

el Editor

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Latinos Vow to be 'The Difference in November'

By Sonia Meléndez

More than 1,000 Hispanic political activists -- most of them elected officials -- carried a common message from Washington, D.C., back to their communities this month:

"We're going to make a difference in November."

At the 21st annual conference of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, conducted June 23-26, the projection was reinforced by leaders representing both major parties.

In his keynote address, Bill Richardson, New Mexico's Democratic governor, issued the challenge to his audience at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. To be taken seriously, Hispanics must turn out to vote in

record numbers, he said. Then he added in Spanish that the most gratifying thing he could hear the day after elections would be, "El presidente fue elegido por el voto hispano." The president was elected by the Hispanic vote.

Representatives from both parties made their pitches for that vote.

President Bush, who was en route to Turkey to attend a NATO summit, was represented by his re-election campaign chairman, Marc Racicot. Racicot told the crowd, made up mostly of Democrats elected at municipal and state levels, that Bush "is proud of his support of the Latino community. He is reaching out with a positive message of hope and opportunity."

He pointed out that under the Bush administration, 100 million U.S. residents pay less in taxes because of the reduction of the marriage tax, homeownership is at a record high, and employment among Latinos is on the upswing.

In his first address to a national Latino gathering, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry stressed various setbacks Hispanics have suffered under Bush.

He promised that in his first 100 days as president he would introduce legislation allowing undocumented immigrants to "earn legalization." He also proposed building a "Community of the Americas," stating, "We must look at our neighbors as partners, not as second-class citizens."

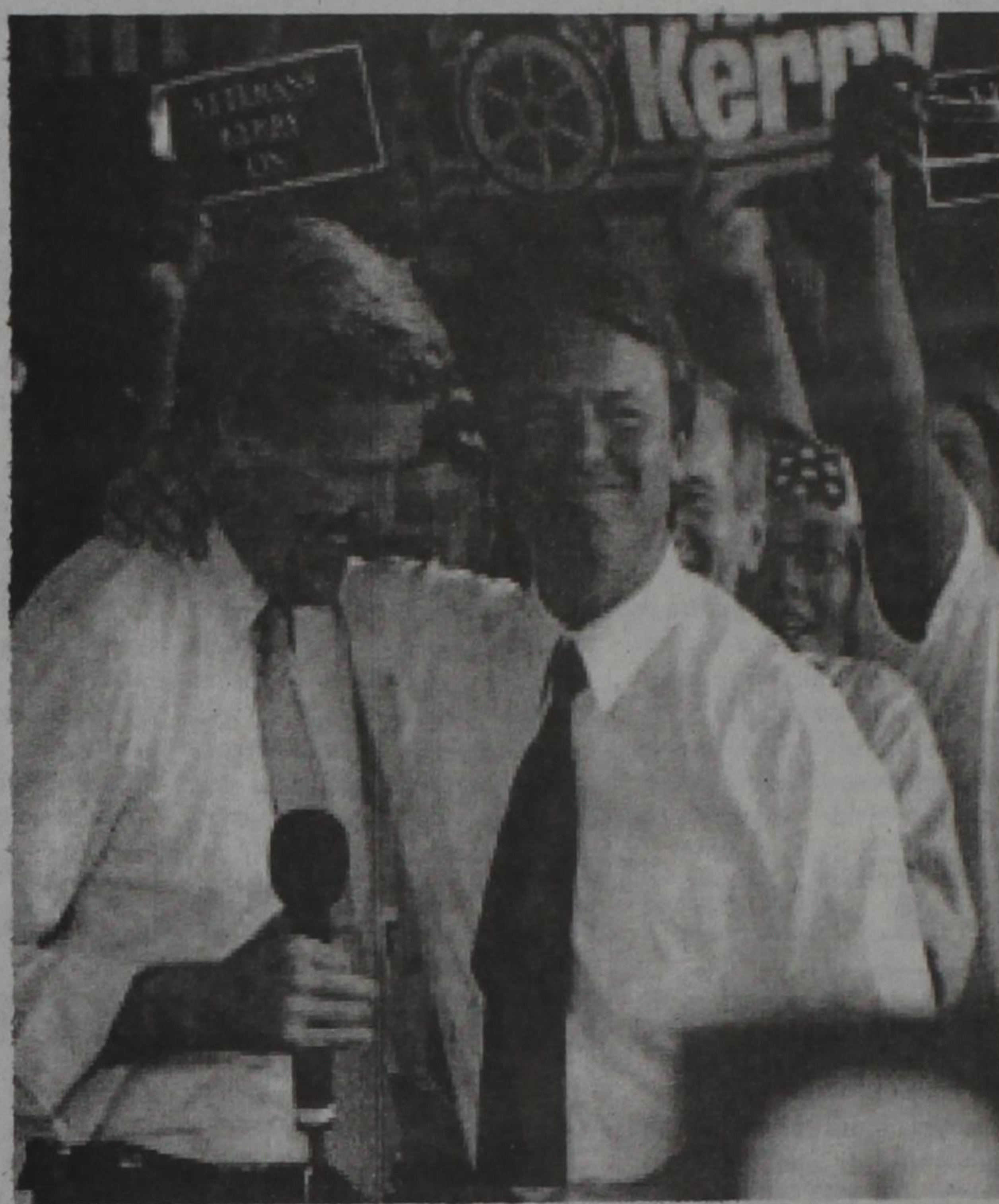
Attendees, mostly in their mid-30s to 40s, responded to his 35-minute speech with mixed reaction.

"I think he sends a very positive message for Latinos, addressing the education gap and economic disparities," said State Sen. Bernadette Sánchez of New Mexico.

Salvador Vela, mayor of Alton, Texas, was not impressed. "I want a president to be very strong in defense so they don't weaken the military... I think the president we have now is doing a good job."

Latino leaders in the Bush administration were saluted. Eduardo Aguirre, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Alberto Mora, general counsel of the Department of the Navy; U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona, Small Business Administrator Héctor Barreto and former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin all were recognized.

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Latinos se Comprometen a Hacer 'La Diferencia en Noviembre'

Por Sonia Meléndez

Más de 1,000 activistas políticos hispanos -- la mayoría funcionarios elegidos -- este mes se llevaron el mismo mensaje de Washington, D.C., a sus comunidades.

"Nosotros vamos a hacer la diferencia en noviembre"

Durante la conferencia número 21 de la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, que se llevó a cabo entre el 23 y el 26 de junio, esta proyección se recalco entre los dirigentes de ambos partidos, demócrata y republicano.

Durante su discurso de apertura, Bill Richardson, gobernador demócrata por Nuevo México, retó al público que lo escuchaba en el Hyatt Regency, cerca del capitolio en Washington, D.C. Para que se nos tome en cuenta seriamente, los hispanos deben aparecer en las urnas en números nunca antes vistos, dijo. Después añadió en español que lo más gratificante que podría oír el día después de las elecciones sería, "El

presidente fue elegido por el voto hispano".

Los representantes de ambos partidos se promocionaron para conseguir ese voto. Al presidente Bush, quien estuvo camino a Turquía para asistir a la cumbre de la OTAN, lo representó el director de su campaña de re-elección, Marc Racicot. El mismo le dijo a los reunidos, la mayoría demócratas elegidos a niveles municipal y estatal, que Bush "siente orgullo por el apoyo que recibe de la comunidad latina. Su mensaje a la comunidad es una de esperanza y oportunidad".

Indicó que durante la administración de Bush, 100 millones de residentes estadounidenses pagan menos impuestos gracias a la reducción en el impuesto a los matrimonios que aprobó, y los índices de vivienda propia está a niveles más altos que nunca, mientras que también el nivel de empleo entre los latinos está en alza.

Durante su primer discurso ante una reunión nacional de latinos, el presunto nominado presidencial por el partido demócrata, el senador John Kerry, enfatizó varios reveses que los hispanos han sufrido bajo la presidencia de Bush. Prometió que en los primeros 100 días que sirviera

como presidente presentaría al Congreso legislación que permitiera que los inmigrantes "ganaran la legalización". También propuso crear una "Comunidad de las Américas", declarando que "Debemos considerar como socios a nuestros vecinos, y no como ciudadanos de segunda clase".

Los que asistían a la conferencia, la mayoría entre 35 y 45 años de edad, respondieron al discurso de Kerry, que duró 35 minutos, con una reacción variada.

"Me parece que envía un mensaje muy positivo a los latinos, con enfoque en la brecha educacional y las disparidades económicas", dijo senadora estatal por Nuevo México, Bernadette Sánchez.

Salvador Vela, alcalde de Alton, Texas, no se llevó muy buena impresión. "Yo quiero un presidente que sea fuerte en lo referente a la defensa nacional para no debilitar al sector militar... Me parece que el presidente actual lo está haciendo muy bien".

Se honró a los dirigentes latinos que forman parte de la administración de Bush. Fueron reconocidos Eduardo Aguirre, director de los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración Estadounidenses; Alberto Mora, fiscal del Departamento Naval;

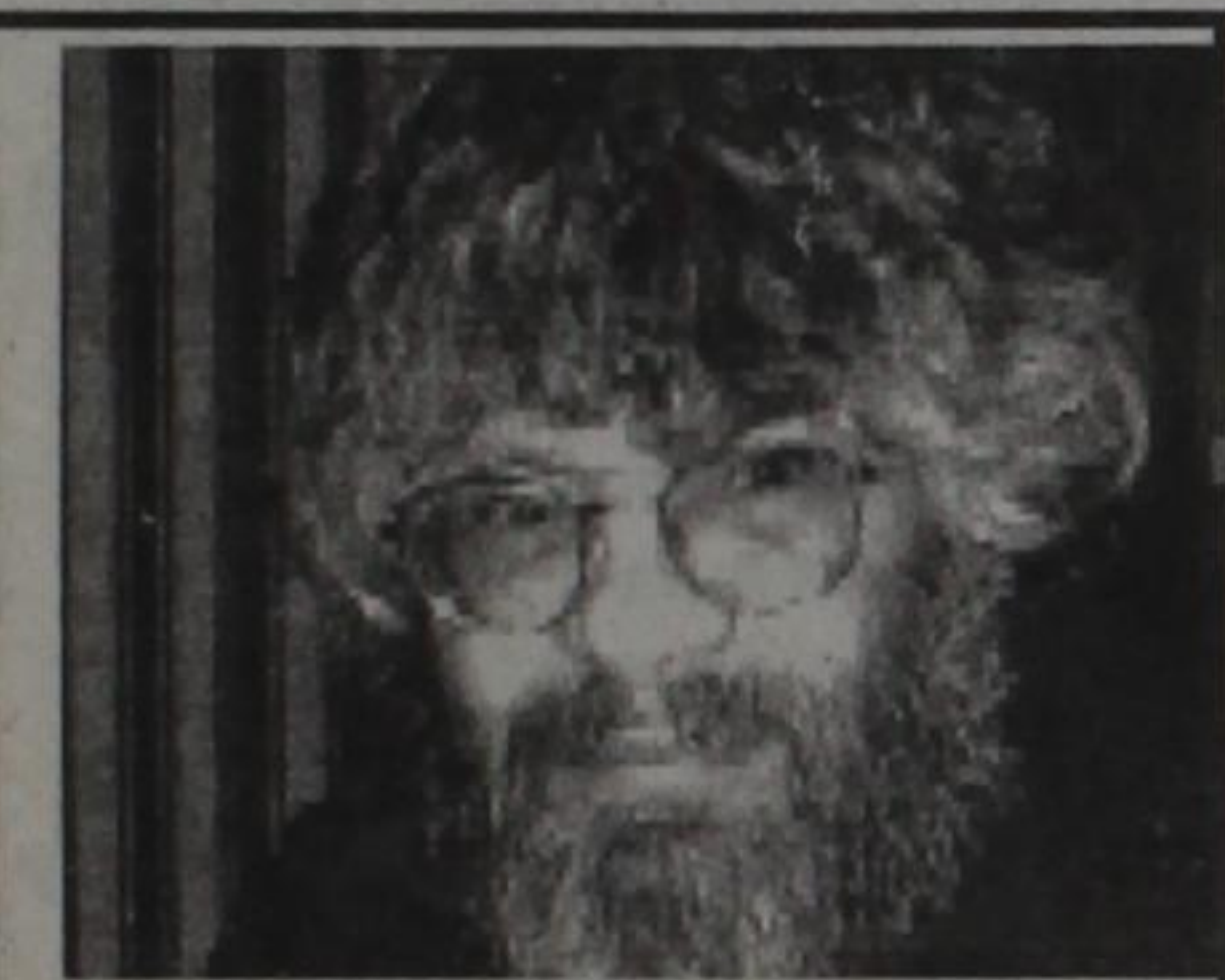
Cirujano General de la Nación, el doctor Richard Carmona, Administrador del sector de Pequeñas Empresas, Héctor Barreto y anterior tesorera de los Estados Unidos, Rosario Marin.

Anteriormente este año la Asociación proyectó que se dirigirán a las urnas un millón de nuevos electores latinos en noviembre, lo cual implica que el total de los electores latinos podrá alcanzar los 7 millones.

Durante un panel dirigido por la secretaria de estado de Nuevo México, Rebecca Vigil-Girón, se resumió lo hallado por una encuesta realizada por la Asociación de Funcionarios y Univisión Communications, Inc., referente a los temas de mayor envergadura para los latinos en el 2004. Unos 250 electores registrados latinos en Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami y Nueva York identificaron temas claves para la comunidad latina, tales como la educación, la economía, el nivel de empleo y la guerra en Irak.

"Durante estos comicios los latinos ven más allá de las afiliaciones partidarias para prestar apoyo a los candidatos que mejor representan sus intereses", indicó director ejecutivo de la Asociación, Arturo Vargas.

(Continúa en la página 5)



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

It seems that everyone nowadays is writing stories about how important the Hispanic vote will be this year. Many politicians, including both Presidential candidates are realizing and that in actuality the Latino vote will be the deciding vote in deciding many races. Estimates are that 1 in 11 voters will be Hispanic. As reported in previous stories, Latino voters could make the difference in some of the battleground states this fall. Latinos make up more than 10 percent of the voting-age population in the eight states that are up for grabs for Bush and Kerry.

Here in Lubbock one race that would affect the nation and by proof has recently been designated so by the USA as one of the top 10 races to be watched and therefore important to both the Democratic and Republican parties, is the race between Randy Neugebauer and Charlie Stenholm.

There is no question in my mind to the affects on Hispanics from the work of both parties. Democratic policies and programs have traditionally favored families, working people, and the elderly. Republicans, although they talk a good talk, consistently take care of the rich on the backs of families, working people and the elderly. The first to pay for Republican favors to the rich are Hispanics and other minorities, women, and working families. This year Republicans deregulated college tuition making higher education more expensive. The first to suffer is la gente del barrio. Health care was under funded by the Republican controlled legislature. The elderly needing home health care were the first to be hurt by the Republicans. The Republicans cut CHIPs by \$293 million and gave it to rich corporations. The first to suffer are children of working families who cannot afford health care insurance. Sometimes I just have to wonder why there are some Hispanics in Lubbock that call themselves Republican and say they are proud of it. Unless they are rich property owners, they get shafted along with the rest of us. I guess they like the feeling. Makes me wonder why a local newspaper supposedly for La Raza missed these points about Republicans.

Who will be the best representative for La Raza in Lubbock remains to be decided. The first step for all of us will be to listen to each of the candidates and ask questions. Our first chance will be this coming Saturday at Guadalupe. The event starts at 4 pm and there are promises of plenty of tamales for everyone.

Let's hope that plenty of us will be there.

Contact Bidal at eleditor@llano.net



It's not very often that El Editor has ventured to put an editorial on our front page and actually in our 27 years of printing I can't think of any, but in our opinion this occasion merits it.

This past Wednesday marked the last day for our friend T.J. Patterson to serve as City Councilman for District 2. T.J. would probably think that it's been a long 20 years and both our newspaper and his have documented the many struggles that we have been through. Struggles which included everything from fighting to get representation on the City Council to disturbances over civil rights to marches and countless other events that have in the long run helped to improve and make a better Lubbock.

Throughout all of this T.J. has been there and we can say that T.J. has been one of the most influential persons who has worked delingently for change.

For all this work, for all his service to a Lubbock and most of all for being a friend, WE SALUTE T.J. AND BOBBY PATTERSON.

Stenholm Sets Event to Meet Hispanic Voters

The importance of the Hispanic vote is critical throughout the nation and in Lubbock the closely looked at Congressional vote is also looking to attract their votes.

This weekend, Charlie Stenholm has invited the Hispanic community to a homestyle 'Tamalada' with all the trimmings including a presentation by the Mariachi Amista and the ballet folklorico Fiesta del Sol.

In addressing some of the issues in the campaign, Congressman Stenholm is expected to remind people that redistricting was not good for West Texas. "The direction that Tom Delay and Randy Neugebauer want to take for America is wrong, wrong, wrong for West Texas and the values of our friends and neighbors," said the Congressman. They were able to convince the Governor and others that redistricting was the most important issue for the legislature, and they followed for three costly special sessions."

Congressman Stenholm believes the reason he has been targeted in this campaign is because of his independence and his commitment to doing what is right for West Texas rather than the leadership of either party in Congress.



"My opponent has cast a lot of votes that weren't good for the people here in West Texas," said Stenholm. "I look forward to debating him many times before election-day, standing side by side answering the tough questions, so that people throughout the South Plains and Big Country can decide for themselves who can better represent them."

The event is free and will take place at Guadalupe Park from 4 until 6 PM. All Lubbock residents are invited. For more information call Armando Gonzalez at 788-1215

Los Equivocados Pelean Nuestras Guerras

Por Herman Sillas

Al compartir el esplendor del cuatro de julio y las celebraciones de victoria en referencia a la segunda guerra mundial este verano, y al ver a los que antaño fueran enemigos políticos abrazarse en conmemoración del difunto presidente Reagan, me puse a reflexionar. El paso del tiempo cura las heridas tal como las playas arenosas absorben las olas iracundas.

Pero, ¿y qué de las vidas juveniles que se perdieron durante los periodos de hostilidad que han acaecido al mundo?

Cuando se finalizó la segunda guerra mundial, soltamos un suspiro de alivio. Había sido la guerra que terminara con todas las guerras.

No obstante, los Estados Unidos ha participado en tres guerras importantes, sin mencionar todas las escaramuzas.

Con recelo he llegado a la conclusión de que estarán siempre con nosotros los conflictos. Los dirigentes del mundo no se interesan por manejar la ira.

Si aceptamos que la guerra es inevitable, deberíamos examinar a quién es que entre nosotros ponemos en riesgo. A pelear los países envían a sus adultos jóvenes, los que mejor condición física tienen de su

población, los que son su esperanza por el futuro. Demasiados vuelven para ser sepultados.

Detrás quedan las familias dolientes. Los niños crecen conociendo a sólo uno de sus padres y aprenden que la persona desaparecida era un héroe.

La verdad es que enviamos al grupo equivocado a la guerra.

Enviamos a los viejos a pelear. Si, caigo yo dentro de esa categoría. Yo sé que implica que iría yo, pero imagínese lo que podría ocurrir si nosotros los mayores estuviéramos en el frente.

Primero, no nos precipitaríamos a hacer las cosas. Si un teniente o un capitán nos ordenara a tomarnos una cuesta, preguntaríamos antes. "¿De verdad nos hace falta?"

Es posible que alguno de nosotros tuviera alternativas razonables. "¿Qué tal si le damos vuelta en vez de subirla?"

Si nos convencemos de que posesión de la cuesta es absolutamente necesaria, allí contamos con nuestra larga experiencia. Desfilaremos bandera blanca izada para conversar con el enemigo. Para ver si llegamos a un acuerdo. ¿Qué precio pedirán? ¿Aceptarán pagos en cuotas mensuales?

Recordemos todos los contratos con mensualidades que nosotros los mayores hemos

negociado a lo largo de nuestras vidas. ¿Qué creen? ¿Que somos incapaces de negociar los mejores términos?

Si el enemigo no quiere deshacerse de la cuesta de buenas a primeras, ¿qué le parecerá un contrato de alquiler? Sólo hasta que termine la guerra.

O quizás podríamos entrar en otro tipo de competencia - el póker, los dominó, el bingo, el monopolio - todos estos juegos producen ganadores sin derramar una gota de sangre. Podríamos engalanarnos de uniformes y hacer un torneo. A nosotros los viejitos nos gusta eso.

Si todo esto fallara, entonces, y sólo entonces, dispararíamos. Haremos lo que tenemos que hacer.

Es verdad, alguno de nosotros podrá no volver, pero ya todo lo hemos hecho: hemos jugado, nos hemos casado, hemos criado a nuestros hijos y mimado a los nietos. ¿Qué más falta?

Además, ¿qué abuelo no daría la vida por sus hijos y sus nietos? Después de la contienda, cada país todavía tendría el sector de su población más brillante y más productivo.

La fuerza militar podría resolverles los problemas a los mayores, en particular a nosotros los hombres jubilados que

pierden autoridad en cuanto al territorio hogareño.

"¿Qué quieres cenar?" "Chuletas".

"Pero si te preparé chuletas el martes. ¿No prefieres enchiladas?"

La cuestión del menú casero ya no llevará a un debate extenso. Será una cuestión logística que los generales resolverán.

En realidad, los mayores comen menos que los jóvenes. El Congreso señalará a sus dolidos contribuyentes que así ahorraremos parte del presupuesto de defensa. Las guerras costarán menos.

En esta sociedad que se enfoca en lo joven, muchas veces nosotros los mayores nos sentimos olvidados, que no se nos aprecia.

El saber que la fuerza militar todavía nos quiere nos devuelve el sentido de valor personal.

Y al acercarse los viernes por la noche, los sargentos no se preocuparán que todos y cada uno de nosotros se despierte alerta y preparado a entrar en batalla el sábado. Si a nuestra edad, para las nueve nos hemos dormido ya.

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Hell is Full of 'Em

By Abel Cruz

I told a friend that I would be nice this week and not get after anybody in the local media or at city hall. Well..., although I meant what I said, some things are easier said than done. I did have good intentions though, if that counts for anything.

Last week I wrote about VP Cheney using the "F" word in referring to the Senator from Vermont, Mr. Leahy, and noted the lack of local coverage and editorial in the local paper. Lo and behold, an editorial was published in this past Tuesday's edition. Which is fine, but just as I thought would happen, Cheney's use of the word was defended in the editorial. Here's an excerpt:

"In Mr. Cheney's defense we note that the senate was not in session at the time and that the exchange (with Sen. Leahy) ... was no doubt a frustrating and irritating one."

As if Mr. Leahy was to blame.

They also note that even children are "cussing like sailors" today and note that "tensions are high in Washington during this election year", and that "politics are very partisan and politicians are very confrontational". So even though the editorial board is "disappointed" with Cheney's use of vulgarity, it's not such a bad thing, since kids do it and it's a product of the whole political Washington scene. That may be so, but do you hear other politicians using the language in public? Of course, VP Cheney is arrogant enough to think that the rules of decorum and civility do not apply to him or his boss.

In other political news, the Democratic ticket is set for this fall's Presidential election. The presumptive nominee, John Kerry, selected North Carolina Senator, John Edwards, to be his running mate. And already the Bush machine is busy at work criticizing Edward's lack of foreign policy experience and brief political career. This from a president who was elected after just 1.5 terms as governor of this state, one who enjoyed the easy going lifestyle of the Texas Air National Guard and never saw military combat, and an "experienced" president who spent more than a few years of his life experiencing the nightlife in Midland and Houston after an expensive education at Yale. And if: the invasion of Iraq under false pretenses, 872 dead American soldiers and counting, trillions of dollars in debt, abuse of Iraqi prisoners of war, a still at large Osama Bin Laden, a puppet Iraqi government, and a so called experienced VP who will make millions of dollars via his association with Halliburton gets you, then give me inexperience any day! Talk about arrogance!

One very important issue that seems to be lost in this whole Iraqi mess is the number of American lives that have been sacrificed in a war that did not need to be fought. Although Bush and Cheney continue to insist that there was a connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden and 9/11, and that Iraq possessed WMD, and posed a threat to our country and our freedom, there just has not been any evidence to support those assertions.

Question: just what cause did those soldiers die for? Who will explain it to their children, their wives and husbands, their families? Who will provide for their families well being? As a reader pointed out in an email to me, the sacrifices that our American soldiers make for their country is underappreciated by the very government that sends them off to fight under false pretenses. She points out that without question, they perform their duty 24/7, and all for what amounts to pennies a day! And all the while, Halliburton, the corporation VP Cheney is associated with enjoys selling a case of soda for our soldiers in Iraq to the US Government for \$45.00 per case.

All under the guise of protecting our freedom!
Well as the old saying goes, hell is full of good intentions!
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investigacion de sus antecedentes.

Kerry también dijo que pondría el permitir que los inmigrantes obtuvieran visas renovables de trabajo, que ampliaría el número de visas para estudiantes de Latinoamérica, y trabajaría con México para desarrollar un plan económico para eliminar la principal razón por la que los indocumentados cruzan la frontera. Como fuera recibido un discurso similar en una conferencia de NALEO la semana anterior, la multitud en NCLR se puso de pie con vitoreos y fuertes aplausos.

Pero justo al día siguiente, Kerry fue entrevistado en la ciudad de Pittsburgh por Telemundo y metió la pata. Respondiendo a la muy preguntada interrogante sobre si las personas indocumentadas pudieran obtener una licencia de conducir, Kerry aseveró: "Pienso que las licencias de conducir son parte de estar aquí legalmente... Yo no puede darle a alguien que esté aquí ilegalmente todos los derechos y privilegios de estar aquí legalmente. Eso está mal y va contrario al propósito de la ley".

¿Cómo? Luego de un pequeño alboroto, incluyendo la necesidad de parte de los funcionarios de NCLR (quienes tienen una sección en su sitio de Internet dedicado al tema de licencias para los indocumentados) de respirar hondo, la metida de pata de Kerry continuó su larga trayectoria, al virtual candidato declarar que le toca a los estados decidir qué hacer sobre el tema.

¿A los estados? O sea, ¿lo que se usó para justificar la esclavitud, o el impuesto hace años para prevenir que personas negras votaran en las elecciones, o la campaña presidencial del segregacionista Strom Thurmond en 1948, o la separación de las razas en las escuelas públicas del país, o la política del "Nuevo Federalismo" del presidente Reagan que trasladó la responsabilidad por proveer muchos servicios sociales a los estados, y sin fondos federales?

Una sugerencia para la campaña de Kerry: no hay duda que se identifican con la experiencia del inmigrante, pero ¿por qué no usan otro ejemplo para llegar al menos privilegiado gentio que comprende la mayoría de los inmigrantes en este país?

Por supuesto que ésta no es la primera vez que un rico de Boston intenta conseguir el voto latino. Coincidentemente, el primero en hacerlo tenía las mismas iniciales de Kerry y recibió un sorprendente 91 por ciento del voto hispano en 1960.

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The Wrong Guys Are Fighting Our Wars

By Herman Sillas

Sharing in the splendor of the Fourth of July and the D-day celebrations this summer and watching former political enemies embrace each other at President Ronald Reagan's memorial got me to thinking. Time heals wounds like soft, sandy beaches absorb angry waves.

But what about the young lives that were lost during the world's periods of hostility?

When World War II was over, we sighed in relief. It was the war to end all wars.

Yet since then, the United States has been involved in three major wars, not to mention skirmishes.

Reluctantly, I have come to the conclusion that conflicts will always be with us. The world's political leaders aren't interested in anger management.

If we accept that war is inevitable, we should examine who among us we are putting at risk. Countries send young adults... their physically best, their hope for the future, to

fight. And too many return in long boxes.

Left behind are mourning families. Youngsters grow up knowing only one parent and learning the missing one was a hero.

Truth is that we're sending the wrong age group to fight.

Send the old folks to war. Yes, I fit that category. I know that means me, but think about what could happen if we seniors were on the front lines.

First, we aren't about to rush into things. If a lieutenant or captain orders us to take a hill, we'll ask questions first. "Do we really need it?"

Some of us might have reasonable alternatives. "How about going around it?"

If we're convinced that possession of the real estate is absolutely necessary, that's when our experience kicks in. We'll march out under a flag of truce to talk to the enemy. See if we can cut a deal. What's their price? Will they take payments?

Remember all the installment contracts we seniors have nego-

ciated in our lifetimes. You think we aren't savvy about getting the best terms?

If the enemy doesn't want to part with the hill outright, how about a lease? Just till the end of the war.

Or maybe we could engage in another form of competition. Poker, dominoes, bingo, Monopoly - they all produce winners without the bloodshed. We could dress up in uniforms and have a tournament. We seniors enjoy that.

If all this fails, then and only then will we shoot. We'll do what we've have to do.

True, some of us might not make it back, but we've done it all anyway, played, worked, married, raised children and spoiled grandchildren. What did we miss?

Besides, what grandparent wouldn't lay down his or her life for the children and grandchildren? After the conflict, each country would still have its brightest and most productive population.

The military can solve problems for many seniors, particu-

larly us retired males who lose stature hanging around the house.

"What do you want for dinner?"

"Pork chops."

"But I fixed you pork chops on Tuesday. Wouldn't you rather have enchiladas?"

The menu question will no longer invite an extended domestic debate. It will be a logistical matter for generals to resolve.

Actually, seniors don't eat as much as young people. Congress will point out to its over-taxed constituents a savings in our defense budget. Wars will cost less.

In this youth-focused society, often we elders feel left out, unappreciated.

Knowledge that the military still wants us restores our feeling of worth.

And when Friday nights roll around, sergeants won't worry about every one of us rising alert and ready for battle. We're in bed by nine.

Kerry Corteja Voto Latino con Dificultad

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Bueno, gente, aquí estamos de nuevo en plena campaña electoral con los candidatos detrás del voto del grupo de mayor crecimiento en el país: nosotros.

Y este año, según un reporte de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Electos y Nombrados (NALEO, por sus siglas en inglés), los latinos podrían ser el voto decisivo en varios estados claves, y nosotros, si, nosotros, podríamos determinar

quién se gana la Casa Blanca este próximo 2 de noviembre.

Pues, por supuesto queda sin decir que los dos principales candidatos, el presidente Bush y el virtual candidato demócrata John Kerry están inundando la comunidad con todo tipo de parafernalia política, desde anuncios en español hasta las chapitas "Viva Bush" y "Juntos con Kerry".

Mientras ambas campañas están gastando sumas millonarias en el intento de conse-

guir nuestro voto, Kerry goza de un amplio margen de apoyo, con algunos sondeos indicando que el 58 por ciento de los latinos lo apoyan, comparado con 33 por ciento para el primer mandatario.

Pero pobre Kerry. Últimamente está padeciendo del mal de metedura de pata que podrá perjudicar su apoyo de la comunidad hispana. En un reciente discurso en la ciudad de Phoenix - donde 1 de cada 5 residentes es hispano - Kerry le

prometió a la gran concurrencia en la convención del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés) que en sus primeros 100 días de presidencia, haría cambios significativos a la política migratoria del país, incluyendo una oportunidad para que los inmigrantes indocumentados obtuvieran una llamada "ciudadanía ganada" si han vivido en los Estados Unidos por cierto tiempo, si han estado trabajando, y si salen bien ante una



John Edwards Blasts Bush, Cheers Kerry at Houston Convention Democrats Select Delegates for National Convention, Vote on Platform

By Neale Pearson, Profesor Emerito de Ciencia Política de la TTU

Over 4,000 delegates from all over Texas cheered when North Carolina Senator John Edwards showed his support for fellow Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts while blasting President George Bush at the State Democratic Convention held at the George Brown Convention Center in Houston June 17-19. Delegates from Lubbock were the first to call on the other delegates at the convention—80% of whom were first time attendees—to stand up to honor the nearly 100 Texas soldiers, sailors, and airmen who died in Iraq. Surprising many of the delegates were the portraits of three Texas Hispanic women soldiers who have died in combat along with many other Hispanic and Black troops, most of whom were from small towns and rural areas of Texas. Included in the group being honored were three Hispanic soldiers from Lubbock including

Ismael Torres. (I think this is his name).

In referring to his own life as the son of a textile mill worker, Edwards said Americans were "looking for a leader that will lift them up again, make them believe again that anything is still possible in this America." Edwards brought delegates to their feet when he criticized Bush's record in Iraq, on health care, education and the economy. "This administration says that outsourcing millions of American jobs is good for the American economy. What planet do these people live on? If outsourcing jobs is good, I think it would be good to outsource this administration." In response, conventioners stood up and began shouting "V.P., V.P., V.P." showing their desire that Kerry accept him as his vice presidential running mate. He got further cheers when he talked about overcoming the growing gap between the 1% of rich Americans who benefited from Bush's tax cuts and the

need to provide health care for the millions of American children who go to bed hungry every night.

In opening events on Saturday, June 19, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, also a presidential candidate, criticized Bush's leading the nation into a war with no end in sight. "It's time we challenge the failed logic that says war is inevitable."

Later, State Representative Jim Dunning of Waco introduced former Speaker Pete Laney of Hale Center and 24 other "Killer D" Representatives such as Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio and Pete Gallegos of Alpine who went to Ardmore, Oklahoma, to protest the efforts of House Speaker Tom Craddick of Midland and U.S. Representative Tom DeLay of Sugarland to redraw Congressional District lines in Texas during three Special Sessions in 2003. State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos of San Antonio was one of several Senators who spoke about their self-imposed exile in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when the new maps drawn by Craddick, Majority Leader Tom DeLay and White House Adviser Karl Rove were presented to the Senate.

While some Catholic Bishops want to deny Communion to Senator John Kerry and other Catholic politicians because of their position on abortion and family planning, U.S. Representative Nick Lampson, a Catholic from Beaumont whom Republicans want to eliminate through redistricting along with Congressman Charles Stenholm of Stamford and Abilene, noted that 60 Catholic Democratic Representatives, who have joined him in a Catholic Representatives for Peace and Justice, have voted with the American Bishops 70% of the time while 46 Catholic Republican representatives have voted with the Bishops only 40 percent of the time.

Mary Hatfield, Jeff Benson, and Sue Weninger—all from Lubbock—were selected as delegates to the Democratic National Convention to be held in Boston July 25-29.

México busca integración regional con ingreso a Mercosur

El propósito de la asociación de México al Mercosur (Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay) es propiciar una mayor integración de América Latina, declaró el presidente mexicano, Vicente Fox, en entrevistas publicadas ayer por la prensa brasileña, horas antes de su llegada a esta capital.

"La razón [de la asociación] es integrar más a América Latina; y la razón política es estar más cerca de nuestros socios del sur del continente", dijo Fox, quien oficializará el pedido de asociación de México al Mercosur en la cumbre del bloque subregional del miércoles y jueves en la ciudad argentina de Puerto Iguazú, en la frontera con Brasil y Paraguay.

Previamente, el miércoles en la mañana, Fox sostendrá una entrevista de trabajo en Brasilia con su homólogo brasileño, Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva, y luego, en la tarde, se reunirá en la ciudad de Sao Paulo con empresarios brasileños y argentinos, tras lo cual viajará con Lula a la cita presidencial del Mercosur.

Fox dijo que el acercamiento de México a los países del sur de América apunta a que "esas economías grandes de América Latina —Chile, Argentina, Brasil y México— tengan la capacidad de impulsar el desarrollo para el resto de la región".

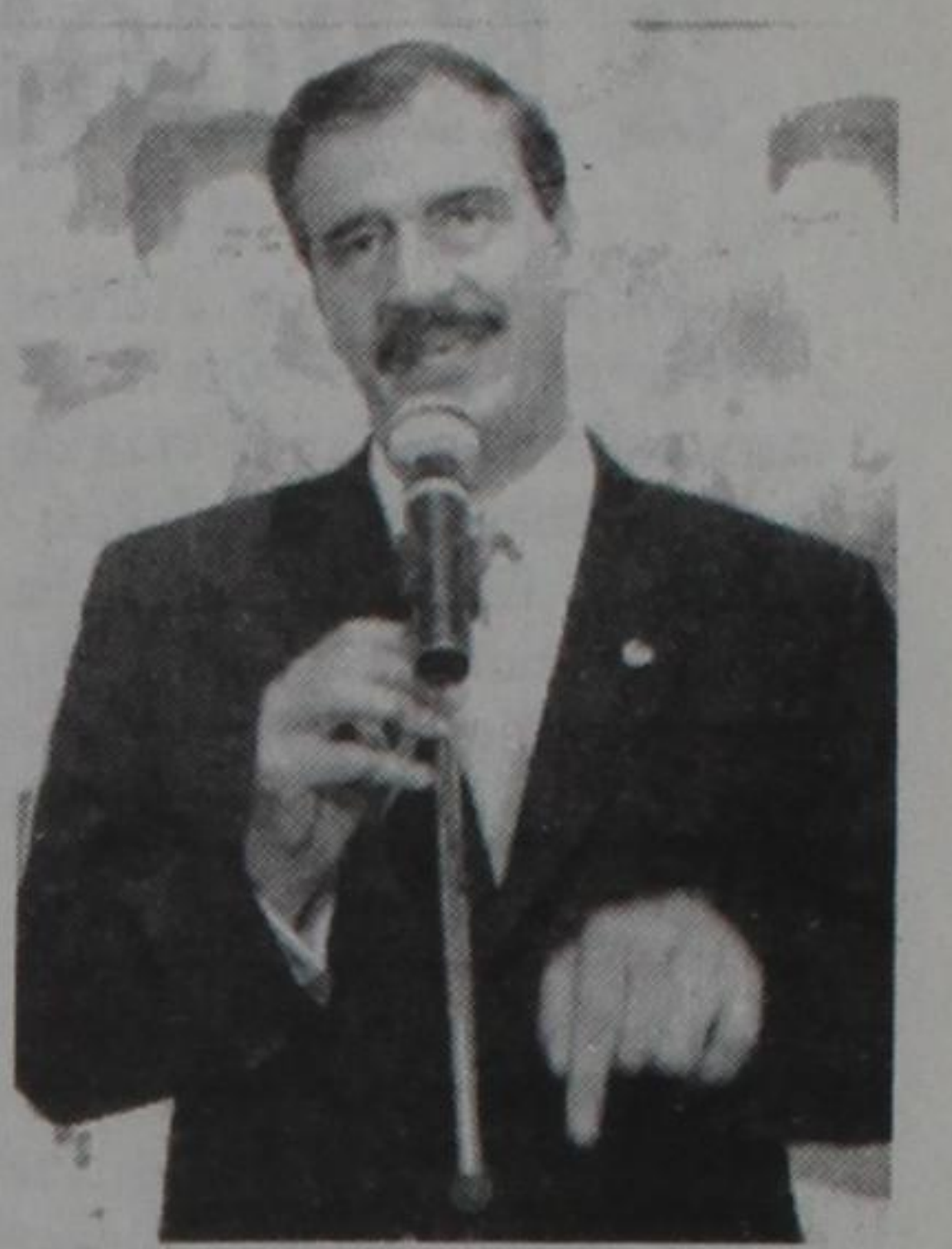
En declaraciones a los diarios brasileños Folha y O Estado, el mandatario mexicano negó que la asociación de su país al Mercosur se oponga a la conformación del Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas (ALCA).

"Lo que necesitamos en América Latina es una mayor integración. Aún no hemos podido integrarnos en bloques con éxito, como ya lo hicieron Asia y Europa", insistió.

Fox recordó que actualmente coexisten en la región bloques comerciales como los integrados por Centroamérica, la Comunidad Andina de Naciones (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela), el Grupo de los Tres (Colombia, México y Venezuela).

"Está siendo tejido lo que mañana facilitará el acceso al ALCA", estimó.

El mandatario mexicano,



quien destacó que actualmente su país tiene acuerdos comerciales con 42 naciones, explicó que el propósito de México hacia el futuro "es llegar a un acuerdo pleno de libre comercio con el Mercosur".

"México es hoy la novena economía del mundo, somos la séptima potencia exportadora del mundo y exporta más productos que toda América Latina", agregó Fox, para seguidamente insistir en la necesidad de que América Latina se integre en un gran bloque, que estimó, "tendrá gran éxito en este siglo".

En 2003, México ocupaba el décimo lugar en el mundo por su PIB (612,000 millones de dólares) y Brasil el decimoquinto (493,000 millones), según Global Invest.

"Nadie puede hablar de las ventajas del libre comercio como México", dijo para destacar los beneficios de la integración comercial, que su país inició con el Tratado de Libre Comercio para América del Norte (TLC, con Estados Unidos y Canadá), vigente desde 1994.

Según Fox, un acuerdo comercial con el Mercosur, sumado a los otros que ya tiene su país, "cerraría un circuito virtuoso que permitiría que las inversiones y el comercio fluyan con más facilidad".

"Lo importante es fortalecer el consejo. Estamos respondiendo al llamado del secretario general de la ONU, Kofi Annan, formando un grupo de países encabezado por México para llevar una propuesta de reorganización total de la ONU", concluyó.

Democratistas Oyean a Edwards, Kucinich, los "Killer D's" en Houston

Por Neale Pearson, Profesor Emerito de Ciencia Política de la Texas Tech

Mas que 4,000 delegados de todo el estado aplaudieron y gritaron felicitaciones cuando el Senador John Edwards de Carolina del Norte mostro su apoyo a Senador John Kerry de Massachusetts mientras que estaba lanzando criticas contra el Presidente George Bush en la Convencion Estadual del Partido Democrats que se llevo a cabo en el Centro de Convenciones George Brown en Houston el 17-19 de Junio. Unos 25 Delegados de Lubbock eran los primeros en llamar a los otros delegados—80% nuevos que asistieron a la convencion por la primera vez—de andar a pie para mostrar respeto a favor de los casi cien Tejanos-soldados, marines y tropa naval—que han perdido su vida en Iraq. Sorprendiendo a muchos eran los retratos de unas tres mujeres Hispansas que han caido en combate al lado de jovenes Hispansos, Anglos y Africanos-Americanos, la mayoria que son de pequenos pueblos y zonas rurales. Dentro del grupo honrado eran tres Hispansos de Lubbock inclusive Is-

mael Torres. Hablando de su propia vida como hijo de un trabajador textil, Edwards dijo que Norte Americanos estan buscando un lider que podian elevar a su espiritu otra vez, haciendo que podian creer que todo es posible en esta America. Se animaron los delegados de saltar a sus pies, dando salvos de aplauso, cuando critico el record de Bush en Iraq, la falta de un programa de mejorar la salud, la educacion y la economia. "Esta administracion dice que enviando puestos de trabajos al exterior es bueno para la economia. En cual planeta viven ellos? Si enviar trabajo al exterior es bueno, pienso yo que seria bueno enviar afuera la administracion de Bush." Como respuesta los delegados empezaron a gritar "Vee, Pee, Vee, Pee, Vee Pee," por querer a el como candidato a Vice Presidente. Recibio Edwards mas aplauso cuando hablo de conquistar el trecho entre la pequena minoria de 1% de ricos Norteamericanos que han recibido beneficios por la reduccion de impuestos de la renta y la necesidad de suministrar salud para los millones de ninos que se acuestan en la cama cada noche

con hambre. El dia sabado, se abrio la sesion con un discurso de Diputado Nacional Dennis Kucinich. Tambien un candidato para la presidencia, el ex-alcalde Cleveland, Ohio, critico el plan de Bush de llevar a la nacion a una guerra en Iraq sin un plan de salida. "Es tiempo de desafiar la logica fallido que dice que la guerra (con Iraq) era inevitable." Despues, Representante Estadual Jim Dunning de Waco, lider de los Democratistas en la Camara de Representantes de Texas, presento a Pete Laney de Hale Center, anteriormente Presidente de la Camara de Diputados de Tejas, y 24 otras "Avejas Matadoras" como la Leticia Van de Putte de San Antonio y Pete Gallegos de Alpine. Son representantes estaduales que fueron al "exilio" en Ardmore, Oklahoma, para protestar el proyecto de Tom Craddick de Midland y Tom DeLay de Sugarland para redeseñar los distritos de Diputados en el Congreso Nacional durante tres Sesiones Especiales en 2003. Gonzalo Barriento de San Antonio, uno de los Senadores Estaduales era uno de los Senadores que hablaron sobre su auto-impuesto

exilio en Albuquerque, Nueva Mexico, cuando las mapas nuevas estaban presentados por Craddick, DeLay, y Karl Rove, Asesor Especial de Bush por actividades politicas. Como unos Bispos Catolicos quieren que la Comunion seria negada al Senador John Kerry y otros politicos Catolicos por su punto de vista de aceptar el aborto (choice) y la planificacion de familia, Representante Nick Lampson, un Catolico de Beaumont, quien los Republicanos quieren echar a la calle, dijo que 60 Diputados Nacionales Catolicos estando apoyando los Manifiestos sobre la Paz y la Justicia de la Conferencia de Bispos 70% del tiempo mientras que los 46 Diputados Republicanos Catolicos les dan apoyo a los Bispos apenas 40 por ciento del tiempo. Charles Stenholm de Stamford y Abilene, Candidato para Congreso contra Randy Neugebauer, es otro Representante quien los Republicanos quieren eliminar. Las Senoras Mary Hatfield, Sue Beninger y el Jeff Benson—todos de Lubbock—eran seleccionados como Delegados a la Convencion Nacional del partido Democra que se va llevar a cabo en Boston el 25-29 de Julio.

Delusions of Grandeur

By Richard N. Baldwin T. We note that at the end of March when the Guadalajara conference concluded, our President Fox announced (again) that México wants a greater role in the United Nations. That, of course, involves México gaining a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council. Mr. Fox found an ally in the German chancellor who is looking for the same thing. For México, it is well to start taking our place in world affairs, but the man on the street in México has some questions. As one friend of mine asked, how can we ask for a bigger role in the world body when we either can't or won't give support? First, we have no armed forces by international standards (although we do have the largest number of generals in the world) to participate in peacekeeping operations even when we agree with the merits of the mission. Here I am ignoring the Iraq conflict as the great majority of Mexicans was and is against that operation. But there are many other places that need international help and a wannabe world player such as México certainly could help. Note that Germany has contributed in many instances to support UN and NATO involvement in world affairs. In addition, the constitutional limits here in foreign military involvement would not prevent us from humanitarian aid such as Japan participates in. Also note that Japan's constitution is far more restrictive in this area than México's. We have no excuse here. But my friend says how can we pretend to be a world player without any participation? Something like the phrase "put up or shut up". The other point my friend raises is how can we get more involved in foreign affairs when we have so many unsolved problems right here needing attention? There is the

issue of wide poverty in México that could be helped by the many needed reforms that only get lip service, but no real results. For fiscal reform, the administration suggests taxing the poor more. This is a failed approach, but the administration keeps play-

ing the same song. Our law and enforcement system is not only corrupt, but in reality nonfunctional. In March, seven federal police were arrested for beating a street trader to death in a demonstration. In mid-June, 6 po-



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Dan Premio Leal a Rudolfo Anaya

Rudolfo Anaya, un escritor de Nuevo México cuyas novelas y cuentos narran la vida de los mexicoamericanos del suroeste de Estados Unidos, ha sido seleccionado para recibir el Premio Luis Leal por Distinción en Literatura Chicana/Latina.

El premio es otorgado por la Universidad de California, Santa Bárbara y el Santa Barbara Book & Author Festival en asociación con el Colegio Comunitario de Santa Bárbara y será presentado el 18 de septiembre durante el festival literario. La distinción, que lleva un premio en metálico de 1,500 dólares, tiene el nombre de Luis Leal, un reconocido escritor, académico y profesor de UCSB.

"Me siento realmente conmovido y muy agradecido por haber recibido el [premio] Luis Leal", dijo Anaya en un comunicado. "Cualquier reconocimiento que lleve el nombre de Don Luis tiene que ser el premio más valioso que existe en la escritura chicana".

Leal cumplirá 97 años el 17 de septiembre.

Con su primer novela Bless Me Ultima, publicada en 1972, Anaya se hizo acreedor del Premio Quinto Sol dado al mejor trabajo de un autor chi-



cano. En 1976 dio a conocer su obra Heart of Aztlán y en 1979 Tortuga. En 1992 publicó Albuquerque, la historia de un joven boxeador en busca de su padre y posteriormente escribió la serie de novelas policíacas en torno al detective Sonny Baca, Zia Summer, Río Grande Fall y Shaman Winter. También ha escrito varias colecciones de historias cortas, poesía, obras teatrales y libros para niños. En 2002, el presidente George W. Bush le otorgó la Medalla Nacional de las Artes.

Anaya nació en 1937 en Pastura, estudió en la Universidad de Nuevo México y fue profesor de la institución de 1973 a 1993, cuando se jubiló.

Jennifer Peña: La 'Seducción' es Musical

No cabe duda que Jennifer Peña está viviendo uno de los mejores momentos de su carrera musical con su nueva producción, Seducción.

Antes de dar inicio a una entrevista con La Opinión, la llamada "Princesa de la Música Texana" recibió una llamada urgente de la ciudad de México. Representantes de su compañía disquera, Univision Music Group, le dieron la buena noticia de que el tema Vivo y muero en tu piel se encontraba en el primer lugar en las listas de popularidad de la radio en México.

La joven artista estaba emocionadísima y no es para menos, el primer sencillo de su álbum, compuesto por Rudy Pérez, también logró colocarse en primer lugar aquí en la lista de canciones más tocadas Hot Latin Tracks de la revista Billboard por siete semanas consecutivas.

Seducción es la sexta producción de Peña y salió a mediados de mayo simultáneamente en Estados Unidos, México y Puerto Rico. Con su nueva producción, Peña dijo estar dispuesta a seducir a su público.

"Quiero seducir con mi voz y con mi música", aclaró. "Creo que muchas personas confunden el título por el arte de la fotografía y las imágenes sexy en mi disco. Seducción habla de la producción; si voy a seducir al público, lo quiero hacer con mi voz, mi talento, con la música que elegí y con mi forma de ser".

En Seducción, Peña contó con la colaboración de algunos de los productores y composi-



tores más respetados de la industria. Pérez compuso la mayoría de los temas. Además de Vivo y muero en tu piel —que se incluye en versiones de balada, cumbia norteña y salsa—, sus temas son Para olvidarte de mí, Hasta el fin del mundo, Ya verás y Si yo me vuelvo a enamorar.

Kike Santander, quien recientemente fue nombrado director de la junta administrativa de la Academia Latina de Artes y Ciencias de la Grabación (LARAS), colaboró en los temas Cumba iho y Aunque me cueste la vida. Emilio Estefan trabajó en la realización de Cómo saber.

En este disco la artista de 20 años también tuvo la oportunidad de demostrar su capacidad como productora en los temas Ya verás y Si yo me vuelvo a enamorar, un cover del tema en

inglés Can't Take my Eyes Off Of You, de Bob Crewe y Bob Gaudio, que ha sido interpretado por artistas de la talla de Frankie Valli, The Four Seasons y Lauren Hill.

Aunque no ha sufrido muchas penas amorosas, insistió que las canciones las siente muy suyas.

"Cuando yo canto una canción lo hago para transmitir un sentimiento y emoción a la gente. No tengo mucha experiencia en el amor; afortunadamente, no he sufrido mucho y soy muy feliz. Pienso que hay muchas cosas bonitas en la vida y que el amor no puede herir tanto a una persona. A lo mejor sufres por un ratito, pero tienes que seguir adelante con tu vida y seguir aprovechando las cosas buenas".

"Elegí Vivo y muero por tu piel porque hay muchas perso-

nas que se pueden identificar con la canción. Nunca he estado tan enamorada ni he pensado me muero y vivo en la piel de otra persona o estaría dispuesta a morir por él, pero me gustaría, creo que es algo mágico estar enamorada".

El video de Vivo y muero en tu piel fue rodado en St. Paul, Minnesota, lo cual fue un reto para la artista porque tuvo que soportar temperaturas de ocho grados bajo cero.

Probablemente, su mayor reto hasta ahora haya sido lidiar con la prensa cuando se vio envuelta en un escándalo junto al vocalista Obie Bermúdez.

En mayo, mes de su lanzamiento discográfico, Peña resultó agredida junto al cantante puertorriqueño cuando ambos fueron aparentemente atacados por integrantes del grupo K-1. En la prensa se habló de un aparente romance entre Peña y Bermúdez que ocasionó el celo de un ex novio, integrante de K-1.

"Las cosas buenas y malas que pasan en este negocio son parte del territorio de ser artista", explicó Peña, "y los medios de comunicación siempre van a tener sus opiniones, la gente siempre va a tener su opinión, cada persona tiene el derecho de sentir lo que quiera y no puedes satisfacer a todo el mundo".

"Eso fue una de las primeras cosas que aprendí y acepté. No niego, al principio fue muy difícil para mí, pero lo tuve que superar y ahora es mucho más fácil cuando pasa algo que no puedo controlar", concluyó. "Ahora me siento mucho más fuerte y siento que puedo aguantar todo".

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Health-care experts to discuss rise in Hispanic suicide rate

Mental health-care experts will convene in San Antonio at the 2004 LULAC National Convention and Exposition on Thursday to discuss the alarming rise in the Hispanic suicide rate.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, young Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and they now account for one fourth of Hispanic suicide deaths.

More than half of all suicides among Hispanics occur in those aged 10 to 34 and Hispanic males are close to six times as likely to commit suicide as their female counterparts. These findings also indicate young Hispanic men are more likely to report feelings

of sadness or hopelessness compared to their white or black counterparts.

LULAC will feature panel discussions on depression and suicide, including remarks by Roberto Jiménez, chairman of the board of managers for the University Health System, and Roberto Villarreal, director of the South Texas Health Research Center.

Panelists will discuss issues such as immigration, acculturation, religious beliefs, substance abuse and access to health care.

LULAC is offering two panel presentations on Hispanic Youth Depression/Suicide on Thursday, July 8. Sessions are open to the public. The first session will be held from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and again from 2 to 3:15 p.m.

Applications Accepted for SPC Surgical Assisting Program

South Plains College is accepting applications for its advanced technical certificate program in surgical assisting, to begin Aug. 30 at the SPC Reese Center campus.

The program is the first one in Texas and the only program of its kind in the nation affiliated with a medical school. SPC established the program last fall in cooperation with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.

Graduates of the program will receive an advanced technical certificate in surgical assisting and will be eligible to apply for state licensure. The program's initial students will complete their studies Aug. 5.

Applicants must be a certified surgical technologist, certified surgical assistant, certified first assistant or certified nurse - operating room and have current CPR or BLS certification. Applicants must also have an associate degree or higher in an allied health field or the equivalent from an accredited institution.

Students will perform their didactic and lab work at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where they will receive instruction from surgery residents and one-on-one surgeon preceptors in a wide variety of surgical areas. Clinical rotations will be conducted at area hospitals.

Classes will be offered in

surgical pharmacology and anesthesia, advanced surgical technology and practicums in surgical assisting. The students will have access to suture and endoscopic labs at the TTUHSC and will rotate through general surgery, neurosurgery, pediatrics, orthopedics, plastic surgery, and ob/gyn and work one-on-one with a physician to hone their surgical assisting skills.

Following successful completion of the program, students can apply for licensure as a surgical assistant through the Texas Board of Medical Examiners.

Medical directors will be TTUHSC staff members Dr. John Griswold, professor and chairman in the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Ari Halldorsson, associate professor and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Licensure is overseen by the State Board of Medical Examiners. SPC's program is the second program in the nation to be approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs.

Classes at all SPC locations begin Tuesday (July 6).

Late registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday (July 6-7).

SPC's 2004 summer class schedule and other college information can be accessed on www.southplainscollege.edu.

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Kerry's Courtship of Latinos Off to Stumbling Start

By Patricia Guadalupe

Well, folks, it's that time again. Election season is upon us, and here we are in the throes of the requisite outreach to that perpetually growing voter bloc us.

And this year, according to the latest diagnosis by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, we could be the decisive vote in a number of key states and we, yes we, could determine who ends up winning the White House this Nov. 2.

So of course it goes without saying that the two major candidates, President Bush and presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry are flooding the community with the usual political paraphernalia, from Spanish-language television ads to "Viva Bush" and "Juntos con Kerry" buttons.

While both campaigns are spending obscene money to try to get us, Kerry enjoys a wide margin of approval, with some polls showing the Massachusetts senator ahead of the president by 58 percent to 33 percent among Latino voters.

But poor Kerry. He's been afflicted of late by a bizarre foot-in-mouth faux pas that could jeopardize his chances among all those eager Hispanic voters.

In a recent speech in Phoenix - where one in five residents is Hispanic - Kerry promised the thousands gathered at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza that in his first 100 days as president, he would make significant changes to immigration policies, including a chance for some undocumented immigrants to "earn citizenship" if they have been in the United States for a certain time, have been working and could pass a background check.

He also talked about how he would propose allowing immigrants to obtain renewable work visas, expand the number of student visas for Latin Americans, and would work

with Mexico on an economic plan to help remove the key reason undocumented immigrants cross into the United States. Much the same way another big crowd greeted a similar speech the week before at a NALEO conference in Washington, D.C., the NCLR throng cheered and gave him a standing ovation.

But the very next day, with his seat still warm back in Phoenix, Kerry sat down in Pittsburgh with Spanish-language *Telemundo* for a candid talk and promptly stank up the place. Responding to the often-asked question on whether persons who could not prove legal U.S. residency should be allowed to apply for driver's licenses, Kerry responded, "I think driver's licenses are part of the legality of being here...I wouldn't give someone...here illegally all the rights and privileges of being here legally. That's wrong. That defeats the purposes of the law."

Huh? After a bit of an uproar, including the need for pole-axed NCLR officials (who have a section on their Web site devoted to the issue of driver's licenses for the undocumented) to sit down and take a deep breath, Kerry's foot furthered its journey down his esophagus by his declaration that it was up to the states to decide what to do about the issue.

States rights, eh? You mean what was used to justify slavery? The poll tax to prevent people of color from voting? Segregationist Strom Thurmond's 1948 presidential bid? The separation of the races in school? President Reagan's "New Federalism" efforts that fundamentally altered the nation by shifting welfare and other social domestic programs to underfunded state hands?

There's a saying in Spanish that goes something like this: "drunks and small children never lie." Is Kerry, when not surrounded by the handlers and

cue cards to steer him straight, showing Hispanics his true colors, much like a loose-lips lush or a little kid do?

Like all politicians, Kerry is trying hard to connect, and Latino Democrats really want to like him, but it's been tough of late. At the recent Hispanic gatherings, he made reference to his wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, (nee Maria Teresa Thierstein Simões-Ferreira) and her immigrant roots, saying how she lived under a dictatorship in Africa and didn't vote until she was in her 30s.

While she would be the first foreign-born first lady in more than 180 years, it was hard to see what most of the audience would have in common with an upper-class woman born in an East African colony of her privileged white ancestors and educated in South Africa and Switzerland who has a personal fortune nearing a billion dollars. Somehow it isn't the same as climbing over a fence, walking through a desert, wading through a river, or rushing off to a plane with little more than a backpack.

Note to the Kerry campaign: surely you are empathetic to the immigrant experience, but how about using another example to reach the less privileged masses?

Of course this isn't the first time a Boston Brahmin tries to win the hearts and minds of Hispanics. Coincidentally, the last one to do it had the same initials as Kerry and received an astounding 91 percent of the Latino vote back in 1960. While it would be impossible to imagine that either major party candidate would obtain such an overwhelming percentage of the community's vote this year, based on surveys of Hispanic voters, this is Kerry's election to lose. If these gaffes continue, that would come as no surprise four months from now.

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Lakers turn to Tomjanovich

With Mike Krzyzewski out of the picture, it appears Rudy Tomjanovich is in line to become the next coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak wouldn't comment on a Houston television station's report that Tomjanovich has been offered the job, but did say the team has "identified the guy we want to hire."

"There is not a deal to announce," Kupchak said Tuesday. "We don't have a coach at this time. We hope to have a coach in a short period of time. If he becomes coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, he would be a wonderful selection."

Tomjanovich, who led the Houston Rockets to NBA titles in 1994 and 1995, was offered the job Monday night, according to unidentified NBA sources quoted by KRIV. The Lakers have been without a coach since June 18, when they announced Phil Jackson wouldn't return next season.

Tomjanovich, 55, stepped down after 12 years as coach of the Rockets in May 2003 -- two months after learning he had bladder cancer. He underwent treatment and served as a scout for the Rockets this season -- his 34th year with the organization.

Krzyzewski announced Monday he would remain at Duke rather than accept an offer from the Lakers, reported to be for five years and \$40 million.

Kupchak identified four men he has spoken with about the job -- Tomjanovich,

Krzyzewski, Miami Heat president Pat Riley and North Carolina coach Roy Williams.

Krzyzewski, Riley and Williams have said they aren't interested. That leaves Tomjanovich.

"Do the math," Kupchak said.

Rudy Tomjanovich coached the Rockets to NBA titles in 1994-95. (AP) Jesse Brown, Tomjanovich's business manager, refused comment from his Houston office.

Kupchak also said others have called to express interest in the job, but wouldn't identify them.

Kupchak said he called Williams two weeks ago. He also said Williams was offered the Lakers' coaching job six or seven years ago -- before Jackson was hired.

"He's been at the top of our list," Kupchak said. "He said he had no interest."

On Tuesday, Williams said he "had a general discussion with the Lakers a couple of weeks ago. I told them that I was quite happy at Carolina and was not interested in the job."

Riley issued a statement saying he wasn't offered the job and intended to stay in Miami.

Jackson coached the Lakers to three championships in five years. The announcement he wouldn't return came three days after the team lost to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA Finals.

Kupchak also said he was in constant contact with unrestricted free agent Kobe Bryant and his representatives, and

there was nothing new to report on Shaquille O'Neal, who has demanded a trade.

"I'm optimistic, I have to be," Kupchak said regarding his hope of re-signing Bryant. Bryant reportedly supported the hiring of Krzyzewski.

"I would think his response would be the same as everybody -- there was a sense of disappointment," Kupchak said. "We felt if we could have brought him on board it would have been a wonderful coup for this organization."

Asked how Bryant might feel about Tomjanovich, Kupchak replied: "I wouldn't share any of our players' thoughts publicly."

Regarding O'Neal, Kupchak said: "It is time to be patient. We are being patient."

Kupchak said he met with Karl Malone, who last month opted out of his \$1.65 million deal for next season to become an unrestricted free agent.

Injured during the finals, Malone underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee last week.

"He looked great, wide-eyed, upbeat," Kupchak said. "I think he would consider playing again."

Dwight Manley, Malone's agent, refuted reports that Malone planned to retire, saying an announcement wouldn't come until later in the summer. Malone, the NBA's second-leading career scorer, turns 41 later this month. He joined the Lakers last summer in search of his first championship after playing 18 seasons with the Utah Jazz.

From Page Three

lice officers in the state of México were arrested for operating an active kidnapping ring. Our Federal Attorney General's office (PGR) states the 4% of the members of kidnapping gangs arrested have turned out to be police officers (not counting ex-police). And we wonder why so few Mexican trust their police forces? This is only the tip of the iceberg.

There are the Juárez killings that the federal government only reluctantly got involved in years after the effort should have started. And AIDS is now the main cause of death for young men in our capital. And education and training to compete in the world markets

Well, the list of problems at

home is even longer, but my friend's point is that with this many problems right here at home, why should México get more involved in foreign affairs? And I suspect that the great majority of ordinary Mexicans agree with him.

Our president has been campaigning in the US for the expatriot voting rights enactment bill in congress. While it is a commendable effort of the administration to enact voting rights for Mexicans living abroad, we also note (as predicted) that the "opposition" is already lining up to torpedo action on this. But the other side of the coin is that if this much leadership was placed on some of the other problems listed above, México could rise

up in the worldview to truly participate in world affairs.

A recent world survey of government salaries pointed out that Mexican ministers (cabinet rank) earn 67% more than their US counterparts and 24% more than Germany. They are among the highest paid in the world. And government pensions for the top politicians are in outer space, higher than in the US or the UK for ex-presidents for example.

With pay rates this high, should not we expect more to filter down to a better life for our people here?

I predict that the party that promises more attention to Mexican affairs and gives some indication that they will try hard to carry them out will be the winner in the next election here.

Latinos Vow to be 'The Difference in November'

from front page

Earlier this year NALEO projected that 1 million new Latino voters will be heading to election booths in November, bringing the total potential Latino voting bloc to nearly 7 million.

A panel chaired by New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron summarized findings of a survey by NALEO and *Univision* Com-

munications Inc. on matters most important to Latinos in 2004. Nearly 250 Latino registered voters in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and New York identified issues key to the Latino community such as education, the economy, jobs and the Iraq war.

"In this election Latinos are looking beyond party lines to support the candidates who best represent their interests,"

said NALEO executive director Arturo Vargas.

In a briefing on immigration reform efforts, panelists including U.S. Reps. Luis Gútiérrez (D-Ill.) and Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.) and Alfonso Aguilar, director of the Office of Citizenship and Immigration Service, concurred that bipartisan agreement must arise to address undocumented immigration.

"Let's broaden this debate because it is not about Democrats or Republicans," said Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum. "We need to find consensus."

Additionally, there were national briefings and sessions on educational issues, voting law reforms, and employment.

In a panel on Latino health issues, more community-based health services were proposed. Panelist Adolph Falcón, vice president of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, stressed that more than one third of the Latino population is uninsured.

Next year NALEO's annual conference will take place June 23-25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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Los Latinos se comprometen a Hacer 'La Diferencia en Noviembre'

Reunidos en un panel informativo sobre la reforma inmigratoria, los representantes estadounidenses Luis Gutiérrez, demócrata por Illinois, y Linda Sánchez, demócrata por California, concordaron con Vargas en que debe surgir un acuerdo bipartidario referente a la inmigración indocumentada.

"Vamos a ampliar este debate porque no se trata de demócratas ni de republicanos", señaló Angela Kelley, subdirectora del National Immigration Forum. "Tenemos que llegar a un consenso".

También se realizaron reuniones informativas nacionales y sesiones sobre temas de la educación, reformas en la legislación del voto, y empleo.

Durante un panel sobre temas de salud para latinos, se propuso que hubiera más servicios de salud con base en las comunidades. Panelista Adolph Falcón, vice-presidente de la National Alliance for Hispanic Health, enfatizó que más de un tercio de la población latina está sin seguro médico.

El próximo año la conferencia anual de la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund se llevará a cabo del 23 al 25 de junio en San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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On November 2, 2004
Early Vote: October 18 to 29, 2004

Diga "Sí" a Ysidro

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The Candidate with a 13 Year Record of Community Service
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The Candidate with New Ideas
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Democrat for Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct 3

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



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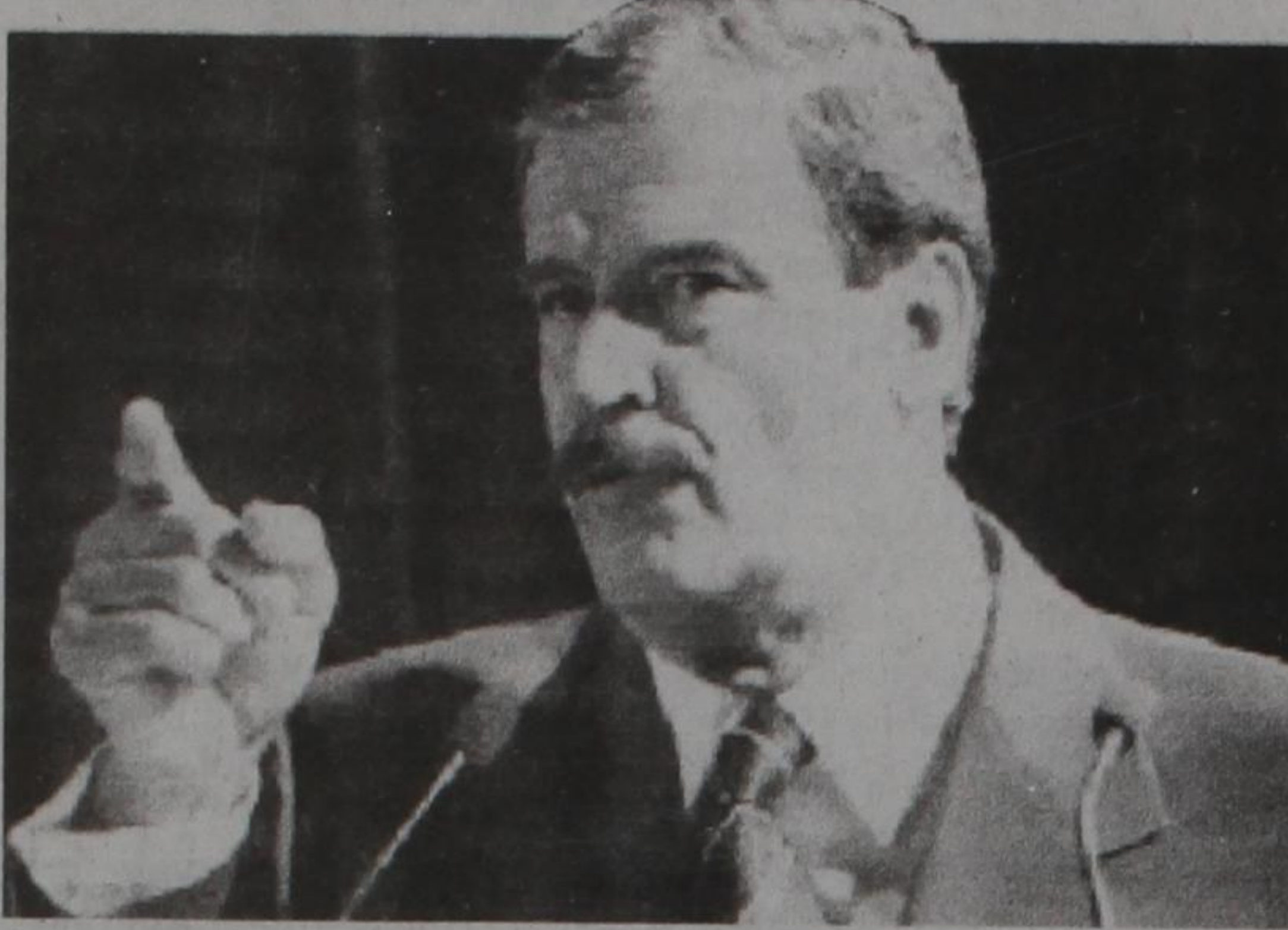
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Let's Get Ready

for Some

Softball



Mexican president Vicente Fox Quesada stated here that he stands next to every Mexican in this country to defend their human rights and right to work in view of the raids being carried out in the state of California.

"We will defend them every time their rights are violated, most all we will speak with pride of what they are, what

An All-Volunteer Army?

Ron Chapman

For the first time since 1991 the U.S. Army will call up retired and discharged soldiers.

"The Army is preparing to notify about 5,600 retired and discharged soldiers who are not members of the National Guard or Reserve that they will be involuntarily recalled to active duty for possible service in Iraq or Afghanistan, Army officials said Tuesday."

Despite the fact that Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz pledged an all-volunteer Army.

"It's not like you have conscription and we said you have to go do this, and you have to go do this this way. Every one of the people there stuck up their hand and said, 'Send me, I want to do this.' And that's a wonderful thing."

"... a volunteer force is a motivated force. People perform better if they are true volunteers than if they are coerced into service."

"Adling Associates is soliciting HUB certified subcontractor and suppliers related to architectural/engineering services for various projects. Please send notice of your interest via facsimile to 806: 748-0744 or email to billadling@adling.com."

Trade Agreement) has contributed in an important manner to increased commercial exchange and has become a force in the region's growth.

Highlighting that Mexico has expanded its web of commercial agreements globally with 32 nations to ease trade, eliminate barriers, reduce taxes, and provide advantages to investors, he warned that "not everything that shines is gold respecting China," since Mexico offers equal or better investment opportunities, trusting future economic, political, and social stability.

The government understands businesses and their needs, is ready to commit to investors from anywhere in the world, "to become partners and grow together."

He pointed out that it is his intention to remain close to his "paisanos", with business and commerce, to strengthen society in the United States, although "we have to wait until after the election... not many decisions are being made during the electoral process."

After his speech, the head of state from Mexico accepted a gift, a glass pane with an important design representing Illinois, from the president and chief executive officer of the Mexico-United States Chamber of Commerce, Al Zapanta.

Zapanta also delivered a gift for Mrs. Martha Sahagún de Fox, a scarf with images by Chagal currently on exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute. Mrs. Fox was unable to attend due to poor health.

Mr. T.J. PATTERSON

El Editor Newspapers along with the Lubbock Community would like to salute and say 'Thank You' - 'Mil Gracias!' for all your efforts and support in serving on the Council for the City of Lubbock.

**KEEP IN TOUCH
 WITH US-LUBBOCK!**

El Editor

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Lubbock has approved the closing of waiting list for the low-rent Public Housing Program until further notice.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Legal Notice

Request for Qualifications:

Construction Manager at Risk

TTUHSC El Paso Medical Education Building

The Texas Tech University System

Lubbock, Texas

Project No. 02-23 CM

Agency Code 768

The RFQ and further information can be obtained by accessing the

Texas Marketplace

www.marketplace.state.tx.us

GSC Class Item No. 909-27

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

THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES ALL HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE.



PROBATIONARY FIRE FIGHTER

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

The City of Lubbock, TX (population 201,212) will be accepting applications for Probationary Fire Fighter positions on July 1, 2004 through July 30, 2004 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Applications may be picked up at: the Human Resources Department at 1625-13th Street, in Room 104, Monday - Friday. Applicants must be at least nineteen (19) years of old at the time of the written examination; and not have reached his/her thirty-six (36) birthday at the time of entrance to the Fire Academy. The Fire Entrance Exam will be administered on Friday, October 8, 2004 at the City of Lubbock Fire Academy located at 1515 E. Ursuline. The doors will be closed promptly at 8:00 AM, and no one will be admitted after that time. All applicants should plan to arrive at 7:30 AM. A Fire Fighter Eligibility list will be compiled from the scores of applicants passing the written examination and will be ranked, highest final score first. The final competitive score includes veteran's preference points. Individuals with the top scores on the written eligibility test will be scheduled for the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). The CPAT test will be held in Lubbock at the Fire Academy on a designated date and time. For more information please call 775-2311 or 1-800-621-0793. **The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

Salary: \$15.47 Hourly/\$32,169.28 Annually

For more information about the Lubbock Fire Department, visit our web site at www.firedept.ci.lubbock.tx.us. For more information about the City of Lubbock, please visit www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Legal Notice

Request for Qualifications:

Design Professional Services

AQUATIC CENTER RETRACTABLE ROOF

Replacement of the Aquatic Center existing removable fabric roof with a retractable roof enclosure utilizing operable roof panels.

The Texas Tech University System

Lubbock, Texas

Project No. 04-12

The RFQ and further information can be obtained by accessing the

Texas Marketplace

www.marketplace.state.tx.us

GSC Class Item No. 906-07

Agency Code 768

For additional information contact the Texas Tech University System Project Manager Richard A. Richeda. Contact via phone (806) 742-2116, Fax (806) 742-2241 or e-mail: rick.richeda@ttu.edu

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Legal Notice

Request for Qualifications:

Design Professional Services

Extended Studies Building

Construction of a 30,000 SF single story building on the Lubbock Campus for the

Office of Extended Studies

The Texas Tech University System

Lubbock, Texas

Project No. 04-13

Agency Code 768

The RFQ and further information can be obtained by accessing the

Texas Marketplace

www.marketplace.state.tx.us

GSC Class Item No. 906-07

Agency Code 768

For additional information contact the Texas Tech University System Project Manager Theresa Drewell. Contact via phone (806) 742-2116, Fax 806-742-2241 or e-mail: theresa.drewell@ttu.edu.

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Legal Notice

Request for Qualifications:

Construction Manager at Risk

Child Development Research Center & The Center for the Study of Addiction

The Texas Tech University System

Lubbock, Texas

Project No. 03-03CM

Agency Code 768

The RFQ and further information can be obtained by accessing the

Texas Marketplace

www.marketplace.state.tx.us

GSC Class Item No. 914

For additional information contact the Texas Tech University System Project Manager Richard A. Richeda. Contact via phone (806) 742-2116, Fax 806-742-2241 or e-mail: rick.richeda@ttu.edu.

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