st Annual "Bring Out Your Best"
 Scholarship And Awards Banquet
 Reception, Dinner, Music,
 Entertainment, Speakers
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Towers - 801 Avenue O
 5:30PM Reception, 7:PM Dinner
 \$25.00 per ticket

LULAC Hall is located at 1304 Avenue O (13th Street & Avenue O)
 Caprock Home Health Svc. Located at 8806 University

Call Mike Chavez at 806-762-5723 or Rainer Albers at 806-761-3361 for more information

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What additional money will each family have to put up, in addition to the voucher money, to pay for the higher tuition charges and other expenses of private and religious schools?

The concept of parental choice is meaningless. Private school administrators have the only real choice concerning which children are admitted to the schools and which are not.

Vouchers will impede the public school system by draining the funding necessary to provide quality education for all children.

The fight for the hearts and

minds of Latino children and their parents rests in the support and advocacy that we provide to public educational programs that we know work: HeadStart, EvenStart, Migrant Education, EOPS, dual language education, magnet programs and by helping to improve public education at all levels through a committed involvement by all of us. Spend your time on establishing a coalition of parents, students, educators, politicians and activists interested in the well being of public education.

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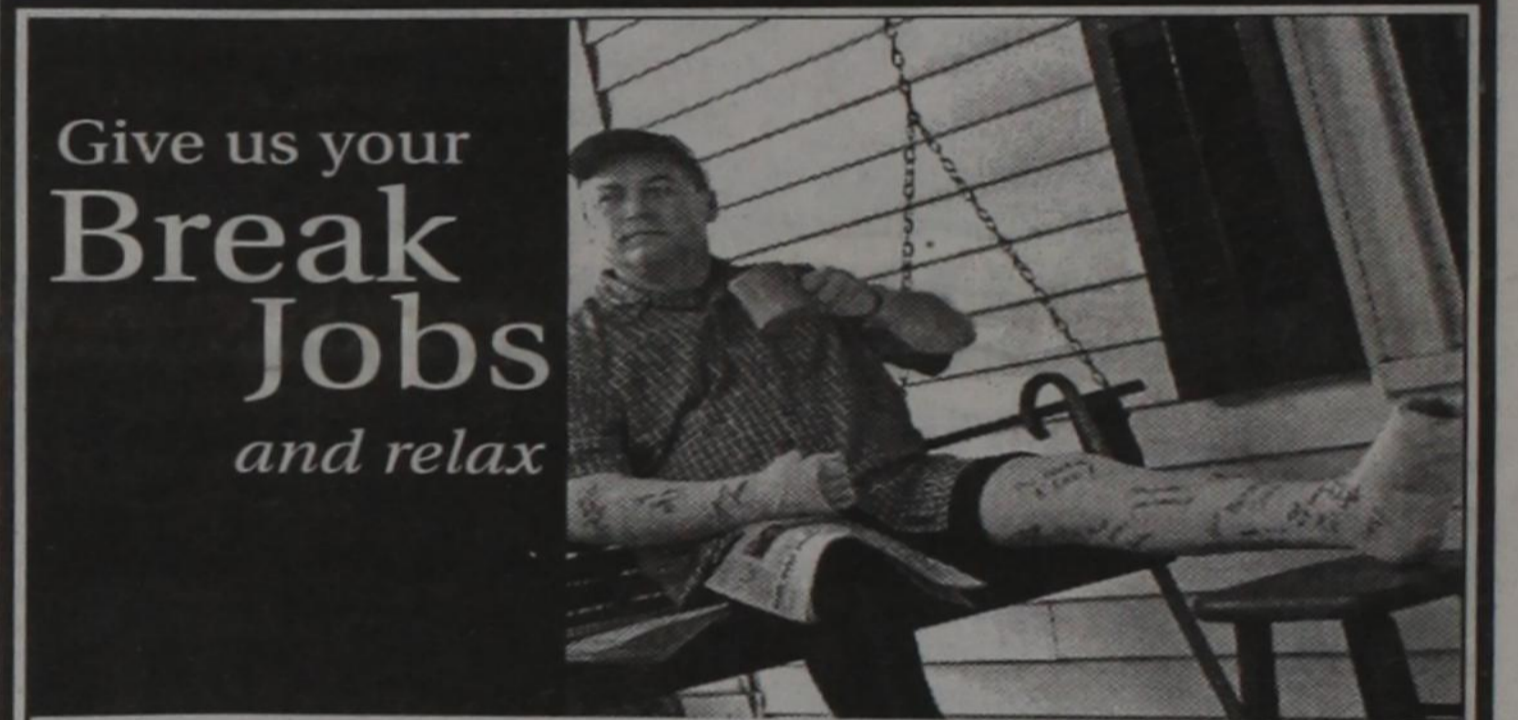
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HUB/MBE Firms

PageSoutherland Page, Architects/Engineers, is anticipating submitting RFQ responses to upcoming work at Texas Tech and is seeking qualifications from HUB/MBE firms wishing to be considered for inclusion on project teams. Areas of expertise: MEP, Civil/Structural, Architecture, Landscape, IT, Graphics, Asbestos, and specialized services. Qualifications, with copy of HUB/MBE certificate, should be sent to HUB/MBE Program, PageSoutherlandPage, 606 West Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701 or emailed to rharris@psp.com.



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The Texas Tech University System
 Lubbock, Texas
 Project No. 02-07

The RFQ and further information can be obtained by accessing the

Texas Marketplace
www.marketplace.state.tx.us <http://
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 GSC Class Item No. 912.24
 Agency Code 768

For additional information contact the Texas Tech University System Project Manager, Ross John Narvaeth, AIA. Contact via phone (806) 742-2116, Fax 806-742-2241 or e-mail: Ross.John.Narvaeth@ttu.edu.

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