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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Vol. XXVI No. 18

Week of January 30 thru February 5, 2003

Lubbock, TX USA

Consejo de Seguridad espera las pruebas sobre la conducta de Saddam Husein

'Fase Final' Diplomática Para Irak

Maribel Hastings

WASHINGTON, D.C.—
Mientras la Casa Blanca afirmó ayer que la crisis con Irak entró en su "fase final" en el área diplomática, la atención giró en torno a las presuntas pruebas que Estados Unidos presentará la semana entrante al Consejo de Seguridad de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) que evidencian que Irak está mintiendo, posee armas de destrucción masiva y tiene vínculos con la red terrorista Al Qaida.

En el Congreso, dos veteranos senadores demócratas que no están convencidos de que el peligro que representa Irak para Estados Unidos es inminente y que quieren más pruebas, presentaron dos resoluciones independientes.

El senador demócrata de West Virginia, Robert Byrd, sometió una resolución que exige que Estados Unidos obtenga la aprobación del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU antes de emprender una acción militar en contra de Irak. Por otra parte, el senador demócrata de

Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, sometió otra resolución apoyando la continuación de las inspecciones y exigiendo que el Congreso le renueve a Bush la autoridad que le concedió en septiembre para emprender una ofensiva militar en contra de Irak.

El secretario de Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld, sin entrar en detalles sobre el portafolio de evidencia en contra de Irak, indicó que, una vez Powell presente el caso el próximo día 5, el Consejo de Seguridad y el presidente George W. Bush tomarán una determinación sobre los próximos pasos.

"El riesgo de la inacción incluye la amenaza de la potencial muerte de decenas de miles de personas", advirtió Rumsfeld en su comparecencia ante la prensa en el Pentágono. "¿Espera uno ser atacado o analiza un patrón de conducta y arriba a una conclusión?", preguntó Rumsfeld refiriéndose a Husein.

Por otro lado, Rumsfeld volvió a diferenciar entre la Europa que está con nosotros, "la mayoría", dijo, y la otra, la que se opone a la decisión inmediata de la guerra.

Un día después del mensaje del presidente Bush a una sesión conjunta del Congreso donde afirmó que el curso que tome Estados Unidos en el caso de Irak "no depende de lo que piensen otros", Estados Unidos continuó a todo vapor

con la campaña diplomática para convencer a los renuentes aliados como Francia, Rusia, China y Alemania que insisten en que hay que darle más tiempo a los inspectores de armas de la ONU.

Bush recibe hoy al premier italiano, Silvio Berlusconi, y mañana al premier británico, Tony Blair. Berlusconi se reunió ayer con Blair en Londres y se pusieron de acuerdo "casi en todos los puntos".

Estados Unidos pondera una segunda resolución de la ONU autorizando el uso de fuerza militar en contra de Irak, que hasta ahora Francia asegura que vetará.

Pero la Administración Bush ha dejado muy en claro que, con o sin la venia de la ONU, encabezará una coalición para desarmar a Husein.

Bush afirmó ayer que se opone a la "retórica de contención de Saddam, de sus buenas intenciones".

Las presuntas pruebas de inteligencia que Powell presentará al Consejo de Seguridad el miércoles 5 de febrero han generado expectativa y la Administración Bush espera que solidifiquen el apoyo de los aliados convencidos, convencen a otros aliados que no piensan que el peligro que representa Irak es inminente, y a nivel interno logren que el bando demócrata del Congreso y el país cierren filas con Bush en el tema de Irak.

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Comentarios

By Bidal Agüero

I got an e-mail from a friend last week. It read as follows:

"We had an incident on our street Friday at 5 pm. A 19 year old young man was shot and killed by city police."

Neighbors reported that he was walking on the street carrying a gun. Turned out to be a toy pistol. He would have been 20 today. Both policemen that shot him were rookies. The outcome might have been different if veteran officers would have responded to the call. But who knows. Rosa seems to think he was in her kindergarten class. She had a student by that name some years ago."

Michael Cain Dela Rosa was known in the neighborhood. Some knew that he seemed depressed. His grandparents say that he had been under treatment but very often refused to take his prescription.

Other neighbors knew that Michael also had trouble with drugs. The illegal kind.

Living in the Arnett-Benson neighborhood, it probably wasn't hard for Michael to get drugs. It's as simple as walking down the street.

It was ironic that the day of the shooting a police mobile unit was parked outside a church about a block away. The newly instituted program proposes to help residents have better communication with the police department and to try and curb illegal activity.

The Arnett-Benson community is a 2-mile square area bounded by University and Indiana on the east and west and 4th St and Clovis Rd on the north and south. The community consists of approximately 3000 residents of which 90% are Hispanic. The area has been specified as a high youth crime area and has received special funds from the Youth Protective Services for the past few years. Youth gangs are prevalent in the area. So much so that certain colors are prohibited to be worn at the community junior high school.

Housing in the area is dilapidated but there is some new building in the area. Overcrowding is widespread with extended family living in one house.

Problems are many and although they are being addressed by some perhaps it is time for our City fathers to begin working specifically at the area in order to avoid more.

The fact that one young man was walking down the street with a toy gun in his hand and was consequently shot by police is not a simple unfortunate act. The underlying factors of how hardships affect a whole community is involved.

Write Bidal at editor@llano.net

David Langston Se Postula Como Candidato Para Congreso

Recordando los logros de George Mahon para la gente del Oeste de Texas, el antes mayor de Lubbock Davida Langston anuncio ahora frente a la biblioteca Mahon que el sera candidato para el puesto de Representante en el Congreso.

El Mayor Langston dijo que el trabajaría arduamente para el beneficio de toda la gente del distrito.

"Mucha gente me conose como amigo, ahor yo quiero ser su amigo en Washington." La elección sera el 3 de mayo.



Mayor David Langston today announced that he will be a candidate for Congress The election is May 3.

Conservatives want Bush aide kept off court

By Joan Biskupic,

WASHINGTON — With legal and political insiders nearly certain President Bush soon will get to pick a new Supreme Court justice, conservatives close to the White House are quietly trying to derail the potential nomination of a top aide to the president.

Their target is White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, a longtime friend of Bush and a former Texas Supreme Court judge. Gonzales is a trusted aide in an administration that places a premium on loyalty. And White House sources have suggested that Bush wants to give the high court its first Hispanic justice.

But conservatives inside and outside the administration have long suspected that Gonzales, 47, does not agree with them on key social policy issues — namely, their opposition to abortion and

affirmative action. So when the Bush administration didn't go as far as many GOP hard-liners wanted in opposing the University of Michigan's affirmative action program this month, some blamed Gonzales.

That has led to an unusually aggressive "whisper" campaign. Conservative activists who have been successful in persuading Bush to nominate several hard-right candidates to lower federal courts have made it clear to reporters, Bush aides and others that they do not believe Gonzales is Supreme Court material.

(Continued Page 3)



Tony Gonzales

Age: 47; born Aug. 4, 1955, San Antonio, grew up in Houston, the second of eight children.

Military service: Air Force, 1973-75.

Education: Air Force Academy, 1975-77; bachelor's degree in political science, Rice University, 1979; law degree, Harvard Law School, 1982.

Professional experience: lawyer, Vinson & Elkins, Houston, 1982-95; general counsel to Texas Gov. George W. Bush, 1995-97; Texas secretary of state, 1997-99; justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1999-2000; White House counsel, 2001-present (first Hispanic to serve in that position) Married to Rebecca Turner Gonzales; three sons.

Los Hispanos Estan Bajo el Fuego de los Legisladores Estatales y Federales

Por Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

En sólo semanas de la temporada legislativa de 2003, algunos legisladores estatales y federales están promoviendo nuevas agendas contra los hispanos, que proponen restricciones radicales a las tarjetas de identificación emitidas en el extranjero, a las libertades personales y al multilinguismo.

Además, la General Services Administration (administración general de servicios, GSA por sus siglas en inglés) dio el primer golpe federal a la matrícula consular, una tarjeta de identificación bilingüe emitida a los ciudadanos mexicanos. La GSA anunció el 21 de junio que discontinuará el reconocimiento de la tarjeta durante una investigación que realiza la agencia encargada de la GSA, el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos y otras agencias federales.

La GSA, agencia dirigida por el gobierno, en ocasiones anteriores había aceptado la tarjeta para permitir el acceso a algunas instalaciones federales.

Los líderes hispanos en Capitol Hill han expresado gran preocupación por la medida. Esto parece ser otro lamentable ataque a los inmigrantes de México con la excusa de la Seguridad Nacional", dijo a Hispanic Link un portavoz del presidente del Congressional Hispanic Caucus (el grupo de congresistas hispanos) Ciro Rodriguez

(demócrata de Texas). "Tenemos que conseguir un progreso importante en un programa de legalización logrado".

Otras acciones que se consideran en contra de los hispanos están ocurriendo en su mayoría en los estados del centro y del suroeste. A comienzos de este mes, legisladores en Oklahoma revisarán la implementación de un mandato que establecería al inglés como idioma oficial del estado. Cuando se propuso el proyecto de ley por primera vez en el 2000, fue derrotado. De aprobarse, todos los documentos oficiales y reuniones serán en inglés y no se financiarán servicios de traducción.

El capítulo de Oklahoma de la League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC por sus siglas en inglés) está trabajando junto a otras organizaciones para frustrar la medida. Leo Mendoza, vicepresidente electo de LULAC en la ciudad de Oklahoma, menciona que las leyes y políticas de sólo inglés son una "forma de racismo disfrazado".

Durante el año pasado hubo un aumento de las legislaciones estatales relacionadas con los inmigrantes y los portadores de visa para obtener la licencia de conducir del estado. Legisladores en más de doce estados entregaron proyectos de ley, que en su mayoría complican el proceso para los recién llegados. Se espera más actividad de este tipo en este año.

El más reciente miembro electo de la Junta de Educación del estado de Texas Connie Morris ha asumido la posición de que se debería prohibir que los hijos de inmigrantes indocumentados asistan a las escuelas

públicas. En Arizona, algunos legisladores están considerando una legislación que exigiría a los policías entregar al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS por sus siglas en inglés) a los inmigrantes indocumentados que encuentren. Además, están preparando proyectos de ley para prohibir que las personas indocumentadas asistan a las universidades estatales.

El 14 de enero, el representante republicano del estado de Arizona, Randy Graf, presentó un proyecto de ley apoyado por dos grupos en contra de la inmigración, Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement (FILE por sus siglas en inglés) y NumbersUSA. El proyecto de ley prohíbe que cualquier agencia estatal o local reconozca la matrícula insular como identificación válida para prestar servicios públicos.

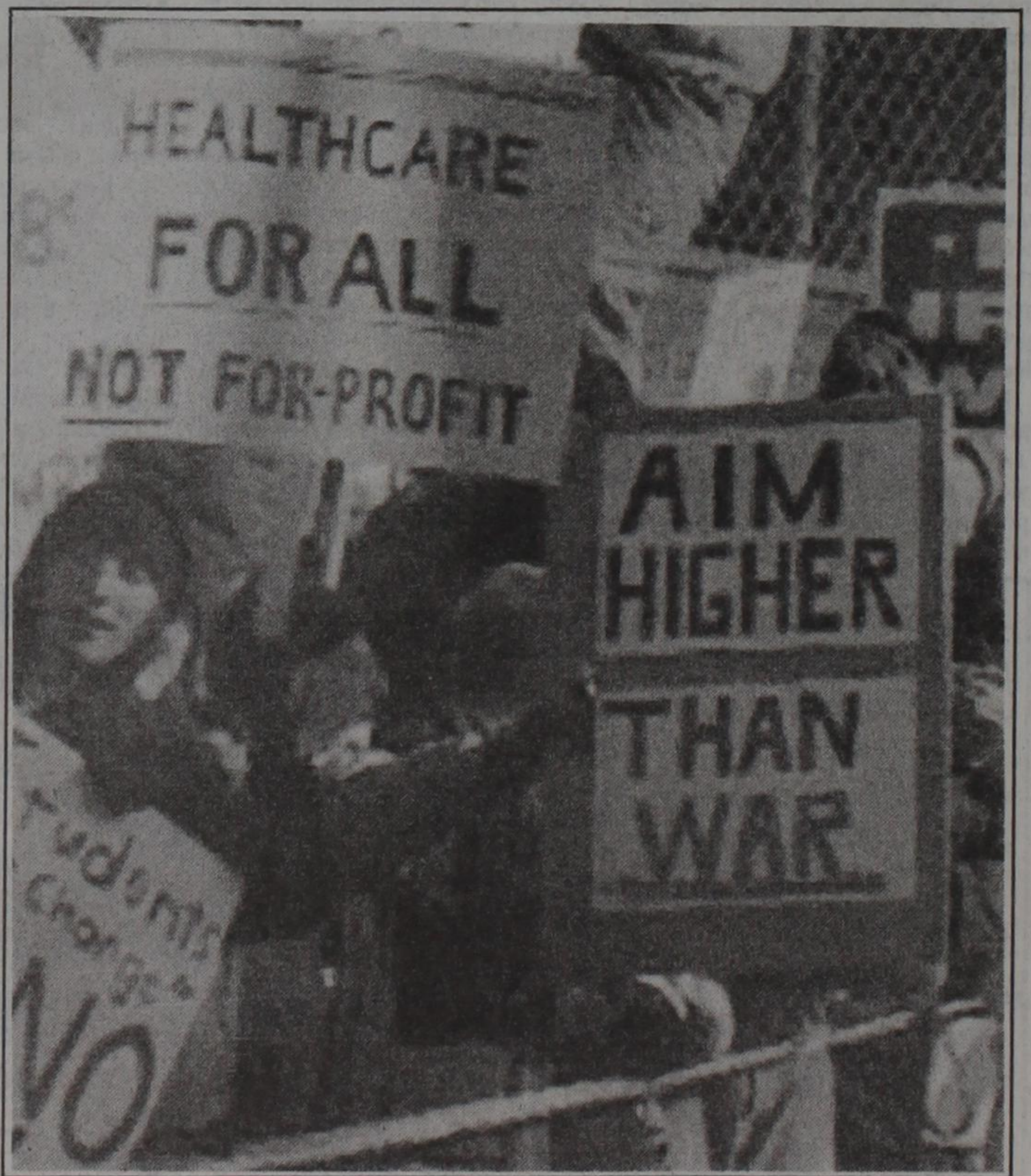
"Las autoridades estadounidenses no tienen derecho a ceder su responsabilidad de mantener un sistema de identificación a un gobierno extranjero," dijo a Hispanic Link el

director de FILE, Craig Nelson.

En Colorado, el representante estatal Don Lee y el presidente del Senado John Andrews, ambos republicanos, anunciaron el 21 de enero que propondrían una legislación similar en

los próximos días. "Los asuntos de inmigración) nos están cayendo encima porque el sistema federal no está operando de manera eficiente", dice Lee.

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Un Viejo Dilema Enfrenta al nuevo Congreso y la Reforma de Asistencia Social

Por Cecilio Morales

La aprobación para reformular la reforma de asistencia social este año puede tomar más tiempo del que esperan los republicanos o del que está promoviendo el presidente Bush. Esta situación puede traer mucha más politiquería, aunque a su vez podría llevar a un estudio más profundo de la política antes de que se convierta en ley otra vez.

El programa de Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (TANF por sus siglas en inglés) ha estado en el limbo desde el 30 de septiembre cuando la ley de 1996 que creó el programa caducó. Bajo la legislación provisional actual, los estados pueden continuar con el programa hasta el 31 de marzo, pero los conocedores en Capitol Hill ya están apostando a que no se logrará la reforma antes de la fecha límite.

Los principales programas de asistencia social de la nación ofrecen un promedio de \$356 en efectivo al mes, además de servicios de transición para trabajar, al destinatario promedio, que consiste de una mujer adulta con dos hijos. Bajo las reformas de 1996, la duración de la ayuda estaba limitada a un período máximo de cinco años y se le exigía a los estados colocar un gran por ciento creciente de personas sanas en programas de búsqueda de trabajo, o en una actividad orientada al trabajo, por lo general la capacitación.

El año pasado la Cámara aprobó un proyecto de ley que, sirviéndose como modelo del plan de Bush, aumentó la flexibilidad para otorgar a los estados excepciones a la regla bajo una disposición "de gran abstracción", que mantuvo los niveles de los fondos, aumentó a los destinatarios el número de horas semanales requeridas en actividades relacionadas con el trabajo de las 20 horas actuales a 40 en total y aumentó el por ciento de destinatarios que los estados debían colocar en actividades de trabajo.

Presionando para tomar acción, el 14 de enero Bush consiguió un 56 por ciento de la reducción de las listas de asistencia social desde 1996 al solicitar requisitos de trabajo más estrictos. Si se observa con mayor seriedad, la reforma de asistencia social resultó mejor que el desastre social que se temía; no obstante, las políticas están muy lejos de mejorar la situación de las personas más débiles y menos capacitadas de nuestra sociedad.

En el Congreso, ambos lados de la política están de acuerdo en unir los fondos de TANF y la participación en actividades de trabajo. Sin embargo, los críticos señalan que con el índice de desempleo cerca de un 6 por ciento, colocar a los destinatarios en trabajos ya no es tan simple como lo fue durante el auge económico de la década de 1990, cuando estuvo bajo un 4 por ciento. Además, las actividades de trabajo

aparte del trabajo subsidiado requieren financiamiento, y las arcas estatales están vacías.

Parte de problema conceptual estriba en los mitos políticos imperantes que forman la base de la política de la reforma de la asistencia social.

"Ambos partidos en el Congreso se dan cuenta que el sistema de asistencia social como lo conocemos socava el alma y consume el espíritu de nuestros ciudadanos. Los miembros de los dos partidos se unieron para terminar con la cultura de dependencia que la asistencia social ha creado", dijo hace poco el presidente Bush, reiterando un punto de vista que invierte la realidad.

Estudio tras estudio documenta que los problemas sociales que llevan a las personas a solicitar ayuda incluyen la pobreza, la falta de destrezas y la paralización de los sueldos en el nivel más bajo de la escala salarial, no la manera en que se ofrece la ayuda. En las décadas de 1970 y 1980, los tres problemas empeoraron; pero se aliviaron con el auge económico en la década de 1990.

"La dependencia de la asistencia social" fue un lema convenientemente oportuno que permitió a los políticos liberales y conservadores llegar a un acuerdo sobre el programa de 1988, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (oportunidades de trabajo y destrezas básicas), el cual

combinaba la asistencia social con requisitos de trabajo. El mismo obtuvo un éxito modesto al transformar las agencias de asistencia social de tan sólo procesar cheques a obtener algunos resultados ocupacionales.

Las investigaciones a comienzos de la década de 1990, que comenzaron al mismo tiempo que se formulaban los diseños globales de la reforma de asistencia social, demostraron que los destinatarios no son "dependientes" como a una droga, sino que entran y salen del programa en periodos de dos a cinco años. En el típico escenario real, después de dos años con la ayuda una madre conseguirá un trabajo para comenzar a ser autosuficiente; sin embargo, su máximo ingreso a nivel de sueldo y beneficios es demasiado bajo para prevenir que pierda el equilibrio económico con la primera crisis familiar, por lo tanto regresará a regañadientes a la oficina de asistencia social muchas veces más indigente y más desesperada que antes.

Al presente, los casos de aquellos que lograron permanecer fuera de las listas son los menos, la mayoría de los destinatarios actuales son los "más difíciles de atender", aquel 40 por ciento de los casos que según los investigadores hace una década era poco probable que sobrevivieran por su cuenta sin una ayuda considerable.

Además, hoy día los destinatarios

de color figuran en mayor proporción que antes de la reforma de 1996, aumentando de un 62 por ciento de casos a un 70 por ciento. En 1990, un 38 por ciento de los destinatarios eran blancos, un 40 por ciento negros y un 17 por ciento hispanos, y el por ciento restante comprendía a indígenas y asiático-americanos. Sin embargo, en 2000, el porcentaje cambió a un 31 por ciento de blancos, un 39 por ciento de negros, un 25 por ciento de hispanos y un 5 por ciento de los restantes. Principalmente la reforma de asistencia social sacó a los blancos de las listas.

Aun así, todos los investigadores están de acuerdo en que no queda claro dónde están las personas que dejaron la asistencia social. Algunos estudios encontraron que las personas que dejaron la asistencia social sobreviven sin ayuda federal al depender de parientes, muchas veces soportando privaciones tales como prescindir de alimentos y de medicamentos. Estas son las personas poco fotogénicas que los políticos nunca apoyan.

No hay evidencia de que los ingresos de un grupo específico de individuos pobres han aumentado. De hecho, luego de que los índices de pobreza bajaran en la década de 1990, una vez más van en aumento.

En lo que respecta al sistema de asistencia social en sí, el panorama varía. Algunas agencias estatales han tenido éxito al aumentar los in-

gresos, la retención de trabajos y la estabilidad económica de las familias al acudir a micro-empresas, agencias temporales, y patronos, entre otros muchos lugares de empleo poco tradicionales. Todo un conjunto de servicios de transición surgió, desde hacer cumplir la manutención de los niños con la ayuda de un registro nacional, compartir viajes en una furgoneta, hasta restaurar carros. Los estados demostraron creatividad al combinar fondos de diferentes fuentes federales, y también al expandir el ingreso familiar de base, mediante créditos contributivos.

A la inversa, claro, la reforma provocó sufrimientos y decepciones. La "carrera hasta el final" entre los legisladores, cada uno buscando alejar al pobre restringiendo la ayuda, se llevó a cabo como predijeron los investigadores en 1995. Se eliminaron programas generosos tan pronto como se acabaron los fondos. Algunos estados utilizaron fondos de asistencia social para aumentar otros recursos, como en Virginia, donde se financió un recorte en los impuestos a vehículos utilizando los fondos de la ayuda pública para los pobres.

Al final, a seis años y medio de la reforma, los destinatarios y los que dejaron el programa están en la categoría de trabajadores pobres que continúan encontrándose en las listas de espera para recibir servicios y satisfacer necesidades similares.

Old Dilemma Confronts New Congress on Welfare Reform

By Cecilio Morales

Approval to refashion welfare reform this year may take longer than House Republicans want or President Bush is pushing for. This may bring on lots more politicking, but perhaps a more thorough look at the policy before it is put into law again.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program has been in limbo since Sept. 30, when the 1996 law that created it expired. Under current stopgap legislation, states can operate the program until March 31, but the smart money on Capitol Hill is already betting that the deadline will be missed.

The nation's main welfare program offers an average \$356 in cash a month, plus work transition services, to the typical recipient family consisting of an adult woman with two children. Under the 1996 reforms, the duration of aid was limited to a lifetime maximum of five years and states were required to place an ever increasing percentage of the able-bodied caseload in job search, jobs or work-oriented activity, usually training.

Last year the House passed a bill that, modeled closely after the Bush plan, increased flexibility to grant states rule exemptions under a "superwaiver" provision, maintained level funding, raised the number of weekly hours in work-related activity required of recipients from the current 20 to ultimately 40 and increased the percentage of recipients that states must place in work activities.

Pressing for action on Jan. 14, Bush touted the 56 percent reduction of the welfare rolls since 1996 in asking for tough work requirements. Looked at more soberly, welfare reform turned out better than the social disaster feared; yet policies are still very far from improving the lot of the weakest and least able people in our society.

In Congress, both sides of the political aisle agree on linking TANF grants to participation in work activities. Critics, however, point out that with the unemployment rate hovering at 6 percent,

placing recipients in jobs is no longer as simple as it was during the 1990s boom, when it slid under 4 percent. Also, work activities other than unsubsidized employment require funding but state coffers are empty.

Part of the conceptual problem lies in the prevailing political myths that undergird welfare reform policy.

"Both parties in Congress realize that the welfare system as we knew it sapped the soul and drained the spirit from our citizens. They came together, the people of both parties, to put an end to the culture of dependency that welfare had created," President Bush said recently, voicing an oft-stated view that up-ends reality.

Study after study documents that the social problems leading people to apply for aid include poverty, the lack of skills and the stagnation of wages at the lower end of the pay scale, not the manner in which assistance is given. In the 1970s and 1980s, all three problems worsened; in the economic boom of the 1990s they eased.

"Welfare dependency" was a politically expedient slogan that allowed liberal and conservative politicians to compromise on the 1988 Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program, which combined welfare and work requirements. It achieved modest success at transforming welfare agencies from simply processing checks to obtaining some occupational results.

Research in the early 1990s, undertaken as comprehensive welfare reform designs were being crafted, showed that recipients are not "dependent" as if to a drug, but rather they cycle on and off aid in stretches varying from two to five years. In the typical real scenario, after two years on aid a welfare mom obtains a job and begins to be self-sufficient; her earnings top at wage and benefit levels too low to prevent her from losing her economic footing at the first family crisis; she returns reluctantly to the welfare office, often more destitute and desperate than before.

Today's caseload is shorn of those who were best able to stay off the rolls. In the practitioners' parlance, most of today's recipients are the "hardest to serve," that 40 percent of the caseload that researchers a decade ago already pegged as unlikely ever to survive on their own without considerable assistance.

Recipients today are also, in greater proportions than before the 1996 reform, people of color -- they increased from 62 percent of the caseload to almost 70 percent. In 1990, 38 percent of recipients were white, 40 percent blacks and 17 percent Hispanics, with the remainder Native- and Asian Americans. In 2000, however, that changed to 31 percent whites, 39 percent blacks, 25 percent Hispanics and 5 percent others. Welfare reform primarily removed whites from the rolls.

Even then, researchers all agree that it's not certain where the welfare leavers went. Some studies found leavers surviving without aid by relying on relatives or bearing privations such as skipping meals and medication. These are the unphotogenic leavers politicians never stand beside.

There is no sign of a cohort of poor individuals whose earnings increased. In fact, after declining notably over the 1990s, the poverty rate is on the rise again.

As to the welfare system itself, the picture is mixed. Some state agencies succeeded at increasing incomes, job retention and economic stability of families by turning to micro-enterprises, temp agencies, and employers, among a host of nontraditional venues. A whole set transition services popped up -- from child support enforcement aided by a national registry to van pools and auto refurbishing. States showed creativity in combining funds from several federal streams, but also in expanding family income at the source, through tax credits.

Conversely, of course, reform yielded heartbreaks and disappointments. The "race to the bottom" among legislatures, each seeking to repel the poor by restricting aid, took place as researchers predicted in 1995. Generous programs were cut back as soon as funds dried up. Some states tapped welfare funds to supplant other resources, such as in Virginia, which funded a cut in car taxes by dipping into public aid for the poor.

In the end, six and a half years after reform, recipients and leavers in the ranks of the working poor continue to bump each other off waiting lists for similar services to fulfill similar needs.

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Deadline Looms for immigrants to Apply for Amnesty Granted in 1986

Illegal immigrants who got a second chance to apply for amnesty that was granted in 1986 have until June 4 to petition to become permanent residents, a message the government is spending \$800,000 to get out to the Latino community.

Michael Garcia, Immigration and Naturalization Service interim commissioner, said Monday in a news conference that only 50,000 people have applied for the amnesty that is available to an estimated 200,000 people, mostly Mexicans.

The amnesty is available only to those who were part of a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of immigrants who said they were wrongly denied amnesty granted under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Then-President Bill Clinton signed a law in 2000, the Legal Immigration and Family Equity, or LIFE, Act, to redress those claims.

"It is not a general amnesty for persons in the United States illegally," Garcia said.

Garcia said the response is unfortunate because in addition to allowing those eligible to become lawful permanent residents, it also provides work authorization, benefits for spouses and children and protection from deportation while applications are pending.

Carlos Felix-Corona, Mexico's minister of migration affairs, urged those who believe they are eligible to apply to contact Mexican consular offices to avoid any fraud or scams that might emerge. In other similar situations, people posing as lawyers or notary publics have claimed expertise and charged high sums only to leave the immigrant with improper documentation or a bad application.

The INS hired a private company to advertise on radio, television and in newspapers and to put posters in stores, supermarkets and other places within the community.

Garcia said during the briefing, carried by satellite to New York, Houston, Los Angeles and Chi-

State of the Union - An Analysis

By Ysidro V. Gutierrez

A Grand Slam is defined as a Home-Run hit when three runners are on base. President Bush scored a Grand Slam on Tuesday in the 2003 State of the Union address, bringing home the Three Major Issues of Taxes, the Economy, and the now definite War.

The President presented a tax cut initiative as the vanguard of his domestic agenda and the backbone of the economic recovery. Much disagreement remains over the elimination of double taxation of dividends but the President was very persuasive in arguing that Double Taxation is simply WRONG. Detractors persist in keeping double taxation, but basic economic theory and principle favor the President's position. One facet of the debate centers on Retained Earnings. The President's opponents reject the logic that Double taxation would eliminate the need for Corporations to Retain Earnings because dividends paid to investors would be reinvested in profitable enterprises. Simply put tax free dividends means increased investments and the end of retained earnings. Many suggest that the elimination of the double tax on dividends may well be the greatest single factor in boosting the economy.

Turning Technology into Political Oil, the President proposed reducing American dependence on foreign oil by funding research to develop automobile engines that run on nitrogen. Nitrogen powered automobiles is certainly a possibility but the President's main motivation for proposing such research is to end accusations and speculation in the Arab world that the US seeks to wage war with Iraq to get its oil. The message was CLEAR - within one generation, the US will no longer need your oil.

The President did not fail to play the "Compassionate Conservative" card. He reached out to environmentalists and humanitarians and Christians. However in the current atmosphere of impending war and a sluggish economy, the gravity of the AIDS epidemic in Africa went almost unnoticed due to the weighty issues of the economy, taxes, and war. But this was not for lack of persuasiveness from the President. "Whole families are dying, children are orphan, and the sick are untreated," are a few of the poignant images painted by the President.

The same can be said of the Presidents call for programs to treat drug addicts, outlaw cloning, end partial birth abortion, and limit medical malpractice lawsuits. The magnitude of these issues was diminished in the shadow of the three omnipresent issues foremost in the American psyche.

Although the national media speculated that the President would speak largely about domestic issues and touch only briefly on Iraq and Saddam Hussein, the President correctly reasoned that the nation needed a double barreled blast of evidence to convince the undecided. He fired the first barrel himself and announced that Secretary of State Colin Powell would present the latest and more specific evidence to the United Nations Security Council later in the week. The President was CLEAR in communicating his absolute determination that Saddam must go and is backing up his rhetoric with the deployment of American forces to the region. He was equally CLEAR about doing so with or without Russia and France. In fact, the President was so CLEAR that Iraqi Generals need not wonder about the possible outcomes. As of Tuesday night they face the certainty of US smart bombs coming down the air vents of their bunkers.

As for Saddam Hussein, if he was smart he would accept the offer to give up power and live in luxurious exile in a friendly country for the rest of his life. Living in exile sure beats sharing a cell with Manuel Noriega.

If any necessary element was omitted by fault or by design it was the President's failure to call on Moslems to condemn terrorists who murder in the name of their religion. It would have been prudent for the President to use the State of the Union, to reassure Muslims that the US policy against Iraq is a policy against a terrorist leader, and not against Islam.

After the speech, the President's core supporters, about 40% if one believes the polls, were solidified in their support. But solidifying ones core base, although important, is not as big a victory as bringing home the 30% that make up the independent and undecided categories, which is precisely what the President did.

The Democrats response to the President's speech was delivered by Washington Governor Gary Locke, but after hearing the rebuttal, reasonable people must wonder if Governor Locke heard the speech at all. In all fairness to the President, key points in the Governors rebuttal were simply "Upside-Down".

The Democrats reaction was not surprising. They remained solidly opposed to the President in all but a few issues if their polite applause and the occasional standing ovation are to be taken as an indication of their sincerity. One very obvious exception was Nancy Pelosi. She was unpretentious in her disdain for the President as evinced by her contemptful laugh seen on national TV.

Overall, the President deserves high marks for a speech high in patriotic zeal. He was Presidential in bearing and decorum and very effective in tying Iraq to terrorists and terrorism. He exercised good judgement in reminding Americans about 9/11 without opening old wounds. He showed remarkable political savvy.

The most widely debated question following the speech was: "Did the President provide convincing evidence about Iraqi noncompliance?" Many believe the President provided ample and convincing reasons to justify American policy against Iraq. However, there will always be those who persist in their unbelief. This is Okay. Divergent opinions make America great. Free expression is a uniquely American trait. The unconvinced will likely remain so until the next major terrorist attack on American soil.

EIGHT MORAL PRINCIPLES FOR WAR:

1. The Cause must be Just.
2. The war can only be ordered by a Lawful and Competent Authority.
3. Comparative Justice - Our cause is Just, the enemy is unjust.
4. We must possess the Right Intention - The war must seek to gain peace and security. It must not be waged to humiliate, punish or to exact revenge.
5. War must be the Last Resort - negotiated means have been exhausted.
6. There should exist at the outset, a strong Probability of Success.
7. The Good expected to result should be Greater than the Cost.
8. War must be joined only with a Spirit of Regret.

FOUR PRECEPTS FOR THE MORAL CONDUCT OF WAR:

1. Use only the measured force needed to achieve the purpose.
2. Do not intentionally injure civilians.
3. Avoid acts that are intrinsically evil such as destroying schools, hospitals, or sites of worship.
4. Treat the enemy in ways that will lead to peace and reconciliation in the future.



continued on page 3

Conservatives Want Bush

From Page One
The campaign comes amid speculation that at least one of the nine justices will retire this summer. Conservative Chief Justice William Rehnquist, 78, appears to be the most likely to leave the court soon. Analysts say the anti-Gonzales chatter symbolizes the increasingly aggressive nature of the political maneuvering behind Supreme Court nominations.
"In my 15 years of watching the nomination process, I have never seen something so dramatic happen so early. This is a very aggressive campaign by legal conservatives to hurt (Gonzales) chances for the high court," says Ronald Klain, who was chief counsel to Sen. Joseph Biden when the Delaware Democrat presided over two Senate confirmation hearings. Klain later was a top legal adviser to President Clinton during two Supreme Court nominations.
The jockeying to influence Bush in the nomination process is important because a president usually wants to have a successor's name in hand when a Supreme Court retirement is first announced.

In recent weeks, Bush aides debated over what stance to take in a Supreme Court case that challenges the University of Michigan's system of favoring minorities in admissions. Conservatives such as Solicitor General Theodore Olson argued that the administration should not only oppose Michigan's program, but also encourage the high court to reject affirmative action altogether.
But Gonzales successfully argued for a legal stance in which the White House is opposing the Michigan program, but is not pushing for an end to affirmative action. That angered some conservatives, who are citing Gonzales' vote as a Texas judge against a law requiring teenagers seeking abortions to notify their parents — without exception.

Conservative columnist Robert Novak focused on those Gonzales moves in a syndicated article last week. Novak questioned whether Gonzales deserves a seat on the high court and said conservatives were warning Bush not to commit a "grave political blunder," as they believe Bush's father did in appointing David Souter to the court in 1990. Souter has turned out to be a liberal on the current court.

Earlier in January, *The Wall Street Journal's* conservative editorial page challenged Gonzales to oppose affirmative action to show that he had Supreme Court timbre. Meanwhile, prominent conservatives inside and outside the Bush administration are increasingly — but privately — complaining about Gonzales.
That criticism of Gonzales is just one factor that could influence Bush if he soon has the chance to make his first appointment to the high court. Other factors: pressure from Hispanic groups to pick a Hispanic other than Gonzales, and a vow by Senate Democrats to oppose any court nominee whom they view as too extreme in his or her views.
Gonzales is one of a few prominent lawyers who are on various "short lists" of potential court nominees kept by administration officials.
Others include J. Michael Luttitg and J. Harvie Wilkinson, veteran judges of the Richmond, Va.-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit; Judge Samuel Alito of the 3rd Circuit in Newark, N.J.; Judge Emilio Garza of the 5th Circuit in San Antonio; California Supreme Court Justice Janice Brown; and Olson.
Some conservatives also are touting Miguel Estrada, a native of Honduras and a former Justice Department lawyer who has been nominated by Bush to serve on the U.S. appeals court in Washington, D.C. Democrats are protesting his lower court nomination, so Estrada would be a long shot for any high court appointment this year.
For conservatives who would oppose a Gonzales nomination, speaking out against him "is a risky strategy, because Judge Gonzales is clearly a very powerful force in the administration," says Klain, who was an adviser to Democrat Al Gore when Gore lost to Bush in the 2000 election. That is likely why most of Gonzales' harshest critics, especially those in the administration, decline to speak publicly. And those who do speak up cast their words carefully.
"I am very disappointed in his position in the Michigan case, but he has done a fine job as White House counsel," says Todd Gaziano, a legal director at the Heritage Foundation, a policy group that is home to staunch conservatives.
"If it's true that Judge Gonzales played a strong role in weakening the Justice Department's criticism of ra-

cial preferences, then we would have very serious concerns about nominating (him) to the Supreme Court," says Roger Cieg of the Center for Equal Opportunity, which opposes affirmative action.
Gonzales supports allowing universities to consider an applicant's race in order to ensure diverse campuses. But White House insiders say that Bush already was inclined to agree with that stance, even as he opposed Michigan's specific policies. Gonzales did not return calls seeking comment for this story.
Much of conservatives' disapproval of Gonzales likely has less to do with the Michigan case than with their fear that a Bush nominee could be "another Souter."
Thirteen years ago, then-White House chief of staff John Sununu called Souter's nomination a "home run" for conservatives. But today, Souter is firmly in the high court's liberal bloc, supporting abortion rights, affirmative action and a high wall of separation between church and state.
A Republican president and the GOP takeover of the Senate in the November elections probably increased the chances that Rehnquist would step down. He was put on the bench by Republican President Nixon in 1972 and elevated to chief by Republican President Reagan in 1986.
If Bush were to replace the chief with Gonzales, he could actually move the divided court — which now has five conservative justices who generally vote as a bloc — to the left.
The other justices who might be considering retirement are Sandra Day O'Connor, 72, a conservative who sometimes votes with the court's more liberal justices; and John Paul Stevens, 82, who votes with the liberals. Neither has shown signs of slowing down.
If Rehnquist were to retire, the White House might consider elevating one of the sitting justices to chief and then putting a new member of the court into that person's seat. Such a move could give Bush a chance to appease competing constituencies.

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'Fase Final'

de la primera pagina

A todos los niveles el mensaje fue que se agotarán las vías diplomáticas para evitar una guerra.
Fase final
"Entramos en la fase final", dijo el portavoz presidencial Ari Fleischer. "Durante esta fase final, lo que se va a abrir es una ventana diplomática" en la que Estados Unidos intensificará sus consultas con sus aliados europeos y la ONU, añadió.
Una opción que se está considerando es poner una fecha límite para que Irak se desarme.
Powell incluso indicó que Estados Unidos ayudaría a Husein y a su familia a buscar un lugar donde exiliarse, si eso fuera necesario para desarmar al país sin guerra.
"Si abandonara el país con algunos de sus familiares y algunos integrantes de la elite gobernante, estoy seguro de que les ayudaríamos a buscar un lugar a donde ir... Y eso seguro sería una forma de evitar una guerra", dijo Powell, tras su reunión con el canciller paquistaní, Mian Kursheed Mejmood Kasuri, en la sede del Departamento de Estado.
Powell y Rumsfeld se reunieron a puerta cerrada con congresistas de la Cámara Baja para discutir qué tipo de información clasificada es la que se hará pública que sea lo suficientemente clara y convincente para cambiar la opinión de algunos aliados y del pueblo estadounidense que cuestionan la premura en el caso de Irak.
Cuando menos diversas encuestas revelaron que el mensaje de Bush tuvo un efecto positivo a favor de cualquier acción militar y según una de ellas, la cifra de personas que apoya una guerra subió 20 puntos porcentuales en un sólo día, del 47% al 67%.
Bush se trasladó a Grand Rapids, Michigan, a promover su agenda doméstica y la reforma del sistema de Medicare, pero no desaprovechó la ocasión para reiterar que Husein supone una amenaza para Estados Unidos y para el mundo y que los que no están convencidos sólo están incrementando

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Amnistía Internacional:EE.UU. debe frenar la Ejecución de Ciudadanos Mexicanos

From Page 2

Estados Unidos debe detener la violación de las normas de derecho internacional y frenar las ejecuciones de ciudadanos extranjeros a los que se les ha negado el derecho de asistencia consular, afirmó Amnistía Internacional en la semana pasada, en el momento en que México intenta conseguir una orden judicial de la Corte Internacional de Justicia para detener la ejecución de 51 ciudadanos mexicanos en EE.UU. hasta que los jueces decidan el caso. México alega que a los ciudadanos mexicanos condenados a la pena de muerte en los estados de California, Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma y Oregon se les negaron sus derechos consulares.
Debido a que México ha abolido la pena de muerte, los funcionarios mexicanos se encuentran particularmente comprometidos a ayudar a los ciudadanos de su país que enfrentan la pena de muerte en Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, EE.UU. sigue ejecutando ciudadanos mexicanos a pesar de las dudas sobre si se habían respetado los derechos de estos ciudadanos extranjeros, afirmó hoy Amnistía Internacional.
Como signatario de la Convención de Viena sobre Relaciones Consulares (CVRC), los Estados Unidos están legalmente obligados a informar a los ciudadanos mexicanos que estén bajo arresto que tienen derecho a recibir asistencia legal proporcionada por el gobierno mexicano, que puede poner a su disposición un asesor legal competente que hable su propio idioma.
"Un ciudadano estadounidense nunca enfrentaría un juicio y una ejecución en un país extranjero sin tener acceso a la ayuda del consulado de EE.UU. y por lo tanto, los funcionarios estadounidenses deben respetar los pedidos de la nación mexicana de frenar la ejecución de 51 ciudadanos mexicanos condenados a la pena de muerte en Estados Unidos", afirma Eric Olson, Director para América de Amnistía Internacional de EE.UU. (AIUSA).
"En la primavera pasada, en un caso similar, la Corte Internacional de Justicia emitió un fallo adverso para EE.UU. por haber incurrido en incumplimiento de la CVRC al ejecutar a ciudadanos alemanes que

no habían sido informados sobre sus derechos. Sin embargo, EE.UU. insiste con esta práctica", afirma Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, Directora del Programa de Abolición de la Pena de Muerte de AIUSA. "Estados Unidos no puede atribuirse el papel de defensor del derecho internacional mientras por otro lado no obedece una sentencia vinculante de la Corte superior del mundo".
Amnistía Internacional propone 12 medidas que las autoridades estatales y federales de los Estados Unidos deberían adoptar inmediatamente para garantizar el derecho universal a la asistencia consular y para poner fin a las violaciones de los derechos en casos de pena de muerte. Entre sus recomendaciones principales para los estados se incluyen:
Las autoridades que tengan el poder de otorgar clemencia ejecutiva deberían conmutar las sentencias de ciudadanos extranjeros condenados a la pena de muerte que no hayan sido notificados sobre sus derechos consulares en el momento de su arresto.
Los procuradores generales deben recordar de inmediato a todas las autoridades policiales la obligación de notificar a los detenidos sus derechos de acuerdo con la CVRC y realizar controles regulares de las medidas tomadas por la policía estatal y local para asegurar el pleno cumplimiento de esta norma.
Las legislaturas estatales y el Congreso de EE.UU. deben aprobar leyes que exijan el cumplimiento pleno e inmediato de las disposiciones de la Convención de Viena para todos los ciudadanos extranjeros detenidos, incluyendo procedimientos de capacitación para las autoridades policiales y penas en caso de incumplimiento de dichas leyes.
El informe de Amnistía Internacional, A Time for Action - Protecting the Consular Rights of Foreign Nationals Facing the Death Penalty (La hora de la acción: Protección de los derechos consulares de ciudadanos extranjeros condenados a muerte), publicado en agosto de 2001, documenta la violación de los derechos consulares ocurridos en el marco de la administración de la pena de muerte en EE.UU.

cago, that the campaign is "quite an expensive effort," but he did not know the cost. Virginia Kice, an INS spokeswoman, said later the price tag is about \$800,000.
To be eligible, applicants must have been denied amnesty after the 1986 immigration reform laws went into effect and must have been a claimant in any of three lawsuits filed in the late 1980s. Those suits argued that many people were wrongly denied amnesty or discouraged from applying. They must have petitioned to be a member of the class of the lawsuits by Oct. 1, 2000, the INS said.
The 1986 laws provided illegal immigrants the opportunity to apply for legal permanent residence, if they could show they had entered the United States before Jan. 1, 1982, and lived continuously in unlawful status through May 4, 1988.
The cost to apply for the amnesty is \$236, including a \$50 fingerprint charge. Acceptable documents vary and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, the INS said. Those approved can apply for citizenship after five years as a permanent resident. Appeals are available for those denied.
Forms are available on the INS' Web site and through district offices.

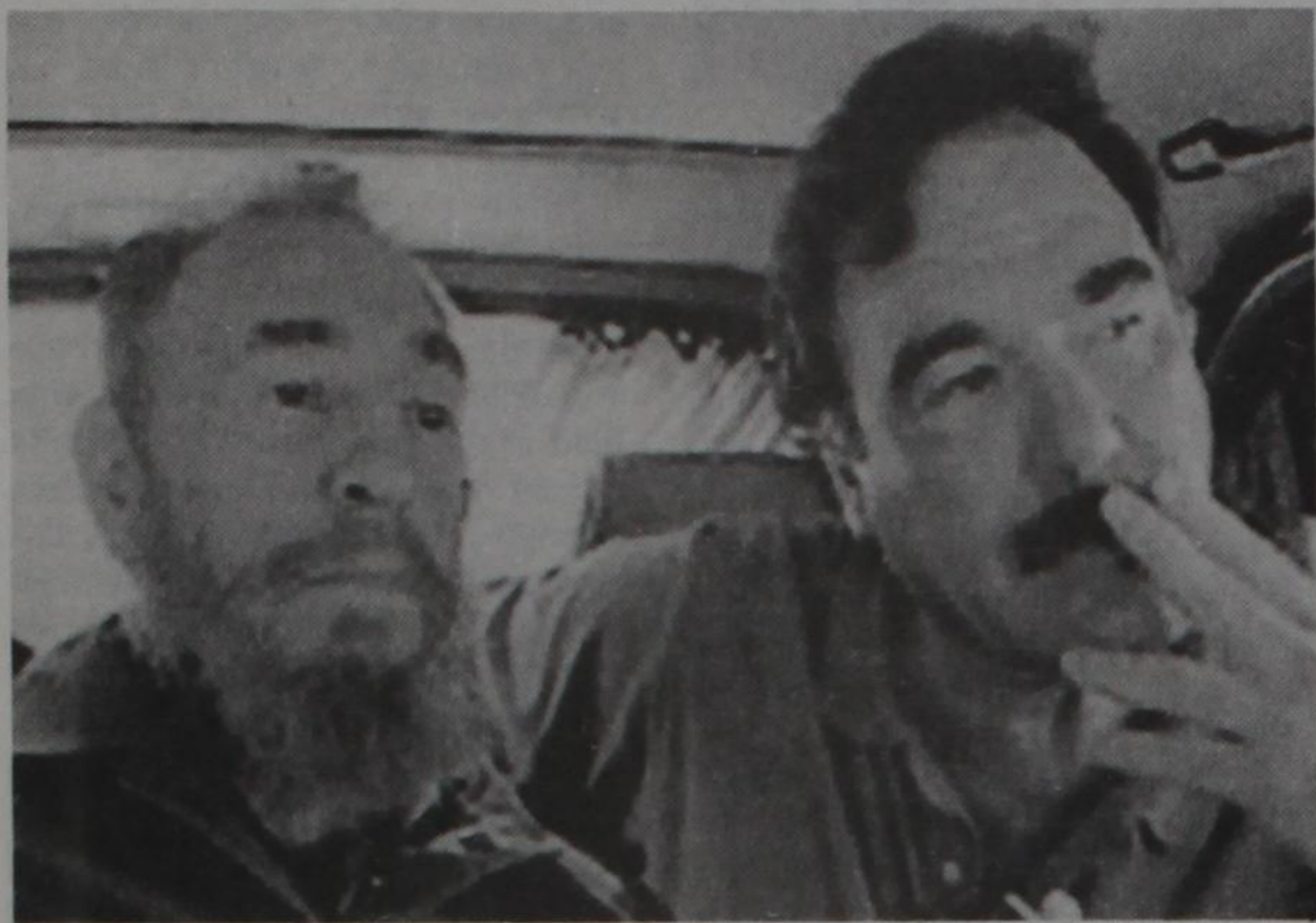
EL EDITOR

El Editor Newspapers is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Suscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.
Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero
Business Manager: Olga Riojas-Aguero
Artículos: Amalia Agüero
Subscriptions: In House Crew
Distribution: Gilbert Acuña, Joe Adam

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Film Director Oliver Stone Takes on Castro



Director Oliver Stone appears with Fidel Castro in a scene from 'Comandante,' a 93-minute documentary, which airs on HBO in May. It was culled from 30 hours of interviews in February 2002.

In the opening scene of the documentary Comandante, Oliver Stone asks Fidel Castro how he stays fit.

The dictator, wearing trademark green fatigues, walks to a corner of his office and faces the camera. Castro checks his pulse, then begins walking brisk laps around his book-lined office.

"I am like a prisoner," Castro says of his devotion to running communist Cuba, "and this is my cell."

The irony of the comment, made by a man who has imprisoned dissenters throughout his four-decade reign, is suggested moments later when a hand-held digital camera closes in on Castro's shoes.

SNEAKER FAN

The leader of one of the world's last noncapitalist states wears Nikes.

This visual cue -- coupled later by a cameraman's roll of the eyes and Stone's quizzical look after Castro blusters, "I am a dictator to myself, a slave to the people" -- is a moment of skepticism in an otherwise sympathetic portrait of America's longest surviving antagonist.

It's not that Stone, the lightning-rod director of political dramas like JFK and Nixon and sociocultural commentaries like Natural Born Killers and Wall Street, doesn't ask the tough questions: on repression, on mortality, on nuclear war. And it's not that Castro refuses to answer.

"Evasions are in the eye of the beholder," Stone explained following Comandante's world premiere Jan. 18 at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. "With Mr.

and admitted it would have been a difficult movie to air in her first year as director.

"No one should go into any job to shock," Guillemet said. "You program for a community, not for yourself."

A NEW LIGHT

Stone said he wants his audience, including exiles, to see Castro "in a new light and as a person." The director's portrayal masterfully manipulates Castro's grace and wit for film, transforming a strong man and ideologue into a charming elder statesman.

Comandante jumps from extreme close-ups of Castro's hands, beard and shoes to wide-angle shots of the film crew that, as Stone explained, got "rid of the fourth wall" to "create an atmosphere where accidents are permitted."

At one point, Stone, stuffed in the back seat of a government-issue Mercedes with Castro and his official translator, begins rooting through the car.

He finds a box of candies and a pistol. "It's a good thing I didn't bring any secret papers with me," Castro says, marveling at Stone's audacity.

While nonconfrontational -- Stone is careful not to look Castro in the eyes -- Stone can be a dogged interviewer, cutting the long-winded dictator short and asking about the various political crises that have spotted his lengthy career.

"You want to know everything," Castro says. "It's difficult to escape his questions."

Despite Castro's charm and Stone's solicitousness, Comandante has moments of real discovery.

"I have not spent much time with my children," Castro admits at a lavish dinner with a son and grandson. "Perhaps I am not a good father."

While Stone said he plans to make the raw footage available to scholars, Stone's intention with Comandante is clearly to entertain. He makes no attempt to show the desperation and poverty of the Cuba presented in Balseros, which follows seven rafters as they escape Cuba and later, after five years in the United States. Balseros screens at the Miami film festival at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Gusman theater and will be shown on HBO in late 2003.

Instead, Stone dug for, and found, moments that delight and infuriate and, ultimately, rivet.

"One of the greatest benefits of the revolution," Stone induces Castro to say, "is even our prostitutes are college graduates."

NBC Opens New Season with Kingpin Drama



There's no doubt that the most-talked-about midseason series on the major networks is "Kingpin," NBC's gritty, violent show about a family-run Mexican drug cartel.

At the same time, there's also no doubt "Kingpin" will come in for criticism. The good news, one can argue, is that there is finally an hour-long drama on network TV with a predominantly Latino cast. The bad news is that they're mostly drug dealers who kill each other off.

"Kingpin" creator David Mills knows something about that kind of controversy. He co-wrote and co-produced "The Corner," HBO's intense miniseries about the drug trade in Baltimore. It featured a largely African-American cast, but one that played drug dealers, drug users or both.

Before "The Corner" ever aired, Mills says, some critics "expected black people to hate the show. But black people loved it because of its human quality and because it illuminated an issue."

Mills expects the same thing to happen with the Latino community and "Kingpin." "I certainly hope the Latino audience will embrace this series and love it..." he says. "I want the Latino audience to say, 'This is a show for us.'"

Mills expects that the audience -- the entire audience, not just Latinos -- will "relate to these actors, these characters, on a human level, not on the ethnicity of the actors."

The Hispanic members of the cast agree, rather vehemently, with Mills.

Yancey Arias -- who plays

Miguel Cadena, the head of the cartel -- says the Latino community will relate to the show because "we've got these circumstances and these issues" involving the drug trade that need to be dealt with. Bobby Cannavale, who plays Miguel Cadena's brother, notes, "I don't think you'll find any Latino actors who wouldn't want to be in this show."

Cannavale adds that one of the great things about filming the show was seeing a cast list with so many Latinos, including longtime character actors finally getting a shot at a major role. And Mills points out he brought in four Latino writers because "we were serious about having some degree of cultural authenticity."

On NBC's part, it believes the show will play well enough with Latino viewers that it is taking some extraordinary steps to reach out to that community. During the series' six-episode run on the network, which begins Feb. 2, there will be a Spanish audio track on SAP (secondary audio program). In March, a Spanish-language version will air on Telemundo.

"Obviously, the center of the show is a family -- a Mexican family -- that runs drugs," says Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Entertainment, who has lot riding on the success of "Kingpin."

"But on the other side" is a Mexican-American DEA agent who's trying to bring them down. So I think there are images of Mexicans within that one program that people can gravitate toward and grab onto... I'm completely comfortable with the portrayal of

Hispanics on NBC

Along with much discussion of "Kingpin," NBC had more than a few other things to say during its sessions with reporters:

• "The West Wing" will be around for at least two more years and possibly three. NBC cast a ballot in favor of the critically acclaimed series despite its drop-off in viewership in the face of ABC's "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette."

• But it's over for "Providence" as a weekly series. NBC and Zucker fudged what was to have been the show's series finale in December after Zucker admitted he may have made a mistake canceling the melodrama. After due consideration, though, the network has now officially pulled the plug, although Zucker left the door open for possible "Providence" reunion films.

• With "Kingpin" joining the schedule for three weeks at 10 p.m. Sunday in February, that means the year's best new show -- "Boomtown" -- will be pre-empted during that time. In addition, the innovative cop drama will be off a couple of other weeks for award shows like the Golden Globes. So when "Boomtown" returns March 2, NBC will stage a big promotional effort to "relaunch" the series, whose ratings have never equaled its critical acclaim. As part of the effort, the first 12 episodes of "Boomtown" will be aired in a marathon starting at 10 a.m. March 2 on Bravo. One note to fans of the show: All this shuffling around means "Boomtown" will produce only 18 episodes this season instead of the usual 22.

• Late last year, NBC enjoyed considerable success with "Hunter: Return to Justice," a made-for-TV film that reunited Fred Dryer as Rick Hunter and Stephanie Kramer as DeeDee McCall. In fact, viewership was high enough that "Hunter" will shake off the mothballs and return as a weekly series (with Dryer and Kramer) starting April 12. Its all part of an effort by the network to reshape its Saturday night schedule, dumping showings of theatrical films in favor of original programming.

• To counter-program ABC's Super Bowl coverage Sunday, NBC will drop in a special edition of "Fear Factor" and a live 20-minute version of "Saturday Night Live's" "Weekend Update" that will air at halftime. Tina Fey and Jimmy Fallon will anchor "Weekend Update" as usual. By the way, this is the first time any version of "SNL" has aired live in all time zones across the country.

Kingpin a Step Toward Parity, but not what U.S. Latinos were Looking For

Magaly Morales

When U.S. Latinos asked for more representation on mainstream television, I'm not sure Kingpin is what they really had in mind.

This midseason drama about a family of Mexican drug dealers,

premiering Sunday on NBC -- Telemundo's parent network -- is raising questions about the fairness of its depiction of a community that now stands as the largest minority group in the United States.

A Spanish-language version of the six-hour, limited-run series, airing Sundays and Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on WTVJ-Ch. 6 and WPTV-Ch. 5, will premiere in March on Telemundo.

Latinos are the most significantly underrepresented ethnic group on English-language television, despite constituting 12 percent of the nation's population. The very few Latino characters currently onscreen tend to be concentrated in low-status occupations, or criminals, like the central characters of Kingpin.

Yancey Arias stars as Miguel Cadena, a conflicted Stanford-educated businessman who runs his family's drug operation with the help of his attorney wife (Sheryl Lee) and brother "Chato" Cadena (Bobby Cannavale). The cast also includes Maria Conchita Alonso, Angela Alvarado, Rubén Carbajal, Toy Connor and Mexican novela actor Eduardo Palomo.

Felix Sanchez, chairman of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, said that when Latinos are underrepresented on television, any major portrayal that focuses in on the dark side of this community is going to appear hurtful at first.

But despite the clamor of some industry critics, he sees Kingpin as some sort of necessary evil.

"What we have to realize is that television and entertainment are all about creating edgy, dark dramas. And a dramatic series about Latinos within a crime syndicate is exactly where television audiences of today find its interest," says Sanchez. "If the show can't find an audience that is both Latino and general market, we won't be able to evolve more projects like this in the future."

Sanchez, who called this the "awkward adolescence period for Latino content on television," said that having a primetime drama featuring an all-Latino cast is such a major event, that critics should focus on what it really means.

"This show will generate such a dialogue and if it has good ratings attached to it, we will see more continued on page 6

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Lo Mejor En Comida Mexicana

Minnie Minozo Trazo el Camino para las Estrellas de Beisbol de Hoy



Por Robert Heuer

Orestes "Minnie" Minozo está decepcionado porque le han negado el mayor honor en el beisbol, una placa en el museo del Salón de la Fama en Cooperstown, Nueva York.

Uno de los jugadores más carismáticos en la historia del beisbol, este residente en Chicago de 80 años y de origen cubano ha estado en la mirilla pública durante estos últimos veinticinco años por su trabajo en el departamento de relaciones comunitarias de los White Sox.

"Mis fanáticos me tienen en su propio Salón de la Fama", sostiene Minnie. Quizás tratando de disimular su resentimiento al saber que jugadores menos calificados han ganado el honor. Pero también, el hombre sí tiene seguidores.

Los aplausos se escuchaban a lo largo de toda la ruta del desfile de dos millas el pasado 4 de julio en un suburbio de Chicago, a medida que Minnie pasaba sentado en el asiento del pasajero de un Mustang rojo convertible. Ancianos y jóvenes de pie aplaudían al ver a este hombre negro de pelo canoso saludando y sonriendo encima de una pancarta que decía "Minnie Minozo: Una leyenda del Beisbol".

El 26 de febrero, Minnie podría finalmente recibir la llamada. Minozo figura entre los 26 jugadores retirados hace mucho tiempo que están siendo considerados por 84 miembros del Salón de la Fama, incluidos jugadores de beisbol, periodistas de deportes y locutores. Todos aquellos veteranos que reciben un 75 por ciento de los votos serán incluidos el próximo verano junto a Eddie Murray y Gary Carter, jugadores recién retirados que fueron seleccionados hace varias semanas por periodistas del beisbol.

Los logros en el campo son la calificación más importante.

No haber protagonizado una Serie Mundial cuenta en contra de Minnie. Al igual que su corta carrera deportiva. El color de la piel lo obligó a pasar varios años con los New York Cubans en la antigua Liga Negra. No llegó a las mayores hasta que tenía 28 años.

De ese momento en adelante, Minozo tuvo una carrera más fructífera que la mayoría de los fildeadores zurdos y derechos en el Salón de la Fama, según el muy respetado estadístico del beisbol Bill James. Minnie fue siete veces jugador es-

trella que anotó más de 300 en nueve carreras, tenía poder, ganó tres Guantes de Oro por fildear y era uno de los mejores corredores de la época. Si le hubieran dado la oportunidad de jugar cuando tenía 21 años probablemente figuraría entre los mejores 30 jugadores de todos los tiempos, dice James.

Minozo domina en una categoría que incluye estrellas de la actualidad tales como Orlando Hernández, Pedro Martínez, Mariano Rivera, Sammy Sosa y Miguel Tejada. En 1949, Minnie se convirtió en el primer 'negro latino' en las grandes ligas.

La prensa negra trató a "este colorido cubanito" con indiferencia. Existía bastante desprecio por el hecho que latinos americanos de diferentes tonalidades de piel habían jugado en las mayores durante décadas antes de que Jackie Robinson rompiera la tan nombrada barrera del color en 1947. Para los blancos, la composición racial de Minnie era un misterio. Aún 50 años más tarde, nuestra cultura blanca suburbana no sabe qué pensar de las personas de tez oscura que hablan español.

Los compañeros jugadores quizás no entendían sus palabras, pero admiraban sus talentos. John Reyes, un periodista de deportes colombiano-americano en el ámbito deportivo de los Estados Unidos desde comienzos de la década de 1950, comenta, "Lo que Minnie hizo para beneficiar a los latinos de hoy fue hacerles entender a los estadounidenses que los jugadores latinos son personas educadas al igual que atletas muy trabajadores".

Minozo dominó en la Liga Americana por ser el jugador más golpeado por un lanzador durante un record de 10 años en las ligas mayores. No todos los moretones se podrían atribuir a una intensa determinación de llegar a la base. "Coalhouse", como lo llamaban los adversarios, entró a la casa club después de recibir un pelotazo y dispersó la tensión al pedir pintura

Spurs snap Pacers' 14-Game Home Winning Streak

Indiana got a late subtraction and San Antonio got a welcome addition before the teams met Wednesday night and it equaled the end of the Pacers' 14-game home winning streak.

Indiana was minus forward Ron Artest, the team's second-leading scorer, who began serving a four-game suspension. San Antonio had David Robinson return off the injured list after a three-game absence.

David Robinson returns from the injured list and makes his presence known to the Pacers' Brad Miller.

Tony Parker scored 28 points to lead six San Antonio players in

blanca.

Décadas más tarde, en un discurso a un grupo cívico suburbano en Chicago, Minozo señaló una cicatriz en su labio superior y dijo, "Mi amigo me dice 'Cielos, Minnie. Tienes una novia ruda. Te mordió'. No, esto fue el Señor Lary de Detroit. Ellos piensan que yo jugaba beisbol. Yo no. La bola jugaba conmigo más de lo que yo jugaba con ella. Era tan tonto. Acostumbraba dejar que la bola me diera más de lo que yo le daba a ella".

El "spanglish" de Minnie había sido una rutinaria comedia popular por 25 años antes de que el actor Garrett Morris presentara el personaje de Chico Escuela en el programa de Saturday Night Live. El singular hombre del "beisbol" has been very, very good to me" representó durante varias generaciones de jugadores latinos a la figura pública que no podía darse el lujo de que la ignorancia cultural y el prejuicio arruinaran su agradecimiento por recibir un sueldo por jugar beisbol.

Tanto sus destrezas deportivas como sus inigualables contribuciones al juego son de forma evidente una combinación merecedora de pertenecer al Salón de la Fama. Jerome Holtzman, el historiador oficial de las ligas mayores destaca: "Minnie es un pionero, igual que Jackie Robinson".

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double figures as the Spurs defeated Indiana 106-97 to snap the Pacers' home winning streak.

"The most difficult thing about tonight's game was the time to prepare for the game. We got the information so late," said Indiana coach Isiah Thomas, who learned about Artest's suspension by the NBA less than three hours before the game began.

Artest was suspended for having a run-in Monday night with Heat coach Pat Riley and flashing an obscene gesture to the crowd.

"It really knocked the energy and the emotion out of our team. It was a tough situation to play under," Thomas said. "I admired their fight. I respected their courage. They could have easily folded up their tent and walked away."

Robinson agreed. "He's an energy guy. He comes in and does a lot of things for them. He's one of their leading scorers. You lose a lot when you're missing someone like him, but I still thought they played well," he said.

Stephen Jackson had 18 points and a crucial steal that held off an Indiana rally in the fourth quarter. The Pacers trailed by as many as 17 in the period, but cut the deficit to six before Jackson's steal and dunk made the score 100-92 with 1:22 to play.

After an opening period that had 10 lead changes and five ties, San Antonio scored 10 consecutive points to build a double-digit lead in the second quarter they never relinquished. Indiana missed four shots and had four turnovers while going over three minutes without a field goal.

A dunk by Robinson ignited the run, giving the Spurs a 43-40 lead with 3:30 left in the half. Malik Rose had two consecutive baskets on fast breaks and hit two free throws before Emanuel Ginobili's dunk capped the run, giving the Spurs a 51-40 lead.

Indiana pulled to within six on two free throws by Al Harrington but San Antonio answered with two free throws by Parker and one by Jackson.

Jermaine O'Neal led the Pacers with a season-high 31 points. The All-Star starter also had 10 rebounds, recording his sixth consecutive double-double.

Reggie Miller had 19 points for Indiana, which still has the league's best home mark at 21-2.

Tim Duncan got into foul trouble for San Antonio and failed to get

his 32nd double-double of the season as he scored 12 points and had nine rebounds in 24 minutes. After spending three games on the injured list with a sore lower back, Robinson also finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

San Antonio led 57-45 at halftime, shooting 65 percent (13-of-20) in the second quarter while the Pacers hit only 29 percent (7-of-24).

The Spurs took their biggest lead at 77-60 on a layup by Parker with 4:35 remaining in the third quarter.

Indiana players learned about 21/2 hours before tipoff that Artest would miss the game after being suspended his actions in Miami.

"We can't sit here and make an excuse because he didn't play is the reason that we lost, or we didn't have energy," Harrington said. "They made shots and a lot of us missed shots."



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Lea El Editor Primero

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Lubbock Warriors Boxing Club



These Lubbock Warriors will be competing in the Golden Gloves next weekend. Front row (left to right): Zackary Rodriguez, Adam Soto, Joey Andrist, Thomas Bostwick. Row 2: Jeremy Perez, Joshua Hernandez, Nicolas Rendon, Jpe Hernandez. Row 3: Fabian Gomez, Johnny Jimenez, Jason Underwood, Joe Soliz. Row 4: Joseph Rosendo Jr., Edward Hernandez III, Gabriel Surita, Artur Barabanov. Row 5: Anthony Calderon, Jesus Arenas, Levi Hughes.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day set for Tuesday

The groundhog may be looking for his shadow on Tuesday (Feb. 4), but more than 1,300 area high school juniors will find theirs.

About 1,330 students from the South Plains will stick close to their shadow mentors during the fifth annual South Plains Tech Prep Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Students in 44 area high schools and institutions of higher learning have been matched to potential employers in 375 businesses in Lubbock, Levelland and Plainview. They will spend the day on the job with their mentors from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The program provides students with exposure to the workplace, hands-on experience, career exploration and a connection to higher education.

"The goal for these students is to see what educational requirements and skills are necessary for the occupations in which they are interested, to make the connection in the business community with people who can help them get a start in their desired careers and to see what jobs are available in their region," explained Robbye Appling, business coordinator for South Plains Tech Prep.

The mentoring program began eight years ago in East Texas and was picked up nationally in 1999, the same year that Lubbock and the

South Plains became involved in the project.

Kristin Bunyard, visual communications specialist for SPC, became a mentor five years ago. "I get as much out of the day as the

students do," she says. "It is wonderful to be able to shape the possible future of some of these young people. I talk to them about education and how important it is to get a degree."

From Page 4

shows with a Latino theme being developed," he said. "It will also give exposure to the next generation of talent that hopefully will lead to a variety of interesting projects."

It remains to be seen whether the Spanish-speaking audience will favor a show like Kingpin when it airs on Telemundo.

What's rather ironic is that even as Latinos and other minorities demand greater and more varied representation on English-language television, the Spanish-language networks in the United States and Latin America still provide few opportunities for non-white Latinos.

Just like in mainstream television, black Latinos and dark-skinned mestizos have been relegated to minor, subservient roles in Latin programming.

"You can't get any worse than a lot of the already-existing portrayals," says Sanchez. "Spanish-lan-

guage programs, especially telenovelas, perpetuate old and discarded values that are not longer accepted.

... If we took a majority of Spanish-language programming and translated it into English, you would have the NAACP and NOW marching to shut it down."

Last week, Telemundo premiered *Adrián Está de Visita* (Adrian Is Visiting), a Colombian novela with a black man in a leading role -- a first.

But as with *Kingpin*, there's a con to go with the apparent pro. In *Adrián* -- which aired in Latin America as *Luzbel Está de Visita* (Luzbel is a name for Lucifer in Spanish), the mysterious main character implies some sort of evil presence.

Kingpin will air with a Spanish-language track on SAP; Telemundo has not set an airdate yet. *Adrián Está de Visita* airs weeknights at 8

Reach for the Stars

at the Estacado High School Magnet Open House, Monday, February 3, 6:30 p.m. EHS Auditorium

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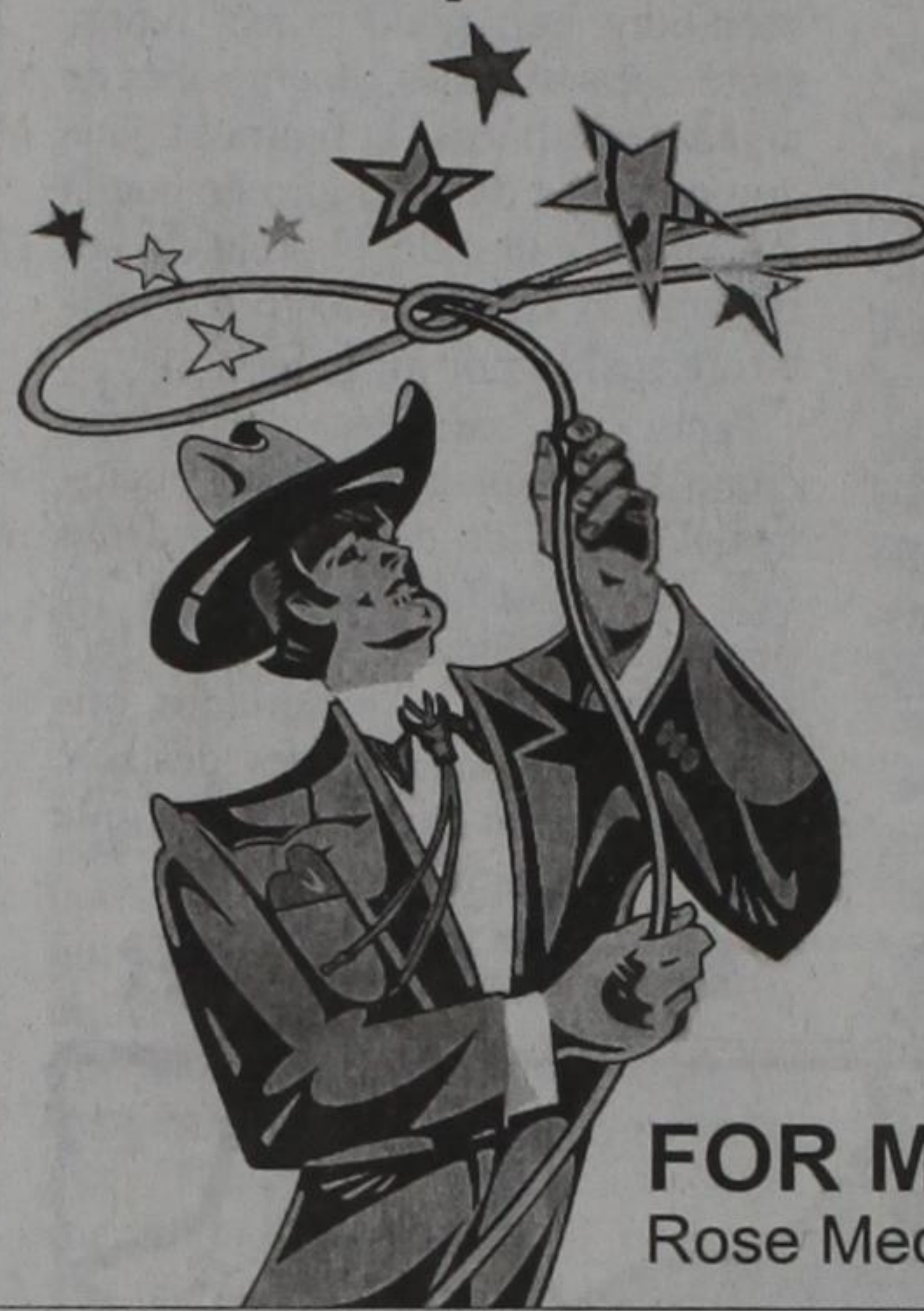


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Each school will make a 30-minute presentation, provide entertainment, as well as needed information to interested students and parents.

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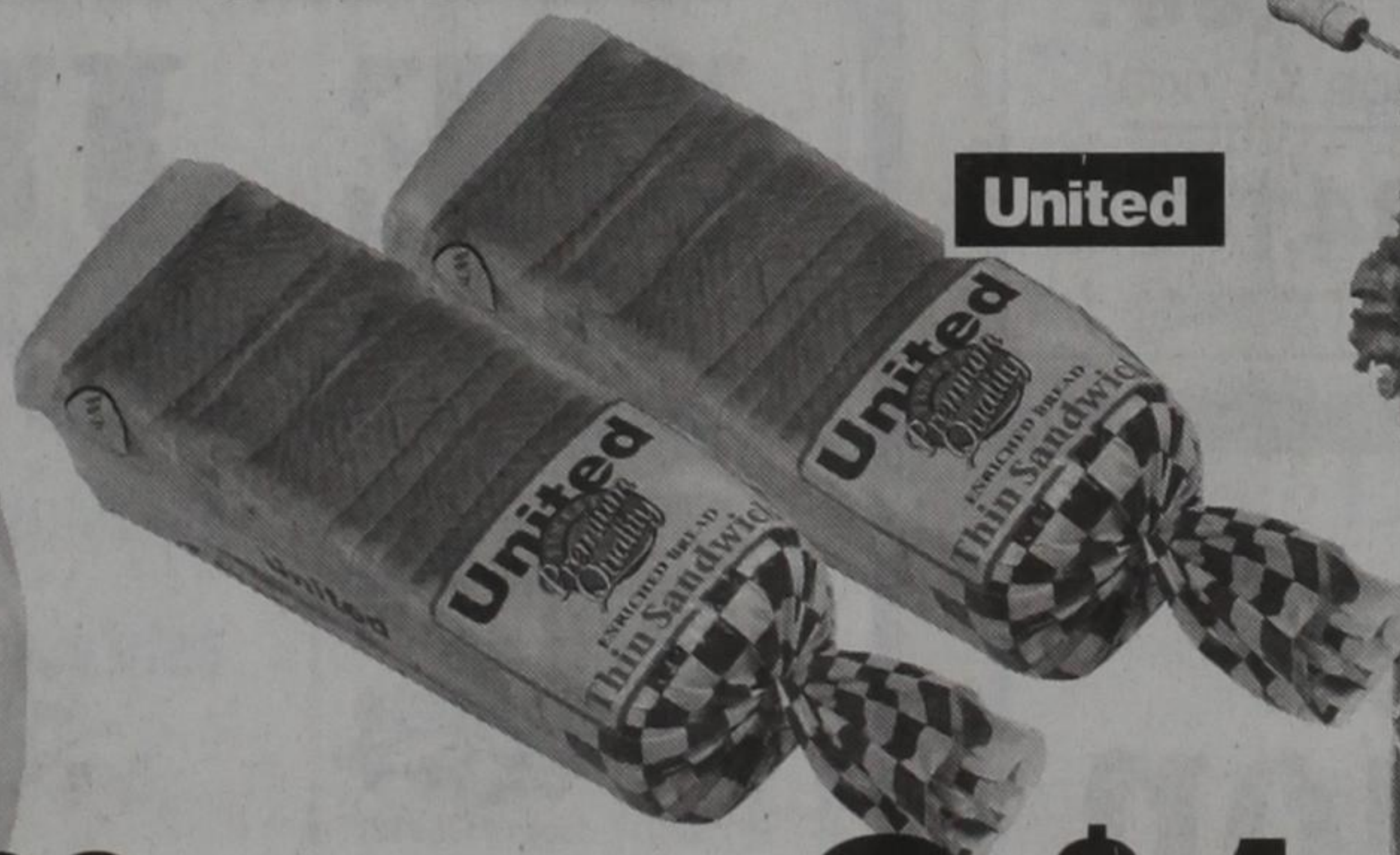
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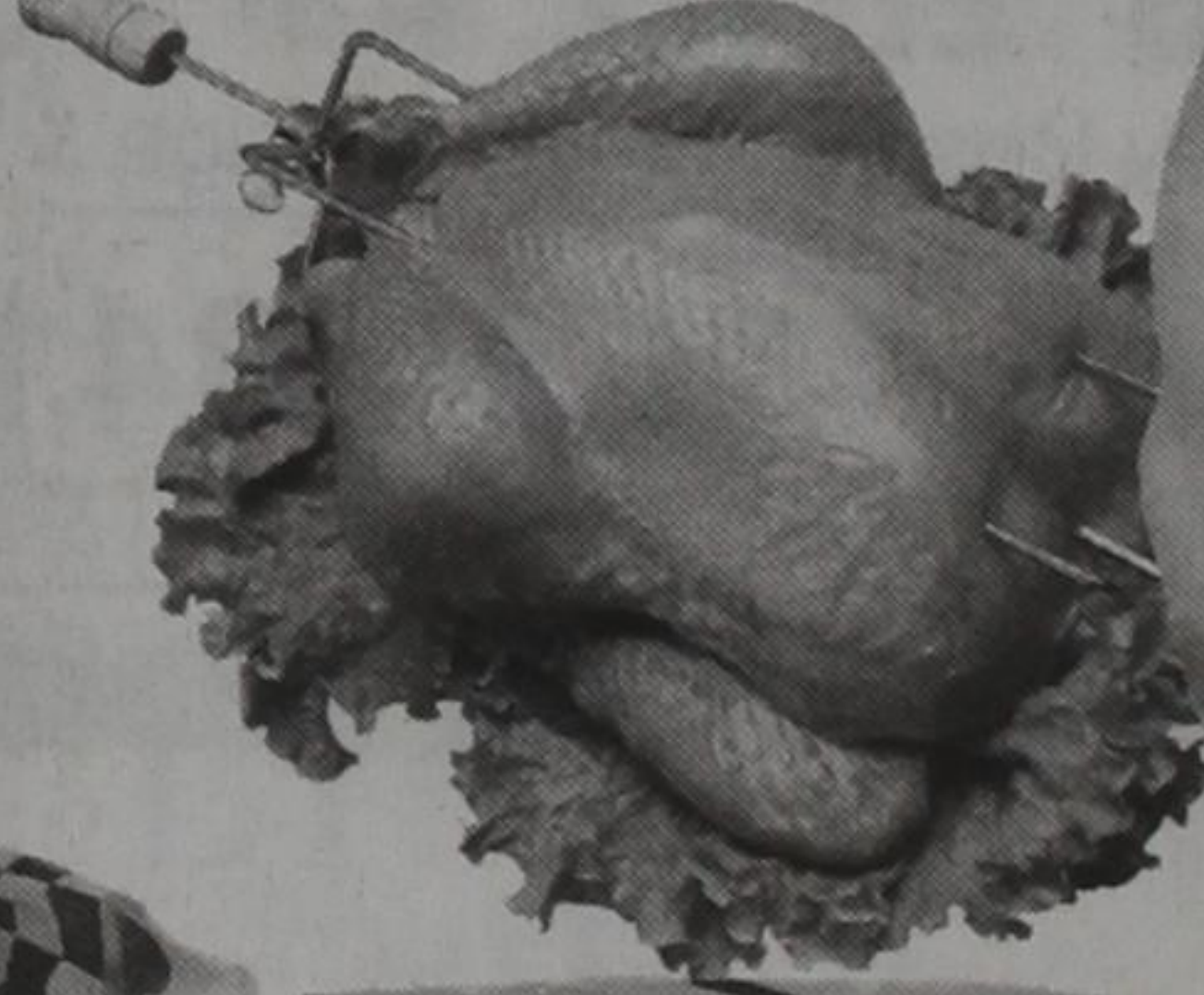
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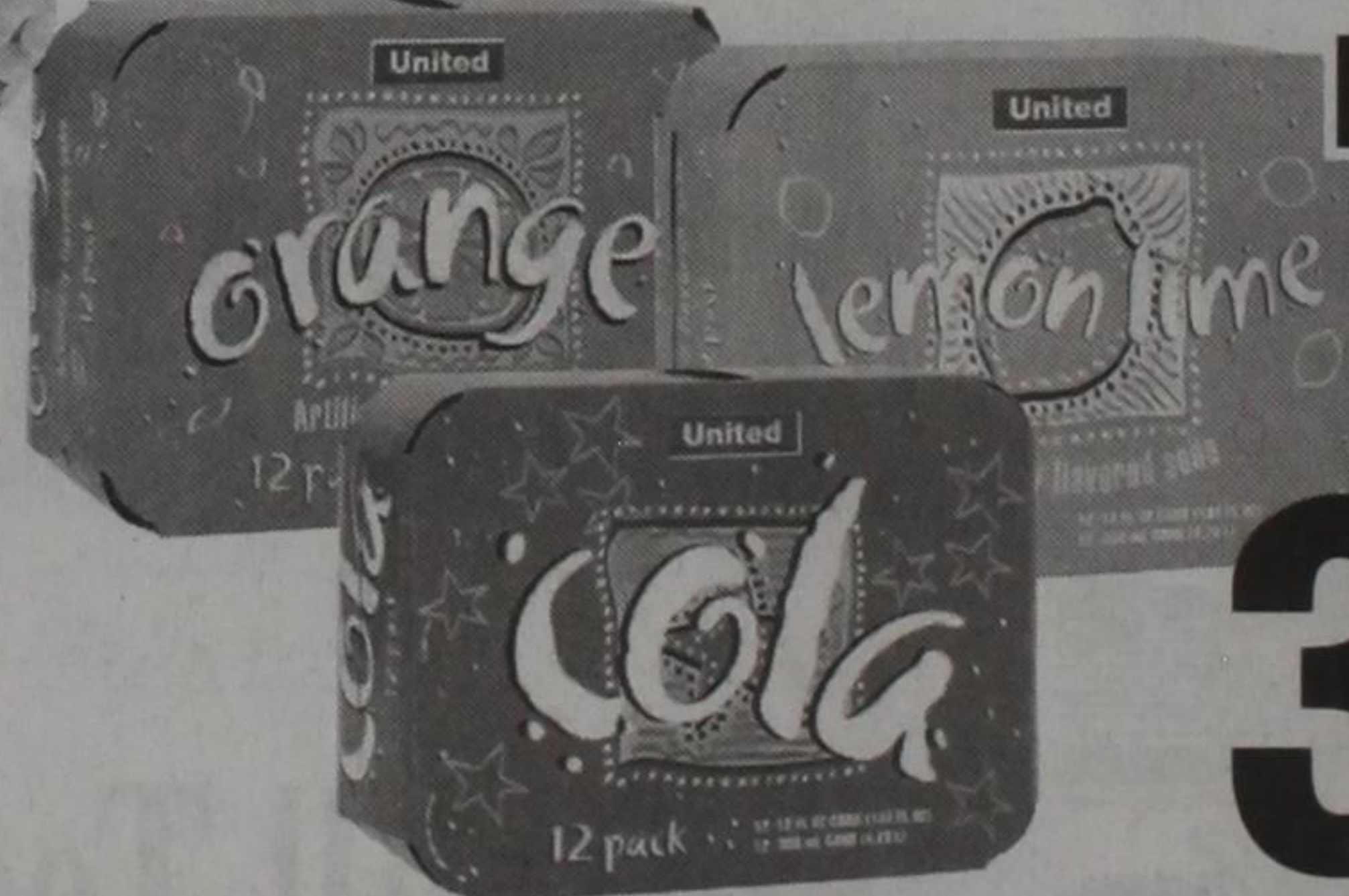
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