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One girl that made a choice

Prostitution: A Vicious Never Ending Circle

By Yvonne Nava

You may not see it in your neighborhood, and you may not even think it happens here. But so far this year, 50 women have been arrested in Lubbock for prostitution.

Now these aren't just numbers. They're daughters, mothers, sisters, and little girls. Not only did I go to the part of town where prostitution is most common. I also met a Lubbock prostitute who is behind bars right now because of her choices. But to her, it's not a choice it's an addiction.

So how does someone get hooked on prostitution? In this case she learned by example. "Most kids get out of school and they go play with their friends, I would just get out of school and go straight home and do what I was taught to do you know," says Lubbock county jail inmate, Linda Trevino Carajal.

Linda is only 20 years old. But some may say she's lived a long life. "It started back when I was 11 years old, my mother was taken to prison so I kind of went wild there. So I started using drugs and from drugs I went to the streets. People say I'm out there, you know, prostituting. It's not really prostitution you know, I started doing whatever I had to do to get the drug," she says.

Linda may play with words when she describes her lifestyle... But the reality is she sold her body for drugs. And now, she's in jail because of it. Linda says drugs and



Aún que la profesión de prototeta es pensado como un trabajo malo, muchas mujeres se envuelven en el por razon de las drogas y despues realizan que se metieron en un circulo sin fin que las llega a nungun lado. Mas de 50 mujeres fueron arrestados en Lubbock por razon de la protitución. Ellas son hijas, hermanas, madres y mujeres desconocidas pero con necesidades como toda la gente..

prostitution on Lubbock streets is very common. Actually, it happens everyday. So just how much truth is there to her statement?

Last week News Channel 11 took their hidden cameras to the streets to find out. A photographer drove down Avenue Q, then 8th street near Avenue R. In just 10 minutes, he made a deal. "I'm looking for a date," he says. "Are you a cop?" says the prostitute. "No," he says, "do you give good h***." "Yes I do," says the prostitute. The News Channel 11 photographer then asks how much it would cost. She tells him 20 bucks and he says he'll get some money around the corner, and be back in 15 minutes. It was that simple.

One Lubbock police officer works undercover prostitution stings and asked that we not reveal his name. The officer says he's not surprised by what we found. In fact, he says it shows how prostitution is intertwined with another illegal activity: drugs. "Most of the prostitution deals are generally for 20 dollars which is about what a crack rock is going for now. Obviously narcotics and prostitution do go hand in hand," says the police officer.

Perhaps Linda's story is a true testament. "There's a lot of things happening out there over the drug. It's not over the money, it's over the drug," Linda says. As she sits in her jail cell, Linda remembers how she would walk the streets alone. She says for her, everyday is a gamble. "It's very

dangerous, I ask myself sometimes. I'm surprised I'm alive to this day, I've been through a lot, I've had my friends killed in front of me, I've seen a lot," she says.

At 20 years old, Linda has been in and out of Lubbock county jail a total of 39 times. "Last time I was incarcerated for 7 months, I was out for three days, and I was right back in. I'm living in a circle going round and round, I always end up here," she says. But this time Linda says, will in fact be the last. "As long as I know I'm turning my life around, that's all that matters. I know I'm going to do it."

However Lubbock police say they've heard it all before. "We've had one just recently I picked up last week and she told us the last time was the last time, and then we arrested her, and the last time before that was supposedly the last time," says the officer. Linda may move in with her dad in Midland. He is a minister. She says she wants to change her life, go back to school and possibly get her G.E.D. But if she stays in Lubbock, she's fearful she'll go back to her old ways. Linda received a 100-day sentence; she's already done 30 and has 70 days left in Lubbock County Jail. And if you're wondering why Linda decided to talk to us, she says she's hoping her story will have an impact on other young girls who might be headed down the same path she chose.

Yvonne Nava is a reporter with KCBD News Channel 11.

Comentarios

By Bidal Agüero

Most of Lubbock and West Texas was caught up in Combestmania this past week. Stories were represented on radio, TV and newspapers all broad-casting what a good job Representative Larry Combest had done for the past years he has been in Congress.



I didn't write down exactly how many years Combest has been in Congress but to the majority of OUR people that have been neglected for so long, it must have seemed like 1000.

I say this after looking up Combest's record on issues that concern Hispanics in the Congressional Scorecard issued by the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda.

The scorecard, available at www.nclr.org/policy/scorecard2002 was produced by the NHLA in an effort to inform voters how their representatives were voting on issues such as civil rights, education, economic mobility and health and specifically on a few selected bills that affected Hispanics.

In every bill examined, Combest voted against the recommendations of the NHLA.

Combest positive record on agricultural issues that affect West Texas can not be disputed but in looking at his past voting we can be assured that in every bill considered he voted for the farmer and not the farm hands.

Larry Combest was the first Congressperson that Lubbock has had in the modern age. Before him we saw George Mahon stand alongside Lyndon Johnson to fight for civil rights, bilingual education and countless other notable causes.

In the upcoming election that will be held to elect a new representative for Lubbock in Congress in would behoove our community to assure ourselves of a person that will be more concerned about Hispanics that is now 27.5 percent of the population.

Voters should also take into consideration the thousands of other disenfranchised people that live in West Texas.

The republican President and the republican Congress will undoubtedly make lives very difficult for many including many middle income person that every day encounter the obstacles that are put to them by not having a decent paying job, not having health insurance and countless other necessities in life.

Let's hope that in the upcoming election voters will select a true voice for all of us instead of just a few.

Write Bidal -- eleditor@llano.net

Logros Politicos de los Hispanos Son Impresionantes

Por Arlene Martínez

En este momento hay 217 hispanos trabajando en las asambleas legislativas a nivel nacional, 158 en las cámaras bajas y 59 en posiciones en el senado, y continúan ganando puestos a un ritmo constante en las juntas escolares y en los cuerpos municipales. Muchos están siendo electos en comunidades donde prácticamente no había hispanos hace unos años.

Con casi un 100 por ciento de las papeletas del 5 de noviembre ya oficiales, la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO por sus siglas en inglés) informa que los demócratas latinos obtuvieron cinco puestos en el senado y seis en la cámara a nivel estatal, mientras los republicanos obtuvieron un solo puesto en la asamblea legislativa.

Sumemos estos números a los cuatro latinos que entraron al Congreso por primera vez en enero, aumentando su representación de 19 a 23, y se obtiene una modalidad que continuará durante décadas por venir, dice Larry Gonzales, quien dirige la oficina de NALEO en

Washington.

"Varios indicadores nos muestran que vamos en la dirección correcta. Cuando comienzas a observar la curva ascendente, la cantidad de funcionarios latinos en las juntas municipales, en los juntas escolares, miembros de los concejos municipales, hay un verdadero motivo para estar optimista", afirma Gonzales.

Es en esta "puerta de entrada" a la gran política donde los jóvenes hispanos aumentan los distritos electorales y afinan sus destrezas en el servicio público mientras se preparan para buscar roles más abarcadores en el gobierno estadounidense, que les provee a su vez un mayor acceso a los 40 millones de residentes estadounidenses que comparten su identidad étnica.

En enero próximo, los latinos ocuparán puestos en el senado en 32 estados, seis más que en 1998. Su presencia política estará en los cuerpos legislativos de Georgia, Maryland, New Hampshire, Carolina del Norte, Nebraska e Idaho.

Notablemente, tres latinos entraron a

las cámaras estatales de Georgia en Atlanta. David Casas, un republicano, y el demócrata Pedro Marín se unen a la Asamblea Legislativa, mientras Sam Zamarripa va directo al Senado.

"Pienso que la comunidad nos ve a Pedro, a David y a mí como una afirmación de que la comunidad tiene alguna posición. Hay que esperar para ver si (algunos legisladores) se dan cuenta de que la presencia latina es permanente", sostiene Zamarripa.

Con el sólido periódico semanal latino, Mundo Hispánico, que ha mantenido a la comunidad bien informada por años sobre los asuntos locales y estatales, la diversidad de latinos en Atlanta no sólo se ha unido con una voz étnica unificada, han asumido un serie de responsabilidades cívicas de liderazgo que los han ayudado a integrarse a estructuras de poder más grandes en la comunidad.

"Nuestra comunidad ha echado raíces profundas", explica Zamarripa, quien es mexicano.

La asamblea legislativa estatal de Florida, la cual ya cuenta con más de

doce cubano-americanos, se vuelve más diversa con la presencia adicional de un puertorriqueño (John Quiñones) y un colombiano (Juan Zapata), ambos republicanos.

En Maryland, los salvadoreños Ana Sol Gutiérrez y Víctor Ramírez hicieron historia como hispanos al representar al condado de Montgomery County en la cámara de representantes estatal, una región prestigiosa debido a su proximidad con Washington, DC. También por primera vez allí, el dominicano Tom Pérez fue elegido al Concejo de Montgomery County.

Entre otros pioneros están:
-- Sylvia García es el primer miembro hispano de la Comisión de Harris County (Texas).

-- Christine Baca se convierte en la primera latina en la State Board of Education (junta estatal de la educación) de Colorado.

-- Dan Ramírez es el primer latino electo a la Board of County Commissioners (junta de comisionados del condado) en Mecklenburg (Carolina del Norte).

Pedro Feliciano, presidente del National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, con miembros en 17 estados, ha trabajado en la legislatura de Kansas desde 1972. Ver más caras hispanas inspira a otros a postularse, dice. "Significa más oportunidades. Es un poder. Podemos legislar a favor de nuestra gente", sostiene.

Un record de nueve hispanos ahora ocupa puestos a nivel estatal. El gobernador electo Bill Richardson dirige una legión de demócratas hispanos quienes ahora ocupan cinco de siete puestos en Nuevo México a nivel estatal. Y el republicano Brian Sandoval se convierte en el primer Fiscal General hispano en Nevada.

Mientras republicanos latinos como Sandoval hicieron algún avance este mes, en general, los candidatos demócratas, con la excepción de Florida, todavía tienen una gran ventaja. De la clase 2003 de los senadores estatales hispanos, 184 son demócratas y 32 son republicanos.

Léa El Editor
Noticias De Significativo

Hispanic Political Gains Impressive at Local, State Levels

By Arlene Martínez

There are now 217 Hispanics serving in state legislatures nationally -- 158 in lower chambers and 59 on the senate sides -- and they are steadily gaining seats on school boards and municipal bodies. Many are winning election in communities where Hispanics were practically nonexistent only a few years ago.

With nearly 100 percent of the ballots from Nov. 5 now official, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials reports that Latino Democrats gained five senate and six house seats at the state level, while Republicans had a net gain of one assembly seat.

Add these numbers to the four Latinos who are entering Congress for the first time in January -- building their representation on Capitol Hill from 19 to 23 -- and you have a trend that will continue for decades to come, says Larry Gonzales, who directs NALEO's Washington office.

"There are a number of indicators we're going in the right direction," Gonzales says. "When you start to look at the upward curve, the number of Latino county board officials and school board and city council members, there's real cause for optimism."

It's at those "entry points" to big-time politics where younger His-

panics build constituencies and hone their public service skills as they prepare to seek larger roles in U.S. governance, thus providing greater access to 40 million U.S. residents who share their ethnicity.

Come January, Latinos will sit in state legislatures in 32 states, six more than in 1998. Their political presence will be there, for the first time, in the lawmaking bodies of Georgia, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Nebraska.

Notably, three Latinos enter Georgia's state chambers in Atlanta. David Casas, a Republican, and Democrat Pedro Marín join the Assembly, while Sam Zamarripa goes directly into the Senate.

"I think the community views Pedro, David and me as an affirmation that the community has some standing," Zamarripa says. "It remains to be seen whether (some legislators) realize the Latino presence is permanent."

With a strong Latino weekly newspaper, *Mundo Hispánico*, keeping the community well informed on local and state issues for years, Atlanta's diverse Latinos have not only coalesced with a unified ethnic voice, they have taken on a number of civic leadership responsibilities that helped integrate them into the larger community's power structure.

"Our community has grown very deep roots," explains Zamarripa,

who is of Mexican heritage.

Florida's state legislature, which already contained more than a dozen Cuban Americans, becomes more diverse with the addition of a Puerto Rican (John Quiñones) and a Colombian (Juan Zapata). Both are Republican.

In Maryland, Salvadorans Ana Sol Gutiérrez and Víctor Ramírez made history as Hispanics representing Montgomery County in the state house, a prestigious area because of its proximity to Washington, D.C. In another first there, Dominican Tom Pérez was elected to the Montgomery County Council.

Among other ground-breakers:
-- Harris County (Texas) Commission gets its first Hispanic member in Sylvia García.

-- Christine Baca becomes the first Latina on the Colorado State Board of Education.

-- Dan Ramírez is the first Latino elected to the Mecklenburg (N.C.) Board of County Commissioners.

Pedro Feliciano, president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, with members in 17 states, has served in the Kansas legislature since 1972. Seeing more Hispanic faces inspires others to run, he says. "It means windows of opportunities. It's empowerment. We can advocate on behalf of our people."

A record nine Hispanics now hold statewide office. Governor-elect Bill Richardson leads a legion of Hispanic Democrats who now occupy five of New Mexico's seven statewide offices. And Republican Brian Sandoval becomes the first Hispanic Attorney General for Ne-

vada. While Latino Republicans like Sandoval made some inroads this month, overall, those candidates running as Democrats, with the exception of Florida, still have a big edge. Of the 2003 class of Hispanic state legislators, 184 are Democrat and 32 are Republican.

Go Red Raiders

Let's Go to

Beat

Oklahoma

Saturday!

Good Luck Texas Tech Red Raiders! BEAT Oklahoma!

If Bush Wants to Find Trouble, He Should Look South

By Raymond Rodríguez

Latin America is engulfed in turmoil. From our southern border to the tip of Tierra del Fuego, nation after nation is plagued by problems that threaten their stability. Each day provides new challenges, not to progress but to keep from sinking deeper into the abyss.

However, with the United States' attention focused elsewhere, Latin American countries are not getting the degree of assistance needed to resolve their crises.

In Mexico, President Vicente Fox has become disillusioned with President George W. Bush. Due to their warm, personal relationship, Fox expected the United States to be an active partner in solving several long-standing problems. Fox particularly hoped for an amicable solution to the immigration matter. But due to his obsession with Iraq, Bush has no interest in dealing with the issue as he approaches the mid-point of his four-year term.

Costa Rica, which has always been a bastion of stability and tranquility, finds itself undergoing a period of readjustment. By the end of the year, the government is expected to be \$750 million in debt. This represents nearly 5 percent of the nation's domestic income. Reforms in spending and more effective tax collection are underway, but there is growing opposition to the proposed reforms. Much of this is due to the fact that a 13 percent sales tax would be levied on services rendered by doctors, lawyers and other professionals. As might be expected, all groups are opposed to any new taxes.

However, compared to the problems in Colombia, Costa Rica's situation appears relatively minor. Regardless of the government's efforts to curb the drug traffic, the deadly conflict between left-wing guerrilla forces and right-wing militias continues unabated. The lucrative drug trade, consisting of cocaine and heroin destined for the United States, has devastated large sections of the country.

In many instances, the government doesn't have a viable presence in the areas, despite assistance from the United States. It hopes to reestablish its control by inducing farmers to follow the example of Peru and Bolivia, where drug production has been greatly reduced. In those countries, farmers were encouraged to plant legitimate crops in exchange for an increase in government assistance and services. To help promote similar change in Colombia, the United States is prepared to make \$271 million available for implementing reforms.

The United States views Venezuela's political and economic turmoil as critical. The reason is not hard to fathom: Venezuela has the third largest oil deposits in the world and is the largest supplier of crude oil to this country. The United States carefully monitors any signs of instability. We viewed the recent ouster of populist President Hugo Chávez with controlled glee. However, his reinstatement was viewed with unabashed concern due to his militant anti-U.S. stance on a number of issues, including his visit to Cuba and praise of Fidel Castro. He has also refused to allow U.S. aircraft to fly over Venezuela to intercept Colombian drug traffickers.

In Brazil, a \$30 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund was arranged to prevent the largest economy in South America from failing. This was the second largest loan ever made by the IMF. To a large degree, the loan was prompted by the fear that Brazil might default on its international debt, \$25 billion of which is owed to U.S. banks.

The money will be made available periodically after evaluating the nation's progress. It was also feared that Brazil's collapse would imperil the world's economic recovery, given Asia's economic troubles.

In contrast to Brazil, Argentina, in its fourth year of economic woes, has not received comparable treatment. Yet it is the third largest economy in Latin America. The reason is not difficult to ascertain: Argentina defaulted on its international debt obligations and must be taught a lesson. Much of its ills are blamed on a history of political and economic corruption. The nation has squandered opportunities to address its problems. For example, last year, President Fernando de la Rúa announced a zero deficit policy. It would spend no more than it collected in taxes.

Instead of support, opposition factions castigated his efforts to achieve economic stability, despite the fact that the nation's foreign debt had ballooned to \$130 billion, a 90 percent increase.

Given the region's volatile situation and the impact it may have on our own faltering economy, the Bush Administration would be better served by aggressively helping to eradicate the problems in our own hemisphere than by undertaking ill-conceived ventures abroad.

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Los Refugiados Haitianos Como Un Drama Politico

Por Carlos Conde

Lo sentimos haitianos. Fue un buen intento la mayoría, sino todos ustedes van a regresar a Haití. A pesar del giro que le den los funcionarios del gobierno, ustedes van a ser repatriados porque son ilegales, negros y casi no tienen influencia política en los Estados Unidos y, peor aún, no son cubanos.

Los Estados Unidos tienen suficiente causa legal para enviarlos de vuelta a pesar del factor humanitario involucrado. Vivir en una sociedad disfuncional que siempre está al borde del colapso es lamentable pero no es suficiente para obtener la entrada a este país.

No obstante, ya sea a propósito o por accidente esta situación fue un gran drama político hace varias semanas cuando gran parte del mundo vio a través de las noticias televisivas de la tarde, con entretenimiento o con lástima, el espectáculo de más de 200 haitianos en un bote destaralado y sobrecargado encallando de forma violenta en la moderna bahía de Biscayne Bay en Miami tras la intensa persecución de la Guardia Costera.

Hombres, mujeres y niños saltaron del bote, esparciéndose hacia cualquier dirección como flechas entre el tráfico pesado de la tarde en la carretera marítima con la policía y la Guardia Costera derivándolos a casi todos.

Esta situación hizo que algunas personas se preguntaran si la agresión en la playa había sido planeada por estrategias étnicas inteligentes con deseos de presionar y avergonzar a candidatos políticos y a los líderes de sus partidos en la víspera de las elecciones para lograr una política de inmigración más benevola, en particular para los haitianos.

Por lo menos, esta situación muestra a todo color la disparidad de la política de inmigración estadounidense que concierne a los cubanos y a otros extranjeros que están tratando de escabullirse en los Estados Unidos. Al llegar a la playa de Miami, los haitianos podrían haber sido libres si hubieran sido cubanos debido a la política privilegiada "pies secos" para los refugiados cubanos que sólo les exige tocar suelo estadounidense para recibir entrada legal.

Los cubanos y otros refugiados son entregados a residentes de la comunidad mientras los oficiales de inmigración estadounidenses les adjudican su estatus. A los haitianos los mantienen en un centro de detención hasta que pueden convencer a las autoridades de que están huyendo de la persecución política y no simplemente escapando de las penurias económicas.

La mayoría no puede, tampoco pueden contar con la solidaridad política y el apoyo de la comunidad, por lo que regresan en el próximo avión a Port-au-Prince. Aunque este asunto recibió publicidad nacional, la mayoría de los norteamericanos negros lo ignoró. Los asuntos de los haitianos no parecen encajar en la agenda de los activistas negros como el reverendo Jesse Jackson y el reverendo Al Sharpton.

Hay que reconocer el momento casi perfecto de este último intento que tuvo a los candidatos políticos y a los líderes de los partidos compitiendo en la víspera de las elecciones por posiciones quepodrían ayudar a disipar el problema. No obstante, para la mayoría de estos la ofuscación se convirtió en la reacción de moda.

Todos comenzaron a sonar como aquella vieja broma política "la mi-

tad de la gente está a favor y la mitad de la gente está en contra y yo estoy a favor de la gente".

El hermano del presidente Bush, Jeb, quien fue reelecto con facilidad como gobernador de la Florida, dijo durante un giro de campaña en Miami, cuando fue acorralado por varios partidarios haitianos, que se debería tratar a los haitianos como a todos los demás, jamaicanos, bahamenses, "personas de todas partes del mundo". Pero no mencionó a los cubanos.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen y Lincoln Díaz-Balart, dos cubanos-americanos que representan al distrito electoral de Miami en el Congreso, hicieron pública una declaración en conjunto que decía, "los haitianos deben recibir un trato igual" que con un lectura más profunda diría un trato como a todos los demás salvo a los cubanos.

El presidente Bush también sacó a relucir el tema después de las elecciones y fue tan incomprensible como los demás. Dijo que los cubanos eran un caso particular y que se debería tratar a los haitianos como a todos los demás, pero en adelante se trataría a todos los demás como a los haitianos.

El asunto estuvo más claro el próximo día, cuando la administración Bush anunció que en lo sucesivo todos los inmigrantes ilegales, salvo los cubanos, que llegaron a tierra estadounidense por mar serían detenidos como los haitianos mientras se procesaban sus casos. Lo justo es lo justo, creo.

La administración Bush dijo que fue un gesto humanitario para desalentar a un éxodo masivo de expediciones marítimas temerarias hacia los Estados Unidos que muchas veces termina en tragedia.

La Guardia Costera ha interceptado a 3,450 emigrantes hasta el momento este año, de los cuales 657 son haitianos. Los ecuatorianos ha sido el grupo más grande detenido, con 1,608. 771 cubanos no llegaron hasta la orilla. ("Pies secos", ¿recuerdan?). El año pasado, los haitianos encabezaron los arrestos con 1,956.

A pesar de todo el alboroto político, el dilema actual no ha evocado tanta solidaridad política ni apoyo para los haitianos. Salvo por la comunidad haitiana y algunos políticos locales quienes tratan de sacarle provecho al asunto, la reacción fue en gran parte indiferente.

Quizás es porque en el sur de la Florida, en particular en Miami, parece como si cada persona es un inmigrante, con o sin documentos. Los habitantes de Florida parecen estar cansados de la tarea interminable de enfrentarse con los problemas de los inmigrantes y así lo expresaron durante los últimos intentos. En particular no les gusta la carga adicional y el costo de los servicios comunitarios que estos inmigrantes acarrear.

A diferencia de los cubanos, otro problema para los haitianos es la percepción de que son unos negros extranjeros azotados por la pobreza con poca educación formal o destrezas, la cual, justa o no, los margina aún más en la comunidad local.

Esta percepción tuvo que haber estado en sus mentes mientras languidecían en el centro de detención de Miami cuando otro grupo de cubanos rugían al llegar al aeropuerto de Key West en un avión secuestrado a los brazos de bienvenida de las autoridades estadounidenses.

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Si Bush Quiere Encontrar Problemas Deberia Mirar Al Sur

Por Raymond Rodríguez

América Latina está sumida en la confusión. Desde la frontera del sur estadounidense hasta el extremo de Tierra del Fuego, nación tras nación está plagada de problemas que amenazan su estabilidad. Cada día trae nuevos retos, no para progresar sino para evitar hundirse aún más en el abismo.

Sin embargo, con la atención de los Estados Unidos enfocada en otra parte, los países latinoamericanos no están recibiendo la cantidad de ayuda necesaria para resolver la crisis.

En México, el presidente Vicente Fox está desilusionado del presidente George Bush. Debido a la cálida relación personal, Fox esperaba que Estados Unidos fuera un socio activo en resolver varios problemas de largo tiempo. En particular, Fox esperaba una solución amistosa para el problema de inmigración. No obstante, debido a su obsesión con Irak, Bush no tiene ningún interés en tratar el asunto a la vez que se acerca a la mitad de su cuatrienio.

Costa Rica, que siempre ha sido un bastión de estabilidad y tranquilidad, se encuentra en un período de reajuste. Para fin de año, el gobierno calcula que tendrá una deuda de \$750 millones. Esta cantidad representa cerca de un cinco por ciento del ingreso nacional. Se pronostican más reformas en los gastos y más recaudaciones de impuestos efectivas, pero hay una

oposición creciente a las reformas propuestas. Debido en gran parte al hecho de que se impondría un impuesto al consumo de un 13 por ciento en los servicios prestados por los médicos, abogados y otros profesionales. Como es de esperar, todos los grupos se oponen a cualquier nuevo impuesto.

Sin embargo, si se compara con los problemas en Colombia, la situación de Costa Rica parece relativamente menor. A pesar de los esfuerzos del gobierno para frenar el trasiego de drogas, el conflicto mortal entre las fuerzas izquierdistas de la guerrilla y la milicia derechista continúa intacto. El lucrativo negocio del trasiego de drogas, que consiste en cocaína y heroína destinada a los Estados Unidos, ha devastado grandes sectores del país.

En muchos casos, el gobierno no cuenta con una presencia viable en el área, a pesar de la ayuda de los Estados Unidos. El gobierno espera restablecer el control persuadiendo a los agricultores para que sigan el ejemplo de Perú y Bolivia, donde la producción de la droga se ha reducido grandemente. En estos países, se alentó a los agricultores a sembrar cultivos legales a cambio de un aumento de la ayuda y de los servicios del gobierno. Para ayudar a promover cambios similares en Colombia, Estados Unidos está listo para disponer \$271 millones para la implantación de reformas.

Estados Unidos opina que la confusión política y económica de

Venezuela es crítica. La razón no es difícil de comprender: Venezuela posee el tercer depósito de petróleo más grande del mundo y es el mayor suplidor del crudo de este país. Estados Unidos monitorea con atención cualquier señal de inestabilidad. Observamos la reciente destitución del populista Hugo Chávez con moderado júbilo. No obstante, su restitución fue vista con preocupación abierta debido a su posición militante contra los Estados Unidos con respecto a varios asuntos, que incluyen su visita a Cuba y los elogios a Fidel Castro. También se ha negado a permitir que los aviones estadounidenses vuelen sobre Venezuela para interceptar traficantes de droga colombianos.

En Brasil, el Fondo Monetario Internacional dispuso un préstamo de \$30 mil millones para prevenir que se cayera la economía más grande de Suramérica. Este fue el segundo préstamo más grande jamás hecho por el FMI. A un nivel más amplio, lo que motivó el préstamo fue el temor de que Brasil no pudiera pagar la deuda internacional, de \$25 mil millones que debe a bancos estadounidenses.

El dinero estará disponible de forma periódica después de que se evalúe el progreso de la nación. También se temía que el colapso de Brasil pudiera poner en peligro la recuperación económica mundial, tomando en cuenta los problemas económicos en Asia.

A diferencia de Brasil, Argentina, que lleva cuatro años con problemas económicos no ha recibido el mismo trato. Sin embargo, es la tercera economía más grande en América Latina. No es difícil determinar las razones. Argentina no pagó sus obligaciones de la deuda internacional y debe aprender la lección. Muchos de sus problemas se deben a un historial de corrupción política y económica. Esta nación ha desaprovechado las oportunidades para tratar sus problemas. Por ejemplo, el año pasado, el presidente Fernando de la Rúa anunció una política sin déficit. No se gastaría más de lo que se recogiera en impuestos.

En vez de recibir apoyo, los grupos opositores criticaron de forma severa sus esfuerzos para lograr la estabilidad económica, a pesar del hecho de que la deuda externa de la nación había ascendido a \$130 mil millones, un aumento de un 90 por ciento.

Debido a la situación volátil de la región y al impacto que puede tener en nuestra tambaleante economía, sería más útil para la administración de Bush que ayudara de forma agresiva a erradicar los problemas de nuestro propio hemisferio en vez de incursionar en asuntos mal concebidos en el extranjero.

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Haitian Refugees as Political Theater

By Carlos D. Conde

Sorry, Haitians. It was a good try but most, if not all of you are going back to Haiti. Regardless of how government officials spin it, you're being repatriated because you're illegal, black and poor with zilch political clout in the U.S and, worse, you're not Cuban.

The United States does have sufficient legal cause to send you back regardless of the humanitarian factor involved. Living in a dysfunctional society that is forever on the verge of collapse is regrettable, but it's not enough to win you entry into this country.

Whether by design or by accident it was, nevertheless, great political theater several weeks ago when

most of the world watched via the evening TV news, in amusement or in pity, the spectacle of more than 200 Haitians in a rickety, overloaded boat storm the shores of trendy Biscayne Bay in Miami with the U.S. Coast Guard in hot pursuit.

Men, women and children jumped ship, scattering in every which direction, darting in and out of the heavy afternoon causeway traffic with police and the Coast Guard chasing most of them down.

It made some people wonder if the beach assault had been set up by savvy ethnic tacticians eager to pressure and embarrass political candidates and their party leaders on election eve for a more benevolent immigrant policy, particularly for Haitians.

If nothing else, it showed in living color the disparity in U.S. immigration policy involving Cubans and other foreigners trying to sneak into the United States. By reaching the Miami beach, the Haitians would have been home free had they been Cubans because of a privileged "dry feet" policy for Cuban refugees that requires them only to touch U.S. soil to gain legal entry.

Cubans and other refugees are released to community residents while U.S. immigration officials adjudicate their status. Haitians are

held in a detention center until they can satisfy U.S. authorities that they are fleeing political persecution and not merely escaping economic hardships.

Most of them can't, nor can they count on sympathetic political and community support, so they wind up on the next plane to Port-au-Prince. Although it received national publicity, black America mostly ignored it. Haitian issues don't seem to fit the agenda of black activists like the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

You have to acknowledge the almost perfect timing of this latest attempt that had political candidates and party leaders on election eve scrambling for positions that could help to assuage the issue. For most of them, however, obfuscation became the buzzword.

Everyone started sounding like the old political joke about "half of the people are for it and half of the people are against it and I'm for the people."

President Bush's brother, Jeb, who easily was reelected as Florida's governor, said during a Miami campaign swing, when cornered by some Haitian partisans, that Haitians should be treated like everyone else -- Jamaicans, Bahamians, "people from all over the world." But he didn't mention Cubans.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Díaz-Balart, Cuban Americans who represent the Miami constituency in Congress, issued a joint statement saying, "Haitians must get equal treatment" that at closer reading meant treatment like everyone else except the Cubans.

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He said Cubans were a special case and Haitians should be treated like all the rest but from now on all the rest would be treated like Haitians.

It became clearer the next day, when the Bush administration announced that henceforth all illegal immigrants, except Cubans, who reached U.S. land by sea would be detained just like the Haitians while their cases are being processed. Fair is fair, I guess.

The Bushies said it was a humanitarian gesture to discourage a mass exodus to the United States by reckless seafaring expeditions that many times ended in tragedy.

The Coast Guard has intercepted 3,450 migrants thus far this year, of whom 657 are Haitians. The largest group apprehended has been Ecuadorians, with 1,608. The Cubans had 771 who didn't make it to shore. ("Dry feet," remember?) Last year, Haitians led the interdictions with 1,956.

Despite all the political uproar, the current dilemma has not evoked that much public sympathy and support for the Haitians. Save for the Haitian community and some

local politicians who tried to capitalize on the issue, the reaction was largely blasé.

Maybe it's because in South Florida, particularly Miami, it seems as if every other person is an immigrant, with or without documents. Floridians seem weary with the endless task of coping with immigration problems and said so during the latest attempt. They particularly dislike the added burden and cost of community services that these immigrants bring.

Unlike the Cubans, another problem for the Haitians are the perceptions that they come as poverty-stricken foreign blacks with little formal education or skills, which, fair or not, marginalizes them even further in the local community.

That must have been on their minds as they languished in the Miami detention center when another group of Cubans roared into the Key West airport in a hijacked plane to the welcoming arms of the U.S. authorities.

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Texas Tech University to Sponsor Community-Wide Health Fair

Texas Tech University's Department of Health, Exercise, and Sport Sciences will present the Inaugural Health Harvest Fair from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday at the Cavazos Junior High School gymnasium, located at 210 N. University Avenue.

FREE health screenings will be offered for attendees of the event. Informational booths will provide pamphlets that raise awareness on health-related issues. Safety demonstration will take also during the event. During the health fair, two drawings will be held for a football autographed by Texas Tech football player Kliff Kingsbury and a basketball signed by Texas Tech Lady Raiders basketball coach Marsha Sharp.

"Our goal is to target various aspects of health and want to focus on the physical, mental, emotional and social aspects of health," said Michael Herrera, chairperson of public relations for the event.

Community organizations will be present at the fair, such as the Lubbock Health Department, the Southwest Cancer Center at UMC, Lubbock Multiple Sclerosis association, Joe Arrington Cancer Center/Arrington Comprehensive Breast Center and Women's Protective Services. The event is free and open to the public.

Buying a Home Instead of Renting It: Lubbock Conference Will Show How

More than 150 delegates will gather in Lubbock this week for a regional conference on how low-income Americans can become homebuyers instead of home-renters.

The Lubbock Housing Consortium, in cooperation with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, will host the conference at the Barcelona Court Hotel this Thursday 1-5 pm and Friday 8 am to noon.

The conference will provide an overview of the way HUD's Section 8 vouchers can be used for mortgage payments instead of the traditional rental assistance payments.

The delegates will represent public housing agencies, state and federal government agencies, lenders, and nonprofit organizations from across Texas and New Mexico.

To register or to get more information, please call 762-1191, ext. 201.

"Feed a Friend"

For the 11th consecutive year, Lubbock Meals on Wheels is enlisting the help of United Supermarkets, KAMC-TV, KLBK-TV, and Mrs. Smith's pies for the "Feed a Friend-It's as Easy as Pie" fundraiser. This year's project will take place from November 16-23. For a \$5 donation to Meals on wheels, participants will receive a coupon for a free Mrs. Smith's dessert pie. Lubbock Meals on wheels hopes to raise \$30,000 with this fundraiser. Donations can be made at any local United Supermarket or at the Meals on Wheels' office, 2304 34th Street. For more information please call 792-7971.

Click It or Ticket

Campaign Returns to Texas

Hispanic community Leaders Asked to Help Young Drivers Get Into Buckle Up Habit

Texas, along with other states, will be participating in the click it or ticket Campaign, around the Thanksgiving holiday, according to the Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

During November 24 thru December 1, the Texas Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies will again be out in large numbers to send a no tolerance message to Texans who don't buckle up: state law requires drivers, front seat passengers and children under 17 to be buckled up.

The recent Memorial Day click it or ticket campaign helped raise the state's seat belt usage from 76.1% in 2001 to the current 81.1%.

The dates and campaign theme vary a little across the region of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Indian Nations, but the effect will be the same: people who are still refusing to buckle up themselves and their children are very likely to get a ticket during their Thanksgiving holiday travel. The best season to buckle up is personal safety, but law enforcement will be giving people another reason: avoiding a ticket.

For more information on ways Hispanics can get involved in traffic safety, call Frank Marrero 817-978-3653.



Enjoying the Dogs

Christy & Randal Kendrix with their dogs Andy & Opey. Christy & Randal walk their dogs every weekend to Buddy Holly Park. They are members at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church - 83rd & Indiana. Photo by John P. Cervantez

Rates for Spaying, Neutering

Pets Reduced

A pet rescue foundation called Maddie's Fund will offer low-income residents of Lubbock County reduced rates for spaying or neutering their pets.

The cost for dogs would be \$20, and \$10 for cats.

The lower fees also are made possible by participating veterinarians who reduce their rates to help low-income pet owners.

Clients will be asked to show proof of low income with a Medicaid card, and there is a limit of six pets per household. Information is available by calling Lubbock Animal Services at 775-2057 or by accessing the Web site www.ark4pets.com.

Salazar Recognized for Its Military Duty

Vincent M. Salazar was born January 30, 1966 and attended Tubbs Elementary, Matthews Junior High, Lubbock High School and is a member of Our Lady of Grace Church. He is the second eldest of five siblings, Richard Victor Salazar, Veronica Salazar, Valerie Rodriguez and Valentin Salazar. He is the proud father of two wonderful children Isaac and Jackie Salazar. His mother, Natalia M. Salazar and, his grandparents, Blas and Nancy Mojica, raised Vincent. Being raised by a single parent did bring some difficult times to the Salazar's; however, his mother's strong belief in God, family, education, and country encouraged Vincent to pursue his goals and become what he is today.

In high school, he was an active member of the National Honor Society and the Student Class Senate. He was the recipient of various academic awards to include: The Presidential Academic Achievement Award, English II, English IV, Art 21-22, and the Algebra Outstanding Achievement Awards. Furthermore, athletically, he was awarded the All Westerner Boy Award and the Fighting Westerner Boy Award. Vincent graduated an Honor Graduate from Lubbock High School in

1984, and received an Art Scholarship to attend Texas Tech University.

During his first year at Texas Tech, he was recognized on the Dean's Honor List, but his love for country drove him to enlist in the United States Air Force in June 1985. He graduated the only honor graduate from his Air Force Basic Military Training class, and was chosen as "student leader" by the Air Force Student Training Advisors of the School of Health Care Sciences to assist in managing two hundred military students at Sheppard Air Force Base. He graduated Distinguished Graduate from the School of Health Care Sciences as a Dental Assistant Specialist. In November 1985, after his technical training, he was permanently stationed at Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach Florida. This would be the beginning of a very promising military and academic career. While on active duty, he continued to attend college at night and was recipient of the Eagle Grant from the Aerospace Educational Foundation, and the Airmen Achievement Scholarship presented by the Patrick Air Force Base officer's wives club. He graduated an honor graduate from Brevard Community Col-

lege with pre-engineering Associates in Arts degree in 1991, and an Associates in Applied Science in Dental Assisting Degree from the Community College of the Air Force in 1992. He was an active member of the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard where he served his community in funeral services and ceremonial activities. While on active duty he attained Non-Commission Officer in Charge status in Dental Supply, Dental Radiology, Periodontal, Endodontal, and Oral Surgery. While on active duty he earned the ; 45th Medical Group Outstanding Performer of the Quarter, 1991 and 1993, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, the Basic Military Honor Graduate ribbon, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. After eight years of active duty service Staff Sergeant Vincent Salazar separated with an Honorable Discharge in June 1993.

In June 1993, Vincent enlisted with USAF Reserves and became an active Air Force Reserve Member for the 64th Medical Group

Reese Air Force Base Dental Clinic. He enrolled as full time Civil Engineering student at Texas Tech University and volunteered to coach youth sports to include: tots- T ball, T ball, Youth Baseball and indoor and out-door soccer. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech in December 1996 and began his career as an Urban Design Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation. He continued his community involvement and became the Lubbock chapter chairman for the Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering (TAME). TAME is an organization, which promotes mathematics, science and engineering fields of study to females and minority students. After Reese's closure, Vincent transferred to Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas and was promoted to the Rank of Technical Sergeant. He became the Texas Air National Guard 149th Medical Squadron Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge for Dental Services at Kelly Air Force Base, where he was instrumental in achieving an Excellent Rating in the 2000 Hospital Safety Inspection. This was a task that captivated the respect and confidence of his peers and senior officers. In October 14, 2002, Vincent achieved his life long goal, and was appointed as 1st Lieutenant by the President of the United States to serve as the Bio-environmental Engineering Officer in Charge for the 149th Fighter Wing Medical Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base. An Air Force Bio-environmental Engineer applies engineering and scientific knowledge and techniques in identifying and managing risks for health protection purposes; participates in developing procedures, techniques, and equipment; conducts or supervises engineering services; and participates in medical facility programs. Lieutenant Salazar is eleven months from being promoted to Captain, and has taken the responsibility to insure that the 149th Fighter Wing Texas Air National Guard members receive the adequate Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare training necessary to fight our war against terrorism, which she then compiled into her

Empowering Latinas

Inspired by her life experiences, Yasmin Davidds hopes to empower Latinas. Davidds believes her book to be both courageous and progressive that if right will touch the spirit of the Latina soul.

There are few books published in the U.S. that have been written specifically for Latinas, and none which have addressed Latina issues in such an open and forthright manner as Empowering Latinas, according to Davidds. "Empowering Latinas brings Latinas into consciousness about their lives, and focuses on enhancing self-esteem," Davidds said. Based on Yasmin's personal experiences of tragedy and triumph, she wrote a book that encourages Latinas to embrace their culture, while empowering themselves.

A recent La Opinion article states, "The book has begun to gain much

interest because of the crucial issues the author has undertaken."

Elmy Bermejo, President of California Commission on the Status of Women adds, "Yasmin Davidds book 'Empowering Latinas' is a personal account of her courageous quest for self-determination and her insightful depiction of what it means to be a Latina in this society today. She touches upon many sensitive cultural issues that offer critical insight to not only Latinas but to all women who struggle to be true to themselves. This is a book to be read by all women."

Ms. Davidds experiences began as the daughter of Latino immigrants living in a predominantly Latino neighborhood in the East San Gabriel Valley and continued as she enrolled in the University of Southern California where she received a degree in business. She went on to

further her education by earning a Masters in Women's Studies, specializing in Latina issues from San Diego State University. Additionally, Yasmin attended the University of Cambridge in Great Britain, where she studied gender roles in a variety of ethnic groups. Since 1989 she has counseled thousands of young Latinas in both sexes and has been an advisor to over 750 Latinas from the junior high school to the university level. Yasmin also serves on the Board of Directors for HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality) and is a graduate of their California Latina Leadership Institute.

Having worked personally with hundreds of Latinas on subjects ranging from drugs and violence to self-esteem and goal setting, she gathered material for many years, which she then compiled into her

Important Things to Know About Type 2 Diabetes

November is American Diabetes Month. 17 million Americans have diabetes, and an estimated 5.9 million of them do not know it. The long term effects of diabetes can include damage to the eyes, nerves, kidneys and cardiovascular system. Approximately 90 percent of people living with diabetes have Type 2 diabetes, a devastating disease with potentially life-threatening complications.

Fouad R. Kandeel, M.D., Ph.D., director of the City of Hope Gonda Diabetes Center in Los Angeles, stresses the importance of preventing Type 2 diabetes by controlling weight, eating a low fat diet that is high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and exercising regularly.

People with a family history of diabetes have a greater chance of developing the disease. Others at risk include people who are over age 45, are overweight, do not exercise regularly, or have high blood pressure. Women who developed diabetes during pregnancy or have had babies weighing 9 pounds or more at birth are also at greater risk. African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are almost

continued on page 5

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Big Scorers-Even Big Men-Doing It From Outside

When asked if it was just a fluke that the Seattle SuperSonics had taken an early lead in the Pacific Division, Sacramento Kings coach Rick Adelman didn't hesitate before shaking his head.

Traditional big men like Tim Duncan are no longer necessary components to today's offenses. "No, not at all," he said. "I'm not saying they're going to win the division, but they're a very good team. They're a great shooting team, they pressure the ball real well and they have a superstar in Gary Payton. In today's game, you'll win a lot with that combination."

Emphasis on today's game. You see, the Sonics play most of their games virtually without any semblance of a power player. Payton, their All-NBA point guard, is their best post player. They have begun the season 8-3, one loss by two at New Orleans, another by seven at Orlando, and then that same Magic squad came into Seattle and battered them 101-84.

Why such a rough time with Orlando, while handling Sacramento with relative ease?

Because they play the same style of small ball, and the Magic are just better at it with superstar Tracy McGrady and Grant Hill, a former All-Star returning from serious ankle surgery. During a particularly intense time of the first half Tuesday night, neither team had a power player on the floor.

"It's not intentional," Magic coach Doc Rivers said. "It's because there's no centers. There just are not a lot of bigs in this league. There are 6-10 guys out there handling the ball and shooting 3s."

It isn't as if they aren't trying. The Sonics have about \$9 million a year locked up in Calvin Booth and Jerome James. The former has been unproductive and barely gets min-

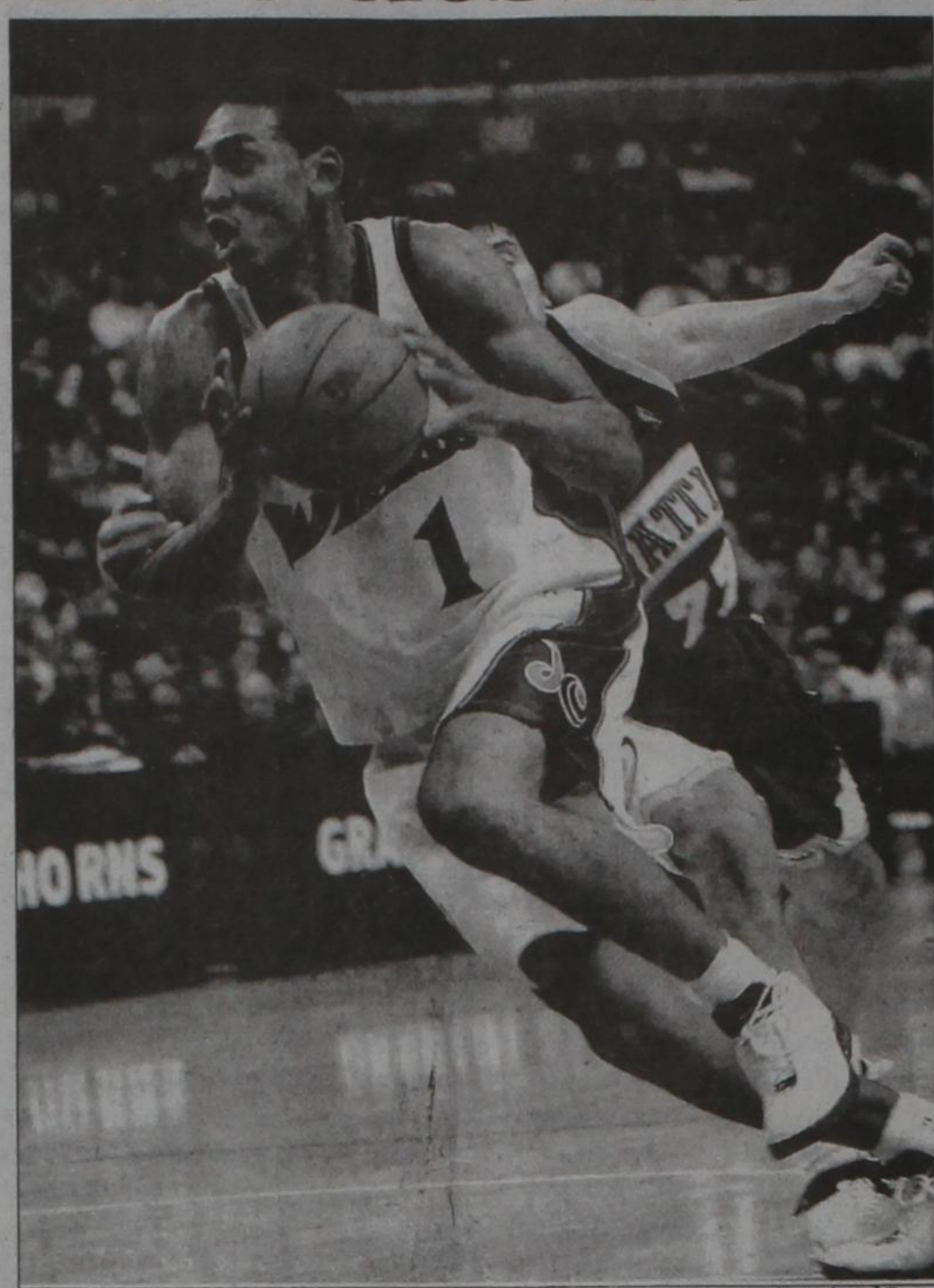
utes, and the latter came into camp out of shape and suffered a stress fracture in his foot. He's out indefinitely. Coach Nate McMillan will either play Peja Drobnyak, a 6-11, 270-pounder who floats around the perimeter setting picks and spotting up for open jump shots, or five active players, the biggest being slim 6-10 forwards Rashard Lewis or Vladimir Radmanovic.

Essentially, Tuesday's game was a bunch of guards and forwards playing 5-on-5.

"You just don't have the traditional 4-5 (power forwards and centers) men coming out anymore who can dominate the low-post game," McMillan said. "It's pretty much non-existent. It's still a very important part of NBA basketball, and if you have a player that is effective with his back playing to the basket, it really helps the club. But there just aren't a lot of those guys out there. Right now what's going on is the traditional small forward is being bumped to the power forward spot and the power forward being bumped to the center spot."

There is more to it than that. The Indiana Pacers have a traditional low-post player in Jermaine O'Neal and a center in Brad Miller who can hit 3-pointers. Pacers president Donnie Walsh says a lot of the reason teams are playing smaller and faster is because legalized zone defenses can effectively combat bigger teams. But that's only part of the equation.

"He can say that because he has bigs," Rivers said. "Whether there was a zone or not, we'd still play small because we are small. Guys like (Kareem Abdul-) Jabbar and (Robert) Parish with the new rules, would still be down there (in the post). I think it was Paul Westphal who said it first, 'Why would I play a 6-11 guy who can't play instead of a 6-8 guy who can?'"



Among the top 20 scorers in the NBA entering Wednesday's games, there was not one traditional low-post player. Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Kevin Garnett from the Minnesota Timberwolves are both 7-footers, but they are generally face-the-basket types of players and are in the top 20, but Tim Duncan isn't. Neither is Karl Malone. Of course, when Shaquille O'Neal returns, he is very likely to jump into the scoring fray, but he is clearly the exception.

It's difficult to decipher why. At the heart of the matter, says Sacramento's Chris Webber, is there are just better players overall, regardless of size.

"We've just worked on our skills," Webber said. "We improved our jump shots because

other big guys don't want to come out and guard us. Then when they do come out, we can put the ball on the floor and drive. You've got a lot of talented guys who now can do more and you've got guys who are bigger than me shooting 3s and running the floor. The more athleticism, the better."

That's the mindset. Another perspective is a general reluctance of a lot of today's big men to go down into the low post and get their hands dirty.

It also can go directly to the coaching -- or lack thereof -- they have had in their past. Because so many players these days are entering the NBA at 19-20 years old, they have not had the coaching that Parish, Abdul-Jabbar and Kevin McHale had to develop superlative

back-to-the-basket games.

"The centers as we know them are just limited now," Adelman said. "Shaquille is an exception, of course, and Duncan played four years of college at center developing inside skills. You're just not going to see that anymore. The way the game is played in college now is big guys just rebound, set screens and don't do anything else on a consistent basis. There's not a lot of skill teaching going on, just how to fit into a particular offense."

Rivers has McGrady to do everything. At 6-8, he is virtually unstoppable inside or outside, which is why he is first team All-NBA and leading the league in scoring.

And the Sonics have Lewis, the 24-year-old starting small forward who, like McGrady, came right into the NBA from high school. Just this season, you can finally see the makings of a low-post game. An extraordinarily gifted shooter from long range and any angle, the 6-10 Lewis has begun setting up on the low post and taking advantage of players who are neither quick enough, nor can jump high enough to prevent him from getting what ever kind of shot he wants from 10 feet and in.

Working with coaches in practice, Lewis is developing his game on another level with fadeaways right or left, and a little jump hook. It was evident last week when he scored 37 points by making a stunning 16-of-19 shots in a victory at Washington. The more adept he becomes, the more double teams he will draw in the post, opening up more shots for his teammates on the perimeter.

"I just keep working on getting better," Lewis said. "If you don't have a really big team, you have to go small. It's just up to me to keep working on different parts of my game to take advantage of what I can do. My size, quickness and jumping ability help me do a lot of things inside and outside."

So why don't others do it? Perhaps it's simply evolution. In a different era, despite being slim, Lewis -- like Garnett and Nowitzki -- probably would have been thrown into the low post and left there. Keep in mind Bill Russell is one of the most dominant centers of all time, and he's listed at 6-10, 220 -- essentially the same size as Lewis, the small forward.

Coaching and style of play were much more traditional, of course. These days, styles are divergent. How else would you explain the Magic averaging 104.1 points a game because they want to outrun

everybody, while the Nuggets average just 76.4 because they can't score more. And there is no other way to describe a team that managed just 53 points last week against Detroit.

Moreover, scoring is down to 93.0 points per game compared to 95.5 last season. Eight teams are averaging fewer than 90 points, while last season there were only three.

Some games -- like Minnesota beating Memphis on Wednesday night -- feature both teams scoring in triple-digits, while other games feature teams struggling to reach 90. Scoring has gone up in recent years with more possessions because of changes in the clock (not setting it back to 24 seconds) and having eight seconds instead of 10 to cross mid-court.

"It is difficult to explain the scoring this season," NBA vice president of operations Stu Jackson said. "We have to look at it more closely to see if we can find a particular reason."

It isn't likely, other than it's just the way coaches perceive their best chances to win games. Coaches like Denver's Jeff Bzdelik know there is no chance to stay in a high-scoring game, so they slow it down as much as possible in an attempt to keep it close. Rivers has the Magic run because he's banking on McGrady, Hill and Co. just out-scoring their opponents.

Yes, it's a function of a particular roster. It's also a sign of the times when McHale, one of the best low-post players in league history, has perhaps the most gifted 7-footer in Garnett, and there are few, if any, signs of Garnett showing an inclination to take his game into the post.

"You look at the history of the game, and there aren't many great low-post scorers, period," said Seattle's Brent Barry, son of Hall-of-Famer Rick Barry. "The ones everybody talks about are the real dominant ones. You go from Russell to Wilt to Abdul-Jabbar and McHale to Shaq and Duncan today. Even Karl Malone in recent years has taken his game farther away from the basket."

"The fact of the matter is the players are just getting better, and the court is shrinking. The game is played so much faster and vertical than it was 30 years ago, it lends itself to a faster pace. The more skill you add to that, the most exciting brand of ball you're going to get, which is what everybody wants, isn't it?"

Kodal Closes Plant in Big Apple, Mexico-US Economy Cited as Reason

Eastman Kodak Co. is closing two manufacturing operations in New York and Mexico and cutting up to 800 jobs as it struggles to rebound from a two-year slump in film sales it blamed largely on a downturn in the U.S. economy.

The closings announced Tuesday are part of a plan to eliminate between 1,300 and 1,700 jobs, or up to 2.3 percent of its global payroll.

Kodak said it will close its single-use camera plant in Rochester, N.Y., next July, laying off about 500 people. Production will shift to Kodak's plants in China and Mexico, which already are supplying the U.S. and world markets.

The company also will shut its sensitizing operation in Guadalajara, Mexico, next April because of overcapacity in the imaging industry. About 300 jobs will be cut but the plant will continue to employ 3,000 people.

"Where possible, Kodak will work to redeploy affected employees to open positions in business

areas that are growing, or to fill positions currently held by contract personnel," said Robert Berman, Kodak vice president and director of human resources.

The company previously announced plans to eliminate 550 jobs in its global manufacturing and logistic units and 150 positions in research and development. The company eliminated 7,000 jobs last year, shrinking its work force to 75,000 people.

The latest cuts will result in a restructuring charge of \$130 million to \$170 million, nearly all of it taken in the fourth quarter.

Kodak controls about two-third of the U.S. film market but profits have been pinched by falling prices and a plunge in film sales dating back to August 2000.

Last month, Kodak posted sharply higher third-quarter earnings of \$334 million, or \$1.15 a share, up from \$96 million, or 33 cents a share, a year ago.

Mexican Anti-Globalization Agricultural Tariffs

Anti-globalization activists predict that millions of Mexican farmers will stream into the United States when Mexico lifts tariffs on U.S. farm products in January.

The government says the import opening will make Mexican farms more competitive, bring new investment to the countryside and give factory jobs to those who now eke out a living on antiquated, overpopulated farms.

President Vicente Fox has come under pressure to rip up free trade accords and spend more subsidy money to protect Mexican farms. Fox, a free trade supporter, has begun to concede that the opening could create problems.

"I want to talk to President Bush about the subsidies that the American government has decided to give and how to prevent them from affecting Mexican communities and producers," Fox told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "Otherwise, what you'll have is more migration."

For Americans already inundated by two decades of large-scale illegal immigration, the dire warnings may seem a bit late.

But farm activist Luis Hernandez says things will get even worse in January when the North American

Free Trade Agreement eliminates tariffs between the United States and Mexico on all but three products: corn, dairy and sugar. All tariffs will be removed in 2008.

"For the Mexican countryside, this is going to be devastating," Hernandez said. He predicted "an increase in migration, in bankruptcies, violence, and drug growing" as Mexican farmers turn to the only crops that can be profitable for them.

Farmers have already slaughtered cows and dumped pineapples on Mexico City streets, seized highways and blocked bridges to defend a way of life on the hard-scrabble farms where corn was first domesticated 4,000 years ago.

Today, Hernandez said, those farms largely serve as "vast parking lots for the unemployed." And they are full. While urban Mexican families have an average of 2.4 children, women in poor rural communities continue to have an average of four to five.

That growth -- coupled with gradually disappearing farm jobs -- is the main engine for the exodus. In 1990 Mexico had 9.8 million farmers; in 2000, there were only 8.6 million.

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Kliff Notes:

Nation taking stock in QB Kingsbury

Kliff Kingsbury wasn't taken seriously.

For most of his four seasons, he was perceived as a typical "system" quarterback at Texas Tech. Just an arm with a paint-by-number, wide-open playbook. He was not the first quarterback stuck with that label, but it is about the worst thing you can call a guy who has thrown for more than 11,000 yards and is fifth on the NCAA's total offense list.

Kliff Kingsbury is hoping for another monster performance vs. Oklahoma (Getty Images). Nice numbers, the thinking goes, but plug in any half-decent arm into Red Raiders coach Mike Leach's spread offense and you would have gotten the same results. Call it the Dumb Blonde Effect -- great looking on the outside, but vacuous on the inside.

"You ask the players and the coaches in this league," Kingsbury said, coming off the game of his career Saturday against Texas. "That's all I can do. If you come to a game, ask the players I played against or coaches I played against. That's all you need to hear."

Kingsbury mostly is aw-shucks, a skinny, tall, drawl-drenched kid from New Braunfels, Texas. But ask him about the system label and he gets riled. Especially now, since Kingsbury literally holds the Big 12 race and part of the BCS picture in his hands.

This week, No. 4 Oklahoma has to figure out a way to stop Kingsbury and keep its conference and national championship hopes alive. Texas coach Mack Brown came away shaking his head after Kingsbury completed 38-of-60 for 473 yards and six touchdowns. He had no interceptions and was sacked just twice.

"We wish we could have batted one down or sacked him once or intercepted one," Brown said. "We tried about everything we had."

For most of those four years, Kingsbury has been pitching it all over the lot in West Texas. The nation, though, didn't pay full attention until Saturday. The 42-38 victory over the then-No. 4 Longhorns was arguably the biggest in school history. All of the sudden, the Red Raiders find themselves one game away from the Big 12 South title.

In the process, Kingsbury thrust himself into the thick of the Heisman race and Texas Tech (8-4) onto the national radar.

Gone, in one afternoon, was the Robo QB perception.

"Kliff's the best one, he's put up the numbers," said Leach, meaning the best one in the country, not just the Big 12.

He has a case. If Ken Dorsey is getting Heisman hype for losing just one game as a starter, consider this: only three quarterbacks in history (Ty Detmer, Tim Rattay, Chris Redman) have thrown for more yards than Kingsbury (11,867). His 4,455 yards are the most in the country by a (quarter) mile.

Washington's Cody Pickett, who is No. 2, would have to pass for 637 yards in his next game to catch Kingsbury. That is if Kingsbury sat on the bench. Texas Tech has played one extra game.

His 41 touchdown passes are more than 72 I-A teams have scored all season. He has thrown more passes (1,805) than any player in history. He literally has to ice down his arm like a pitcher after games and practices.

Kingsbury might be in a system, but it's a damn good system.

Leach is weary from beating the drum for his guy. Part of the weekly Big 12 media conference call is Leach's ritual hyping.

"He's been the best one probably for three years," Leach said. "Vindicated? I don't know about that. Last Saturday's game is not some aberration on the screen. He's been doing stuff like that for three years."

Yeah, but ... Kingsbury and Texas Tech never came up big in big games. Before Saturday, they were 3-10 against ranked teams under Leach. The coach's constant hawking of his star began to ring hollow with media, especially when Leach took subtle shots at the likes of Texas' Chris Simms to make his point.

"I don't think he means to disparage them," Kingsbury said. "He tries to get his point across and say what's on his mind. I respect him because he's behind his players 100 percent."

In a jumbled Heisman race,



Kingsbury already has grabbed the nation's attention again by beating Texas. In some voters' minds, he could wrap up the trophy by beating Oklahoma. After the biggest victory in school history, OU is being called the biggest game in school history.

The story fits for those looking for a Heisman hook. Former Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes was the only I-A coach to offer Kingsbury a scholarship. The scrawny 185-pound freshman made his first start in 1999, beating Oklahoma.

"After my senior year, I thought about not even playing football," said Kingsbury, who is 23-15 as a starter. "I thought I had a great senior year. I knew I could play at that level, but nobody wanted me. It definitely serves as motivation. Every team I go against I feel should have recruited me."

The marriage of Leach and Kingsbury was perfect. Leach brought his spread offense that had helped develop Tim Couch at Kentucky and Josh Heupel at Oklahoma. The offense is a true spread, frequently features four- and five-receiver sets. There's not much to figure out before the game. The Red Raiders are first nationally in pass offense (396.3 yards) and 100th in rush offense (107.3).

Hey, whatever works. The mind games start at kickoff. In Leach's offense, there's usually

always someone waving his arm.

"My favorite receiver," Kingsbury said, "is whoever is open."

In Leach's office, the door is always open. Just watch what you ask about. Leach has a million stories. The 42-year-old from Susanville, Calif., is a former prosecuting attorney who has lived in 19 cities in 11 different states.

A former practicing lawyer, Leach is a Mormon who baptized his father into the faith. His coaching stops included Finland and his sports included semi-pro baseball played while he was in Pepperdine law school.

"I've had some late nights up in his office talking about a lot of things other than football," Kingsbury said. "It's interesting, he's like no other coach I've been around. If you get him started on a story you better just sit back, because it's going to be a while."

Texas Tech will go to its third consecutive bowl game despite crippling NCAA penalties that took away several scholarships in a widespread academic fraud case before Leach arrived.

"There's been other programs hit with similar sanctions and just fallen off the map," Kingsbury said.

The week of his last regular-season game, Kingsbury is helping put Texas Tech on the map.

Lakers Sufre Su Sexto Descalabro en Site Juegos

La condición de equipo invicto de los Mavericks de Dallas quedó reforzada al ganar por paliza de 98-72 a los tricampeones de liga, Lakers de Los Angeles, que volvieron a dar una pobre impresión como equipo.

El base canadiense Steve Nash fue el líder perfecto para dirigir el juego arrollador de los Mavericks, tanto en ataque como en defensa, pues sólo permitieron un 30% de acierto en los tiros de campo a los Lakers.

Nash, que anotó 17 puntos en la primera parte, fue el máximo anotador de los Mavericks (11-0) con 21, seis asistencias y tres robos de balón, mientras que el alemán Dirk Nowitzki aportó 18 tantos y capturó 17 rebotes.

El alero Michael Finley sumó 18 tantos y 15 rebotes con Shawn Bradley, quien también fue factor en la victoria al conseguir 16 unidades y capturar 12 balones bajo el aro.

El dominio de los Mavericks fue absoluto desde el comienzo del partido con parciales de 54-39 al des-

tantos (4 de 15 tiros de campo) y capturó nueve rebotes.

El entrenador de los Mavericks, Don Nelson, le dio una lección de estrategia a Phil Jackson, que hasta el momento, sin Shaquille O'Neal, ha sido incapaz de establecer y definir un esquema de juego con el que identificar al equipo tricampeón de liga.

Además, los Mavericks vencieron a los Lakers apenas por quinta ocasión en 46 enfrentamientos desde 1991, y por el marcador más holgado en cualquiera de esos combates. El mayor margen conseguido antes por Dallas contra Los Angeles fue de 23 puntos, en 1986.

"Ha sido un gran triunfo para nosotros, no sólo porque nos mantenemos invictos, sino porque lo hemos logrado ante los tricampeones de liga", declaró Nelson. "Dentro de nuestro equipo no hay estrellas sino profesionales que cada noche salen al campo a darlo todo".

Los Lakers visitan hoy a las Espuelas de San Antonio, a las 5:30 p.m., en busca de cortar el

En Houston, Cuttino Mobley anotó 12 de sus 19 puntos en el periodo final, y los Rockets de Houston navegaron tranquilos para vencer 97-80 a los Cavaliers de Cleveland.

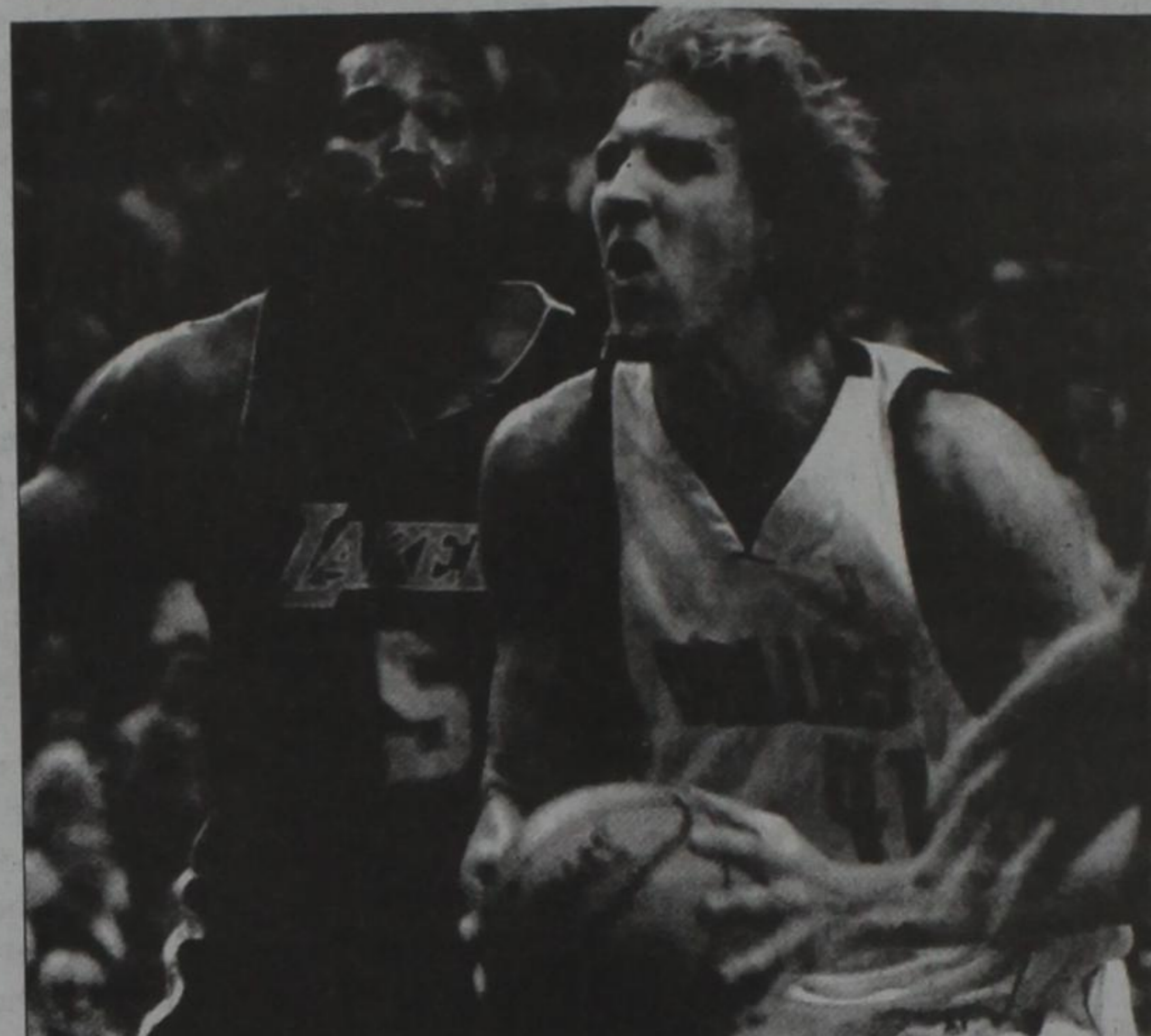
Steve Francis agregó 18 puntos por los Rockets, mientras que Eddie Griffin sumó 17 y 10 rebotes.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas encabezó a los Cavs con 24 puntos, mientras que Ricky Davis añadió 19.

La única vez que Cleveland tuvo la ventaja fue en los primeros minutos del encuentro, por 6-4. A partir de ese momento, los Rockets dominaron.

Yao Ming contribuyó con nueve puntos y seis rebotes. Encestó cuatro de sus cinco disparos.

Los Rockets construyeron una ventaja de 13 puntos en el segundo periodo, pero los Cavs se acercaron a 45-38 al medio tiempo. Dos veces se pusieron a sólo dos puntos, la última con 1:41 minuto restante en el periodo, gracias a un enceste de Davis.



cano y 71-46 antes de finalizar el tercero.

El escolta Kobe Bryant tampoco tuvo su mejor noche y no pudo ayudar para evitar la nueva humillación sufrida por los Lakers, que cayeron por segunda ocasión al hilo, por sexta en los últimos siete duelos y por cuarta en fila como visitantes para dejar su marca en 3-8, la peor de su historia para un comienzo de temporada.

Bryant se quedó con sólo 16 puntos (7 de 21 tiros de campo y 2 de 4 desde la línea de personal) y el alero Rick Fox contribuyó con 11

maléfico de este pésimo inicio de campaña.

Rockets con vuelo

No obstante, Mobley apoyó a los Rockets con su desempeño en el cuarto periodo.

Diabetes From Page 3

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Students Receive Excellence

Max Villanueva from Levelland and Denise Balough from Seagraves received Excellence Awards Tuesday night during the 2002 Night Police Academy graduation at South Plains College in Levelland.

The pair were surprised and honored to receive the highest award given to academy graduates. They acknowledged the accomplishments of their peers. "It is an honor," said Balough, the only woman in the group. "But the others deserve it as well. We did this together."

Larry Nichols, academy coordinator and chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department, cited the reasons for the pair's selection. "They were the leaders in the class; they were the most dedicated toward completing the course, and they helped others to come along."

"For 11 years, I have dreamed to do this," Villanueva told the audience during a brief speech by each graduate. He received initial training as a diesel technician in 1990 from SPC and has been working at Rawls Equipment Co. since that time. He thanked his employer for allowing him time to complete the academy.

His children, Megan, 9, Monica, 6, and Alex, 4, "were more excited about the award than I was," he said. His wife, Marsha, "was supportive. It was both our decision for me to go back to school," he explained.

He would like to work in law enforcement for Levelland or Hockley County and possibly work for the Border Patrol at a later time.

Balough, married and mother of four sons, said of the graduation. "This is a badge of distinction, and it's the same honor, whether you are a man or woman," she told the audience. She said her peers pushed her to succeed. She served seven years in the U.S. Army and underwent training as a combat

field medic. After her discharge from the military, she worked in emergency medical services. One night, after she and her family were nearly struck by a drunk driver, she decided to go into law enforcement.

Her husband, Joseph, is retired from the Air Force. The couple have four sons, Scott, Kris, Allan and Sean.

The 10 received certificates of completion from the academy as well as certificates enabling them to take the state licensing exam from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). They were scheduled to take the licensing exam Saturday (Sept. 23).

They completed 576 hours of academy coursework, in addition to 128 hours of fitness and wellness training.

"We honor you for your accomplishments," said Rob Blair, associate dean of technical education. "You are an elite group of students whose career choice is tied directly to the safety of our families and children. We are grateful to you."

Each graduate had a few minutes at the podium, and they thanked their instructors, family and friends and others for the help they received. "Our families gave us strong support, both spiritually and physically," said Juan Hernandez from Lubbock, employed by Aramark. Other

academy graduates are Benny Rodriguez from Levelland, employed as a

correctional officer in the Jim Rudd Unit, Raul Romero, Jr., from Levelland, United Supermarkets; Antonio Aguilar from Seagraves, Higginbotham Building Center; Oscar Gutierrez from Lubbock, Consolidated Cotton Gin Co., Inc.; Eric Valdez from Lubbock, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Christopher Covarrubias from Levelland, Lamb Co. Sheriff's Department, and Esteban Vejar from Levelland, Long-S Gin.

Three Area Coeds to Compete in Miss Caprock Pageant

Jessica Guerrero from Hart, Antonia Gonzalez from Wellington and Susana Morales from Roswell, N.M., have been nominated to compete in South Plains College's 45th annual Miss Caprock Scholarship Pageant Nov. 22 on the campus in Levelland.

The pageant is scheduled at 7 p.m. in the Tom T. Hall Performance Center in the Creative Arts Building. The Center seats about 250 persons.

Tickets are \$2 a person and are available through the Office of Student Activities.

Contestants will model casual and formal wear, and five finalists will each be asked a question by a panel of judges. The winner will receive a \$500 SPC scholarship,



Jessica Guerrero

and first runner-up will receive a \$300 SPC scholarship. Guerrero is an 18-year-old cosme-



Antonia Gonzalez

tology major and daughter of Felipe and Martha Guerrero. She was nominated by the SPC Cosmetol-

ogy Club.

Gonzalez is a 19-year-old freshman business major and daughter of Jesus and Helodia Soto from Wellington. She was nominated by the Hispanic Student Organization and is a member of SPC's cross country and track teams and the Hispanic Student Organization. She has competed in regional and national cross country competition.

Morales is an 18-year-old freshman criminal justice major and daughter of Guerrero Morales from Hobbs, N.M., and Lorena Morales from Roswell, N.M. She was nominated by Law Enforcement and is a member of the Law Enforcement Club.

For more information, contact the office at 894-9611, ext. 2378.

Spanish Textbooks! What Kind of Locura is This?

First it was Ebonics, now it's to be Spanglish - enough already. Que pasa with some of our educators? Taking two beautiful languages and making them into a combined dialect is a mite too mucho.

This article's title and first two sentences have no Spanglish, it is just pochismos. But for educators to accept pochismo, Spanglish or bad English or bad Spanish is nothing more than surrendering to mediocrity, giving up on the discipline required to attain education and proper communication.

A Spanish language professor at Amherst College recently completed a Spanglish translation of the first chapter of Cervantes' "Don Quixote" and Hallmark, the greeting card giant, is expanding its line with some Spanglish card messages.

Dios mio, from which building would the language professor be thrown from were he to do that with Shakespeare's Hamlet? Cervantes is the Spanish world's equivalent, and Don Quixote his most famous work.

Pochismos, not that it's correct, are very different than Spanglish. Spanglish is the conversion of an English word into a Spanish word. Pochismo is the inserting of a Spanish word when speaking English, or an English word when speaking Spanish. In the interior of Mexico, Mexican-Americans (US citizens of Mexican ancestry) were often described as Pochos - someone who mixes English and Span-

ish in conversation. Pochismos is what comes out of their (mea culpa) mouths.

The descriptive Pocho badge was not to the liking of most Mexican-Americans, because the moniker was not meant as a compliment. It was a putdown, indicating more than just a person who mixes the languages. It implied a lack of education, and loss of culture or one's roots. In some Mexican social circles it is taken as an affront, an insult to the language. In some other circles, it was taken as a "lording over" - a distancing the user from the native Mexicans - a kind of "look at me, I speak two languages."

The put down moniker has lost most of its bite, if not all, since many a Mexican now practices a reverse pochismo - inserting English words into Spanish sentences, mainly for emphasis, or cuteness or because the English word may be a new "technical" word that has no direct translation conveying the same meaning in the Spanish language, or if the word exists the user is not up to date with the new vocabulary.

Many U.S. Hispanics also use pochismos among themselves for emphasis, or to give the sentence a flavor otherwise not there, so that much of the pochismo in practice is not because the correct word in either language is not known, it is to give the expressed thought oomph.

However, many Mexican Americans use pochismos as a cultural identity card, as I found out from an acquaintance professor of Chicano studies at a local university. He said that people from the Chicano movement use the mix to let the other know that they are one with them. Don't ask me to make sense of this, but I do respect what he said, and have noticed as much.

Along the US-Mexico border, the influence of Mexican Americans whose Spanish and English mastery is not complete, began the habit of just taking English words and converting them into Spanish - thus we have such jewels as 'marketa' for market (mercado); 'troca' for truck (camion), 'yonke' for junk; and verbs like 'mopear' to mop. That is Spanglish, but because it may have wide usage, does not mean it should become acceptable either Spanish or English,

any more than bad English grammar usage such as 'they was' or 'we was' also widely used.

Mexican Americans particularly those of second or more US generations, do have a problem with proper Spanish. It's a wonder they speak any of it - how many second generation Germans, or Italians speak their ancestral language? So they do make mistakes, and do take the easy way out by either mixing or converting. And among ourselves, we do like to spice our conversations with some choice words. Taking such liberties with the two languages is obviously improper language usage, and we are for the most part aware of it.

Giving students the idea that Spanglish is acceptable, instead of teaching them proper languages, is to doom their ability in the future to properly communicate with the close to 500 million other Spanish speakers in the Western Hemisphere. Spanglish is not a dialect, it is nothing more than bad language usage, and should remain that way.

And as for Hallmark - que verguenza.

Spring Schedules On Hand

South Plains College's spring 2003 class schedules are now available, listing the spring registration schedule and courses offered.

SPC will offer more than 1,400 academic transfer, allied health and technical training courses and more than 50 Internet courses.

Registration at SPC Levelland is 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-6 p.m. Jan. 15. Sign-up at the SPC Reese Center campus in Lubbock is 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-7 p.m. Jan. 16. Registration permits are required at both locations.

Classes begin Jan. 21, and late registration is Jan. 21-24 and Jan. 27.

Internet courses will be offered in Agriculture, Anthropology, Biology, Business, Commercial Art, Computer Information Systems, Electrical and Power Transmission Technology, Electronics Technology, English, Government, History, Human Development, Law Enforcement, Psychology, Reading and Sociology.

Class schedules can be obtained on-line at www.southplainscollege.edu. To receive a class schedule or registration permit, contact the SPC Admissions Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375 or the SPC Reese Center at 885-3048, ext. 4660 or 2902.



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EL EDITOR Newspapers
wishes everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving Season!
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