

Casualties of
War in Iraq
2567
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DeLay's Political Action Committee ARMPAC donated \$15,000 to local Congressman Forced to Close Down

By Abel Cruz

Over the years, political action committees have become synonymous with politicians and political campaigns. One such committee who has played an integral part in Texas and national politics is Tom DeLay's Americans for a Republican Majority; or as it was more commonly known, ARMPAC.

ARMPAC had been a political powerhouse, until July 7, when it was forced to close in an agreement reached with the Federal Elections Commission, or FEC.

ARMPAC was the "golden goose" which former Texas Congressman Tom DeLay created in 1994 so that he could raise funds which he then would distribute to Congressional House members whom he wanted to influence and who would supposedly support him in his legislative efforts: all this to further his personal political agendas and those of his Republican conservative followers.

One of those House members who benefited from Tom DeLay's ARMPAC is local District 19 Congressman Randy Neugebauer who accepted a \$15,000 donation.

In an agreement reached with the

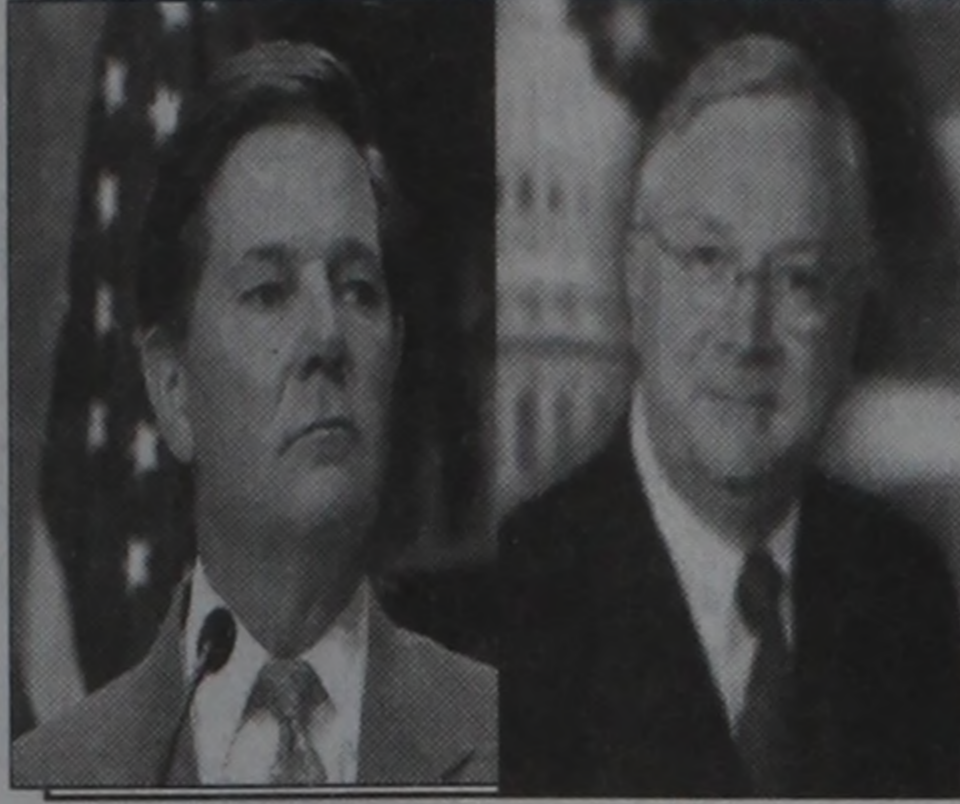
Federal Election Commission (FEC) on July 7 and announced last week, ARMPAC agreed to pay a \$115,000 fine and cease its operations.

The agreement was a result of an audit conducted in August of last year after a citizen's watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics, based in Washington, DC filed a complaint with the FEC. The audit found several irregularities in the practices of ARMPAC. Among those cited by the Commission:

- Failed to report \$74,295 in financial activity in 2001 and \$166,340 in 2002.
- Failed to report debts and obligations totaling \$322,306 to 25 vendors.
- Failed to separate expenses between its federal and nonfederal account, resulting in the nonfederal

account paying \$203,483 more than its allowable expenses.

Melanie Sloan, the executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics told the Associated Press that "The reason DeLay became so powerful



was all about the money, the amounts of money he could pull in and could distribute to his colleagues. Nearly every Republican in Congress received money from ARMPAC, thus consolidating his power base. They loved him because he kept them flush. Now we find out, they brought in huge amounts of money, but they did it illegally."

For their part, ARMPAC attributed the closing and the fine agreement to mistakes which were the result of misinterpretations or failure to understand the agency's

regulations. Dani DeLay Ferro, Tom DeLay's spokesperson, who also happens to be his daughter, maintained that the fine and shutdown were voluntary.

But a copy of the FEC document papers shows that a conciliation agreement was indeed reached by both parties and states that "respondents enter voluntarily into this agreement with the commission". Technically ARMPAC did enter into the agreement voluntarily, but more than likely, agreed to the conciliation agreement to avoid further legal repercussions.

ARMPAC also provided the necessary funding for DeLay to organize another political action committee, Texans for a Republican Majority which played a major role in the 2004 elections. Suspicious activity by that fundraising committee raised legal and ethical questions which ultimately have resulted in Tom DeLay stepping down as House majority leader and resigning from Congress. DeLay has also been charged with money laundering by Austin District Attorney, Ronnie Earle; DeLay has denied the charges and is awaiting trial.

To date, most Republicans who accepted political donations from ARMPAC have said they will not return the money donated to them by ARMPAC; including local Congressman

Randy Neugebauer.

In an October, 2005 story which appeared in the Austin American Statesman, Neugebauer spokesman, Josh Noland is quoted as saying, "there is no reason to return funds

which have been raised in full compliance with laws that govern campaigns for federal offices".

For now, it's anyone's guess whether the Republican recipients of these political donations will reconsider their position and return the tainted donations in view of the Federal Elections Commission's ruling that violations were committed.

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Comparison of District 19 Congressional Race Political Action Committee Donations

Action Committee Donations	Republican Incumbent Randy Neugebauer:	Democratic Challenger Robert Ricketts:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions from 296 political action committees totaling \$451,240 dollars, 2006 • Contributions from 16 politician's political action committees total \$45,246 dollars in 2006. • \$10,000 from House Majority Leader John Boehner's "Freedom Project" PAC, 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 from GOP Whip Roy Blunt's "Rely on Your Beliefs" PAC, 2005. • 15,000 from Tom DeLay's ARMPAC, 2005. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions from 3 political action committees which total \$5,000 of in-kind contributions, 2006

Source: www.tray.com and Federal Election Commission Bottom of Form

For Latinos, A Longer and Hotter Summer

By Marisa Treviño

This summer is getting longer and hotter.

Not because it's just been discovered that global warming is making for a lengthier and more intense wildfire season, but because we have until August to suffer through political grandstanding billed as an honest effort to examine the hottest domestic political issue of the 21st century - immigration reform.

Instead of working with their Senate counterparts to reach an acceptable compromise between an enforcement-only approach and a comprehensive reform, House Republicans claim to be doing their civic duty by conducting a series of public field hearings on the issue.

Yet only those guests selected at the biased discretion of the committee leaders are allowed to speak. These makeshift town hall meetings have been described by both sides as being nothing more than attempts to gather support for the House's enforcement-only version of the bill.

House Republicans may see this tactic as being in their best political interests come November, but their lack of action is leaving Latinos on

both sides of the issue in political isolation.

Is English the national language? Can Spanish be spoken in public yet not in government buildings? Do police have the right to question the citizenship status of every Latino they encounter? Do Latino citizens have to carry proof of citizenship every time they leave the house, apply for a job, rent an apartment, go vote, or apply for Medicaid? Are we guilty of aiding and abetting criminals if we help any friends, family members or neighbors we know are here illegally?

In the absence of any congressional action, these are questions that are gripping cities across the nation in a kind of immigrant hysteria.

As a result, innocent people are impacted by newly-passed punitive ordinances - not so much for being in this country illegally, but for being Latino. As each day passes with House Republicans staking support for their enforcement-only bill, new reports surface of local governments, town councils and private citizens implementing their own brand of immigration justice without thought to how their actions impact whole Latino communities.

In Oklahoma, lawmakers are calling for an interim study on new guidelines to fight illegal immigration. State Republicans had tried before to pass measures to require proof of citizenship before voting or receiving state assistance.

In Hazelton, Pa., the mayor has proposed an ordinance that prohibits and punishes the hiring of and renting to immigrants with lack papers to prove legal U.S. residency. It also declares English the official language of the city.

In Gwinnett County, Ga., the library board voted to eliminate \$3,000 already set aside to purchase works of fiction in Spanish. The official reason: readers of other languages would demand books in their own languages. A library board member revealed the real reason: some residents objected to using taxpayer dollars "to entertain readers who might be illegal residents."

In Houston, a group has emerged called "Protect Our Citizens." They launched a petition drive to force Houston police officers to verify people's citizenship, arrest those who lacked papers, and hand them over to immigration authorities.

Probably the most telling example of how far people are taking up Congress's slack is the

fact that anecdotal cases are being documented of everyday citizens, who when overhearing people speak Spanish feel empowered enough to confront the Spanish-speakers and demand that they speak English.

Though all these measures are directed at rooting out immigrants who didn't go through the proper channels to get here, an unwelcome side effect is that they discriminate against Latinos who are legal residents.

Just because someone speaks or reads Spanish doesn't designate that person as an "illegal immigrant," nor does it mean they can't speak English.

That these measures target anyone with brown skin, a Spanish surname or the slightest accent leads to the natural conclusion that authorities will racially profile every Latino.

The burden to prove who we are rests with us.

The question is not how long it will take Congress to return to Washington and begin the real work of creating a compromise bill that will no longer polarize this nation, but how long will law-abiding Latino citizens tolerate being treated like they don't belong here?

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Un Verano Más Largo y Caloroso Para los Latinos

Marisa Treviño

Este verano va a ser más largo y caloroso, y no porque se haya descubierto apenas que el calentamiento global va a dar lugar a un verano más largo y con temperaturas mucho más altas, sino porque hasta agosto vamos a sufrir la situación política anunciada como un honrado esfuerzo por examinar el asunto político nacional más discutido del siglo XXI: la reforma de migración.

En lugar de trabajar con sus homólogos del Senado para alcanzar un acuerdo aceptable entre un enfoque de mano dura y una reforma completa, los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes afirman que están cumpliendo su deber cívico al organizar una serie de audiencias públicas sobre el tema.

Sin embargo, sólo a los invitados elegidos a criterio parcial de los líderes del comité se les permite hablar. Estas reuniones improvisadas del ayuntamiento han sido descritas por ambas partes como simples intentos de ganar apoyo para el proyecto de ley sobre aplicación de mano dura propuesto por la Cámara.

Puede que los republicanos de la Cámara vean que esta táctica favorece sus intereses políticos ahora que se acerca noviembre, pero su actitud pasiva respecto al tema está aislando

políticamente a los latinos que se encuentran a ambos lados.

¿Es el inglés la lengua nacional? ¿Se puede hablar español en público pero no en los edificios del gobierno?

¿Tiene la policía el derecho a dudar sobre la ciudadanía de todos los latinos con los que se encuentran? ¿Tienen los ciudadanos latinos que llevar una prueba de su ciudadanía cada vez que salen de casa, se presentan a un trabajo, alquilan un apartamento, van a votar o solicitan Medicaid? ¿Somos cómplices de criminales si ayudamos a unos amigos, familiares o vecinos que sabemos que están aquí ilegalmente?

Mientras que el Congreso no haga algo, éstas son las preguntas que corren por la ciudades de todo el país en un tipo de histeria del inmigrante.

Como consecuencia, personas inocentes se ven afectadas por decretos-leyes punitivos que acaban por ser aprobados, no tanto por el hecho de estar en este país de manera ilegal, sino por el hecho de ser latino. A medida que los días pasan y los republicanos ganan apoyo para el proyecto de ley sobre aplicación de mano dura, los gobiernos locales, ayuntamientos y ciudadanos individuales sacan nuevas leyes para implementar un modo de justicia propio, sin pararse a pensar que sus acciones afectan a todas las comunidades latinas.

En Oklahoma, los legisladores están

exigiendo un estudio provisional sobre líneas de acción nuevas para combatir la inmigración ilegal, y anteriormente, los republicanos de ese estado habían intentado aprobar medidas que exigirían prueba de ciudadanía antes de votar o de recibir ayuda del estado.

En Hazelton, Pensilvania, el alcalde ha propuesto un decreto-ley que prohíbe y castiga a los que contratan y alquilan a inmigrantes sin documentos que demuestren que son residentes legales en EE.UU., y que declara el inglés como la lengua oficial de la ciudad.

En el condado de Gwinnett, Georgia, la junta de la biblioteca votó por eliminar \$3.000 que ya se habían puesto aparte para comprar libros de ficción en español. La razón oficial es que los lectores de otras lenguas exigirían libros en su propio idioma, pero un miembro de la junta reveló la verdadera razón: algunos residentes se opusieron a usar el dinero de los contribuyentes "para entretener a lectores que podrían ser residentes ilegales".

En Houston ha surgido un grupo llamado "Protect Our Citizens" (Proteja a nuestros ciudadanos) que ha lanzado una petición para obligar a la policía de Houston a verificar la ciudadanía de las personas, detener a los que no tienen documentos y entregarlos a las autoridades de inmigración. Probablemente, el mejor ejemplo de

cómo está reaccionando la gente ante la pasividad del Congreso es el hecho de que se están documentando casos anecdóticos en los que ciudadanos corrientes que consideran que tienen suficiente facultad para enfrentarse a los hispanohablantes y exigirles que hablen inglés si los escuchan hablando español.

Aunque estas medidas pretenden acabar con los inmigrantes que llegaron aquí de manera ilegal, tienen un efecto secundario poco grato porque discriminan a los latinos que son residentes legales.

Sólo porque alguien hable o lea español, no quiere decir que esa persona sea un "inmigrante ilegal" o que no pueda hablar inglés.

El hecho de que estas medidas van dirigidas a cualquiera que tenga la piel oscura, un apellido español o el mínimo acento, nos lleva a la conclusión de que las autoridades harán un fichaje racial de todos los latinos. Tenemos la obligación de demostrar quiénes somos.

La cuestión no es cuánto tiempo tardará el Congreso en volver a Washington y comenzar con la verdadera tarea de crear un proyecto de ley intermedio que no siga polarizando a la nación, sino ¿por cuánto tiempo tolerarán los ciudadanos latinos que cumplen la ley que se les trate como si no estuvieran en su sitio?

Grand Jury Finds No Criminal Wrongdoing in Nuñez Taser Death; Refuses to Charge Lubbock Police Officer

Late Tuesday afternoon, a Lubbock County Grand Jury ruled that no charges would be filed against Lubbock police officer Matt Doherty, in the Taser related death of Juan Manuel Nunez.

Nunez's death in April, had been ruled a homicide by the Lubbock Medical Examiner's office, but the grand jury declined to charge the police officer as the one responsible for the death. According to the

medical examiner's autopsy report, Nunez's death was a result of a combination of alcohol in his blood system, and a blow to the head; caused when he fell backwards after being Tasered by the police officer.

The Nunez family has steadfastly maintained that the responsibility for the death should lie with the LPD, the city, and the manufacturer of the Taser gun, Taser International. In June they filed a civil suit in the matter.

The suit has yet to go to trial.

Brother of Lubbock Soldier Who Died in Iraq in 2004; Dies in Afghanistan

In November of 2004, the parents of Jose "Freddy" Velez learned that their son had died in the battlefields of Iraq. On Tuesday, the same Lubbock parents learned that another son, Andrew, had been killed in the battlefields of Afghanistan.

Andrew was serving his second deployment and had left in March for Afghanistan.

Details were unclear as to when Andrew Velez died or where in Afghanistan his death occurred, but his father Roy Velez confirmed that he had been notified of his son's death by the US military.

Andrew Velez was 22 years old and in addition to his parents is survived by his wife and three children.

His brother, Freddy Velez, was killed while fighting in Fallujah, Iraq on November 13, 2004. He was a decorated soldier earning two purple hearts and a Silver and Bronze Star. An Estacado High School scholarship which helps students who want to study in the medical field attend college was renamed after Freddy Velez in 2005.

Details on when Andrew Velez's body would be sent to Lubbock were not yet available and arrangements for funeral services are pending.

Latino Backlash? Town Bans Taco Stand

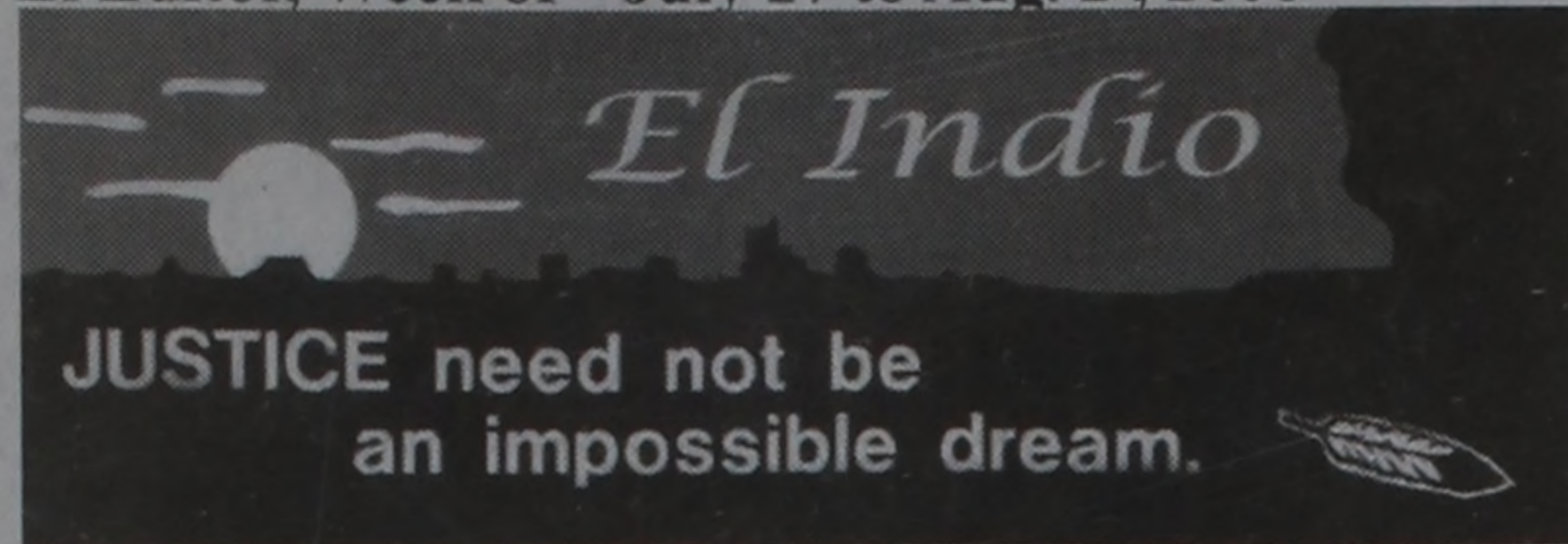
In some ways, the traveling taco stand has become a symbol of the rise of Hispanics in the US. Here in Gwinnett County, Ga., it wasn't any different - until lawmakers outlawed the \$1 street-corner taco vendor last month.

Hispanic purveyors of the workingman's lunch represent an immigration policy many Americans feel has gone haywire. In many interior states where the Hispanic immigration had been minimal until recently, residents are encountering more new faces speaking an incomprehensible language and infiltrating street corners with their cilantro-spiced fare.

In resisting the sudden and growing influence of Latino culture, some cities and towns across America are requiring the use of English and restricting culinary mores and even the Hispanic tradition of sitting on the front porch.

... [T]o illegal immigrants and those who would hire or abet them in any way ... You are no longer welcome," Mayor Lou Baretta wrote in a letter posted on the city's website.

While anti-immigrant hate groups increased 33 percent in the past five years, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, overall acceptance of immigration is at a five-year high, according to a recent Gallup Poll.



Now..County Commissioner "Junkets" at Taxpayer Expense!

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

After Congress has abused the taxpayers for years with taxpayer-funded "Junkets" to expensive golf clubs and tropical resorts [remember our globe-trotting "SuperChristian" Tom DeLay and friends???]... Now our Lubbock County Commissioners are going to follow their lead..."Conservative Republicans" Patti Jones and Bill McCay are going to Colorado to "research" the "Super Precinct" concept in August...what a deal! And not just the two Commissioners, but thirteen...yes, THIRTEEN...election staffers going as well! I hear Colorado is lovely this time of year...

Quite a party...similar to the recent City Council "Retreat" at Post, which cost the taxpayers \$17,000! Quite a blowout...just for City Council members, City staffers, and a few SELECTED citizens...wonder how they were selected? And can you hear the DEAFENING SILENCE from our purported City Council "representatives" about this unnecessary and needed expense? Where are you, Linda DeLeon? Whither goest thou, Floyd Price?

Did "Conservative" Commissioners like James Kitten sit still for this? How do County Judge Tom Head and Commissioner Ysidro Guterrez stand on this issue? Our Texas voters repeatedly elect Republican candidates, thinking they are supporting smaller government and fiscal restraint, and this is what we get...

Grow that government, Commissioners! Give the free-spending City Council a run for their money...Do you doubt for a minute that the City Council is going to weigh in with pay increases too, plus a substantial TAX HIKE. Give the DA's office, the Sheriff's office, everyone in sight a hefty pay increase...and of course, all the people making \$100,000 a year...they REALLY, REALLY NEED more pay...and shucks, you know we need HIGHER TAXES [or higher "FEES"] to do all this...

And of course, use the GEORGE BUSH-KARL ROVE theory of taxation..."equal for everyone"...give the millionaire and the janitor the same 5% tax cut...if a \$25,000 a year secretary receives a 10% increase, then a 150K a year administrator needs a 10% increase too...like our "Assistant City Managers"...and O, those underpaid District Judges and prosecutors!

Of course, Secretary of State Roger Williams has to weigh in on the "Super Precincts" before the "Junket" is finalized...but do you doubt for a minute that he won't sign off on it? It is the "DONE DEAL" style of government...once a proposal is made, it is already approved...destined to be rubber-stamped by compliant "representatives" regardless of public input. O, the government types might have "public hearings"...but they are always a SHAM...because the decision has already been made. Once the whimsical mind of Dorothy Kennedy settled on "Super Precincts", it was a "done deal". Government by Elections Administrator.

And all this after the taxpayers were soaked for soon-to-be-obsolete electronic voting machines without paper trails...another Dorothy Kennedy special...many of which shall be unused under the new "Super Precinct" system...didn't we buy at least eight machines per precinct...with 100 precincts, that would be approximately 800 machines...and with the new 35 "Super Precincts" [minus Overton, of course...more on that next week]...how many machines do we REALLY need for those 35? Have our "representatives" even told us how many machines they bought, at taxpayer expense?

Don't you love "Conservative" government?

La Reforma Migratoria y El Tiempo Que Vuela

Tamar Jacoby

Como un vacío en la boca del estómago que va haciéndose más fuerte, la pregunta se impone: ¿Será cierto que la reforma del sistema de inmigración ha muerto o que está agonizante?

De hecho el pronóstico no da ningún alivio. Nadie pensó que iba a ser fácil reconciliar los proyectos de ley de la Cámara de Representantes y del Senado. Ahora, los republicanos de la Cámara parecen no querer ni negociar con el Senado; de lo contrario, están pasando el verano paseándose dando fuelle al sentimiento anti-inmigrante en "audiencias públicas" por todo el país.

Pero, un momento: ¿están tan mal las cosas? Yo creo que aún es posible - difícil, pero posible - que el Congreso apruebe un conjunto de leyes de reforma este año.

Mi análisis proviene de la política

- un cálculo sencillo de quién es el más fuerte. Al oír a los críticos bocones, es fácil olvidar la poderosa colaboración a favor de la reforma: el presidente, el Senado, la Iglesia Católica y una mayoría del público estadounidense (encuesta tras encuesta indica que entre dos tercios y tres cuartos del electorado apoya un conjunto de leyes que combine la mano dura del cumplimiento con la ley con un programa de ciudadanía para los indocumentados). Y, aunque no lo digan en público todavía, hay hasta una facción del liderazgo republicano de la Cámara que quisiera terminar con el proyecto de ley este mismo año.

Sus opositores son muy bulgareños, y derivan ventaja de las circunstancias. Tienen mucha influencia en un año de elecciones a medio término en el que los titulares

republicanos necesitan todos los votos posibles para ganar. Sin embargo, comprenden sólo un 20 a 25 por ciento del público - una cola iracunda, no representativa que quiere mear al perro.

La segunda razón por la que tengo esperanza tiene que ver con la presentación de dos ideas sobre políticas que podrían ser el fundamento de un acuerdo entre la Cámara y el Senado. El autor, congresista conservador Mike Pence, es un recién llegado a los temas de la inmigración, y su plan, auspiciado también por la senadora por Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, aún no llega a ser un proyecto de ley viable. Por ejemplo, no incluye provisiones adecuadas ni prácticas para inmigrantes sin autorización que ya están aquí que quisieran hacerse ciudadanos.

Pero las dos ideas principales de Pence - que los que buscan legalizar su situación deberían poder hacerlo siempre que estén dispuestos a dejar el país durante una o dos semanas, y que tiene sentido combinar la mano dura del cumplimiento con la legalización y un programa de trabajador invitado, siempre que empecemos a mejorar el cumplimiento de la ley primero - van generando un interés sorprendente a través del espectro político, incluso entre los intransigentes de la Cámara hostiles a cualquier otro plan de reforma.

Importa mucho, por supuesto, cómo se desarrolla estas dos ideas. Lo que no funcionaría, por ejemplo, sería si la ley nos obligara a asegurar la frontera completamente an-

week or two, and that it makes sense to combine enforcement with legalization and a guestworker program as long as we start improving enforcement first - are generating surprising interest across the political spectrum, even among House hardliners hostile to every other reform plan.

It would, of course, matter a great deal how these two ideas were fleshed out.

It wouldn't work, for example, if the law required us to secure the border completely before moving ahead with worker visas or legalization. That will never happen. We will never be able to enforce the law fully until we make it more realistic.

Nor will it work politically to move a bill that legalizes millions of undocumented immigrants but relegates them to a permanent underclass of non-citizens. This won't pass muster with House Democrats or the Senate.

Still, the bottom line is that there may be a deal within reach. These two ideas, fleshed out well, combined with elements from the bills already on the table and - still the hardest part, but not impossible - a workable way for those Pence would legalize to make the final, all-important step to citizenship.

A third reason for hope is the progress so far, progress that makes it hard to pull the plug. True, members of Congress walk away from unfinished bills all the time. But paradoxically, precisely because immigration is such a difficult issue - so complex and so politically sensitive - they may be more reluctant than usual to give up. So many of them have already come so far and taken so much heat. No one wants to have to come back to Washington in 2007 and start all over again with a blank slate.

Don't get me wrong: Congress is nowhere near a deal yet. Many members, both Democrats and Republicans, think it could be better for them to get to Election Day without passing anything. All too many Republicans think they can win votes by bashing immigrants, while Democrats hope that they can win by bashing Republicans for failing to solve this critical problem.

But that calculus could change over the summer if enough voters in enough states make clear that what they want is a solution. Many are beginning to say just that.

It's too soon to celebrate, way too soon. But it's also too soon to give up.

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tes de avanzar con las visas para trabajadores o la legalización de inmigrantes sin autorización, lo cual nunca ocurrirá. Nunca podremos hacer cumplir con la ley completamente hasta que no la hagamos más realista.

Tampoco funcionará a nivel político avanzar un proyecto de ley que legalice a millones de inmigrantes indocumentados, relegándoles permanentemente a una subclase de personas que no pueden ser ciudadanas, lo cual no pasará a ser aprobado ni con los demócratas de la Cámara, ni con el Senado.

No obstante, en última instancia está entre manos todavía un posible acuerdo. Estas dos ideas, bien desarrolladas, en combinación con elementos de los proyectos de ley ya bajo consideración y - aún lo más difícil pero no lo imposible - una manera eficaz para que a los que Pence otorgaría la legalización puedan dar el último, y más importante, paso a hacerse ciudadanos.

Una tercera razón por la que tengo esperanza es el progreso que ya se ha visto, progreso que dificulta cerrar puertas. Es verdad que frecuentemente los miembros del Congreso le dan la espalda a proyectos de ley incompletos, pero paradójicamente, el mismo hecho que la inmigración sea un tema tan difícil - tan complejo y de tanta sensibilidad política - puede impedir que esta vez quieran tirar la toalla. Muchos han llegado tan lejos y han luchado tanto - nadie quiere volver a Washington en el 2007 para empezar de cero.

Que no se me malentienda: el Congreso no se asemeja si quiera a un acuerdo todavía. A muchos miembros, tanto demócratas como republicanos, les parece mejor llegar a las elecciones sin haber aprobado nada. Muchos republicanos más piensan que pueden ganar votos pontificando contra los inmigrantes, mientras los demócratas esperan ganar pontificando contra los republicanos por no haber podido resolver este problema tan crítico.

Todo este cálculo podría cambiar para fines del verano si hay suficientes electores en suficientes estados que dejen claro que quieren una solución. Y muchos empiezan a decir precisamente eso.

Es pronto celebrar - muy pronto. Pero también es muy pronto tirar la toalla.

READ EL EDITOR ON THE INTERNET ELEDITOR.COM

A New and Lasting Social Movement? Only Time Will Tell

By Abel Cruz

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about a recent survey which was conducted by the PEW Hispanic Center which surveyed 1,000 Hispanics Latinos in an effort to find out how they felt about the immigration issue and the marches which were held earlier this year in response to HR 4437, the immigration reform bill passed by the U.S. House late last year. The non profit organization highlighted four findings in its report:

- More than half of Latinos say they are seeing an increase in discrimination towards them and other Latinos
- About 75% of those surveyed say the debate will prompt more Hispanics to vote in November's general elections
- Almost two thirds, or 63%, think the pro-immigrant marches held earlier this year signal the beginning of a "new and lasting" social movement.

• A majority, 58%, believes Hispanics are working together to achieve common goals; up from 43% in 2002

This week, let's focus on the last two points.

If almost two thirds of respondents think the pro-immigrant marches held earlier this year signal the beginning of a "new and lasting" social movement, you sure can't tell by the sounds of silence which have returned not only to this area, but to the nation as a whole.

Since, May 1, very little has been heard from local organizers and local "Hispanic leaders" who attended the pro immigrant march held here in Lubbock. That fact alone would seem to dispute the finding that the marches signaled a new and lasting social movement.

In order for a movement to have a lasting effect and influence change the issue must be kept alive and must be at the forefront of most people's minds: which, by the way, is something the Republicans seem to be doing very well.

With their immigration hearings being held by design in certain parts of the country; where this issue is as hot as a hundred degree day in the "Giant Side of Texas", they are signaling to their conservative, xenophobe wing of the party that the issue must be kept alive, if they are to use it as a catalyst for keeping control of Congress.

For a movement associated with a particular issue to become "new and lasting", it needs leadership; it needs visibility, it needs to get its message out to the people who need to hear it.

The fourth finding in the study says that 58% of respondents now believe that Hispanics are working together to achieve common goals. Really? And where might that be? Because, as Festus would say, it sure isn't in "these here parts"!

Working together to achieve common goals is an admirable and honorable thing to do. But if Hispanics, who disagree with legislation like HR 4437, are to be successful in forcing changes to ridiculous measures like HR 4437 and a watered down Senate Immigration Reform Bill, they must mobilize just as actively as groups which favor the anti-immigrant legislation do.

Unfortunately, since early spring and May 1, the wheels seem to have come off the bandwagon.

If the fourth PEW finding is correct, I would suggest that at least 4 things must happen if Hispanic groups and their supporters want to successfully work together to get the bandwagon rolling again.

- National organizations like LULAC, which was the main organizing force for the huge demonstrations held in Dallas and Houston for example, must engage their membership and impress upon them the importance of being active participants, and not just sideline observers in the debate; and they must start now.

• Nationally elected Hispanic politicians who are against the provisions of HR 4437 must be more vocal, stop being afraid to speak out, and come out and say so. Local organizations like WTOS and local and area elected Hispanic officials must be more vocal on this issue and be the "public voice" for those who care about immigration reform but have no "bully pulpit" from which to speak.

• If the Democratic Party wants to have a chance to win back control of Congress, then it must believe that the key lies on winning the Hispanic vote in November; then on a national state, and local level, the Democratic Party needs to reach out to the Hispanic voter more than it ever has. It must "speak" to the potential Hispanic voter in a political and cultural language they understand.

• Hispanics, who happen to care about this important issue's outcome (and not all do nor do we all feel the same way) must hold our elected officials accountable for their votes. In this instance, elected officials like local Congressman Randy Neugebauer must be judged at the polls by the votes he has cast in favor of legislation like HR 4437. We must get better at not just registering to vote, but at actually VOTING!

I am not suggesting that these are the only answers, but it sure does beat what is happening now; or in this case, not happening.

To be sure, the issue of immigration reform will be at the forefront of the November elections. As we get closer to November, the "anti-immigration - anti-Mexican - border - homeland security - global war on terror roar" from the right will get stronger and stronger.

Will those who happen to stand on the other side of this divisive issue be organized enough and willing enough to drown out the roar?

We'll know after Tuesday, November 7 whether the respondents to the PEW survey were right.

Email: acruztc@aol.com

The Comic Absurdity of Homeland Security

By Jim Jim Hightower

Code Red Alert! Code Red! Your department of homeland security is at it again!

This bungling bureaucratic behemoth, which is spending billions of our tax dollars supposedly to protect America from another 9/11 horror, is second only to the Pentagon in mismanagement, waste, fraud - and plain silliness. The latest evidence of DHS's goofy incompetence comes from its own inspector general, who recently issued a scathing indictment of how the department divvies up the hundreds of millions of dollars it grants annually for local antiterrorism efforts.

DHS maintains a "national asset database" that lists 77,069 local sites across America that it considers possible terrorist targets. Using this computerized list of targets, DHS bizarrely cut grants going to New York City and our nation's Capitol this year by 40 percent - while jacking up the amounts going to such places as Omaha and Louisville.

Why? Take a peek into DHS's database. The inspector general reports that it includes such potential "targets" as the Amish Country Popcorn store in Berne, Indiana, the Old MacDonald's Petting Zoo in Woodville, Alabama, and the Mule Day Parade in Columbia, Tennessee. The list is larded with some 3,700 malls, 1,300 casinos, 163 water parks, 159 cruise ships... and even 718 mortuaries. No doubt these places are "national assets" - but terrorist targets?

Even in the face of such absurdity, DHS won't budge. "We don't find it embarrassing," declares a clueless department spokesman. "The list is a valuable tool."

Many of those on the list, however, are more level headed. "Seems like someone has gone overboard," says an organizer of the Apple and Pork Festival in Clinton, Illinois, which made DHS's target list. He notes that "Their time could be spent better doing other things, like providing security for the country." This is Jim Hightower saying... Bingo! Let's make this guy the head of DHS!



Aguilera, nuevo disco y bebé

La cantante de pop Christina Aguilera no descarta la posibilidad de que su próximo disco sea en español y aseguró que le "gustaría trabajar en esa dirección", reveló el sábado en Londres, donde promociona su nuevo álbum Back to Basics.

"El español es un idioma en el que me encuentro muy cómoda", explicó la diva de 25 años, hija de un ecuatoriano y de una irlandesa, que el próximo mes de diciembre pasará por España con motivo de su nueva gira.

Aguilera aventuró que ese disco, que sería su segundo álbum en español tras Mi reflejo (2000), podría incluir canciones de Back to Basics, "en español y añadiendo más instrumentación".

Pero primero, tiene que cerrar el capítulo de Back to Basics, el álbum doble que saldrá a la



venta el próximo 15 de agosto en todo el mundo.

Un nuevo álbum, su tercero de estudio, en el que Aguilera hace un guiño a la música de los años 20, 30 y 40 del siglo pasado, con un toque de actualidad.

"Me gusta retarme a mí misma haciendo cosas distintas y tomando nuevos riesgos", confesó la rubia platino.

"Quería volver a lo básico",

explicó. "A la música que siempre me ha inspirado, al jazz, al blues, al soul, pero modernizándolo y trayéndolo a la actualidad".

Según Aguilera, aquella época "fueron grandes tiempos para la música" y se quejó de que hoy en día "con las nuevas tecnologías, cualquiera pueda ser cantante".

Back to Basics es un disco "muy personal, honesto y sincero", donde la artista habla de cómo se siente y de las cosas en las que cree.

Aguilera dijo que no ha tenido problema en combinar la vida de mujer casada con ser una "sex symbol" del pop.

"Todo empieza por encontrar a un hombre que te quiere como eres", señaló la diva.

La cantante afirmó que se siente afortunada de haber encontrado "una persona fuerte y segura" que le apoya "en cualquier decisión que tome y que entienda" lo que hace.

"Él está conmigo en un cien por cien", aseguró orgullosa. Precisamente, uno de sus proyectos para el futuro es tener un hijo.

Pero primero, tiene que "criar a este bebé que es el compacto doble, antes de tener un bebé real, que vendrá en un futuro, después de que cierre este capítulo musical".

Por otro lado, hizo memoria de su carrera y señaló que nunca se ha lamentado de nada. Aseguró que su mejor momento profesional fue cuando ganó su primer Grammy, "porque es un premio que nunca" volverá a ganar.

La señorita Puerto Rico es la Nueva Miss Universo

La puertorriqueña Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza fue proclamada anoche Miss Universo 2006, mientras que la japonesa Kurara Chibana quedó coronada como virreina.

Rivera hereda la corona de la canadiense Natalie Glebova y se convierte en la primera latinoamericana en ganar el concurso desde que lo hiciera la dominicana Amelia Vega en 2003.

"Para mí la palabra éxito es la satisfacción de un ser humano cuando alcanza todas sus metas... sin importar los obstáculos que se encuentren, porque los obstáculos son una prueba para uno saber que uno puede seguir hacia adelante y que uno es fuerte y que uno tiene todas esas cualidades para poder vencerlos", fue la respuesta de Rivera en la penúltima ronda.

A sus 18 años, Rivera era una de las concursantes más jóvenes y comentó que le gustaría ser actriz, ya que es "un campo que siempre me ha llamado mucho la atención".

No obstante, durante el próximo año Rivera deberá dedicarse a tareas de carácter humanitario y a promocionar otros concursos de belleza en todo el mundo como obligaciones que tiene la portadora de la corona.

Rivera, junto a la paraguaya Lourdes Arévalos, fueron las únicas representantes latinoamericanas entre las cinco finalistas, acompañadas de las representantes de Suiza, Japón y Estados Unidos.

Como viene siendo recurrente en el concurso, América Latina colocó a un buen contingente de candidatas en las rondas finales, aunque sorprendentemente la candidata de Venezuela, país que suele llegar a la última fase, no estuvo presente en el primer corte de 20.

En esa fase entraron siete latinoamericanas: Bolivia, Puerto Rico, México, Colombia, Paraguay, Brasil y Argentina. Las últimas dos se cayeron en la ronda de 10.

El cantante y actor puertorriqueño Carlos Ponce y la presentadora de Access Hollywood Nancy O'Dell fueron los animadores de la ceremonia, que contó además con la actuación del cantante boricua Chelo.

El concurso contó con 86 participantes, 18 de ellas de América Latina. La semana pasada los jueces seleccionaron a las 20 primeras, pero su decisión no se



dio a conocer hasta el día de la ceremonia final.

En el panel de jueces estuvieron la presentadora boricua María Celeste Arrarás y la Miss Universo 2003, la dominicana Amelia Vega y última ganadora latinoamericana de la corona.

La ciudad de Los Ángeles acogió el concurso, la primera vez en los últimos ocho años que la ceremonia se celebra en territorio estadounidense.

Puerto Rico consigue así la corona en cinco ocasiones en los 55 años de historia de este concurso de belleza que volvió este año a sus orígenes con esta nueva gala en California, estado en el que fue coronada su primera reina.

La decisión final de los jueces estuvo entre Rivera Mendoza y Miss Japón, Kurara Chibana, una joven de Okinawa de 24 años que habla cuatro idiomas, entre ellos el castellano.

Sin embargo en el último momento la victoria fue para la joven boricua con sueños de actriz, una decisión recibida con vitores en el auditorio donde se habían dado cita numerosos compatriotas con banderas y hasta osos de peluche que le enseñaron a la nueva reina.

Aún así entre el público reinó una gran decepción desde que los jueces dejaron fuera de las últimas selecciones a la candidata mexicana, Priscila Perales.

Dado el gran número de mexicanos entre el público de este acto transmitido en directo por el canal de televisión hispano Telemundo, la derrota de Miss México puso los banderines que estaban en la sala a tierra.

Miss Puerto Rico fue durante toda esta competición una de las favoritas y su traje regional, una capa decorada con motivos de la isla y con los colores de su bandera junto con un tocado en forma de águila fue uno de los más comentados de esta gala donde todo es belleza.

Los Comicos en Mexico: 'Un Gran día para Democracia'

José de la Isla

La muy anticipada elección presidencial en México se redujo a lo que ocurrió en 130,000 distrito electorales por toda la nación, y a cómo un 12 por ciento de electores indecisos afectaría el resultado.

Alejandra Aldana, presidenta del distrito 4558, llegó a su puesto en la calle Coahuila a unos minutos antes de las ocho de la mañana. El distrito se encuentra en la Colonia Roma, una sección antigua de la Ciudad de México. La esperaban los trabajadores a salario y los voluntarios.

Se pusieron a amar las mesas, las urnas transparentes y también la que contenía las papeletas en blanco. Aldana resolvió un conflicto sobre las estaciones en competencia locales y federales antes que el voto comenzara, con media hora de retraso.

Los representantes de los partidos y las coaliciones mayores - Isabel Rico Jiménez, en representación del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), y Guillermo Viveros Rivas, del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) observaron. No había llegado aún nadie del otro partido importante, el Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), del titular Vicente Fox.

Una hora más tarde ya unas cien personas hacían cola por la acera. Gabriel Sánchez, de Prospecta Consulting, había llegado para recoger información de salida de la votación. Se esperaba un 60 por ciento de los 400 a 600 electores

de cada distrito electoral.

De manera indirecta, miles de personas en los Estados Unidos conocen la Colonia Roma. A unas cuadras del distrito, en la calle Orizaba de los años cincuenta, William Burroughs escribió "Naked Lunch" y Jack Kerouac escribió "Mexico City Blues", libros que lanzarían la era mundial de los beatnik y la contracultura. La Colonia Roma ha visto mejores días. Otrora la zona pudiente, hoy en la cúspide de la renovación, viene recuperándose del desmoronamiento. Sus residentes son una mezcla amplia de viejo y en boga, un segmento de ingresos medianos que va perdiendo la fe, y una clase trabajadora en lucha por sobrevivir.

Esta elección trata del pasado y el futuro, pero en los Estados Unidos su importancia se simplifica en términos de derecha e izquierda. La atención estadounidense actual se enfoca mayormente en las áreas rurales y pueblos pequeños que alimentan la inmigración, mientras que la elección se combate principalmente aquí, en la urbe mexicana, por los que no se van. Hasta el domingo, una gran parte de ellos no sabían quién de los candidatos se merecía su voto.

Al otro lado de la ciudad, en el recinto universitario del Tecnológico de Monterrey, se recogieron 32,632 papeletas internacionales para que el conteo oficial empezara en cuanto las urnas cerraran. Mexicanos en cinco continentes votaron, con el 87 por ciento de los Estados Unidos.

La fatiga electoral rondaba. Un señor comentó que mientras más durara la elección, menos confianza le daban los candidatos. Re-

envió los resultados, así como hicieron 130.000 distritos similares por toda la república mexicana.

A las 11.00 de la noche, los funcionarios federales de comicios no pudieron ofrecer un conteo rápido oficial de salida por lo que los resultados eran demasiado cercanos. En el quiosco de periódicos de la esquina a la mañana siguiente, los diarios anunciaron un gran - aunque complicado - día para la democracia. "No comprendo por qué no saben el resultado", rogó una voz a mi lado.

Unas horas más tarde, un conteo preliminar no oficial favorecía a Felipe Calderón del PAN, por apenas un punto porcentual: 36,38 a 35,34. El resultado oficial está ahora en manos del Tribunal Federal del Poder Judicial de la Federación.

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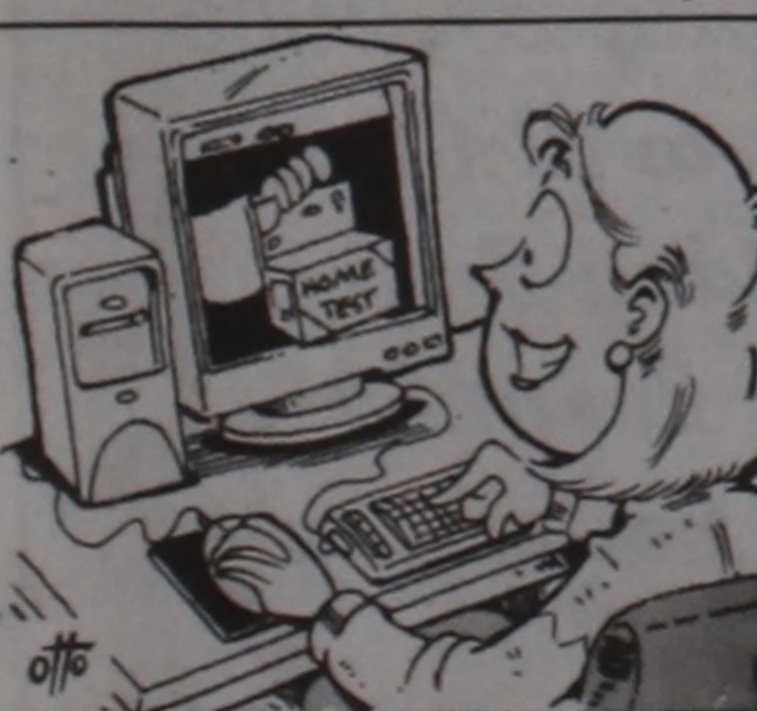


Fiestas del Llano
 is now accepting applications for groups, organizations or anyone else wishing to participate in the **Fiestas del Llano parade to call Teresa Herrera for more information at: 744-9591 or 548-2659. The parade will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16th at 10 am. Also, any groups wanting to participate in the Battle of the Bands call Robert Narvaiz at 792-5037 or 781-6277. This will be on a first come first serve basis on time and day to play. The Battle of the Bands will be Friday, Sept. 15th thru 17th.**

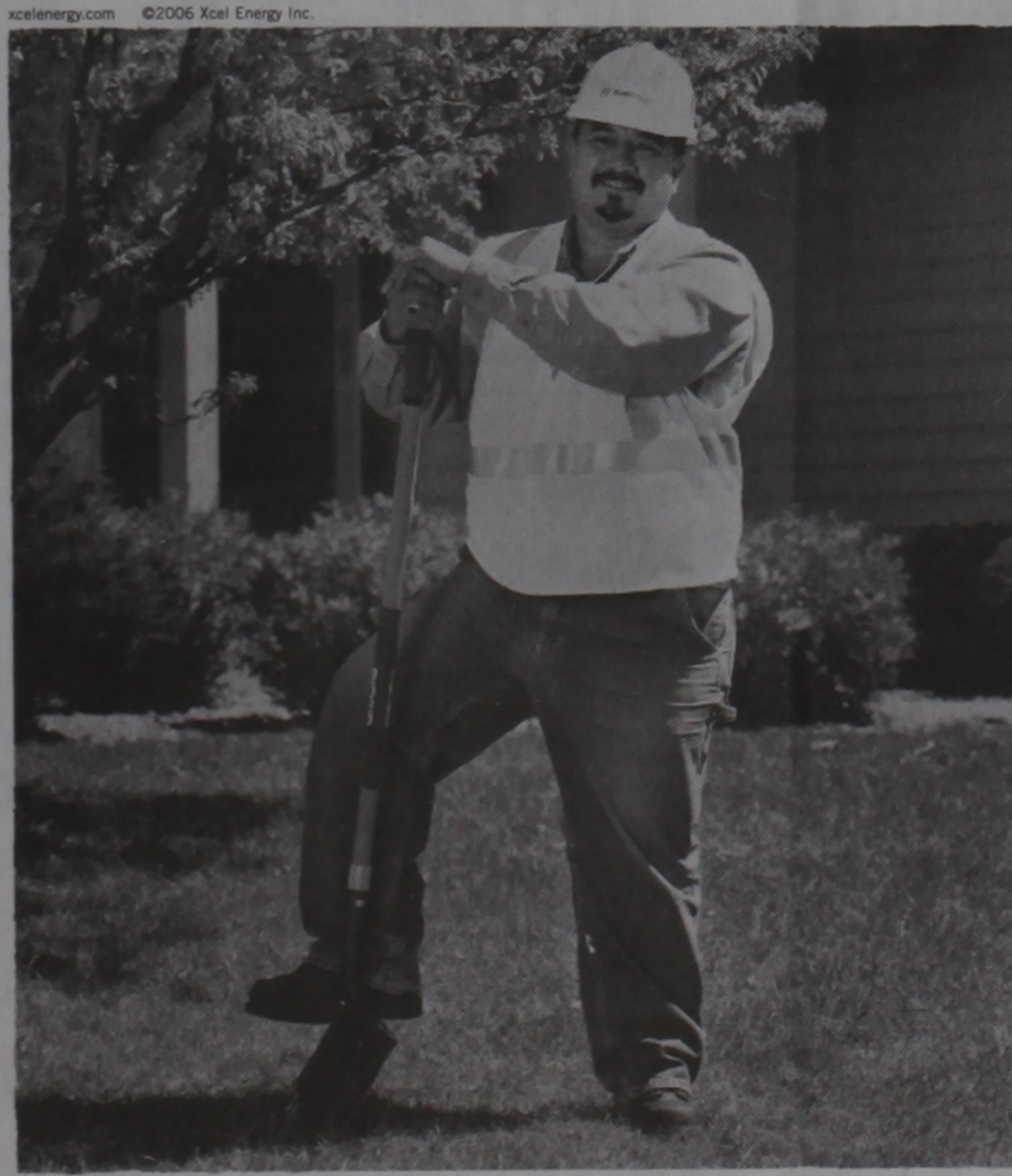
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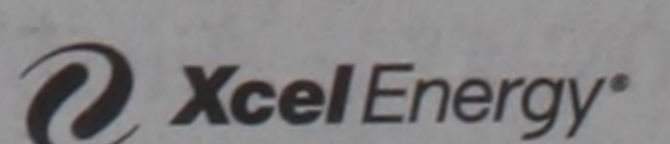
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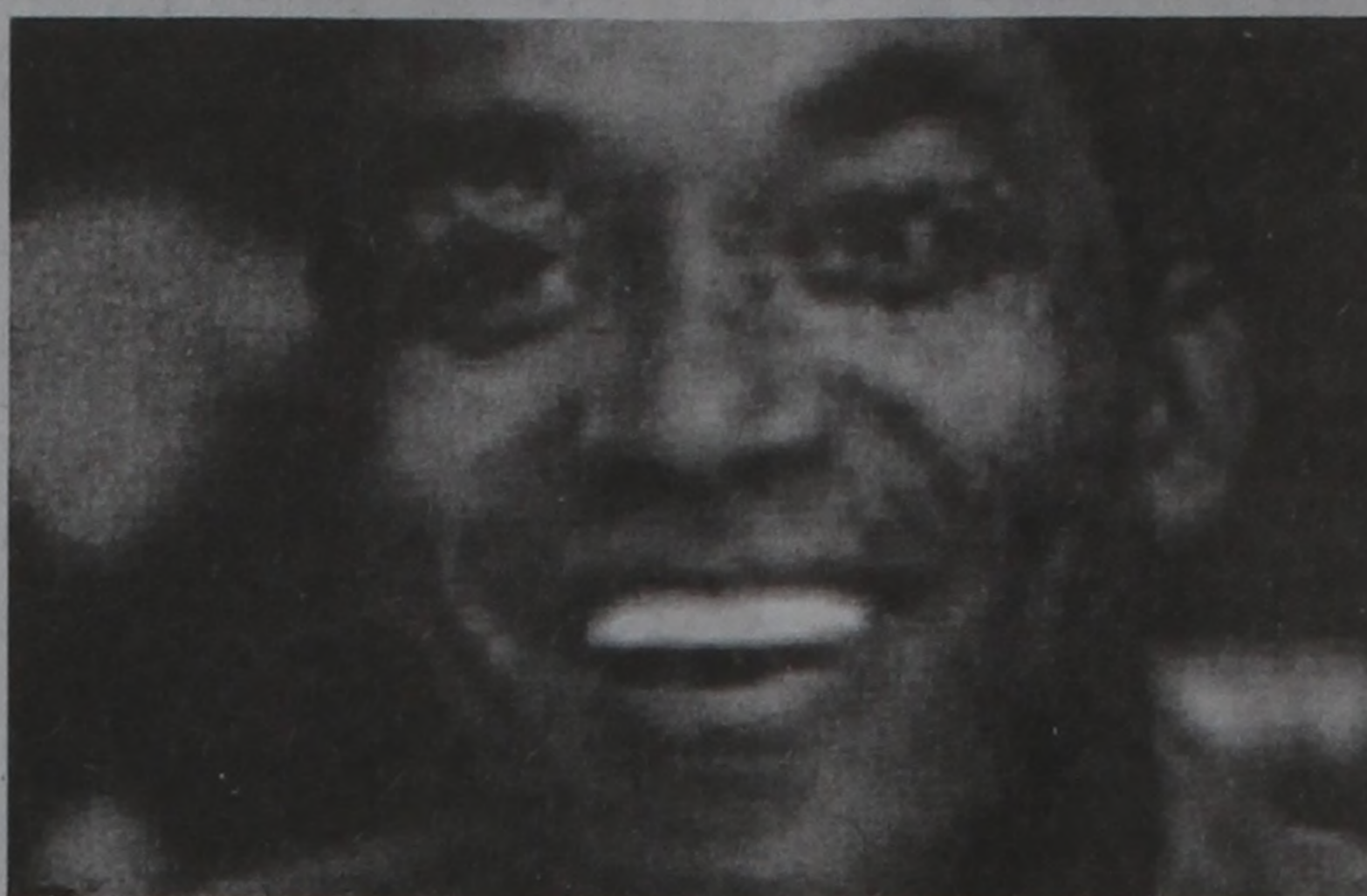
Magnates of the idiot box are dumb for trusting Iriah, M.J.

Too much television really does rot the brain. And the Knicks. And soon, the Bobcats. Isiah Thomas is less Midas and more small intestine. The New York Knicks are owned by James Dolan, who runs Cablevision. The Charlotte Bobcats are owned by Bob Johnson, who founded Black Entertainment Television. These are the men

who turned over their basketball operations to two of the worst basketball executives in America, Isiah Thomas and Michael Jordan.

Great players, yes, but terrible executives. Horrible. Yet there they are, Thomas running the Knicks and Jordan running the Bobcats.

Clearly, television is to blame.



Jordan's cluelessness as an executive was confirmed five months into his tenure -- before the Kwame Brown pick, before the Stackhouse trade -- when he hired Leonard Hamilton as coach. Hamilton couldn't have drawn up an NBA-quality play unless someone gave him a Crayon. He went 19-63, and how he won 19 games I'll never know.

The Wizards were over .500 two years before Jordan got there, and they were over .500 two years after he left. For Jordan's 3? seasons in town? They were 110-179.

Even bottom-line businessmen like Dolan and Johnson fall for the aura of icons like Isiah and M.J. But Dolan and Johnson showed their lack of sports expertise by confusing basketball ability with acumen, competitiveness with competence. It doesn't take the gaudy playing stats or competitive fire of a Hall of Famer to run a winning sports franchise.

Two of the best GMs in the NBA are non-players, R.C. Buford of San Antonio and Bryan Colangelo of Toronto. Hall of Famer Jerry West (Memphis), longtime Pistons star Joe Du-

mars (Detroit) and solid ex-pro Rod Thorn (New Jersey) are also exceptional, but Chris Mullin (Golden State) and Elgin Baylor (Clippers) are general managers because they combined for more than 41,000 career NBA points, not because they're good at their job.

It's not just basketball. Some of the best executives in baseball are the young and the geeky -- Boston's Theo Epstein and the Yankees' Brian Cashman -- not the famous and the athletic. The NFL is the same. Two of the best GMs in that league are a former small-college lineman (the Patriots' Scott Pioli) and a former attorney (the Falcons' Rich McKay). The worst? Possibly the Lions' Matt Millen, a former Pro Bowl linebacker.

Dolan and Johnson will find out the hard way. A great player isn't always going to be a great executive. But incompetent executives -- as Thomas and Jordan have been -- will always be incompetent.

In television, Mr. Dolan and Mr. Johnson, it's called a "repeat." And it often leads to what you might call a "cancellation."

Two-time Pro Bowl TE Witten agrees to seven-year, \$ 29M Deal



Dallas tight end and two-time Pro Bowler Jason Witten agreed to a seven-year, \$29 million contract with the Cowboys on Saturday.

The deal includes a \$6 million signing bonus, a guaranteed \$6 million option bonus next March on top of a \$500,000 base salary this season, team of-

officials said. Witten, 24, caught 87 passes for 980 yards in 2004. Last year, he had 66 catches for 757 yards.

Witten was entering the final season of the original four-year contract he signed in 2003.

Players are due in Oxnard, Calif., on Thursday for the start of training camp.

Too much Teletubbies and Rap City for Dolan and Johnson, who ignored mountains of anecdotal evidence when they installed Thomas and Jordan as their heads of basketball.

Thomas was one of the great point guards of his generation, but as a basketball executive he's been less Midas and more small intestine -- everything he touches turns to feces.

There was that disaster with the Continental Basketball Association, a 55-year-old league that went bankrupt 16 months after Thomas bought it. There were those four years in Toronto, when he was the expansion Raptors' executive vice president and the team was atrocious. Since December 2003 Thomas has been president of the Knicks, constructing a team with one of the highest payrolls and worst records in the NBA.

Dolan's brainstorm last month was to replace Larry Brown, a good coach but a lousy employee, with Thomas, a lousy employee and a worse coach. Thomas' only previous coaching experience came with the Indiana Pacers from 2000-02, and it was bad. How bad? This bad: In the nine seasons from 1997-2005, the Pacers failed to get past the first round of the NBA playoffs just three times -- Thomas' three seasons as coach.

Now, Thomas must coach the worst possible team, i.e., a team put together by Isiah Thomas. That includes first-round pick Renaldo Balkman, whom Thomas drafted No. 20 overall to preempt a bidding war with the Sioux Falls Skyforce of the NBDL.

Whatever lousy results Thomas produces this season, he'll deserve. He was the guy -- and this is the Knicks' president, remember -- who allowed mutinous Stephon Marbury to complain ad

nauseam about Larry Brown. Marbury has admitted asking Thomas step in as Brown's replacement. A few months later, Thomas (via Dolan) did just that.

Thomas still has that cutie-pie face, but he's got fangs. When he's not biting Brown, though, Thomas mainly bites himself.

Jordan? He just bites. As a player he was the greatest, but as an executive he's the worst. His missteps as Washington's president of basketball operations were numerous, led by his selection of Kwame Brown with the No. 1 pick of the 2001 NBA Draft and his trading of rising star Richard Hamilton for fading UNC homey Jerry Stackhouse.

New Details In Los Lonely Boys Arrest

There are new details Tuesday morning in this weekend's arrest of a Los Lonely Boys band member.

The band's bassist, Jojo Garza, was arrested Saturday morning at a downtown hotel on charges of assaulting his fiancée.



Police also charged Garza with possession of marijuana.

According to the arrest warrant, Austin police got the call from the Omni Hotel manager after getting complaints from hotel guests.

When officers arrived, they say they heard Garza yelling.

Two people in the room next to Garza's told police they were woken up by the loud argument. Then, the affidavit says they heard someone being slammed into the wall.

According to the arrest warrant, officers say the woman had visible scratches on her arms. She would not let police look at her back and mid-section.

Garza is now out on bond. A spokeswoman for the rock group says it's all a misunderstanding.

The Travis County District Attorney's Office will now decide whether to press formal charges against Garza.



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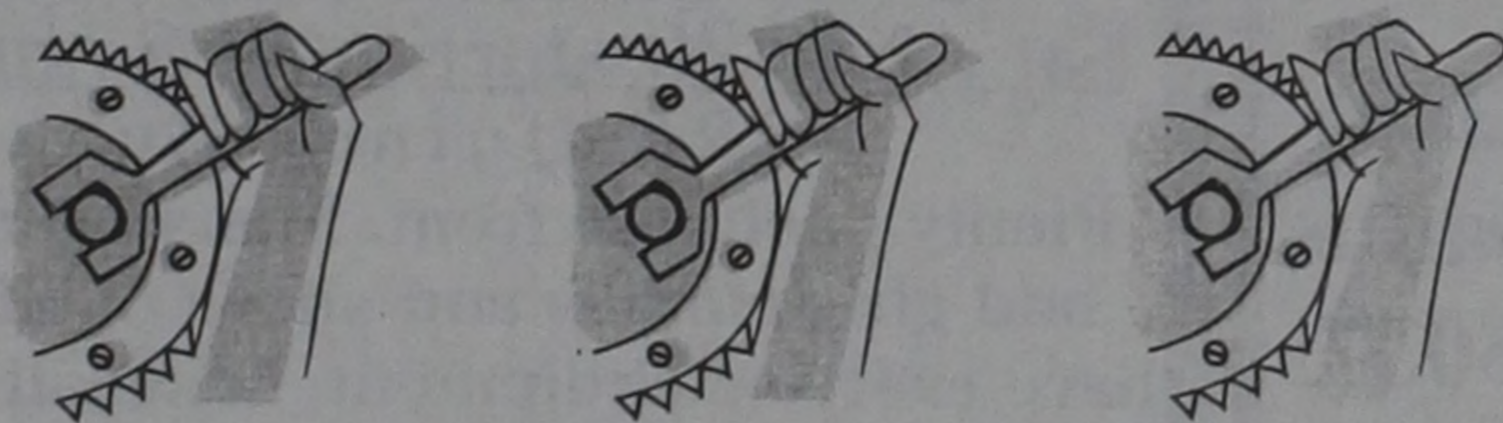
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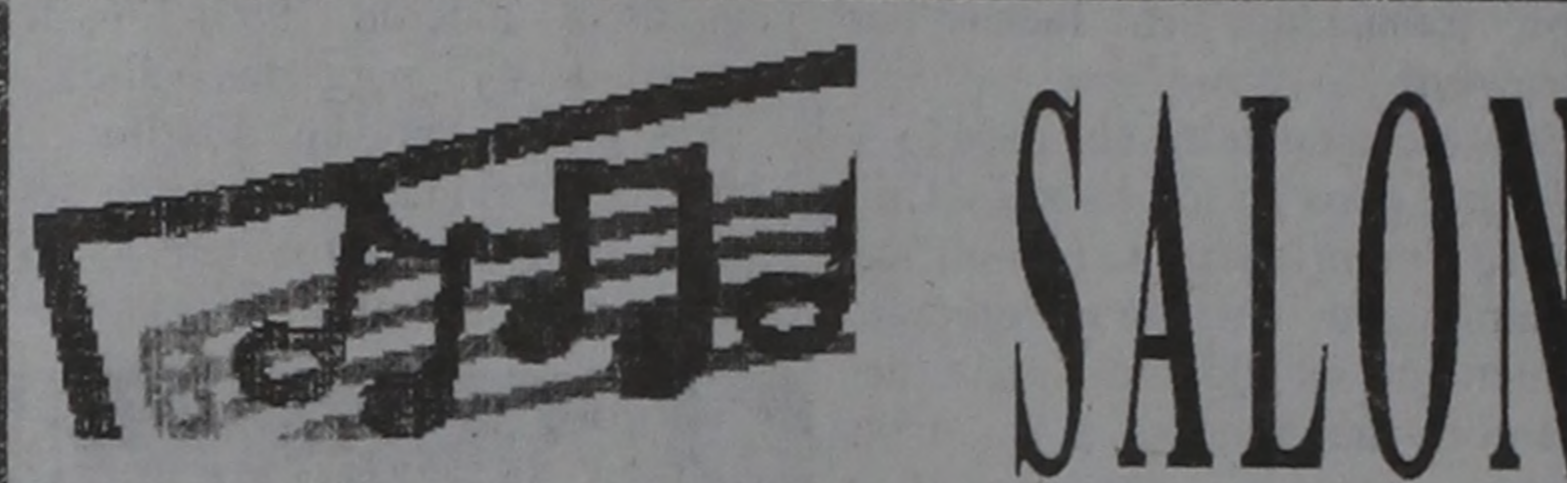
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Rice visits Beirut as fighting continues

Israeli ground forces pushed deeper into Lebanon on Monday in heavy fighting and captured two Hezbollah guerrillas, while two aid convoys carrying food, generators and other badly needed supplies left Beirut for two southern cities.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a surprise visit to Beirut to launch diplomatic efforts aimed at ending 13 days of warfare. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora told her his government is hoping to "put an end to the war being inflicted on Lebanon."

Saniora has pleaded with Washington to press Israel to call a cease-fire in bombardment that has demolished Lebanon's infrastructure and killed hundreds. President Bush has opposed an immediate cease-fire, saying the root cause of the conflict must be resolved.

Fierce fighting raged at the border as Israeli troops moved deeper into Lebanon to besiege the biggest town close to the frontier — Bint Jbail, nicknamed the "capital of the resistance" due to its intense support of Hezbollah during Israel's 1982-2000 occupation of the south. Ten Israeli soldiers were wounded.

200,000 of the town's population is believed to have fled, but many remain. A Red Cross doctor who visited Sunday, Dr. Hassan Nasreddine, said he saw families crowded



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Beirut on Monday to launch diplomatic efforts aimed at ending 13 days of warfare.

into schools, mosques and other buildings. An Israeli helicopter crashed in northern Israel near the border after hitting an electrical wire while making an emergency landing. Israel said there were two "casualties" but did not say if anyone survived. Al-Arabiya reported two Israelis were killed in the crash.

Israel said its troops captured two Hezbollah guerrillas, the first it had taken in the Lebanon fighting. Brig. Gen. Alon Friedmann said the two prisoners are being held in Israel "with the aim of interrogating them."

At least 384 people have been killed in Lebanon, including 20 soldiers and 11 Hezbollah fighters, according to security officials. At least 600,000 Lebanese have fled their homes, according to the WHO — with one estimate by Lebanon's finance minister putting the number at 750,000, nearly 20 percent of

the population.

Officials were trying to speed the delivery of aid along bomb-shattered roads to the south where they're needed most — although Israel has not defined a safe route to the region. Tens of thousands have fled the war zone, packing into the southern port city of Sidon and other refuges.

Aid was starting to move into Beirut's port after Israel opened it for humanitarian ships. An Italian warship brought food, medicine, tents, blankets, water, electrical generators and ambulances. A ferry carrying supplies from France also arrived.

Her mission is the first U.S. effort on the ground to try to resolve the crisis that began July 12 with Israel's onslaught on Lebanon sparked by Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers. Rice flew by helicopter from Cyprus to Beirut, then traveled under heavy guard in a motorcade to Saniora's office.

Rice praised Saniora's "courage and steadfastness," and he kissed her on both cheeks.

The White House has said an international force may be needed to help the Lebanese army move into the south, a long refused, wary of confronting the guerrillas' power there and of tearing apart the country.

Arab heavyweights Egypt and Saudi Arabia were pushing Syria

to end its support for the guerrillas, Arab diplomats in Cairo said. Israel signaled a policy shift, saying it would accept an international force — preferably from NATO — to ensure the peace in southern Lebanon.

In Tehran, Hezbollah representative in Iran warned that his militant group plans to widen its attacks on Israelis until "there will be no place they are safe." Hossein Safiadeen said there would be "a new Middle East in the way of Hezbollah and Islam, not in the way of Rice and Israel."

En route to the region, Rice discussed the possibility of working with Syria on a solution. The Bush administration has blamed Syria, along with Iran, for stoking the recent violence by encouraging Hezbollah to attack northern Israel.

"The problem isn't that people haven't talked to the Syrians. It's that the Syrians haven't acted," she said. "It's not as if we don't have diplomatic relations. We do."

Rice has tried to walk delicately between supporting the Lebanese government while also not dictating to its ally. Her posture has frustrated numerous allies.

"We all want to urgently end the fighting. We have absolutely

the same goal," Rice said. But she added that if the violence ends only to restart within weeks, "then all of the carnage that Hezbollah launched by its illegal activities — abducting the soldiers and then launching rocket attacks — we will have gotten nothing from that."

More foreigners fled Lebanon by sea from Beirut. A Greek ferry commissioned by European countries arrived in the southern port of Tyre and began taking on hundreds of stranded foreigners. Israeli airstrikes have cut off road

access.

A group of 300 Americans and 100 other Europeans were believed to be trapped in villages south of the city, and it was not known whether they would be able to make it to the ship before it had to leave in the evening, said Erik Rattat, a German official involved in the evacuation.

Some 12,000 Americans have fled Lebanon. U.S. Consul William Gill said most Americans who wanted to leave had done so by Sunday and U.S. evacuation efforts were nearly complete.

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Democrats Want 2008 Primaries Shuffled

Blacks and Hispanics have complained that the all-important leadoff contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, each at least 95 percent white, undercut their influence in picking a nominee.

(CBS/AP) National Democrats recommended Saturday that the party wedge Nevada between the traditional one-two punch of Iowa and New Hampshire in the leadoff nominating contests for president in 2008.

South Carolina would move up in the election calendar, too, according to plan that awaits final action next month by the Democrat National Committee.

Democrats envision a 2008 lineup that begins with Iowa's caucuses on Monday, Jan. 14, followed by Nevada's caucuses, probably on Saturday, Jan. 19. New Hampshire would hold its first-in-the-nation primary on Tuesday, Jan. 22. South Carolina's primary probably would come a week later.

Michigan and other states as well as the District of Columbia had applied for that early group.

The changes won approval by the party's rules and bylaws committee, whose recommendations the DNC often accepts.

"Nevada won because they did a better job of politicking," said Don Fowler, a member of the rules committee and former national chairman of the DNC. Nevada Democrats also argued that they have experience running caucuses.

Much of the politics was handled by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, the senior senator from Nevada and part of the Democrats' congressional leadership team.

Democratic strategists say that aides for several potential candidates are already making contacts with key political figures in Nevada — especially with union representatives for the hotel and restaurant workers.

Democrats are eager to bring more diversity to their early contests in the race for the White House in two years. Blacks and Hispanics have complained that the all-important leadoff contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, each at least 95 percent white, undercut their influence in picking a nominee.

But some White House hopefuls, the governor of New Hampshire and former President Clinton contend the party, for no good reason, is tinkering with a system that has worked for decades.

Potential 2008 presidential contender Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., had said he disagreed with advocates of the new plan, but on Sunday he said he would go along with whatever the DNC decides when it votes on August 19, the Des Moines Register reported.

"I've expressed my own preference, but whatever ends up being decided is what we'll need to do," Bayh said. "If I do decide to run, I think you have to compete according to the rules as they are

written and in the places and the order they come."

Under pressure from influential constituencies demanding change, Democrats decided last month to add a caucus after Iowa and before New Hampshire, and a primary soon after New Hampshire's.

New Hampshire's secretary of state will have to determine whether the Democrats' actions comply with a New Hampshire law requiring that the Granite State's primary be scheduled a week or more before any "similar

election." He could decide to move the New Hampshire primary earlier to protect its status.

Blacks and Hispanics are important constituencies for the Democrats. Blacks made up 21 percent of the vote for Democrat John Kerry in 2004 and chose him over President Bush by a 9-

to-1 margin, according to exit polls.

Hispanics made up 9 percent of the Democrats' support and leaned toward Kerry. Republicans won the support of roughly four in 10 Hispanic voters in 2004, their best showing yet.

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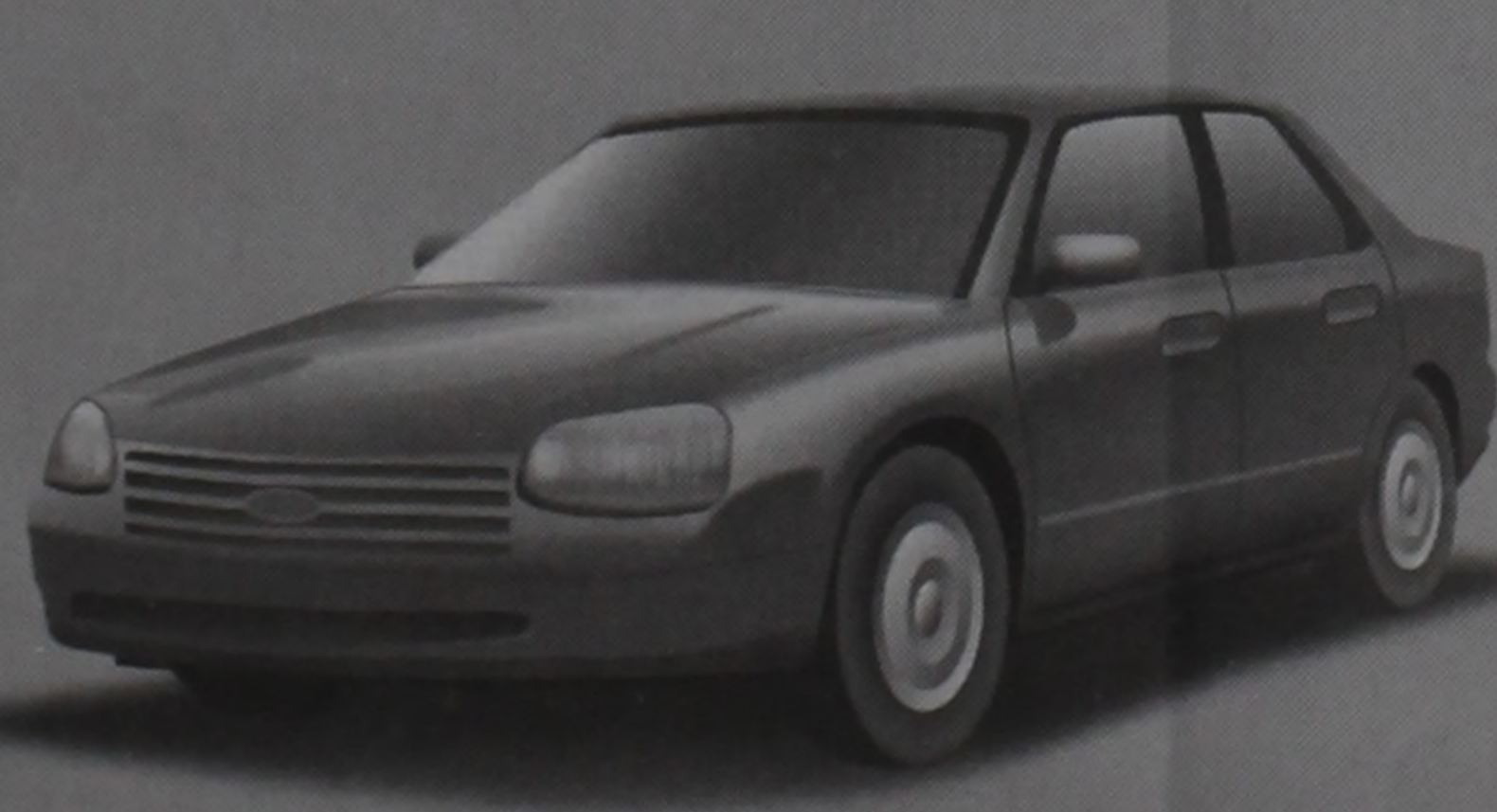
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Hillary arremete contra los republicanos

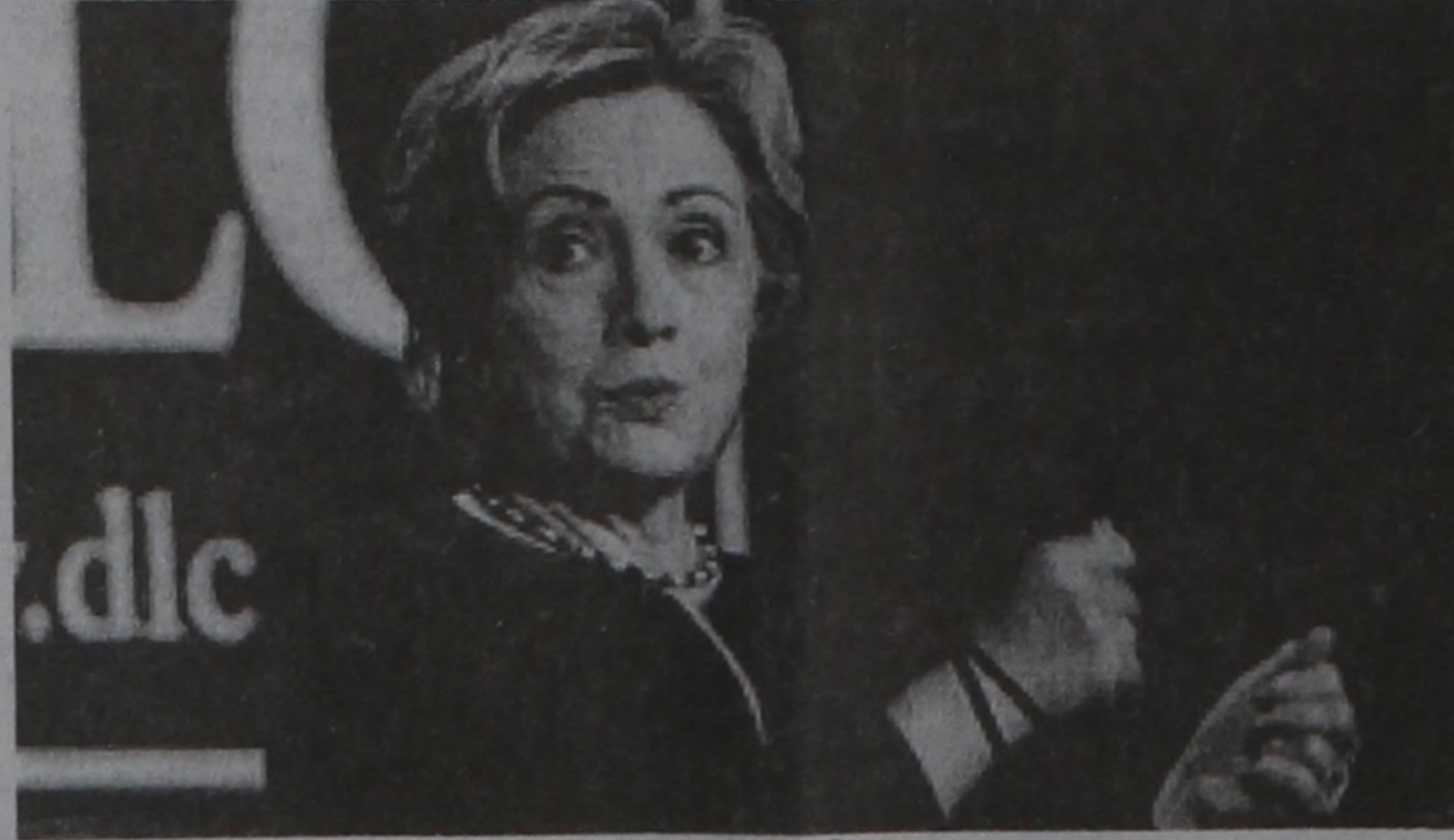
La senadora de la oposición demócrata Hillary Rodham Clinton acusó ayer al presidente George W. Bush y a los republicanos de descarrilar a la economía y de privar a los estadounidenses pobres de servicios de salud y educación.

"Lo importante es conseguir el sueño americano, estúpido", expresó la ex primera dama parafraseando uno de los eslóganes de la exitosa campaña de 1992 de su esposo Bill Clinton: "Lo im-

portante es la economía, estúpido".

Bill Clinton permaneció en la presidencia durante dos períodos consecutivos y su esposa aparece como una de las posibles candidatas del Partido Demócrata a la presidencia en el 2008.

"No están cuidando a Estados Unidos. Están llevando a la quiebra a nuestro país y no atienden los problemas", manifestó la senadora neoyorquina, citando el incremento de los precios del



gas, los costos de salud y educación. Lamentó también el hecho de que el partido gobernante "no ofrece seguridad económica a los estadounidenses".

"Una vez más, Estados Unidos necesita ser un país que funcione para todos y no sólo para los privilegiados y poderosos", manifestó Clinton, y agregó que los demócratas pueden ser el "agente de cambio" en los próximos meses ganando el control de la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado en los comicios de noviembre. Actualmente los republicanos controlan en Congreso.

"Los demócratas saben que debemos dejar de pasarles las deudas a las generaciones futuras y comenzar a hacer lo que es mejor para nuestro país y nuestros hijos", declaró en un discurso

que ofreció ante un influyente grupo de partidarios reunidos en una convención anual del Consejo de Liderazgo Demócrata.

El consejo es un importante centro de investigación de tendencia centrista conocido por ayudar a que su esposo llegara a la Casa Blanca en 1992.

La senadora reveló la "Iniciativa para un Sueño Estadounidense", un paquete de propuestas económicas que buscan fortalecer a la clase media y luchar contra la pobreza, y ofreció una versión de la línea de campaña de su esposo.

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Economist Doubts AMLO's Democratic Character

London, England, July 21, 2006 (Notimex) - The British magazine The Economist expressed doubts about the democratic character of Mexico's presidential aspirant Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador after stating it all points to the fact that his real aim is overriding the July 2 elections.

The magazine published a set of the ex-candidate's last actions, the man who ran for Mexico's presidency postulated by the Por el Bien de Todos coalition. He warned that if he does not become president, his fight will be taken to the streets.

After referring to the last two "information assemblies" which

took place at Mexico City, the magazine stated the next step is a civil resistance campaign, a new concentration and surveillance of 300 electoral district offices.

The Economist, as well as the majority of Britain's main publications, paid special attention to Mexico's new handling of power.

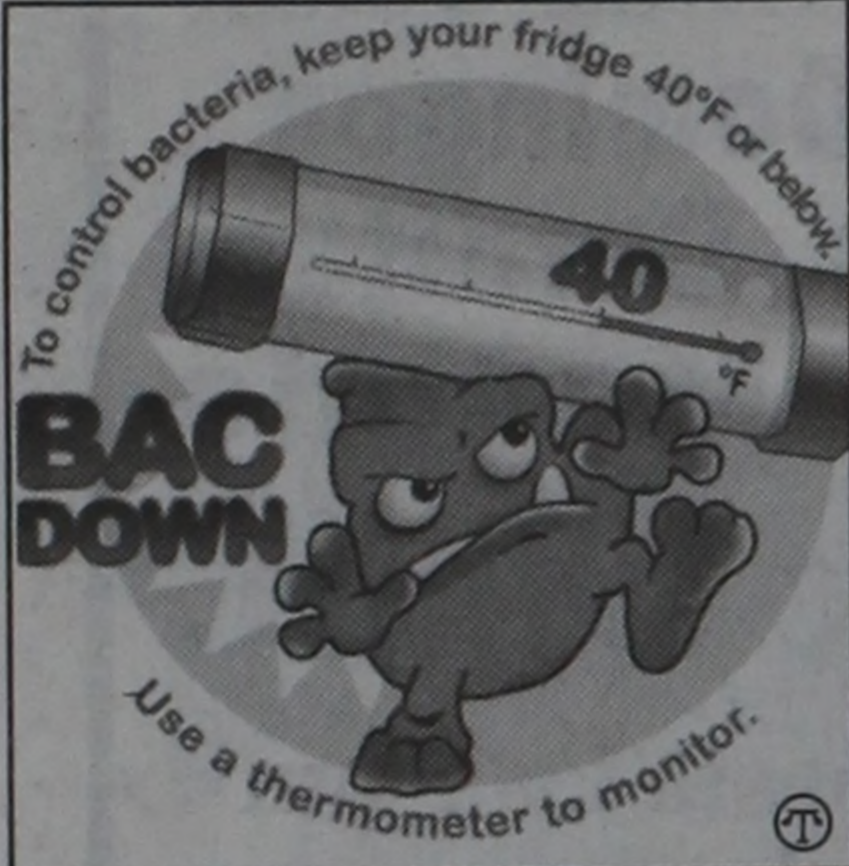
Last week, the magazine stated that despite the fact that some of the candidate's demands were legitimate, others seemed unlawful, for instance, the election fraud accusations corroborated by reportedly legitimate videos.

Mexico's political history has practically never witnessed nul-

lification of a presidential election; an unprecedented situation for the institutions arisen following the armed movement of 1910.

For The Economist, asking for the elections to be nullified would vindicate several political adversaries, like the candidate with the most votes so far, Felipe Calderon, stating that Lopez Obrador is not a democrat at all.

Calderon is leading Lopez Obrador by almost six percentage points in the vote recount carried out by the Electoral Federal Institute (IFE), which will be ultimately verified by the Federal Electoral Court, a process that has already begun.



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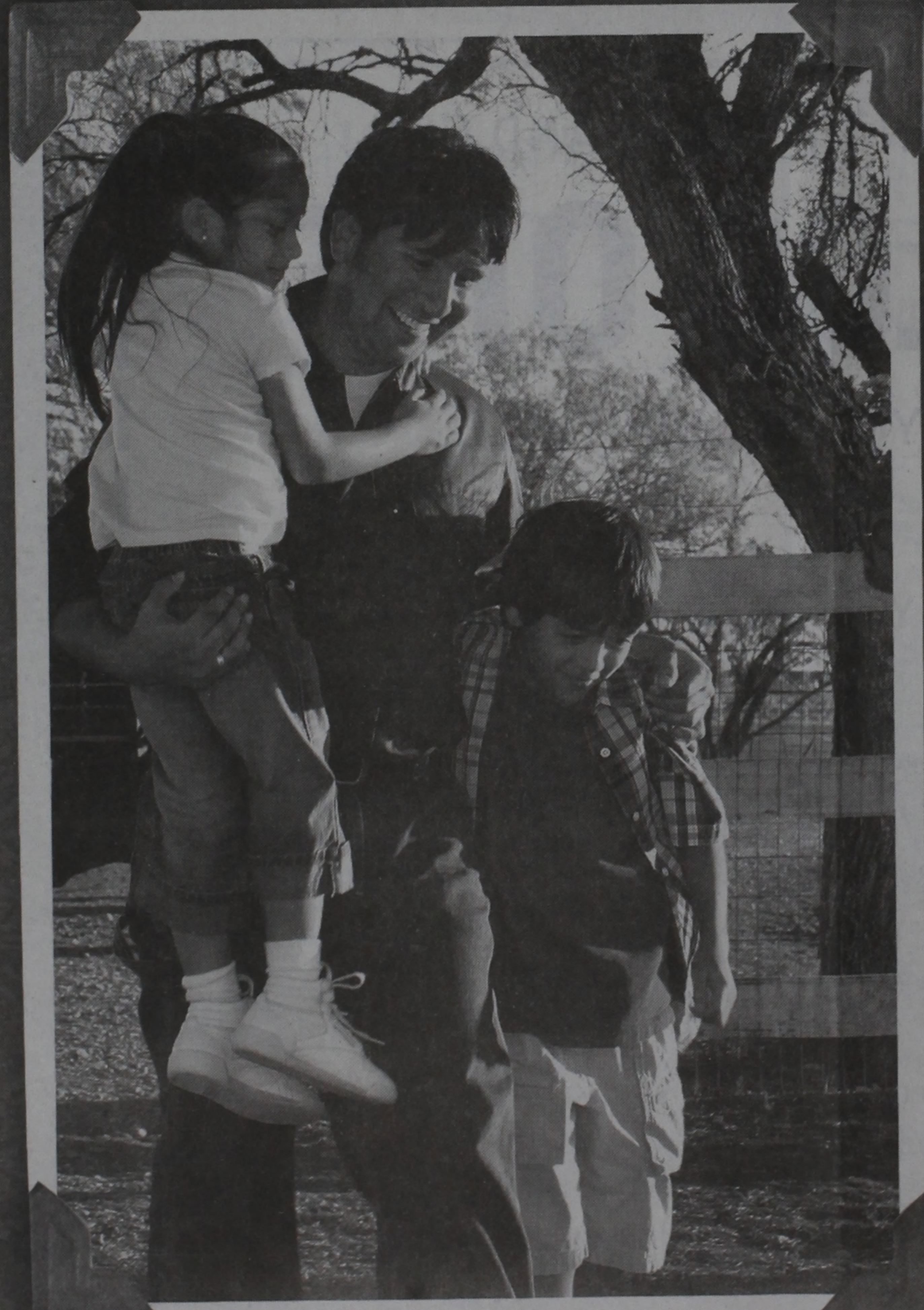
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