

el Saltillo

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock, TX USA

Latinos Have Major Stake in Social Security Legislation

By Sonia Meléndez

President Bush's proposed privatization of Social Security, expected to ignite major debate in the 109th Congress, could be a double-edged sword with long-term financial ramifications for Latinos, according to Latino and financial analysts.

President Bush says he plans to make Social Security reform a high domestic priority in his second term. Key on his agenda is allowing individuals to invest a portion of their federally withheld pension payments into private accounts.

A bill is expected by early fall.

Leading critics of the plan include Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), who is on the House subcommittee on Social Security. He labels privatization as a radical gamble that could put the retirement security of Latino workers at risk. Privatization is unnecessary to ensure that the system remains



Xavier Becerra

solvent for the long haul, he maintains.

AARP, a membership group for seniors, estimates that three-fourths — 76% — of Latinos over age 65 rely on Social Security for more than half of their income. Without these benefits, 55% would likely live below poverty level, AARP claims.

Financial advisor and author Louis Barajas makes the "double-edged sword" analogy.

"It could be a good thing because as the largest and youngest minority, Latinos have more time to build wealth," Barajas says. But if their private accounts are invested poorly, the result could be devastating, he warns.

Bush proposes addressing what the administration calls a potential crisis by allowing younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security contribution into individual accounts.

Currently, workers and employers jointly contribute 12.4% into the federal fund.

By 2018, the Social Security Trust Fund is expected to take in less money than it pays out, according to estimates by its trustees.

By 2042, they project that the system will be able to pay only 75% to 80% of the benefits promised.

Among solutions being considered are cutting benefits, raising the contribution level, or raising the retirement age.

A bill that closely mirrors the president's plan was introduced in Congress earlier this year by Republican House members Sam Johnson (Texas), Pat Toomey (Penn.) and Jeff

Flake (Ariz.). It is based on the libertarian Cato Institute's proposal for Social Security reform titled the "6.2 Percent Solution."

Under the plan individuals would create large enough accounts to make a real difference, says Cato analyst Berna Brannon.

This would be a voluntary plan and would not affect "near retirees," she states.

Opponents fear that under the privatization proposal, more than \$2.2 trillion would be taken out of the financing for benefit payments for the next ten years; instead it would go to private stock market accounts.

By 2010 Hispanic senior citizens will account for 7.2% of the older U.S. population, 11.2% by 2030 and 17.5% by 2050, according to AARP.

Gabriela

Lemus, national director of policy and legislation for the League of United Latin American Citizens, assesses the issue. "Many of our elderly are incredibly dependent of their Social Security check, probably



more so than other communities." Most at risk would be Latinos, who have the lowest rates of participation in personal investment plans such as 401K, she says.

Under the current system, Social Security protects workers and their families against loss of income due to retirement, disability or death. However, the president's plan does not offer clear guidelines on how families will be compensated.

A bipartisan 16-member commission created by Bush in 2001 to study Social Security admits this will be a costly transition that needs to be financed by huge subsidies.

LULAC plans to oppose this proposal. It will conduct an education campaign hosting town hall meetings around the country

and establishing a bilingual hotline, she says.

In a joint statement, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) claim:

"We want to work together to ensure that America honors its promise to those who have worked hard and played by the rules and earned a secure retirement. We urge the President to come forward with a proposal that does not reduce Social Security funding, harm the middle class, or cut guaranteed benefits. We cannot support any plan that relies on massive and irresponsible increases in debt, which could destabilize the financial market and lead to large tax increases."

(Sonia Meléndez is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. She may be contacted by e-mail care of editor@Hispanic.org)

Los Heridos del Cataclismo son ya Más de Medio Millón

La cifra de muertos por el sismo que golpeó a 12 países de Asia y África continuaba aumentando y llegaba a casi 77 mil muertos, aunque la Cruz Roja calcula que sobrepasará los 100 mil.

Según la Federación Internacional de la Cruz Roja y la Media Luna Roja, el terremoto de 9 grados en la escala de Richter y los maremotos que produjo puede haber matado a más de cien mil personas en 10 países del sudeste asiático, que poco

sociedades nacionales de Cruz Roja y Media Luna, se está coordinando con los organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas.

En el campo de la diplomacia, el presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush, propuso ayer la formación de una coalición internacional con Australia, Japón, India y su propio país para coordinar la ayuda, y la ONU dio el visto bueno a la iniciativa a reserva de ver cómo procede.

En tanto, la ayuda internacional



a poco descubren el alcance de la tragedia.

Hasta la fecha, la cifra de heridos excede el medio millón y son 161 mil las personas sin hogar. Estos datos ya permiten considerar que la catástrofe tiene pocos precedentes conocidos y que se necesitarán millones de dólares durante los próximos meses para atender las necesidades de millones de personas afectadas.

La Cruz Roja avisó de que habrá sin duda "falta de coordinación durante las dos próximas semanas" para atender al elevado número de víctimas del sismo entre los diferentes organismos de varios países.

La Federación, que agrupa a 181

continuaba llegando ayer a los países sacudidos por el sismo y maremoto del domingo.

En Indonesia, los sobrevivientes se amontonaban alrededor de cajas de alimentos, mientras que las autoridades y agencias de ayuda humanitaria tratan de resolver problemas logísticos, escasez de vehículos y combustible, para distribuir la ayuda internacional que se acumula en los aeropuertos, como el de Banda Aceh.

Los equipos de rescate apilaban cientos de cadáveres en fosas comunes para evitar la propagación de enfermedades.

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Los Latinos Tienen Grande Intereses en la Legislación Sobre el Seguro Social

Por Sonia Meléndez

La privatización del Seguro Social propuesta por el presidente Bush, la que se proyecta inaugurará tremendo debate en el Congreso 109, podrá resultar ser arma de doble filo en cuanto a las ramificaciones financieras para los latinos, según informan analistas latinos y financieros.

El presidente Bush dice que piensa hacer de la reforma del Seguro Social una importante prioridad doméstica durante su segundo término. Clave para su agenda es permitir que los individuos inviertan una porción de sus contribuciones a pensiones, retenidas por el gobierno federal, a cuentas privadas.

Se espera la llegada de un proyecto de ley para comienzos del otoño.

Los críticos principales del plan incluyen el congresista demócrata por California, Xavier Becerra, quien forma parte del subcomité de la Cámara de Representantes sobre el Seguro Social. Tilda a la privatización de un juego radical que podría arriesgar la seguridad de la jubilación de los trabajadores latinos. La privatización no es necesaria para asegurar que el sistema tenga solvencia a largo plazo, mantiene.

Una asociación para personas mayores, AARP por sus siglas en inglés, calcula que tres cuartas partes — el 76% — de los latinos mayores de 65 años se fía de su Seguro Social como más de la mitad de sus ingresos. Sin tales beneficios, el 55% caería por debajo del nivel de la pobreza, indica AARP.

Consejero financiero y autor Louis Barajas es quien ofrece la analogía del "arma de doble filo". "Sería bueno porque como la minoría más grande y más joven, los latinos tienen más tiempo para crear riqueza", dice Barajas. Pero si no invierten bien las cuentas privadas, el resultado podría ser devastador, advierte.

Bush propone dirigirse a lo que la administración llama una posible crisis al permitir que los trabajadores más jóvenes inviertan una parte de su contribución al Seguro Social en cuentas individuales.

Actualmente, los trabajadores y sus patrones contribuyen juntos 12.4% del fondo federal.

Para el año 2018, el Fondo Fiduciario del Seguro Social se proyecta recibirá menos dinero que lo que paga en beneficios, según calculan el consejo de administración del fondo.

Para el 2042, proyectan que el sistema podrá pagar sólo entre 75% a 80% de los beneficios prometidos.

(Siguen en la pagina 5)

U.S. Senator Salazar reluctant to wave Hispanic banner

By Mike Soraghan

As he becomes one of the Senate's two Hispanic members, Ken Salazar is going to be pushed into a role he is clearly uncomfortable with: a high-profile voice for Hispanics nationwide.

He may push back, at first. Salazar resists being labeled Hispanic in much the same way golfer Tiger Woods dislikes others' attempts to identify him with any single racial category.

Salazar's might be a smart position to take in a state that's 75 percent white and only 17 percent Hispanic.

But experts agree the political reality is that Salazar will have no choice.

"For a public face of Democrats on Hispanic issues, he's it," said Jennifer Duffy, an analyst for the Cook Political Report.

Salazar says he appreciates the support he's received from Hispanics for becoming, at the same time as Mel Martinez of Florida, the first Hispanic to win a Senate seat in 30 years, and the first not from New Mexico.

But he's never promoted himself as a Hispanic, and says he isn't going to start now.

"It wasn't the Hispanic community that voted me in," he said. "I have to work on all the issues that affect the state of Colorado. I don't see myself working

on a specific Hispanic agenda."

He made the comments during a break in his recent whirlwind orientation sessions on Capitol Hill. Asked whether the media should go to him as a spokesman on Hispanic issues like immigration, Salazar pointedly said, "It's



not fair to single me out."

Minutes later, a crew from the Spanish-language network Telemundo spotted him in the hallway and he stopped to do an interview in Spanish.

High-pressure position
The Hispanic community understands

the balancing act that Salazar must perform, activists say.

"No one wants to put any more pressure on Ken Salazar than need be," said Janet Murguía, executive director of the National Council of La Raza. "We know that his first priority is the people of Colorado."

Though it could be politically dangerous to be typecast as "the Hispanic senator," he could get a fast career boost because both political parties vie fiercely for the Hispanic vote.

Duffy, the political analyst, says it's inevitable that leadership will tap him to be the Democratic voice on Hispanic issues, and in fulfilling those duties, he'll gain influence.

"Is he going to tell the leadership they can't put him out there on those issues?" Duffy said. "He risks losing Hispanics by not being a strong voice for Hispanics. If you raised money in that community, you

can't walk away from that without some repercussions."

"I see nothing but opportunities for Ken," said Federico Peña, former mayor of Denver and former Cabinet secretary. "I don't think he enters as the traditional freshman senator."

When Peña became Denver's first Hispanic mayor, some activists pressed him to name an all-Hispanic Cabinet.

"They were shocked when I said no," Peña, who campaigned on behalf of Salazar, recalled last week. "They weren't the majority, and they didn't understand the role a mayor has to play."

That's the kind of pressure Peña figures Salazar will feel as he takes office.

"There's truly going to be pressure," Peña said. "I faced it; Hispanics will say, 'You represent me even though I don't live in Colorado.'"

The same thing happened to Salazar's predecessor, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the only American Indian in the Senate and for many years the only one in Congress. American Indians from all over stopped at his office because they considered him their senator, too.

Campbell alternated between reveling in his heritage and complaining about the strains of being asked to represent all American Indians.

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Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

As we end 2004 there are many things that we can point to that will make a mark in history.

The world will certainly remember that in the waning days of 2004 the President of the United States continued on his vacation for four days before even acknowledging the death of almost a quarter of a million people as a result of the Tsunami catastrophe in countries bordering the Indian Ocean. And then history will remember that the aid offered by the United States totaled what is spent in half an hour in the Iraq war.

Nationally, we will certainly mark 2004 as the year the war came home. Ironically it was a Hispanic that became the first fatality. Pfc. Luis Moreno was killed on January 29, 2004. Since then 1274 Americans - two from Lubbock - have been killed in what history will mark as an immoral war started for reasons still to be determined.

We will certainly mark 2004 as the year the U.S. elected George Bush. His legacy is yet to be determined but we can bet that his deeds for the betterment of mankind will not be admired.

In sports, we will certainly mark 2004 as the year the Red Sox won and the Dallas Cowboys bombed. The Houston Astros did a damn good job in getting to the playoffs and almost going all the way.

Locally we will remember 2004 for putting new faces in public office. Ysidro Gutierrez - who will get sworn in on January 1 at 10 am at the County Courthouse - was elected to take Gilbert Flores' position and Linda DelLeon took Victor Hernandez place on the City Council. On the School Board Eric Medina took Linda DeLeon's position.

We can mark 2004 in Lubbock as the year that burglars needed money and therefore Lubbock saw a big rise in crime. Although City father continue to pat themselves on the back for a good economic year, the everyday person in Lubbock still suffers from underemployment and the lack of good jobs.

All in all we can say that 2004 marked tremendous growth of Hispanics in Lubbock with an outlook for better things to come. For this we are grateful and we can look forward to 2005

Mexico, U.S. Share Blame and Shame

By John Flórez
 Fixing our immigration policy is like putting toothpaste back in the tube.
 Mexico has turned illegal immigration into a \$14 billion economic development program. Without making any investment, it has done so at the expense of its poor who must leave the country and send that vast sum back to feed their families. Next to oil, remittances have become Mexico's second greatest revenue source.
 The United States has converted our eight-to-10 million undocumented immigrants into widgets in a spiraling industry, where businesses can profit from their cheap labor while making an end-run around regulations that honest employers honor.
 It all starts with the Mexican government's benign neglect of its most desperate citizens, with the country's least educated fleeing to the north because there's no work for them.
 Then it's the United States' turn. We put up the "help wanted" signs. We pay below-subsistence wages. And finally we blame the suffering migrants for our mounting costs of medical care, public safety and education.
 From a federal perspective, the

problem — defiance of our immigration laws — is the solution — a labor force at bargain-basement rates.
 Complaints by recipient U.S. communities that spend their local tax dollars to provide the exploited newcomers with minimal medical care, limited public safety protections, and an often inadequate education are ignored.
 Recently, KUED-TV in Salt Lake City, where I live, aired a telling documentary called "Shadow of Hope." It detailed how poor Mexicans have no choice but to risk death crossing the border to support their families. It followed the lives of men and women from Juchipila, Zacatecas, in Mexico's heartland, to Wendover, Utah, graphically explaining how the rapidly growing U.S. immigrant population is impacting our communities.
 Migrants from a rural town in Zacatecas, my parents' home state, speak painfully of leaving their loved ones, their roots, to endure extortion and mistreatment.
 Illegal immigration has created a thriving industry in Mexico's border towns. Officials

along the frontera do not see their job as preventing people from crossing. They view it as keeping the traffic moving, working with those who make money out of transporting people into the United States.
 On both sides of the fence, the migrants endure the pain. The Arizona desert is as big an enemy as the bandits who beat and rob them.
 By promoting the out-migration of its poor and uneducated to fuel its economy, the Mexican government finds a simple "solution" to its economic and social problems. Not a bad deal.
 It takes advantage of the allegiance and love Mexicans feel for their native land. It even offers dual citizenship to Mexicans in the United States, praising them as great patriots. Come Mexico's election time, its politicians actually campaign throughout Texas, in Los Angeles and Chicago.
 Illegal immigration's profits are spread wide across the United States. Sharing culpability are the merchants who overcharge them, the notaries who deceive them, the industries that underpay them and deny them basic health protections, landlords who fleece them, schools that too often warehouse rather than teach their children, as well as the petty crooks who rob them of their

meager savings.
 When I was a federal labor official 12 years ago, immigrants explained to me how they sent money home to Mexico with one of their own because they didn't trust the Mexican postal service. Money transfer was a cottage industry then. Now Western Union and the banks and the Mexican government have turned it into a thriving electronic money machine.
 Who in power really cares enough about the official binational conspiracy that subjugates millions of migrants to do more than to offer political rhetoric?
 Civil and religious leaders in both countries need to practice the moral truths we all learned about caring for the less fortunate among us.
 Mexico's task is to improve the economic and educational opportunities for its poor instead of driving them out of the country.
 The U.S. government should get serious about all of the lawbreakers, including employers who thrive on their misery.
 Surely, employing the morality and goodwill both claim and preach, civilized neighboring nations can start directing the toothpaste back into the tube.
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2004 - A Year of Quirks

By: Alberto Pena

Each year about this time commentators, like myself, get to have a little fun reflecting on the year past and predicting the new.
 Main stream media commentators usually write about the top news stories of the year such as the Scott Peterson trial, the Janet Jackson boob mishap, or the shortage of flu vaccine. Not me, I look for the quirky stuff and 2004 was especially quirky.
 The dictionary defines quirky as an unpredictable act or event. It doesn't say it's good or bad, just unpredictable.
 Looking back to 2004 with 20/20 hindsight, it is easy to pick three BIG surprises in 2004. They are the quirky Presidential election, the quirky behavior of Mother Nature, and for the sake of reader baiting, the really quirky but exciting TTU Red Raiders invitation to the Holiday Bowl.
 The biggest surprise of 2004 was President Bush's reelection. It simply shouldn't have happened. Throughout the campaign, Democrat John Kerry led the President in all of the traditional election winning polls such as Jobs, Health Care, Education and the Economy. Conventional wisdom would dictate a Kerry win, after all he won all three debates. But 2004 was a quirky year, and no one, I mean absolutely no one, predicted that America would vote "Moral Values" ahead of the traditional election winners. It was George Bush by Ohio.
 Another big surprise in 2004 was the unnatural behavior of Mother Nature. I must confess that what got me thinking about quirky Mother Nature was the discovery of Mad Cow disease in early 2004. For several months it was rumored that MENUDO would not longer be available in the U.S. this sent me into near panic. The real quirkiness began with Mount St. Helen's spitting, hacking and coughing ash to clear its dome. It was the first omen of a quirkiness to come. When Mother Nature gets quirky neither the President nor the war in Iraq can compete for headlines. With the exception of elections, could there be anything quirkier than 4 hurricanes in 4 weeks in Florida? But, it was the record rains in Lubbock which produced a record cotton crop; much of which remains unharvested, that gets the prize for quirky. And if this wasn't enough Mother Nature really let it rip late in December dumping 4 inches of snow on Corpus Christi. The people in Victoria actually collected the snow and put it in their home refrigerators. Weird? Not really, lot's of people collect rare items. To end the year Mother Nature produced a Tsunami which killed over 80,000 at last count.
 As the dictionary says, things aren't necessarily bad just because they're quirky. The TTU Red Raiders invitation to play in the Holiday Bowl is one of those GREAT quirks for 2004. The Red Raiders, ranked 22nd, will face off against the 5th-ranked University of California Golden Bears Thursday, December 30 at 5 p.m. (PST) at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California. These kinds of quirks I like. The Holiday Bowl has the reputation as "America's Most Exciting Bowl Game" and if the experts are to be believed, the TTU/Bears match up will not disappoint.
 Now for the really fun stuff - Predictions for 2005
LUBBOCK: I predict the Hispanic population will continue to grow in Lubbock. The first baby of 2005 will be "uno de nuestro barrio."
POLITICAL: This is too easy; I predict the Republican Party will order Texas Governor Rick Perry to stand on his head in a corner. Mr. Perry will salute smartly, proceed with deliberate haste to the nearest point where two walls intersect and promptly position himself as prescribed.
 District 19 Congressman Randy Neugebauer's Congressional voting record will continue as before - 95% in accordance with the wishes of the Republican Party.
 Councilman Tom Martin will run for Mayor.
THE WAR: Iraqi's will hold national elections and the war will continue, only worse than before.
 At the end of 2004, Osama Bin Laden is still at large. He is probably cowering in a Saddam Hussein style spider hole somewhere in the bowels of Afghanistan. It's quirky that 12,000 special operations troops whose single purpose in life is to nail him haven't done so yet, but don't worry they will, and when they do, I hope they shave his beard with paperclips.
 As for New Year's Resolutions I really don't have any but I do have a Wish List for 2005
 My wish is that Republicans love America more than they love the Republican Party and that Democrats love America more than they love the Democratic Party. In the final analysis, I just a good ole loveable American loveable. Happy New Year to all and all a Good Knight!!!!!!

Migrantes Explotados - Culpables Tanto Mexico como Estados Unidos

Por John Flórez

El querer arreglar nuestra política migratoria es como intentar devolver la pasta dental al tubo.
 México ha convertido la inmigración ilegal en un programa de desarrollo económico que vale \$14 mil millones. Esto lo ha logrado sin invertir nada, a costas de los pobres quienes deben salir del país para enviar tamaña remesa a su familia en México para alimentarla. Junto al petróleo, las remesas se han vuelto la segunda fuente de ingreso más importante para México.
 Por su parte, los Estados Unidos ha convertido nuestros 8 a 10 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en eslabones de una industria en auge, en la que las empresas pueden ganar de la mano de obra barata mientras violan reglamentaciones que otros empleadores honestos honran.
 Todo comienza con el descuido benigno del gobierno mexicano para con sus ciudadanos más desesperados, muchos de los pueblos indígenas. Los de menor preparación académica huyen al norte porque en México para ellos no hay trabajo.
 Después le toca a los EEUU. Sacamos los avisos de empleo. Pagamos salarios que dan para menos de la subsistencia mínima. Y al final les echamos la culpa a los migrantes sufridos por nuestros costos en alza de salud, seguridad pública y educación.
 Desde la perspectiva federal, el problema -- el incumplimiento de las leyes de inmigración -- es la solución -- una fuerza laboral a precio de liquidación.
 Las quejas preferidas por las comunidades estadounidenses que reciben a los recién llegados explotados, y por los que deben utilizar fondos de tesoro local para servicios mínimos de salud, protecciones limitadas de protección pública, y una educación muchas veces inferior, no suelen ser oídas.
 Hace poco, el canal televisivo KUED-TV en Salt Lake City, Utah, donde resido, emitió un documental titulado "Shadow of Hope" (Sombra de esperanza). Mostró en detalle cómo los mexicanos sin medios no tienen otra opción que arriesgar su vida al cruzar la frontera para poder mantener a su familia. Siguió la vida de hombres y mujeres desde Juchipila, Zacatecas, en el corazón del territorio mexicano, hasta Wendover, Utah, explicando gráficamente cómo la población inmigrante de rápida expansión en los Estados Unidos tiene un impacto sobre nuestras comunidades.
 Los migrantes de pueblos rurales de Zacatecas, el estado natal de mis padres, hablan con dolor sobre los seres amados que han dejado atrás, sus raíces, para aquí soportar la extorsión y el maltrato.
 La inmigración ilegal ha fomentado una industria muy fértil en los

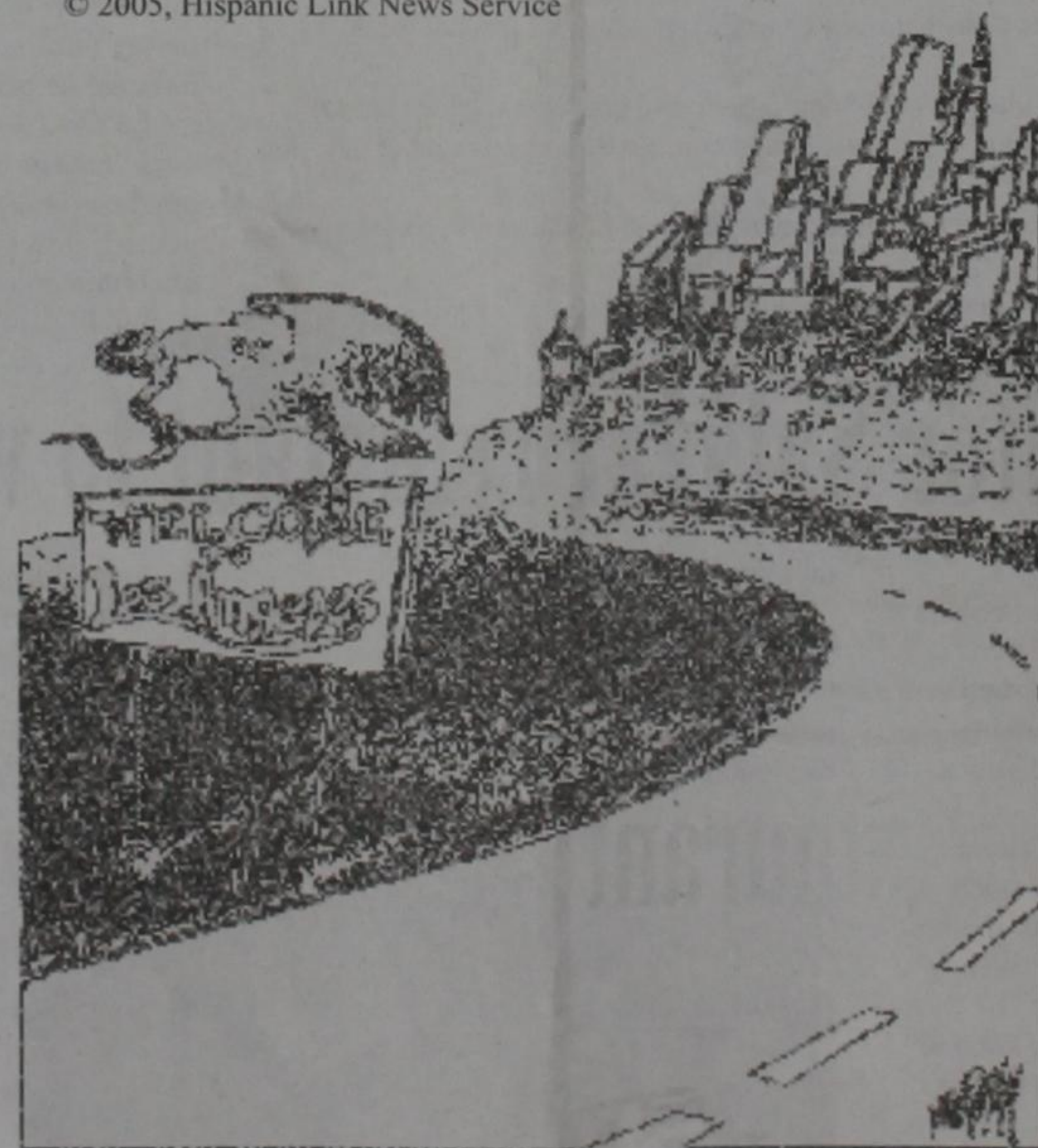
pueblos fronterizos mexicanos. Los agentes de la frontera no perciben que su trabajo sea el de prevenir que la gente cruce, sino que lo ven como contribución al flujo del tráfico humano, colaborando con los que ganan dinero facilitando el transporte de gente a los Estados Unidos.
 De ambos lados de la valla, los migrantes son quienes cargan con el dolor. El desierto de Arizona es un enemigo tan grande como los bandidos que los golpean y les roban.
 Al promocionar la emigración de su población pobre, sin instrucción, para alimentar su economía, el gobierno mexicano encuentra una "solución" sencilla para sus problemas económicos y sociales. Qué conveniente.
 Se aprovecha del amor a la patria que tienen los mexicanos. Hasta ofrece la ciudadanía doble a los mexicanos en los Estados Unidos, elogiándolos como grandes patriotas. A la hora de llegar las elecciones en México, los políticos hacen campaña incluso por Texas, en Los Angeles y en Chicago.
 Las ganancias de la inmigración ilegal se difunden por todo Estados Unidos. Comparten en la culpabilidad los comerciantes que les cobran demás, los notarios que los engañan, las industrias que no les pagan lo mínimo necesario y que les niegan protecciones básicas de salud, los arrenderos quienes los hacinan en edificios en peligro de encendiarse, por alquileres altísimos, escuelas que con frecuencia sirven de depósitos y no de recintos de educación, además de los rateros que les roban sus pocos ahorros.
 Cuando serví de funcionario federal de trabajo hace doce años, los inmigrantes me explicaron cómo enviaban dinero a México con uno de los suyos por lo que no confiaban del servicio de correos mexicano. En aquel entonces la transferencia de fondos estaba en sus albores. Ahora las empresas como Western Union y los bancos y el gobierno mexicano la han convertido en una fértil máquina de transferencia electrónica de fondos.
 ¿A quién de los que tienen el poder le importa lo suficiente el complot oficial binacional que subyuga a millones de migrantes como para hacer más que ofrecer retórica política?
 Los dirigentes civiles y religiosos de ambos países deben practicar las verdades morales que todos aprendimos sobre el amor a los menos afortunados entre nosotros.
 La tarea de México es de mejorar las oportunidades económicas y de educación para su población pobre, en vez de sacarlos del país.
 El gobierno estadounidense debe ponerse serio con todos los que violan la ley, incluyendo con los empleadores que aprovechan la miseria del migrante.
 De hecho, si aplican la moralidad y buena voluntad que ambos alegan y pregonan, las naciones vecinas civilizadas podrán comenzar a devolver la pasta dental al tubo.
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Nanny Gage

Pilar Marrero
 El Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS) de Estados Unidos no puede detener por completo la inmigración indocumentada.
 Eso parece estar claro, aunque yo argumentaría que no quiere, a instancias de la economía y de las corporaciones que la manejan, pero esa es otra columna.
 Sin embargo, como vimos este fin de semana, una indocumentada sí puede detener al Departamento de Seguridad Interna, o mejor dicho, al tipo con pinta de duro que había sido nominado para dirigirlo: Bernard Kerik.
 Es curioso. Una sencilla mujer sin papeles migratorios puede tumbar a un potencial secretario de gabinete del país más poderoso del mundo. La renuncia de Kerik, anunciada el viernes por un supuesto Nannygate, me hizo sonreír, porque la ironía es muy fina: el hombre destinado a dirigir un mamotreto de departamento que incluye el control fronterizo del país, no sólo contrató a una niñera indocumentada, sino que "no sabía" que había que pagar impuestos por ella. ¡Qué mala suerte!
 María (llamémosla así, aunque no sabemos quién es, ni de dónde procedía, aunque podemos adivinar) se llevó por delante al duro Kerik, como antes lo hizo con Linda Chávez —nominada por el presidente Bush en 2000 para el Departamento de Trabajo— y con Lourdes Baird —seleccionada por el ex presidente Clinton en 1993 para el otrora Departamento de Justicia— entre otros "culpables" del crimen del siglo: contratar un indocumentado.
 Y, pienso yo, ¡qué cuerda de hipócritas son todos, Dios mío! Pero no me hagan caso, son pensamientos espontáneos que no tienen cabida en una columna sesuda. Es sólo que si el contratar a un trabajador sin documentos fuera causa de ruina personal o profesional, imaginéense ustedes la de gente que estaría fastidiada en este país.
 Y no sólo gente. Empresas, grandes y pequeñas corporaciones, agricultores, fabricantes, restaurantes y tantas otras industrias cuya columna vertebral son los inmigrantes, y si no están documentados, mala suerte.
 Gente de su casa que se apoya en los indocumentados para trabajos tan delicados como limpiar su hogar, podar su jardín, preparar su comida y cuidar a sus hijos y que, sin embargo, ve perfectamente normal que el departamento que regula el tema migratorio sea el de "seguridad pública", por aquello de que el ser extranjero ya lo hace a uno sospechoso.
 En fin, que ni una guerra mal planeada y mentirosa, un déficit gigantesco o un dólar débil han podido con esta administración, pero María se llevó por delante al "duro" de Kerik, tan amado por el otro duro, Giuliani.
 Pero ¡jojo! Hay quienes señalan que María no fue la causa de la caída del bigotudo policía con pinta de Kojak.
 Resulta que el hombre tenía unas cuantas manchitas en su historial, a saber, y de acuerdo con la revista Newsweek, una orden de arresto en New Jersey en 1998 por un problema relacionado con cuentas sin pagar de un condominio.
 Y también su rápido enriquecimiento por acciones en una empresa que fabrica macanas eléctricas, vendidas a la ciudad de Nueva York y al Departamento de Seguridad Interna —uno que dirigió y otro al que iba a dirigir, qué bien conectado el hombre.
 Peor aún, parece que la Casa Blanca dudó a última hora de la sinceridad de Kerik, que durante el periodo de investigación sobre su pasado insistió en que todo estaba bien con sus empleados domésticos.
 En todo caso, la prensa especula que el Nannygate fue parte del problema o sólo una excusa. Algo así como la otra muy sobada excusa de políticos renunciando cuando dicen que "desean dedicarse a su familia".
 Es decir, que toda persona pública debería tener a mano su indocumentado, por si se presenta la necesidad de renunciar a un puesto y hace falta una excusa más o menos normal.
 Aunque creo que no hace falta la recomendación. Estoy segura de que una gran mayoría tiene a un trabajador indocumentado en algún lado de su pasado, presente o futuro.

Year in Review: Texas Democrats' Demise

It is recalled as a glorious year for Texas Democrats, who reasserted their long-held dominance by heading off GOP challengers and delaying the lofty aspirations of a Republican named George H.W. Bush.
 That was 1964. This is 2004, which might be remembered as the year the donkey finally vanished in Texas after 40 years of slow decline.
 "If you use the animal analogy, they're in deep hibernation and spring is not yet near," said Cal Jillson, a political scientist at Southern Methodist University. "Salvation is on the way for the Democrats. It's still two decades out, and it's demographics."
 The changing face of the Texas population seems to offer the party's best hope for the future, if it can take advantage.
 With another Texas Republican named Bush at the top of the ticket, November's election could not have been much worse.
 Veterans such as U.S. Rep. Martin Frost of Dallas were toppled after a GOP-friendly redistricting map ensured a Republican-dominated Texas delegation for the first time since Reconstruction. Meanwhile, the GOP tightened its grip on the Legislature, and the wilting Democratic Party holds no statewide offices.
 The landscape looked much different immediately after the 1964 elections. Lyndon B. Johnson, sworn into office after the Kennedy assassination a year earlier, carried Texas by an overwhelming margin. His win helped liberal Texas Sen. Ralph Yarborough defeat the elder Bush and delay any real challenge to Democratic rule.
 But the election was also a turning point for Texas voters, who soon began doing something their grandparents could not have imagined: Turning to the party of Lincoln.
 "On the surface it appeared to be a disaster for the Republicans," said Patrick Cox, assistant director of the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. "In essence, it was laying the groundwork and setting the foundation for future electoral success."
 The Democrats had already begun to face divisions over racial issues and party power squabbles during the 1950s and '60s. Johnson's presidency brought significant change, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.
 "These divisions, coupled with the influence of the national agenda, divided Texas Democrats and many left for the GOP," Cox said. "Also, a significant number of people moved into the state beginning in the 1960s who were not tied to the tradition of loyalty to the Democratic Party or the New Deal legacy of FDR."
 The Republicans had a big breakthrough in the 1980s with the Reagan Revolution and swept statewide offices, a run that led to future president George W. Bush's re-election as governor in 1998. The GOP exclamation point came in 2004, with Republicans winning 21 of Texas' 32 U.S. House seats on Election Day.
 Hope for the Democrats to be competitive again in Texas seems to be rooted in the state's changing demographics. Though Texas will become a majority minority state in a few years, it may take as long as two decades for the Democrats to benefit at the voting booth, according to Jillson.
 "They have to do everything they can to support the demographic shifts. They have to do grass-roots organizing," he said. "They have to have neighborhood drives, particularly in Hispanic parts of the state, not just South Texas but in the urban areas of the state." State Democratic Party spokesman Mike Lavigne said the party is already building itself back up on the local level. "I think we have work to do to ensure that we win on a statewide level," Lavigne said.



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The Weather Joins Sex, Politics, and Religion

By Marisela Veiga

Sex, politics and religion — years ago I learned these topics were small talk to be avoided at social events where we share holiday cheer, merlot and goat cheese with people whom the Census Bureau refers to as non-Hispanic whites.

The three subjects are dangerous because most people have strong personal feelings about each. Serious disagreements can erupt.

This season I have a fourth candidate to avoid. The weather.

Cubans on the island and in Florida, our second home, never talk about the weather anyway. It's always a beautiful day (except when a hurricane is coming), so what's to discuss?

My family brought me from the island to Florida, with its wonderfully compatible weather, years ago when I was a tiny child. Most of my adult life has been spent somewhere in the aptly named "Sunshine State."

I have also lived in ice-cube cold U.S. climates — St. Paul, Minnesota, twice, for example. For the past couple of years, I have resided here in Alexandria, Virginia, a quaint, often frigid, sopping wet colonial suburb of Washington, D.C. The temperature dropped to 11 degrees the other day.

I hate it. I've decided to move back to Florida, to St. Augustine, the first European settlement in North America.

In Alexandria this past spring, 90 percent of the days were overcast. Nearly two-thirds of them brought rain.

Anyone in his or her right mind knows this is not good weather. But I must not say so out loud in my neighborhood.

It's a cultural thing, I've decided, imported with the British, who happen to inhabit the world's number one land of lousy weather.

I don't know if it's the New Nationalism at work, but Polly-

anna's abound. There was my neighbor Patrick sitting in his front yard in a folding lawn chair this past spring. He had a baseball cap on and a beer in his hand. He wore flip-flops and his toes were submerged in the swamp of his front yard.

"Nice day!" he said, lifting his beer to salute me.

"You must've lowered your standards," I replied. "Where's the sun?"

"It's in Florida," he said. "My cabbage and lettuce I planted in the back are loving it."

He expressed no concern about Virginia's farmers who had to delay their planting of winter wheat and barley because of the extremely wet season. Or he might have considered our mutual neighbor Chris, a young contractor whose projects couldn't begin because it was too wet to dig foundations.

Can't these people deal with negative realities?

One Sunday soon thereafter, an elder at my husband's church came to greet me and apologize for the uninterrupted lousy weather.

"It's been the two worst years we've had in decades," he said.

"Don't come to Mother Mon-key with a fake banana," I replied as he continued to describe our mid-Atlantic climate as actually wonderful, "temperate."

Last winter the D.C. area experienced huge snowfalls. We parked our vehicle, a small truck, on the street. On a Thursday afternoon we expected the second huge snowstorm of the year. My husband was in the hospital, preparing for open heart surgery at 7 a.m. the following morning. To see him before the operation, I was told to be at the hospital by 6.

The almanac predicts that lots more will fall this winter. Hopefully, by then I'll have my straw in a *cuba libre* in St. Augustine.

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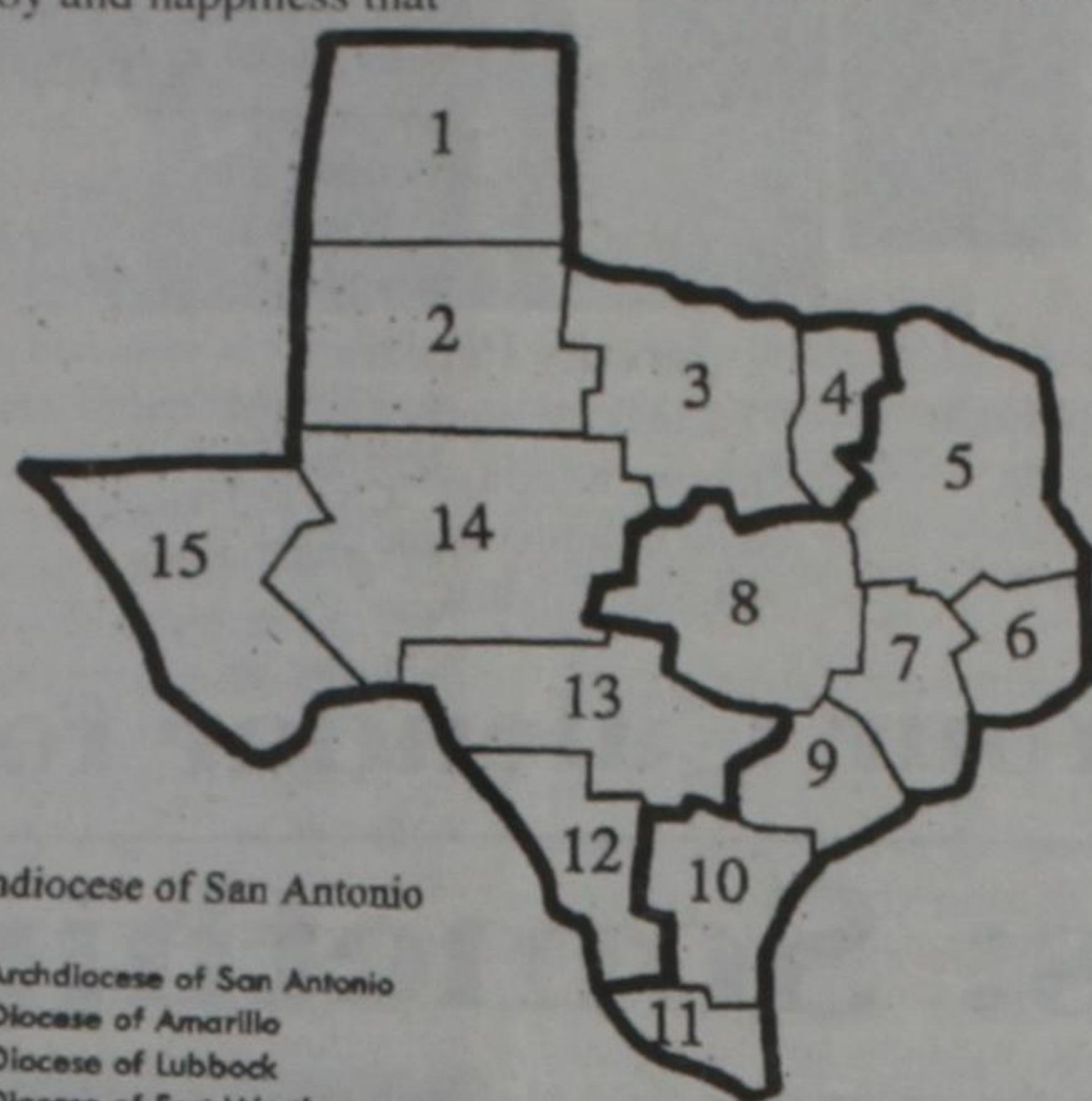
A New Archbishop for San Antonio & a New Archdiocese in Texas

Lubbock, Texas - The following is a statement by Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF, Bishop of Lubbock concerning the announcement of A New Archbishop for San Antonio and a New Archdiocese in the State of Texas.

Yesterday, the bishop said that it is with joy and happiness that

Auxiliary Bishop of Denver.

And, at the same time, we receive the good news that the Diocese of Galveston-Houston is raised to the status of an Archdiocese, and becomes a metropolitan See. The territory of the new Province comprises the following suffragan Dioceses: Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville,



The Archdiocese of San Antonio

- 13. The Archdiocese of San Antonio
- 1. The Diocese of Amarillo
- 2. The Diocese of Lubbock
- 3. The Diocese of Fort Worth
- 4. The Diocese of Dallas
- 15. The Diocese of El Paso
- 14. The Diocese of San Angelo
- 12. The Diocese of Laredo

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

- 7. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- 5. The Diocese of Tyler
- 8. The Diocese of Austin
- 6. The Diocese of Beaumont
- 9. The Diocese of Victoria
- 10. The Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 11. The Diocese of Brownsville

we receive the good news from our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, that he has named a successor to Archbishop Patrick F. Flores; namely, the Archbishop-elect for San Antonio, Most Rev. José H. Gomez, D.D., up to now,

Corpus Christi, Tyler, and Victoria.

Moreover, with the new Metropolitan See, Most Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza is slated to become the first Archbishop of galveston-Houston, and the Most Rev. Daniel N. DiNardo, D.D., is also raised to the dignity of Archbishop Coadjutor.

The Ecclesiastical Province of San Antonio new comprises the following suffragan Dioceses: Amarillo, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, laredo, Lubbock, and San Angelo. As you see, our Diocese of Lubbock thus remains in the Province of San Antonio, and we receive a new Archbishop-elect, Most Rev. José H. Gomez, D.D.

The Diocese of Lubbock rejoices in these appointments and welcomes our new Archbishop, Most Rev. José H. Gomez, D.D. We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, for being a Good Shepherd and tending well to the pastoral care of the Universal Church.



Celebrities to do New Year's Rituals

Candles, letters, suitcases and grapes are among the year-end rituals that some celebrities will do in order to start 2005 with good opportunities in their artistic and personal life.

So it's the case of singer Fey, who lights a red candle, where she ties some letters that contain her new-year resolutions and the bad things that happened in the year ending.

This way, the candle consumes little by little and so do the letters, so when midnight approaches on the 31st, this process must have finished completely, allowing, according to the artist, a spiritual renovation that helps to start the new year with high hopes.

In addition, as it is the custom, the artist eats 12 grapes and requests its corresponding wishes to have peace, health and prosperity for the year that starts.

Cuban-rooted actress and singer Aylin Mujica commented that her year-end ritual is to cover her body with honey and

then step into the sea, to reborn and at the same time, request faithfully her resolutions.

For other actresses like Vanessa Guzman, the best thing is to grab a suitcase on midnight and run around the block, with the purpose of getting rid of bad spirits and have plenty of trips in the upcoming future.

Singer Susana Zabaleta prefers to wear red underwear and eat grapes on the 31st, since it's a family tradition that lets her go on with the party along her family, which she loves and enjoys.

Other celebrities like Guatemalan Ricardo Arjona, spends new year's eve with his family and expects the new year to be prosperous and full of work and health.

"El Divo de Linares", Raphael, also prefers to welcome the New Year in company of his loved ones without doing any ritual, since he trusts that persistence is the key to be successful in anything you wish for.

Happy New Year! Be Smart - Think Smart Don't Drink & Drive!

We Our Proud of You Michael Flores

Our son Michael A. Flores was born on May 20, 1974 in Lubbock, Tx. and from the moment he began to speak he was destined to be some kind of leader. His first words were "Mom" "Mom" as he yelled at my wife to advise he was awake and wanted to do something at age 10 months. He always had an inclination of checking things out and what made them work, in the course of growing up he tore apart a watch, lawn mower and even a radio. He had a very active mind and when he was interested he really went all out as he excelled in the violin and in his junior year at Estacado High School. He won every award given to an ROTC Student. We were so very proud of him.

Michael even excelled in his jobs, his first job at United marketing Research. He became assistant monitor within 4 months of being hired. He also took a try at selling cameras, worked at converys and Dell computers. None of these caught his eye or fulfilled his intermost desires until the Army came calling.

He enlisted and afterward consulted with his parents and wanted to know how we felt. We were very proud and provide all the support he needed. While in training our son told his drill sergeant that his mom was a lot tougher on him than he could have ever been. He really enjoyed boot camp. Michael's grandfather, grandmother, his parents, sister, aunts, cousins and niece watched him graduate in San Antonio, Tx and his grandfather was especially proud, as he had served in the Korean conflict and Michael was the oldest male grandchild and the first to choose his destiny. He is in his final preparation and is scheduled to go overseas to war early next year. At home a mom and dad, grandmothers and one grandfather. Along with a wife, Cindy and child on the way plus one sister, and numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and one niece hope for a very quick and safe return.

On Dec. 19th, his parents along with his relatives thru a little party to show just how proud and happy they are of him and their hope of a safe trip and quick return. We will all keep him in our prayers and thoughts until the day he returns. We are very proud of our baby boy "Michael Flores"



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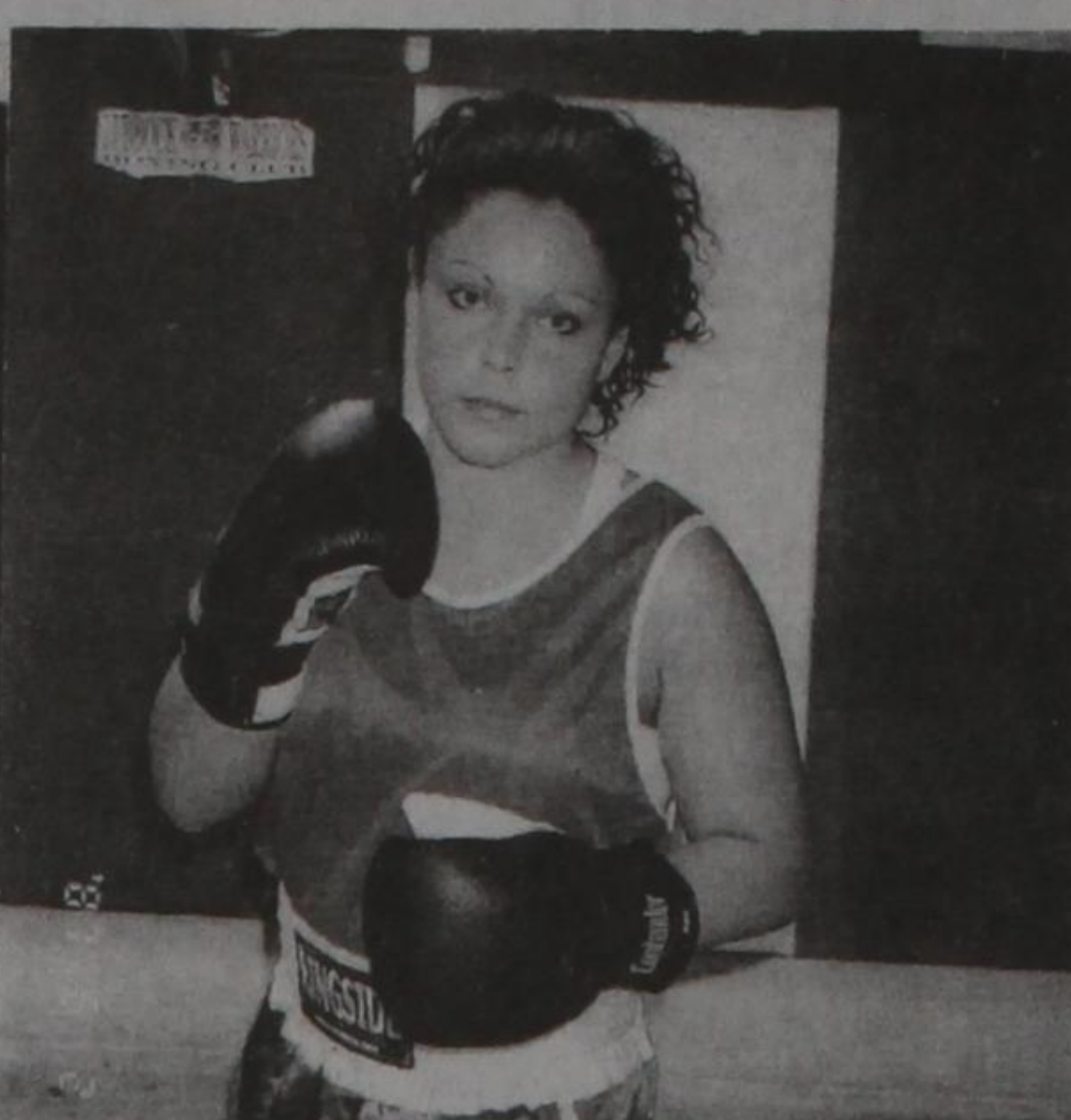
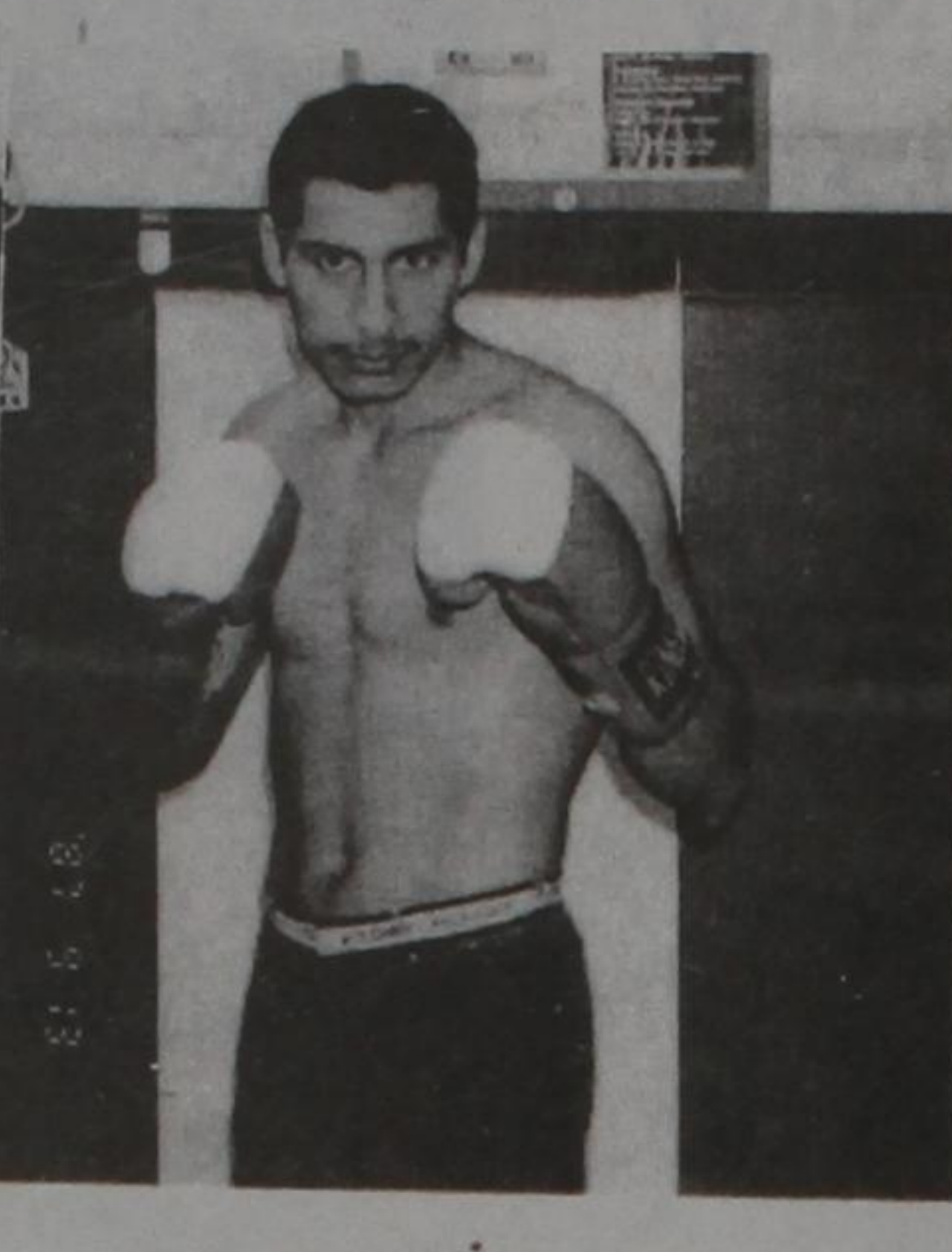
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Lubbock Warriors Boxing Team Host 2005 W.T. USA Boxing Championships



Joseph Rosendo
Lubbock Warriors 165#
middleweight, currently ranked #6 The USA; 2004 Texas State Champion; 2004 Olympic Trials qualifier and has recently graduated from the police academy.

Phillip Ybarra
Lubbock Warriors 141# Light Welterweight and 2004 Texas State Champion.

Jeremy Perez
Lubbock Warriors 119#
Bantam weight, 2004 Texas State Champion and 2004 National Finalist.

Kayla Combs
Lubbock Warriors 119#
Bantam weight and will make debut as a Warrior. She also attends Frenship High School.

Lubbock Warriors Boxing Team will host the 2005 - West Texas USA Boxing Championships on Jan. 7th & 8th, 2005 at Jake's Sport's Cafe which is located at 5025 50th Street. The event is schedule to start at 7:00 pm..

Representing Lubbock will be: Texas State golden Gloves Champion Joseph Rosendo, Jr., Texas State Champion Phillip Ybarra and Texas State Champion Jeremy Perez.

There will also be women's division which will feature Lubbock Warriors Kayla Combs.

Several area champions from Amarillo, Plainview, Odessa and San Angelo will via for a chance to advance to the National Championship in Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center later next month.

Mark Your Calendar for some Good Boxing

Spurs vs Suns: Something Has To Give

The Phoenix Suns weren't as good as their record indicated.

Tony Parker scored a season-high 29 points in just 30 minutes, and San Antonio shot 52 percent in a 115-94 victory that ended Phoenix's 11-game winning streak and amplified the ongoing chatter over just how

good the Suns really are.

"They just kicked our butts," said Suns point guard Steve Nash, who scored all 12 of his points in the first quarter. "Maybe that's good for this team, to face a tough challenge like this. ... We can make this a turning point in our season. We can

learn that we are not a finished product."

Phoenix's full-throttle offense - the league's most productive at nearly 110 points per game - was ground to a near-halt by the Spurs' defense - the NBA's stingiest, giving up an average of 85 points per game.

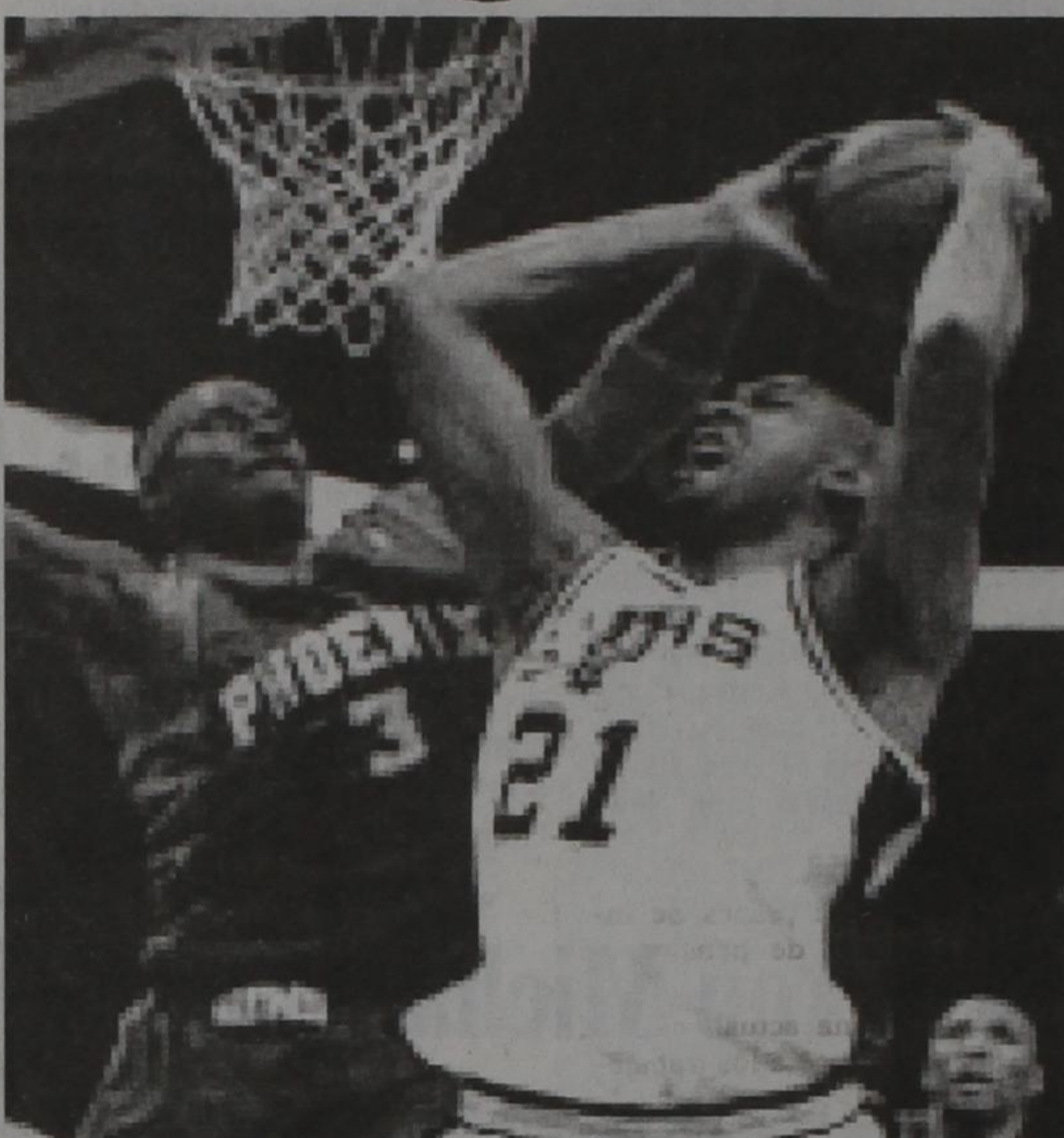
The Suns, with an NBA-best 24-4 record, didn't break 20 points in the second and third quarters, and trailed at one point by 31.

"Everybody understood that defense is what was going to do it for us," said the Spurs' Bruce Bowen. "We know they can score points, but let's see what they can do against hands being in their face on contested shots."

San Antonio fell just one point shy of its highest point total of the season and held the Suns to just one point more than their season-low.

Parker, defended mostly by Nash, penetrated seemingly at will. Eight of his 14 baskets came in the paint.

"You know they are not going to leave Timmy (Duncan) open, so you have to drive it and make sure you go all the way to the



basket," said Parker, who only had one turnover.

San Antonio, which led 61-54 at halftime, won the game with a

20-6 run to open the third quarter. Parker scored three baskets inside and Bowen added a pair of 3-pointers during the decisive

burst.

Duncan had 16 points and 12 rebounds and matched his season high with six assists. Malik Rose had 16 points and Manu Ginobili 13 for the Spurs, who limited Phoenix to a season-low 39.7 percent shooting.

Amare Stoudemire scored 37 points for the Suns.

Shawn Marion, averaging 20.2 points, scored only six on 2-for-11 shooting. Aside from Stoudemire (12-for-19), the Phoenix starters went 9-for-40 from the floor.

The focus on fast-paced offense was clear from the game's first possession, as Parker drove for an uncontested layup.

The Spurs made nine of their first 12 shots to take a 20-13 lead after barely five minutes, but a driving finger roll by Nash ignited a 14-2 run by Phoenix.

Behind Nash, the Suns led by as many as six before San Antonio pulled to 35-32 on a drive by Ginobili in the final seconds.

The Spurs picked up their defense after Phoenix built its lead to 43-34 early in the second, the last point coming after San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich was hit with a technical foul by referee Violet Palmer.

The Suns missed 13 of their last 16 shots before the break, and San Antonio rallied for a seven-point advantage at halftime.

Duncan said Popovich's sideline rant at Palmer was both timely and effective.

"It was a great time to do it," he said. "Guys got refocused and a little bit of a charge."

Marion agreed, saying "When Pop picked up that technical, that was a big shift in the momentum."

Stoudemire scored 13 of the Suns' 19 points in the second quarter to end the half with 21. Parker, who also scored 13 in the second, led the Spurs with 19 points on 9-for-13 shooting.

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Special Letter

Dear Editor,

Hello. My name is Kelsey Gonzales. I am 12 years old, I live in Lamesa, Tx. When I was born the doctor told me I have a hand disease, called Campodactyly in my right hand; my pinky is cruet we started to see.

Dr. Marshall in Lubbock UMC did the surgery on my hand in June this past summer. Dr. Marshall was a very special doctor to me, he was always concerned about me he listened to me, he was suppose to do a second surgery on me.

When I first heard about my Dr. I was in my room reading when the news came on and I heard about his plane had crashed and he had passed away. I ran to my parents room and I started to cry, I could not believe it. I will miss Dr. Marshall because he was a special doctor.

My Christmas were sad this year for me because "A great doctor has passed away" But in my heart I will always remember him in a special way eventhough I am small, I will still remember him. I will remember him for the rest of my life. He is and will always be a special someone.

Your Patient in Lamesa, Texas
Kelsey Gonzales-Lamesa, Tx

Happy New Year! 2005

Los Heridos Del Sataclismo

viene de primera pagina

En el sur de India, los paramédicos iniciaron la vacunación de miles de sobrevivientes para prevenir brotes de cólera, fiebre tifoidea, hepatitis A y disentería, mientras que las autoridades rociaban con desinfectantes las playas donde aparecieron cadáveres. En Sri Lanka se temen epidemias de enfermedades propagadas por el agua, como la diarrea.

Por otro lado, la guerrilla de los Tigres de Liberación de la Patria Tamil (LTTE, que lucha por la independencia de una parte de Sri Lanka, antigua Ceilán, ha prohibido a las organizaciones humanitarias locales e internacionales la entrada en las zonas del norte de Sri Lanka bajo su influencia y ha insistido en que todo tipo de ayuda debe ser canalizada a través de su control.

"Esto es ridículo. No hay garantía de que el LTTE vaya a distribuir la comida y otros víveres entre los desplazados. Se les está privando de ayuda a cerca de 200 mil personas afectadas por la tragedia del domingo", señaló un portavoz del Partido Democrático Popular Tamil (EPDP), enemigo declarado de la guerrilla y miembro de la coalición de gobierno en Colombo.

Medios locales informaron de que los rebeldes decomisaron ayer dos convoyes de ayuda enviado al este de la isla por una cadena privada de televisión para que fuera distribuido entre la población desplazada.

"Lo más probable es que los rebeldes se hayan llevado estos cargamentos a sus campamentos para distribuirla entre sus cuadros",

señaló el portavoz del EPDP, que se lamentó de que esa ayuda no llegue a la gente necesitada.

Los rebeldes también han rechazado a un equipo de médicos rusos que habían viajado a la zona controlada por el LTTE para socorrer a los heridos.

Desde el pasado domingo, el LTTE ha estado llamando a la comunidad internacional para que colabore en el auxilio a las víctimas del maremoto. Pero insisten siempre en que esas donaciones sean canalizadas a través de la organización humanitaria Fondo de Rehabilitación Tamil, próxima a ellos.

El LTTE no puede aceptar donaciones directas de numerosos países porque está proscrita por países como Estados Unidos, Reino Unido y la India.

Desesperación
En tanto, la odisea de familiares por encontrar a sus seres queridos continúa. En la internet se pueden encontrar cientos de mensajes sobre los desaparecidos, mensajes breves, pero desgarradores.

"¿Dónde estás?", reza uno de ellos. Cuatro días después de la tragedia, muchas familias desconocen el paradero de sus allegados e inclusive en el caso de muerte, temen no recuperar nunca los cadáveres.

Si bien la esperanza de hallar a alguien con vida es cada vez menor, aún aparecen sobrevivientes. En Sri Lanka, donde han muerto más de 22 mil personas, ayer fue rescatado el pescador Sini Mohamed Sarfudeen por un helicóptero de la Fuerza Aérea

traz estar a la deriva en pleno mar abierto.

Aviones de la Fuerza Aérea india evacuaron a miles de supervivientes de la remota isla de Car Nicobar. Algunos caminaron durante varios días alejándose de sus arrasadas viviendas hasta llegar a una base militar. Periodistas emplazados en la isla no obtuvieron permiso para abandonar la base para verificar si ocho mil personas habían muerto.

La coalición anunciada por Bush ayer se propone coordinar el envío de ayuda y reconstrucción de los 4,827 kilómetros de costa afectada en el océano Índico.

Hasta el momento, India ha dado un parte con casi siete mil muertos, mientras que Indonesia reportó 45,268, sin contar los que murieron en su costa occidental de Sumatra, donde se piensa que hay más de 10 mil muertos sólo en esa ciudad. Por otro lado, India rechazó de momento la ayuda internacional para socorrer a sus necesitados por considerar que tiene los medios adecuados propios para hacerlo.

El epicentro del terremoto, el peor en los últimos 40 años, se localizó cerca de Sumatra, ciudad que quedó prácticamente destruida. Las imágenes de la localidad desde el aire mostraban capas de barro y agua tapándola.

En las calles de Banda Aceh, la principal ciudad de la provincia indonesia de Aceh, los militares lograron entregar suministros alimenticios, entre otros, a sus habitantes.

El mayor general Endang

Suwarya, comandante de la provincia, dijo que el 75% de la costa occidental de Sumatra quedó destruida.

Con decenas de miles de personas aún sin aparecer, el jefe de apoyo de las operaciones de la Cruz Roja, Peter Röss, dijo que la tragedia podría dejar un balance de más de 100 mil muertos. Hasta el momento se han reportado más de 500 mil heridos.

"Tenemos muy poca esperanza, exceptuando milagros individuales", dijo Jean-Marc Espalioux, presidente del grupo hotelero Accor, sobre los miles de turistas y habitantes del sur de Tailandia, incluyendo a dos mil escandinavos.

Espectro de epidemias
Sin agua potable y las tuberías rotas por la fuerza arrolladora del agua, la propagación de las enfermedades es uno de los mayores problemas que se está tratando de detener.

Los grupos de ayuda humanitaria se esforzaban por implementar lo que describieron como la mayor operación de auxilio de la historia, la cual busca alejar la amenaza de epidemias de cólera y malaria que podrían desatarse donde los suministros de agua están contaminados por cadáveres y escombros.

Millones de personas están ante un "riesgo muy alto", dijo la agencia para niños de la ONU, UNICEF.

Si bien aún es pronto para calcular los costos económicos del desastre, la mayor reaseguradora del mundo, Munich Re de Alemania, estipuló el daño a los edificios en las

regiones afectadas en al menos 13,600 millones de dólares.

En cuanto a la valoración de los daños económicos y el coste de la reconstrucción, aún se carece de datos precisos para calcular el esfuerzo necesario en los próximos meses y años y el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) anunció su disposición a ayudar cuando se pueda valorar el impacto del desastre en las economías de los países afectados.

"Es pronto" para hacer un balance y adelantar cuáles serán los efectos de la tragedia en las economías individuales de cada país y en la de la región, precisó un portavoz del organismo multilateral en declaraciones a la prensa.

El Fondo dijo que proporcionará ayuda técnica a la zona afectada y, más adelante, evaluará las posibilidades de extender su contribución al ámbito financiero.

Por otra parte, se reportaron saqueos generalizados en las devastadas islas turísticas de Phuket y Phi Phi de Tailandia, donde turistas europeos y australianos dejaron su dinero y joyas al huir, o al ser arastrados por las aguas.

Además de India, Tailandia, Indonesia y Sri Lanka, los otros países afectados fueron Malasia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, las Maldivas, Somalia, Tanzania y Kenia. En Africa el impacto fue menor y los muertos fueron en decenas.

Zona de turismo
Cientos de voluntarios recogían ayer cadáveres entre los escombros de los establecimientos hoteleros de lujo situados en la playa de Khao

Lak, al sur de Tailandia, en medio de un intenso olor a muerte y donde fallecieron muchos turistas occidentales, la mayor parte europeos.

En los complejos hoteleros se albergaban al menos cinco turistas, y en la zona trabajaban y vivían más de 10 mil personas antes de la tragedia ocurrida el domingo.

Los países europeos afectados han comunicado que cientos de personas han fallecido, están desaparecidas o no han podido ser localizadas como consecuencia del maremoto.

Alemania reconoce 26 nacionales muertos, Francia tiene noticias de la muerte de 20 de sus ciudadanos — pero el grupo hotelero galo Accor comunicó que 329 personas alojadas en su hotel de Khao Lak siguen desaparecidas— e Italia informó de la muerte de 13 personas y tenía la muerte de otras 600.

Veinte británicos han perdido la vida en el maremoto pero se espera que la cifra aumente en los próximos días, las autoridades suecas no tienen noticia de más de 1,500 de sus nacionales y hay varias decenas de muertos de otros países escandinavos.

En España siete personas se consideran desaparecidas "en base a noticias fiables", según fuentes diplomáticas, pero aún no se tiene confirmación de la muerte de ningún español como consecuencia de la tragedia.

(En la nota se usaron también datos de EFE y AFP)

Los Latinos Tienen Grandes Intereses en la Legislación Sobre el Seguro Social

viene de primera pagina

Entre las soluciones bajo consideración están el recorte de los beneficios, el alce del nivel de contribuciones, o el alce de la edad de jubilación.

Otro proyecto de ley muy similar al del presidente lo presentaron al Congreso a comienzos del 2004 miembros republicanos de la Cámara Sam Johnson (Texas), Pat Toomey (Pensilvania) y Jefe Flake (Arizona). Se basa en la propuesta del Instituto Cato, de tendencia libertaria, sobre la reforma del Seguro Social, cuyo título es la "6.2 Percent Solution".

Bajo tal plan, los individuos crearían cuentas lo suficientemente grandes como para verdaderamente hacer la diferencia, dice analista de Cato, Berna Brannon.

El plan sería voluntario, y no afectaría a los que están "próximo a la jubilación", indica.

Los oponentes al proyecto temen que bajo la propuesta de privatización, más de \$2.2 billones saldrían de la financiación de los pagos de beneficios para los próximos diez años; en vez de esto, iría a cuentas privadas de la Bolsa.

Para el año 2010, los hispanos de tercera edad serán el 7.2% de la población de personas mayores de los Estados Unidos, el 11.2% para el 2030 y el 17.5% para el 2050, según cálculos de AARP.

Gabriela Lemus, directora nacional de políticas y legislación de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos (LULAC), evalúa la situación, "Muchas de

nuestras personas mayores dependen increíblemente de su cheque del Seguro Social, probablemente más que los mayores de otras comunidades". Los que mayor riesgo tendrían serían las latinas, quienes son las que menos participan en planes de inversión personal de pensiones, explica.

Bajo el sistema actual, el Seguro Social protege a los trabajadores y a sus familias contra la pérdida de ingresos debida a la jubilación, la discapacidad o la muerte. No obstante, el plan del presidente no ofrece directivas claras sobre cómo serán compensadas las familias.

Una comisión bipartidaria de 16 miembros creada por Bush en el 2001 para estudiar el Seguro Social admite que será una transición costosa que tendrá que ser financiada con enormes subsidios.

LULAC piensa oponer la propuesta. Llevará a cabo una campaña de educación al patrocinar reuniones comunitarias por todo el país y al establecer un teléfono de emergencia bilingüe, indica Lemus.

En una declaración conjunta, dirigente demócrata de la Cámara, Nancy Pelosi de California, y el senador Harry Reid, demócrata por Nevada, dicen:

"Queremos trabajar juntos para asegurar que los Estados Unidos honre la promesa a los que han trabajado duro y jugado según las reglas y que se han ganado una jubilación segura. Urgimos al presidente a que ofrezca una propuesta que no redujera la fi-

nanciación del Seguro Social, ni hiciera daño a la clase media, ni recortara los beneficios garantizados. No podemos apoyar ningún plan que se fie de incrementos masivos e irresponsa-

bles de deuda, lo cual podría desestabilizar el mercado financiero y llevar a grandes aumentos en los impuestos".

© 2005, Hispanic Link News Service.

Senator Salazar

(From Front Page)

"He's always said you inherit a national constituency without getting the resources to serve a national constituency," said Campbell spokeswoman Kate Dando. "Still, he's certainly been able to do a number of wonderful things for the Native American community."

Walking the tightrope
The pressure on Salazar can already be seen in the expectations of current Hispanic lawmakers. They expect to be able to call on him to "carry the water" for Hispanic issues they pursue in the House, such as immigration and a more Spanish-language-friendly federal government.

They note that though the Hispanic community didn't vote him into office, it did send a lot of money to his campaign as he tapped into a national Hispanic fundraising network.

"With many of the Hispanic Democrats, they'll see him as the focal point and will be looking to him to carry the water on Hispanic issues," said Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., a former chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. "He had a national campaign; they

were raising money all over the country for him."

But at least some Hispanic voters in Colorado agree with Salazar's stance.

"I think he should look at all of Colorado," said Levi Gallegos, a retiree in Denver who was born not far from Salazar's hometown in the San Luis Valley. "We're not in favor of him going Hispanic. We're Hispanic, but we're about fifth generation already."

While Duffy sees accepting the Hispanic leadership mantle as a way to build a national profile, she said it can go too far.


"The problem is you get pigeonholed, and this is someone who wants to make a larger mark on the Senate," Duffy said.

Colorado College political science professor Bob Loevy said Campbell's role as a leader on American Indian issues was never a liability with Colorado voters.

Similarly, Loevy doesn't expect a problem for Salazar, because as attorney general, he served his Hispanic constituents, but maintained a much broader appeal to an overwhelmingly white state.

"He functioned as, for lack of a better word, a 'regular' politician, rather than a 'Hispanic' politician," Loevy said

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Hong Kong stars donate 200,000 USD for tidal wave victims

A group of Hong Kong stars, including Jackie Chan and Andy Lau, have pledged 1.5 million Hong Kong dollars (200,000 US) to help victims of the huge tidal waves that struck south and southeast Asia.

Hollywood action hero Chan will donate 500,000 Hong Kong dollars to UNICEF, the UN agency said.

Asian heartthrob Lau, actor Chow Yun-fat, comedian Stephen Chow and Canto-pop singer Leon Lai will donate 200,000 dollars each to a fund set up by local Chinese-language newspaper Apple Daily, the daily said.

"A lot of medical people of different nationalities have flown (to Asia) to help out the

victims. I cannot do much but to donate some money to them and hope this will help victims rebuild their homes," Lau told the newspaper.

Chow Yun-fat, the gun-toting hero in "Bulletproof Monk" and "Hard-Boiled", talked of his sadness over the tragedy.

"It's very difficult to predict natural disasters. So we have to treasure what we have," he said and urged Hong Kong people to help out the victims the best they could.

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El Editor



Estéreo Latino 97.3

La Maquina Musical

Un Vistazo a la Salud

Durante la década de 1990, la salud pública en Estados Unidos había mejorado, pero un último estudio reveló que en lo que va de la presente década ese avance disminuyó y es la obesidad la condición que más rápido se ha incrementado.

En detalle
Estudio 'La salud de Estados Unidos: clasificación de salud por estado 2004'

Diversos problemas personales, comunitarios y de política pública contribuyen a la lentitud del progreso en la salud, entre ellos:

- El aumento del porcentaje de obesos
- Falta de seguro médico
- El descenso en el número de estudiantes graduados de secundaria
- El incremento de la pobreza
- La menor inversión en programas de salud pública

Para más información sobre el estudio, puede visitar en internet la página: unitedhealthfoundation.org.

De acuerdo con el estudio realizado por la Asociación de Salud Pública de Estados Unidos (APHA) y United Health Foundation (UHF), una organización privada no lucrativa, los casos de obesidad se incrementaron en un 97% desde 1990 y ésta afecta actualmente al 22.8% de la población en general de este país.

Tan sólo de 2000 a la fecha, el número de obesos aumentó en un 3.2%.

Este problema, según señala la investigación, ocasiona otra serie de enfermedades, así como costos previsibles en cuidados de salud y una menor productividad laboral de la persona que la padece.

El doctor Reed Tuckson, vicepresidente de UHF, dijo que para tener éxito en combatir la epidemia de la obesidad cada persona debe tomar decisiones responsables.

"Las comunidades necesitan movilizar sus recursos y deben promulgarse políticas públicas efectivas que promuevan una apropiada nutrición infantil y estimulen la actividad física", comentó Tuckson.

El informe, titulado La salud de Estados Unidos: clasificación de salud por estado 2004, señala que en los últimos 15 años la sanidad en general mejoró en un 17.5%.

Durante la década de 1990, el promedio fue del 1.5% por año, aproximadamente. Sin embargo, en lo que va de este siglo el porcentaje ha sido apenas del 0.2% al año.

La investigación, dijo el doctor William McGuire, presidente de la junta de UHF, señala específicamente que deben tomarse claras acciones para enfrentar el incremento de la obesidad, la tasa de mortalidad infantil y el acceso a los servicios esenciales de salud.

La salud de Estados Unidos: clasificación de salud por estado 2004 es un análisis global y anual de la salud relativa de la población estadounidense que utiliza información suministrada por entidades como los departamentos de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Educación y Trabajo, y del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad.

El estudio, que se realizó bajo la dirección de la Facultad de Salud Pública de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte en Chapel Hill, contempló 18 aspectos que influyen en la condición de salud de la población, algunos de éstos fueron: la frecuencia del consumo de cigarrillos, las tasas

de mortalidad infantil, las muertes prematuras, el aumento de obesidad, el gasto en salud y hasta el número de jóvenes que se gradúan de secundaria.

McGuire señala que estas mediciones reflejan tres elementos esenciales que contribuyen a la salud: en primer lugar, las decisiones que toman las personas para promover la salud y evitar las enfermedades.

En segundo lugar, el medio ambiente, que afecta la salud de las personas y de las familias; en tercer lugar, las políticas de salud adoptadas por los funcionarios públicos, que determinan la disponibilidad de los recursos de la salud pública y atención médica.

El doctor Georges Benjamin, director ejecutivo de la APHA, señaló que la población en general se debe concentrar en los desafíos persistentes que afectan la salud, y que también debe celebrar y aprender de los éxitos que se han logrado.

"Durante los últimos 15 años, cada estado ha enfrentado efectivamente los desafíos de salud con soluciones innovadoras y, por ende, cada estado ha experimentado un éxito real en las áreas meta", comentó el experto.

Nuevas revelaciones
De acuerdo con el estudio, los estados más saludables de la nación son Minnesota, New Hampshire y Vermont.

Les siguen Hawaii, Utah y Mas-

sachusetts. California quedó en el lugar número 22.

Los estados con menos calidad de salud son Tennessee en el lugar 48, Mississippi (49) y Louisiana (50).

La tendencia a una mínima mejoría en la salud disminuyó a

comienzos de 2000.

Además de los aspectos ya mencionados, que frenaron una mejora en la salud, también se detectaron otras situaciones como el aumento del 8% (17.6% de la población) de menores de 18 años que viven en la pobreza

y el incremento del 2.6% en el número de personas sin cobertura médica.

"En su esencia, este informe es un llamado a la acción", señaló John Clymer, presidente de la Sociedad para la Prevención de Enfermedades.

Red Sox's first championship since 1918 voted top sports story

There was no Commissioner's Trophy the last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series.

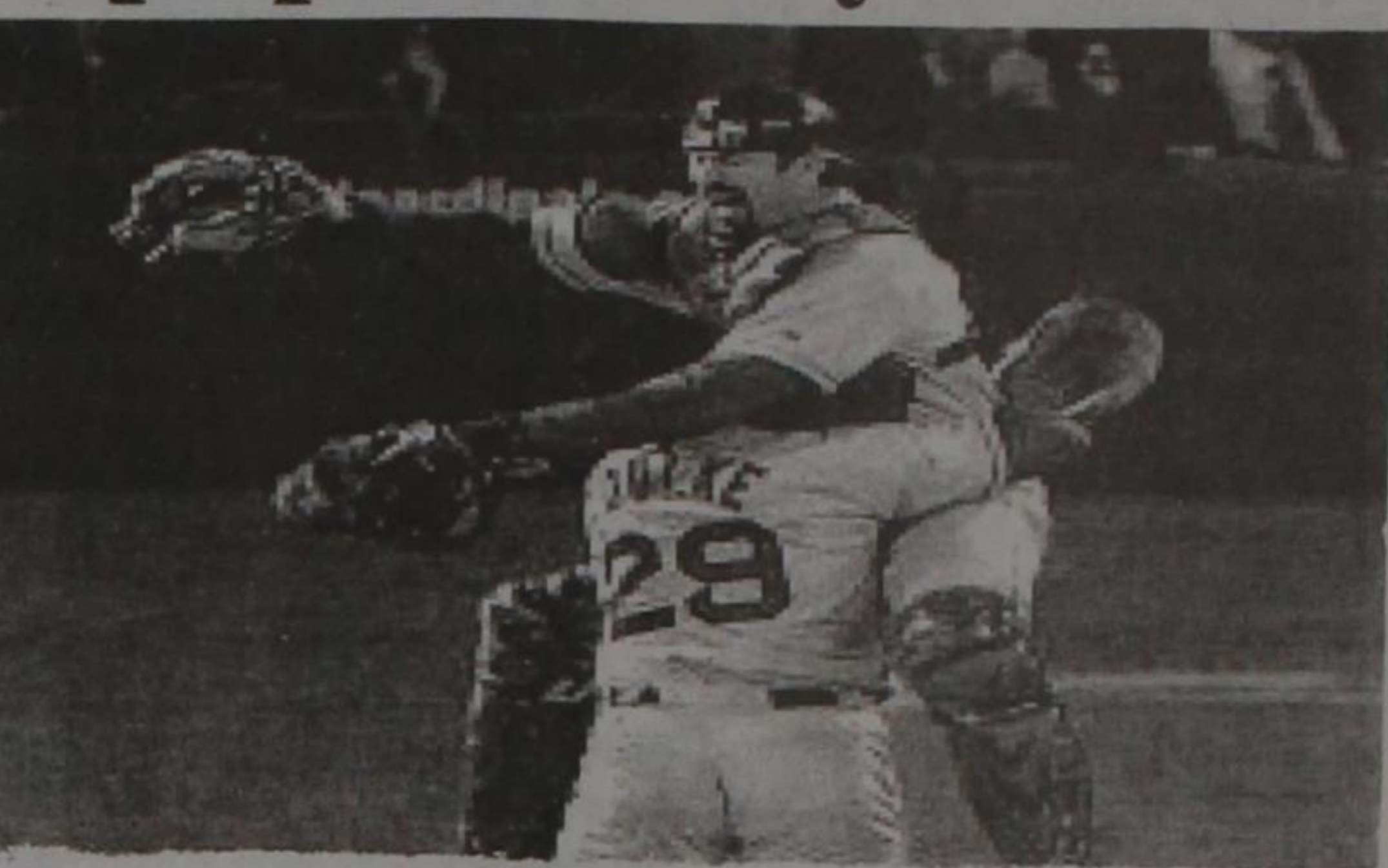
No commissioner, in fact. So when the Red Sox won it all for the first time since 1918, they didn't think it would be right to stick their trophy on a shelf somewhere to gather dust.

Instead, they took it to every state in New England, to a fan hangout in California and the team's academy in the Dominican Republic, to Christmas tree lightings and churches and nursing homes, where octogenarians have waited all their lives to see their favorite team win just once.

At the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where they treat sick children thanks in part to the Red Sox and the Jimmy Fund, the trophy caused such a hubbub when pitcher Tim Wakefield brought it by last week that order, finally, had to be restored.

"I just want to get some kids up here!" activities coordinator Lisa Scherber shouted at the patients, too young to understand, watched their parents pose for pictures with the prize. "We've got a lot of adults."

The Red Sox rallied back from a 3-0 series deficit to stun the Yanks in the ALCS, then swept St. Louis in the World Series. (AP) The World Series trophy has been a much-welcomed and well-traveled guest this off-season. And how it got to be that



way is the sports story of the year, according to a vote by the newspaper and broadcast members of the Associated Press.

Boston's first World Series title since 1918 and the unprecedented comeback against the Yankees that made it possible was a runaway winner with 108 first-place votes and 1,325 points.

Lance Armstrong's sixth straight Tour de France title (seven first-place votes, 785 points) finished second and the Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons brawl was third (six first-place votes, 662 points).

The New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory and 21-game winning streak was next (zero first-place votes, 498 points), followed by sports' steroid stories (eight first-place votes, 495

points). Merely winning the Series after an 86-year drought probably would have been enough to make the Red Sox the year's top story. But the way they did it was one for the ages.

After falling five outs short of the World Series last year and firing their manager because of it, the Red Sox acquired Curt Schilling, the top starting pitcher on the market, and Keith Foulke, the top reliever.

Their pursuit of Alex Rodriguez -- a deal that would have involved unloading Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez -- ended late in 2003. But before spring training got started the reigning AL MVP went to the hated Yankees -- thanks in part to the groundwork the Red Sox had done.

Public Notices

AVISO DE RECIBO DE SOLICITUD E INTENTO DE OBTENER REGISTRO DE UN PERMISO ESTANDAR DE CALIDAD DE AIRE PERMISO NUM. 1150

SOLICITUD. Oasis Gin, Inc., se ha registrado con la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ o Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) para la renovación de un Permiso Calida del Aire Núm. 1150, el cual autorizará continuar el funcionamiento de un(a) ginebradora de algodón en 331 Camino del Condado, siete millas sur en U.S. 180, en Seminole, Condado de Gaines County, Texas. La instalación existente va a emitir los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: compuestos orgánicos, azufre bióxido, nitrógeno óxidos, monóxido de carbono, materia particulada menor que 10 microns en diámetro.

Esta solicitud fue sometida al TCEQ en 18 de Junio, 2003. La solicitud está disponible para revisarse y copiarse en la Oficina Central del TCEQ, en la Oficina Regional del TCEQ en Midland y en la Casa de Condado en Gaines la tabla de avisos publicos en la sala principal, 101 South Main Street, Seminole, en Condado de Gaines, Texas. El archivo del cumplimiento de las leyes de la instalación, si existe, estará disponible para el público en la Oficina Regional del TCEQ en Midland.

El director ejecutivo del TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud se halla administrativamente completa y conducirá un análisis técnico de la solicitud.

COMENTARIOS PUBLICOS/JUNTA PUBLICA. Usted puede someter comentarios públicos, solicitar una junta pública, o solicitar una audiencia en controversia sobre esta solicitud a la Oficina del Chief Clerk en la dirección a continuación. El TCEQ considerará todos los comentarios públicos en el desarrollo de una decisión final sobre esta solicitud. El plazo límite para someter sus comentarios es 15 días después de la publicación de este aviso. Después del plazo límite para los comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales o de otro modo significativos.

El propósito de una junta pública es para proveer la oportunidad de someter comentarios, o hacer preguntas sobre la solicitud. Una junta pública sobre la solicitud se llevará a cabo si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un grado significativo de interés público en la solicitud o si la solicita un legislador local. Una junta pública no es considerada una audiencia en controversia.

Si sólo se reciben comentarios sobre esta solicitud, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con un aviso de la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, será enviada por correo a todos aquellos que hallan sometido comentarios o solicitado que se les incluyera en la lista de correo para esta solicitud.

Si la petición para una audiencia en controversia es sometida a tiempo, el director ejecutivo completará el análisis técnico, emitirá una decisión preliminar sobre la solicitud y un Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar será entonces publicado y enviado por correo a todos los que estén en la lista de correo para esta solicitud. El aviso tendrá la fecha final para someter comentarios públicos.

Después del plazo final para someter comentarios públicos subsecuentes a cualquier Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar, el director ejecutivo considerará los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. Si se reciben comentarios, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, serán entonces enviadas por correo a todos aquellos que hallan sometido comentarios públicos o que estén en la lista de correo sobre esta solicitud.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA EN CONTROVERSIAS. Usted puede peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Una audiencia en controversia es un proceso legal semejante a un juicio civil en una corte de distrito estatal. En el caso de que una petición por escrito para una audiencia en controversia no se sometió dentro de 15 días después de la publicación de este aviso, el director ejecutivo podrá aprobar la solicitud. Si no se reciben peticiones para una audiencia en controversia dentro de este periodo de 15 días, no habrá mas oportunidad para peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Una audiencia en controversia sólo se otorgará basada en asuntos en controversia que sean relevantes y materiales a la decisión de los Comisionados sobre la solicitud. Además, la Comisión sólo concederá una audiencia en controversia en esos asuntos que fueron presentados durante el periodo de los comentarios públicos y que no se retiraron.

Una persona que pueda ser afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricos de la instalación tiene derecho a peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Para solicitar una audiencia en controversia, usted deberá proporcionar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o, para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección postal, número de teléfono durante el día, y número de fax, si hay; (2) el nombre del solicitante y el número de permiso; (3) la oración en inglés "I/we request a contested case hearing;" (4) una descripción específica de cómo le perjudicaría la solicitud y las emisiones atmosféricas de una manera que no es común con los miembros del público en general; (5) la localización y distancia de su propiedad en relación a la instalación; y (6) una descripción de cómo usted usa la propiedad que pudiera ser afectada por la instalación. Si la petición es hecha por un grupo o asociaciones, el o la miembro o miembros que tienen derecho a pedir una audiencia en controversia y los intereses que el grupo o asociación quieran proteger deberán también ser identificados. Usted también podrá someter sus propuestas de ajustes a la solicitud o permiso que puedan satisfacer sus preocupaciones. Peticiones para una audiencia en controversia en controversia deberán someterse por escrito dentro de 15 días después de la publicación de este aviso a la Oficina del Chief Clerk, en la dirección a continuación.

Si una petición para una audiencia en controversia se recibe a tiempo, aviso adicional será dado. Después de que se cierran todos los periodos aplicables de comentarios y peticiones, el director ejecutivo mandará la solicitud y todas las peticiones de audiencia en controversia a los Comisionados del TCEQ para su consideración en una junta de Comisionados en su itinerario. Si se concede una audiencia en controversia, el objeto de la audiencia en controversia será limitado a los asuntos de hecho en disputa relevantes y materiales a la calidad del aire, que hayan surgido durante el periodo de comentarios. Asuntos como el valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico, y zonas municipales están fuera de lo que la Comisión tiene la jurisdicción de considerar en este proceso.

LISTA DE CORREO. Usted puede solicitar que se le ponga en una lista de correo para recibir información adicional de esta solicitud solicitando a la Oficina del Chief Clerk en la dirección a continuación.

INFORMACION. Comentarios públicos por escrito, peticiones para una junta pública o peticiones para una audiencia en controversia deberán someterse a la Oficina del Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Para más información sobre esta solicitud o el proceso de permisos, por favor llame a la Oficina de Asistencia Pública, gratis, al 1-800-687-4040. Información general sobre el TCEQ se puede encontrar en el www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Más información también puede obtenerse de Oasis Gin, Inc., P.O. Box 897, Seminole, Texas 79360 o llamando al señor Kelley Green, Texas Cotton Ginners' Association en el (512) 476-8388.

Fecha de emitido: 18 de julio, 2003

EL EDITOR

wishes the entire West Texas & Permian Basin areas a HAPPY NEW YEAR & A Prosperous 2005! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

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Merry Christmas

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"A WORD"

(The Christmas Star)

The star that appeared during the days and date of the birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ, was not one that exist in our skies or space today nor ever did! I was a one time thing; a special star to point to the place where a unique child was to be born. That preeminent vision was then seen over the vicinity of Bethlehem in Judea; no matter what location a person was to that city, the star kept it's site mark, probably just north where the son of God was born. That great light was in the earth's atmosphere serving as a geographical guide, much as does the powerful continuous light a lighthouse's signal is to ships at sea. Yet, that star was very intermittent, it moved in sequence! When the "wise man" got closer to the origin location, the star moved ahead toward it's final appointed locality, hovering above the manger where the King of Kings was born - postulating; about two thousand years ago; this world's first Christmas!

(Matthew 2:1-10)

"Have a illustrious and prosperous New Year!"

A Friend.