

# S.A. Gore Visit May Have Sparked Opening Of Campaign Season

Austin, Texas, - The recent visit of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore to Texas coupled with Gov. George W. Bush's attack on the administration for national security leads to China has, according to many political experts, sparked the unofficial beginning of the 2000 presidential race.

Clinton introduced Gore to a heavily Hispanic, South Texas



**VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE** crowd before leaving for a five-day family vacation in Florida. The president's absence then allowed the vice president to draw national attention to himself.

Bush's statements during the Clinton and Gore visit, provided a rare opportunity for the, as yet, undeclared Republican presidential candidate to venture into the arena of foreign policy, considered one of his major weaknesses by many analysts.

Previously Bush had said he would not campaign until the biannual state legislative session ends May 31. Today Mindy Tucker, a press officer for Bush's pres-

idential exploratory committee, said "a time frame has not been provided because Bush plans to travel following the legislative session."

But with a special session likely, political analysts say that Bush may not officially announce his candidacy until July or August of this year.

Political scientist Carl Jillson told ABC News that Bush is using what he tabbed "the Yellow Rose strategy" - avoiding the campaign trail while his opponents trade punches with each other.

This approach appears to be working since Wednesday's announcement that 115 of the 222 Republican members of the House endorsed him and, on Monday, New York's Gov. George Pataki became the 16th governor to endorse him.

Presidential politics specialist Bruce Buchanan, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said the early support was unprecedented. "I cannot think of another instance in political history where a presidential candidate has attracted this kind of extended endorsements from party leaders this early."

Buchanan pointed out Gore's drawbacks as a candidate, principally his association with Clinton who was so harshly criticized for the Monica Lewinsky affair. Gore has also been criticized for failure to effectively deliver his message.

The analyst believes that Republicans are massing behind Bush because they are desperate to overcome their negative image after the lengthy impeachment

battle. "Gov. Bush offers the Republican Party a candidate who seems to be an answer to problems that the party has had with its image, that of a mean-spirited party embodied most recently in the personage of former House speaker Newt Gingrich and their aggressive, contentious approach to party leadership."

"While Bush may be known as the proponent of compassionate conservatism, however, there is nothing compassionate about the

analyst said, pointing out that Bush frequently refuses to consider any appeals for leniency.

Also a potential liability is Bush's ambiguity on key issues. Recently, for example, Bush declined to take a stand on a major hate crimes bill pending before the Texas legislature.

"Bush said he would look at the bill if it crossed his desk," said Robert Bryce, a staff writer for the more liberal Austin

controversy throughout his reign as governor, and a largely fawning state press corps has let him get away with it so far.

Bush's harshest criticism comes on environmental issues. In an April 12, Op-ed piece in the Dallas Morning News, a conservative newspaper, columnist Timothy O'Leary blasted Bush for his lack of environmental fortitude. According to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, Texas

pollutes more than any other state.

Finally, Bush is vulnerable on what some, like former state Gov. Ann Richards, terms the "Silver-Spoon" issue, that is the perception that he was raised in an atmosphere of privilege and wealth and so is out of touch with the issues of most Americans.

Buchanan doubts that Bush would be where he is today if it were not for his family name. "If his last name was not Bush, he would not be considered a serious candidate. He wouldn't have had the opportunity to run for governor or be elected governor in the first place," Buchanan said.



state's aggressive use of the death penalty. Texas leads the nation by far in executions and has led every year throughout his tenure as governor," the an-

Chronicle. "Then he had his legislative people did everything they could to make sure it never got there."

Indeed, Bush has sidestepped

## News Briefs

### U.S. Repatriates Largest Number of Cubans in Four Years

Havana, - The U.S. government has repatriated 79 Cubans who tried to enter the United States illegally, the largest number sent back since the 1995 immigration agreement signed by both countries, officials said.

The 69 men, six women and four children, from the provinces of Matanzas and Villa Clara, were taken to the western port of Cabanas Tuesday after being intercepted at sea, according to the National Information Agency (AIN).

The deputy consul of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, Jaime Alonso Gonzalez, said the repatriation of the refugees shows that the United States is honoring the 1995 treaty, rooted in the desire for legal and orderly immigration.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Cuban Parliament President Ricardo Alarcon, who is representing Cuba in another round of immigration talks in New York that will begin Thursday.

The 30 immigrants from Matanzas and 49 from Villa Clara were given medical exams and taken to their home towns, according to officials.

Since the immigration treaty was signed in 1995, 390 Cubans have been repatriated via the Guantanamo naval base, and 1,515 by the U.S. Coast Guard, bringing the total number of returned refugees to 1,905 in 127 joint operations.

### Thousands Join in Defense of Children in the United States

By Maria Peña

Washington, Jun 1 (EFE).- A few steps away from the Capitol, the seat of U.S. legislative power, some 350 children, including 75 Hispanics, paint T-shirts with messages of hope for the children of the country.

"A world free of drugs" and "I love my family," as well as smiling faces and rainbows, were some of the messages painted by the children on the T-shirts, on display at the Children's Museum in Washington, reflecting the wishes of children throughout the United States.

Parents, politicians, volunteers and community leaders gathered Tuesday at the museum to "defend the rights of those who, for the time being, have no voice or vote."

More than 1,700 events have been organized by "Stand for the Children," a group which fights for the welfare of children.

The children, from different ethnic groups and all between the ages of 5 and 9, came from several schools in Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Their T-shirts, said event organizers, will be displayed at schools, libraries and in several Congress offices.

"We are here basically to celebrate the spirit of childhood," said Debbie Hawkinson, spokeswoman for the Weyerhaeuser Corp., which donated the T-shirts.

"They are at an age in which they still have hope but, unfortunately, the poverty in which they live may someday rob them of that hope," she added.

Stand for the Children has sponsored marches, fairs, reading hours and forums, promoting the building of schools and parks, as well as forums and shops on health and education in cities such as El Paso, Philadelphia, Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

"One of the problems is that there are not enough free activities for the family, particularly, for low income families. We want families to have fun," said Dawn Martinez, Los Angeles Children's Museum director, in a telephone interview.

Questioned on the factors which stand in the way of a healthy childhood in the United States, Allyson Kapin, spokeswoman for the Children's Museum in Washington, cited violence and over-crowded schools as the main obstacles to the healthy development of children.

### Gore Gains Support of Hillary Clinton and Other Female Leaders

Washington, - First Lady Hillary Clinton and other top U.S. female leaders said Tuesday they will support Vice President Al Gore, as the presidential hopeful for the Democratic party in the next elections.

"Gore has done everything to defend women and family issues, from increasing access to child and health care centers to increasing job opportunities for women," Mrs. Clinton said.

The first lady was the star speaker at a "Women for Gore" convention held in Washington for 4,500 prominent U.S. women.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (Dem.-CA), Patty Murray (Dem.-WA) and Lucille Roybal-Allard, congressional Hispanic Caucus president, as well as numerous members of the House of Representatives also said they will support Gore's campaign.

Other female leaders who pledged to back Gore's candidacy include former Texas Gov. Ann Richards, Maryland Vice Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Puerto Rican Treasury Secretary Xenia Velez, as well as 17 city mayors from across the United States.

"I want to help women be recognized in the 21st century," said Gore.

According to the most recent opinion polls, Gore has a wide lead over his only Democratic opponent, former Sen. Bill Bradley, but he trails far behind his main Republican opponent, Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

### Hispanic Lawyer Named Co-Chair of Census Oversight Board

Washington, - U.S. President Bill Clinton has named Hispanic lawyer Gilbert F. Casellas co-chairman of the Census Oversight Board.

Hours after the announcement was made Thursday, Casellas met with all seven members of the bipartisan board, Commerce Secretary William Daley and other officials.

Casellas described the meeting as "very positive" because it focused on the goal of making the 2000 Census "fair and accurate, not leaving out any segment of our diverse society."

Casellas, an investor and former president of the National Association of Hispanic Lawyers, has been a member of the board since it was created last year.

The board is a bipartisan entity comprised of four members named by the Republican majority in Congress and four named by the White House, and its function is "to examine and oversee all aspects of the preparation and implementation of the 2000 Census."

The United States carries out a census every 10 years. The new co-chairman fills a vacancy left in early May by the resignation of Tony Coelho, who will lead the presidential campaign of Vice President Al Gore. The White House must still make one more appointment to the board.

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"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace"  
Lic. Benito Juarez

# EL EDITOR

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers  
Vol XXII No. 36 Week of June 3 thru June 9, 1999 1502 Ave. M, Lubbock, TX 79401

## Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Many sides can be taken in the issue of whether two Hispanic Chamber of Commerce officials are guilty or innocent. As demonstrated on today editorial page by three readers one could always say that the events went politically motivated or that the City and Powers That Be are on some kind of vendetta.

Fingers could be pointed in every direction as people say now come this to the Chamber officials and not to them.

Or people could take the side of the -J when they say "We take issue with her claim that the focus on justice has been lost. The very fact that her two previous indictments have been quashed is evidence contrary to her claim. She is being given an opportunity to defend herself with full knowledge of the charges against her, and that is justice in its purest form."

In my mind perhaps both sides can be understood. Paula does need her day in court to disprove the allegations made against her. But is it really necessary to continue a case over \$2,100 for 3 years at what I could most assuredly say is costing thousands of dollars and hours of valuable time that could be spent by prosecutors on crimes that really concern us.

Whatever the case, we must work to resolve the issue so that the Hispanic Chamber can start working toward their real goals of helping the Hispanic businessperson to become an integral part of Lubbock in developing a sound economic base in Lubbock and specifically in our community.

Bidal can be reached through E-mail at [elclub@aol.com](mailto:elclub@aol.com) or mail your comments to 1502 Ave. M, Lubbock, TX 79401

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## Thousands Attend Millenium Mass



Miles de personas asistieron a la celebración de un misa en preparación al tercer milenio este domingo pasado. La misa incluyó ministros de diversas religiones los cual se unieron en comprometerse a trabajar por el bienestar de toda la gente. foto por John Cervantes

## Bush y Gore Calientan Motores Para Campana Presidencial 2000

Por Cecilia Avila  
Austin, - La campaña presidencial del 2000 arrancó de forma extraordinaria esta semana con la visita del vicepresidente Al Gore a Texas y los ataques del gobernador George W. Bush sobre el caso de espionaje de China, según analistas políticos.

Gore tomó las riendas de la gira política por el sur de Texas, de alta concentración hispana, luego de que el presidente Bill Clinton emprendiera una vacación familiar de cinco días por el estado de Florida.

Las declaraciones del gobernador Bush, en plena gira por Texas de la cúpula de la Casa Blanca, ofrecieron una oportunidad para que el candidato presidencial republicano -aún no declarado oficialmente- discutiera asuntos de política exterior.

Previamente, Bush había indicado que no entraría en campaña hasta que terminase la sesión de la legislatura estatal el próximo 31 de mayo.

Una portavoz del comité exploratorio para la presidencia de Bush, Mindy Tucker, dijo a EFE que "aún no se ha trazado un calendario porque el gobernador piensa viajar tras concluir la sesión legislativa".

Algunos analistas políticos han señalado que, ante las posibilidades de que se convoque a una sesión especial, Bush probablemente no anunciará su candidatura sino hasta julio o agosto.

El analista Carl Jillson dijo al programa "CBS News" que Bush está utilizando lo que denominó "la estrategia de la rosa amarilla"

la", en la que mantiene el suspenso sobre sus planes presidenciales mientras sus rivales se baten entre sí.

Esa estrategia parecer estar surtiendo el efecto deseado ya que 16 gobernadores, incluyendo al de Nueva York, George Pataki, han anunciado su apoyo hacia Bush, al igual que 115 de 222 congresistas republicanos.

"Esto es algo sin precedentes", dijo a EFE Bruce Buchanan, experto en campañas presidenciales y profesor de la Universidad de Texas en Austin. "No recuerdo ningún otro caso en la historia en el que un candidato presidencial haya logrado este tipo de respaldo de líderes del partido tan pronto".

Destacó que entre los puntos negativos de Gore como candidato figuran su falta de carisma y, principalmente, su vínculo con el presidente Clinton, algo que le restaría apoyo electoral, por el juicio político que enfrentó el mandatario estadounidense.

Para Buchanan, los republicanos apoyan a Bush porque buscan desesperadamente una forma de limpiar su imagen, tras su rotundo fracaso en el Senado en el juicio para destituir al presidente Clinton.

"El gobernador Bush se presenta al Partido Republicano como un candidato que aparentemente borra la mala imagen de ese partido", continuó Buchanan.

Aunque a Bush se le conoce por su "conservadurismo compasivo", los analistas señalan que no hay nada compasivo en la práctica estatal de la pena de muerte.

Bajo el liderazgo de Bush,



# Gore Appeals to Hispanics In Highlighting Economic Development Program

By Alan Bernstein and Bennet Roth

SEBASTIAN, Texas, May 26, 1999 -- Como estas? the vice president asked, his Spanish pronunciation only a little bit off.

Just fine, thank you, came the answer in English from some residents of this mostly Hispanic farming town near the Mexican border.

They were feeling particularly fine because Al Gore had come to their one-traffic-light hamlet Tuesday to highlight federal economic development programs called empowerment zones.

But as Gore began a two-day swing through Texas, another question concerns the depth of support for the Democratic presidential front-runner from Hispanic voters across the country.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush is the early front-runner for the Republican nomination partly because he carried out a plan in his re-election campaign last year to show that GOP contenders can appeal to Hispanic voters, capturing about 40 percent of the vote in his gubernatorial re-election campaign.

For now, Gore and the Democrats have the advantage of traditional loyalty from Hispanic voters and the government authority to deliver programs such as empowerment zones to economically ragged, predominantly Hispanic areas like the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas.

After chatting with Gore in their front yard, Abelardo and Martha Oviedo said they would vote for Gore if the presidential nominees were Gore and Bush.

I think he's just more into, like, the empowerment zone. Small communities, you know," Abelardo Oviedo said of Gore.

Martha Oviedo, who works at a Head Start program funded with empowerment zone money, said she enjoyed seeing both major parties compete for the Hispanic support.

I think it's great for the Hispanic voters, getting all the attention and being recognized," she said.

Gore's trip had an official purpose - meaning taxpayers pick up the tab for the trip instead of his presidential campaign contributors. As vice president, he delivered a speech to the 5th Annual White House Community Empowerment Conference in Edinburg, a gathering of empowerment zone participants from across the nation. The federal government pours loans, tax credits for new businesses, job



training and infrastructure improvements into the zones.

But Gore's otherwise routine annual attendance at the conference got a boost Tuesday with the added participation of President Clinton, who flew here from Washington before heading to a vacation in Florida. It was the first joint appearance of the president and vice president outside of Washington since January, according to Gore aides - and the first since Clinton apparently irritated Gore by telling The New York Times he has advised Gore to relax and have fun as a candidate.

Clinton, in his remarks to the empowerment zone representatives, said he was leaving it to Gore to flesh out the details of the president's creation of a new task force to improve economic development in vote-rich Texas and California and the states between them.

Gore also got to announce a new White House policy assuring that information from immigrants applying for government aid, such as Medicaid, will not be shared with immigration authorities.

In other words, the president threw the policy spotlight to his would-be successor with the national media out in force covering an event aimed at Hispanic citizens' concerns.

Certainly, it's a passing of the baton of sorts," said Joe Garcia, former chairman of the Hidalgo County Democratic Party. Garcia said Clinton is making the rounds to make sure those alliances are there for Al Gore.

And Gore may need that help, particularly in Texas where Bush is the rare Republican with solid

Hispanic support.

Garcia said Bush brings a number of advantages to the race.

He is Spanish speaking, he comes to the Valley often," he said. I can't point to a specific program that he (Bush) has done that has been a tremendous benefit to South Texas. But he is friendly, a great personality and does well with crowds."

The current Hidalgo County Democratic chairman, Ramon Garcia, predicted Bush would not

do as well as he did in his state race in 1998 because he has a more formidable opponent in Gore than Bush did in Democratic gubernatorial nominee Garry Mauro.

Ramon Garcia said Gore's trip to the Valley was important if he wanted the Hispanic vote. This is his way of saying, 'I care,' Ramon Garcia said, noting that Gore is not as well known as Clinton among Hispanics.

Hidalgo County, where Tuesday's event was held, is about 85

percent Hispanic. It is also the seventh poorest county in Texas, with about 40 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

With the government business of the day out of the way, Gore attended a reception of the Hispanic Democratic Unity political action committee, and an empowerment zone fiesta late Tuesday in McAllen.

In Washington, Gore's campaign announced he had been endorsed by 15 of Texas's 17,

Democratic U.S. House members. The only two Democrats in the Texas delegation who did not endorse Gore were U.S. Reps. Ralph Hall and Charles Stenholm.

Gore's wife, Tipper, attended a Democratic women's lunch Tuesday in Austin and touted her husband's presidential campaign.

Gore was scheduled to end his Texas trek Wednesday with a campaign fund-raising luncheon and a forum on school safety in Dallas, followed by fund-raising dinner in Houston.

## Democratas Hacen Llamado de Alerta a Minorías Para el Censo 2000

Washington, - Líderes del Partido Demócrata hicieron un "llamado de alerta" a las minorías para que estén mejor informadas y defiendan el derecho de ser incluidas de una manera "justa y exacta" en el censo del año 2000.

"El deber básico de cada gobierno es contar a sus ciudadanos y simplemente tenemos que hacerlo de la manera más efectiva posible", señaló Roy Romer, dirigente del DNC.

La información del censo determina los fondos federales destinados a la construcción de carreteras, hospitales y guarderías dependiendo de la población de un determinado lugar.

Joe Andrew, jefe nacional del DNC, dijo que el estado de Texas dejó de percibir unos 930 millones de dólares en fondos federales en 1990.

California, donde viven millones de mexicanos y salvadoreños, dejó de percibir 2.228 millones de dólares, según el DNC.

Celina Walsh de la Liga Unida de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos (LULAC) dijo que la comunidad hispana tiene mucho que participar más en esos debates.

El debate sobre el método a usar en el censo de abril del 2000 "se ha desarrollado mayormente en los pasillos del Congreso, y ahora está llegando a las legislaturas estatales", dijo Walsh.

En enero de este año, la Corte Suprema de Justicia determinó que el censo no debe usar la técnica de muestreo para hacer cálculos estadísticos en la población que no pudo ser contada.

El conteo, que fue utilizado en el censo de 1990 y se volverá a usar en el 2000, dejó fuera a millones de personas, principalmente de las minorías.

Sin embargo, la Corte Suprema dejó abierta en su decisión el uso del muestreo para realizar en el futuro estudios de referencia.

"Para nosotros los hispanos es importante tener los números más cercanos posible para que podamos obtener los fondos federales adecuados para programas sociales que tanto necesitan las minorías y que se han quedado fuera del censo en otras ocasiones", puntualizó Walsh.

## El Editor Newspaper's June Classic Softball Tournament June 12 & 13 - Class D/E Call to Enter 763-3841

## Republicanos Reconocen Crecimiento Poder Politico De Hispanos

Por Ramón J. Vázquez

Washington, - El lanzamiento de los latinos en el campo político es un fenómeno que está creciendo cada día en Estados Unidos, reconocieron miembros del Partido Republicano, durante una conferencia anual de dos días que concluyó hoy en Washington.

De cara a los comicios generales del 2000, los republicanos están llevando a cabo actividades febriles en buscan de candidatos que los representen en esas elecciones, incluso entre los hispanos, tradicionales aliados del Partido Demócrata.

Y precisamente con el objetivo de suavizar la imagen de los republicanos entre la comunidad hispana - tildada de conservadora y antiinmigrante en algunos lugares-, el instituto político conocido como "GOPAC" realiza campañas dirigidas a este grupo minoritario.

Decenas de líderes, entre congresistas y empresarios, participaron en una conferencia anual auspiciada por el Centro de Entrenamiento para el Siglo XXI de GOPAC.

El encuentro, que culminó hoy en un hotel capitalino, enfocó en temas de interés para las diversas minorías que residen en EEUU.

"Tenemos que atraer a los latinos, sirviéndoles en áreas en que muchos necesitan ayuda como son la educación, seguridad y economía", señaló a EFE Rubén Barrales, presidente y gerente general de la corporación Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, de San José, California.

Barrales, uno de los oradores invitados a esta conferencia, fue el primer hispano en ser elegido, por dos periodos, a la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de San Mateo, al sur de San Francisco, California, aunque dejó ese puesto en diciembre pasado.

En la actualidad hay cuatro

hispanos republicanos en la Asamblea Estatal californiana, tres de los cuales fueron elegidos durante las elecciones del pasado 3 de noviembre.

Barrales, de origen mexicano, señala que se necesitan sistemas educativos que den más oportunidades a los latinos y más escuelas privadas ("charter"), como ya está sucediendo en estados como Florida y Texas, donde los gobernadores, Jeb y George Bush, respectivamente, son bilingües.

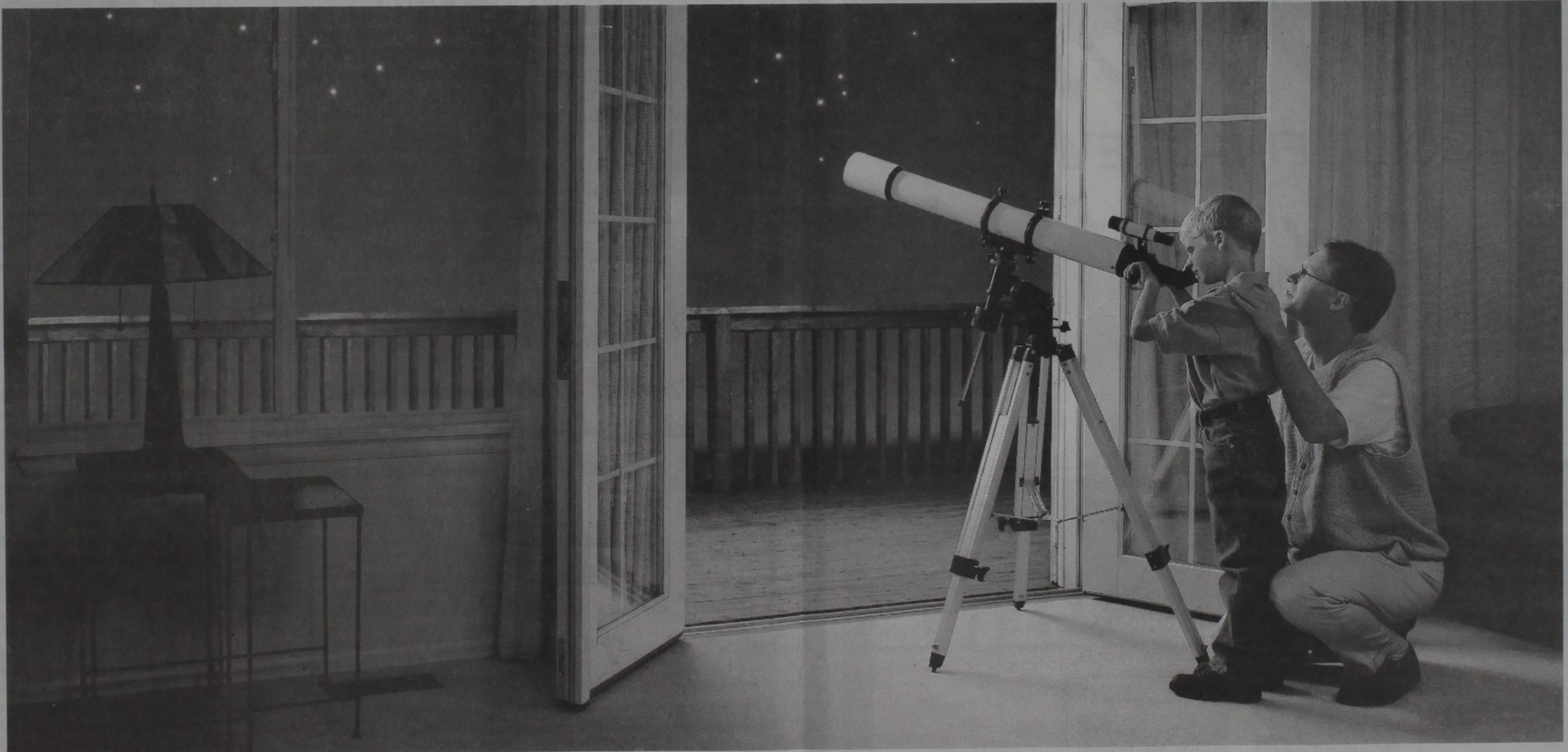
"Es algo que de alguna forma da más poder a los padres de familia y a los maestros", explicó Barrales, cuya educación secundaria la realizó en Garfield High School en Redwood, una de las primeras escuelas privatizadas en esa zona.

"Ahora en esa escuela los padres ya tienen voz y voto, y la mayoría de los estudiantes son de origen hispano", agregó.

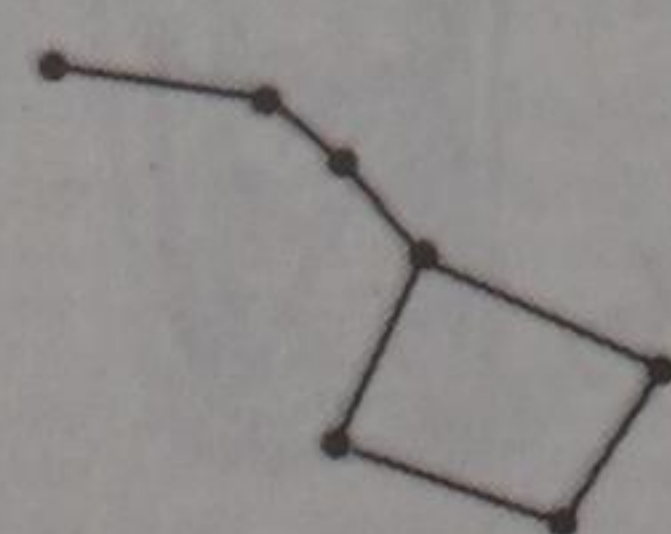
"Para tener una mejor visión de la realidad de las minorías, en particular los hispanos, el Partido Republicano tiene que visitar nuestras comunidades y platicar con la gente, ya sea en Miami, Los Angeles o Nueva York, incluso para buscar un candidato", dijo Barrales. "Cuando encontremos a ese candidato tenemos que apoyarlo".

Por su parte el congresista David Drier, republicano de California, afirmó que "es tan importante para GOPAC escuchar a cada ciudadano de este país (para) saber lo que quieren... y lo que aprendamos lo transmitiremos".

"Necesitamos nuevas estrategias de campaña para ayudar a los candidatos a alcanzar a los hispanos y a otras minorías", continuó Drier. "También necesitamos otras estrategias de comunicaciones para asegurarnos que los mensajes de los republicanos no tengan un tono de exclusión", finalizó el legislador.



Cuando las personas de esta área apagan sus luces, generalmente no es para reducir su cuenta eléctrica.



Con precios de electricidad que son 30% más bajos que el promedio nacional, nuestros consumidores raramente apagan sus luces simplemente para ahorrar dinero. Esto es porque estamos trabajando duro para asegurar que usted

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**Sosa vs. McGwire:**

**La Verdadera Guerra De Las Galaxias**

Por Eduardo Balderas, Sr.

El duelo entre los dos jonrones más prolíficos en la historia del béisbol se reanudará este fin de semana en Wrigley Field. Los St. Louis Cardinals harán su primera visita a Chicago a partir del viernes 28, en una serie que terminará el domingo 30.

La carrera por destronar al Yankee Roger Maris y que apasionó a los aficionados al rey de los deportes en el mundo entero, manteniéndolos en suspenso y pendientes de los resultados de cada juego en que los rivales participaban, da paso en esta temporada a las siguientes interrogaciones: ¿Cuántos cuadrangulares conectarán Sammy Sosa y Mark McGwire? ¿Será alguno de los dos capaz de romper la marca de 70 batazos de circuito establecida por el inicialista de los Cardenales?

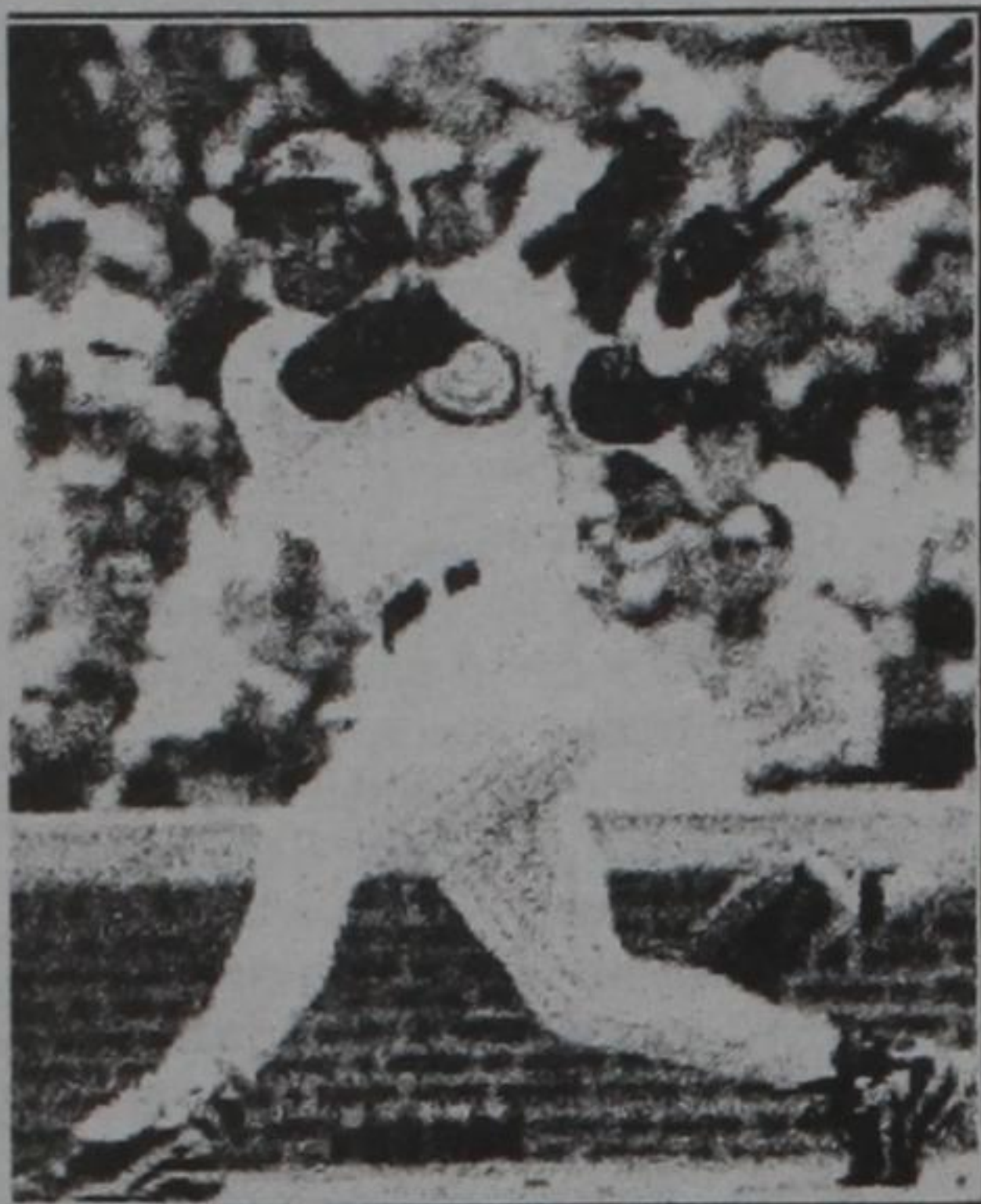
A pesar de que solamente se ha jugado la cuarta parte de la temporada, la especulación acerca de las posibilidades de repetir o establecer una nueva marca en cuadrangulares basada en los números actuales, ha empezado a germinar en el ambiente beisbolístico. Al finalizar la jornada correspondiente al domingo 23, Sosa, como sucedió en varias ocasiones el año pasado, se encuentra adelante de McGwire por dos batazos de vuelta entera, 14 para el dominicano y 12 para el pelirrojo de San Luis.

La actuación de ambos jugadores en la caja de bateo es la siguiente:

Sammy ha participado en los 41 encuentros que ha jugado su equipo, en 164 viajes oficiales a la goma - ha recibido 20 bases por bolas - timbrando la registradora en 33 ocasiones, ha conectado 44 imparables, siendo 9 de ellos buenos para dos estaciones, empujando 31 carreras y ha abanicado el aire en 46 ocasiones. Su promedio de bateo es de .268. Sus 14 cuadrangulares lo colocan dos atrás del líder, su paisano Raúl Mondesí, el patrullero de la pradera derecha de Los Angeles Dodgers. Cuatro de los jonrones de Sosa fueron conectados en abril y 10 en los primeros 23 días de mayo. Su impaciencia - que ha ido disminuyendo - ha hecho que Sosa deje un buen número de corredores en posición de anotar.

McGwire ha jugado en todos los encuentros de su equipo menos uno, ha viajado al pentágono 134 veces en forma oficial - recibiendo 35 pasaportes gratis a la inicial - ha conectado 35 imparables (siete de ellos dobles),

produciendo 32 anotaciones y ha fallado en conectar a la pelota en 35 oportunidades, bateando para un promedio de .261. Los 12 estacazos de vuelta entera que ha conectado incluyen un tremendo batazo que envió la esférica sobre todos los límites, abandonando la casa de Los Angeles Dodgers, Chavez Ravine. Con ese batazo,



McGwire ha sido el tercer jugador en la historia del estadio en lograr esta demostración de poder, uniéndose a Willie Stargell, inicialista de los Pittsburgh Pirates (1962-1982) y al ex receptor de los Dodgers, Mike Piazza.

La proyección de lo alcanzado hasta el momento por estos dos artifices del tolete, daría como resultado 56 y 48 jonrones para Sammy Sosa y Mark McGwire, respectivamente. Es posible que ambos jugadores mejoren esta proyección, los meses de verano cuando las mejoren las condiciones climáticas, son más propicios para facilitar el vuelo de la

canica. La menor calidad de los lanzadores actuales fue un factor que influyó en la temporada anterior y que será factor determinante del resultado final en la competencia entre Sosa y McGwire. El lugar que ocupen sus respectivos equipos en la tabla de posiciones durante la temporada, también influirá en la actitud que adopten en cada viaje al plato. ¿Qué será lo más importante en ese momento? ¿el resultado del juego y las posibilidades futuras del equipo con relación a la postemporada, o la marca personal?

Por el momento, los dos equipos se encuentran separados por medio juego. Chicago Cubs: 23 ganados, 18 perdidos, promedio 0.561 a 2 y 1/2 de Houston, el líder.

St. Louis Cardinales: 23 ganados, 19 perdidos, promedio 0.548, a 3 del primer lugar.

La ascensión al segundo lugar fue resultado de la excelente actuación en su último viaje. Durante el mismo, los Cachorros ganaron tres juegos en Miami, bariendo a los Florida Marlins 3 a 0 y ganaron la serie a los Atlanta Braves en su propio terreno, por 3 juegos a 1, regresando con una marca de 6 ganados y 1 perdido. Generalmente, la historia del fracaso de los Chicago Cubs a través de los años se ha escrito fuera de Wrigley Field, debido a su falta de habilidad para ganar consistentemente en terreno ajeno. La adición del veterano Rick Aguilera y la sólida actuación de Terry Adams en los últimos juegos, solidifican un cuerpo de relevistas que pueden llevar a los Cachorros al banderín.

**Glory Wins West Texas Invitational Cup**

Lubbock-May 30, 1999-The Lubbock Glory Soccer Team clinched first place in the U14 Boys Division of the GMAC West Texas Invitational Cup by beating the El Paso Knights 1-0 in the finals. Glory had a very successful season that included a quarter-final appearance in the Waco Spring Invitational Competitive Tournament, and first place wins in the West Texas Youth Classic, Midland Turkey Shootout '98, GMAC Big Country Invitational, and Fort Worth United Classic. Glory placed the 98-99 season in the West Texas Premiere League (Division A) and placed second in both the Fall and Spring seasons. Team members are Jeremy Beckwith, Clint Blanchard, Jason Carrizales, Aaron Collier, Nick Dragga, Dillon Ferguson, JR Jimenez, Justin Jones, Bobbak Mansouri, Paul Menzel, Steven Morales, Michal Peres, Chris Robertson, Todd Singletary, Mark Westfall, and Dominic Zeni. The team is coached by Brad Beckwith and Paulo Peres.

**North Lubbock Boxing Club**

Members of North Lubbock Boxing Club traveled to Amarillo to participate in the 1999 Region VIII Jr. Olympic Tournament May 14-16th. Four boxers advanced to the State Junior Olympic Tournament scheduled for June 4-6 in Laredo, Texas. Advancing Regional Champions are: Paul Diaz (165 lbs), Victor Rodriguez (110 lbs), Hector Villarreal (106 lbs), and Johnny Melendrez (100 lbs). Winners at the State J.O. tournament advance to marquette, Michigan in July.

**Majik Wins 2nd in West Texas Invitational Cup**



Majik team members, top row left to right: Mary Ann Abanobi, Coach Adam Zuniga, Coach Art Zuniga, and Coach Gabriel Zuniga. Middle row left to right: Amy Stone, Savannah Gonzales, Shannon Ebel, Valerie Pineda, Erica Lopez and Sara Smedley. Bottom row left to right: Adrian Chavez, Audrey DeLeon, Veronica Jimenez and Goalie Tiffany Zuniga.

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**Foreman-Tyson Possible, Holyfield-Lewis In Jeopardy**

LAS VEGAS -- The heavyweight fight picture grew more clouded Wednesday amid talk of a George Foreman-Mike Tyson fight and new trouble in arranging the title rematch between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

A Foreman adviser said he was trying to put together a Foreman-Tyson fight for December that would match the two former heavyweight champions in a bout that would pay Tyson \$25 million and Foreman \$20 million.

Meanwhile, the rematch of the first controversial fight between Holyfield and Lewis was in

jeopardy despite promoter Don King's announcement last week that the fight would be held in November at a Las Vegas casino.

"There's no deal," HBO vice president Lou DiBella said. "There are some problematic issues that need to be worked out. We're hopeful we can work them out, but they haven't been resolved yet."

Attorneys for Lewis and his promoter sent a letter to Park Place Entertainment on Wednesday telling the casino operator to stop giving the public "a false impression that the fight is made, which is consistent with the current state of facts."

ALTHOUGH LEWIS AND HOLYFIELD have both agreed to \$15 million paydays for the proposed November fight and Park Place has signed a deal with King to hold it at one of its Las Vegas casinos, no contracts for the fight have actually been signed.

"I'm certainly concerned," Holyfield's attorney, Jim Thomas, said. "Evander wants this fight to happen very badly and so, we think, does Lennox."

The main issue to be resolved is HBO's insistence that King step aside as the fight promoter if he were to be indicted on charges stemming from a number of ongoing investigations into boxing, sources close to the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press. King, so far, has refused such a clause in the contract.

"We've settled basically on the money," said Lewis attorney Milton Chwasky. "There's only one hindrance to this. It's Don's thing with HBO."

While the Lewis-Holyfield rematch for the undisputed title is not a done deal, longtime Foreman adviser Ron Weathers and light heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr. were trying to put together a deal for Foreman and Tyson to meet in December in a pay-per-view spectacle.

OFFICIALS AT THE SHOWTIME NETWORK, which shows Tyson's fights, said they were interested and Tyson adviser Shelly Finkel did not discount the possibility of a matchup between the two former champions.

"It's a good story more than reality right now," Finkel said. "I've told them to have Foreman call me personally so we would know if he really wants to fight. So far he hasn't."

Tyson, released last month from a Maryland jail, has been running and doing conditioning exercises since then while Finkel and others try to put together a deal for his first return fight.

That would most likely be in September on Showtime, but not on pay-per-view, against the likes of Denmark's Brian Nielsen or Germany's Axel Schulz.

If all goes well in that fight, Tyson would fight in a pay-per-view bout in December. And his opponent could possibly be Foreman.

"From both of their standpoints, where else would they get this kind of money," said Fred Levin, who is Jones' lawyer and would co-promote the bout with the light heavyweight champion.

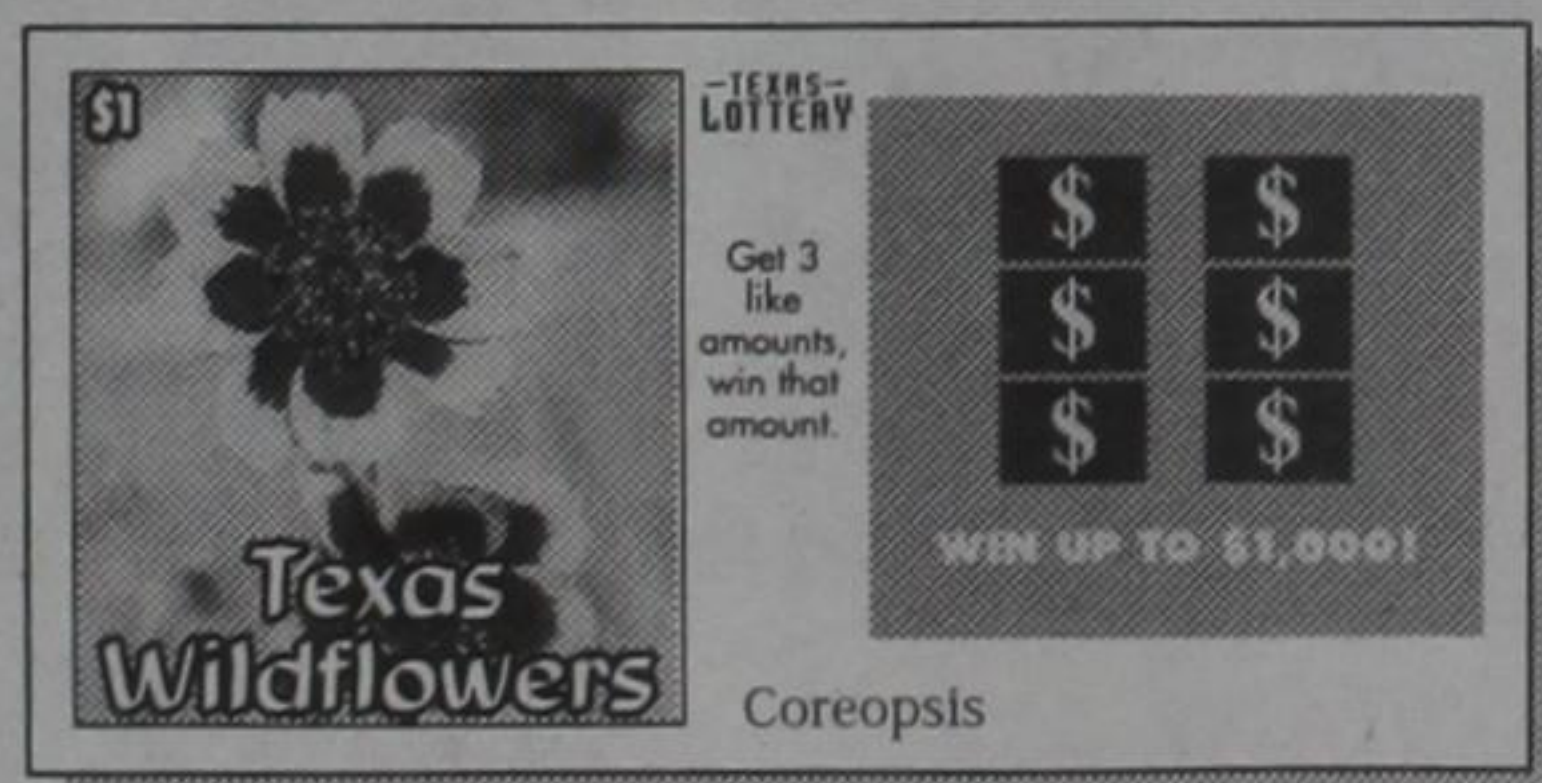
"MIKE HAS GOT PROBLEMS now and it would be George's swan song. People wouldn't buy Larry Holmes and George Foreman, but they will buy Mike Tyson and George Foreman."

Foreman would be 51 at the time of the fight, which would fulfill a goal he had when he came out of retirement 13 years ago to fight Tyson.

"It's always been his one goal in life to fight Mike Tyson," Weathers said. "It would be a great show with two guys who are huge punchers. Mike Tyson didn't want this fight for a long time, but I'm told he does now."

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Debes tener 18 años para poder jugar. ©1999 Texas Lottery

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# Noticias Breves

## Denuncian Que Medida Otorgar Licencias Afectara Seguridad Vial

Por Patricia Giovine

El Paso (Texas), - Defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes denunciaron hoy que una nueva medida implementada por el Departamento de Seguridad Pública, que exige documentos legales para otorgar licencias de conducir, podría afectar la seguridad vial del estado.

Representantes de la Coalición de Derechos indicaron que la medida empujará a los inmigrantes indocumentados a manejar sin seguro de vehículos, porque este trámite también requiere licencia.

"Habrán más encarcelados, ya que los indocumentados conducirán si necesitan hacerlo", pese a que no tengan licencia o seguro vehicular", dijo Fernando García, coordinador de la coalición en El Paso.

La nueva medida del Departamento de Seguridad Pública (DPS), por sus siglas en inglés) entró en vigor el primero de abril y requiere que todos los extranjeros que soliciten por primera vez una licencia de conducir muestren su tarjeta de residencia permanente en Estados Unidos.

Antes de esa fecha, los solicitantes sólo debían mostrar su acta de nacimiento u otra identificación.

Funcionarios del DPS explicaron que el cambio "obedece a un simple asunto de procedimiento" para que Texas se una a otros estados, como Georgia, donde esta medida ya es ley.

Estos nuevos requisitos no están orientados específicamente a los inmigrantes, porque "no estamos en el negocio del control de la inmigración", dijo la portavoz del DPS, Tela Mange.

Mange indicó que con la medida se busca prevenir que la gente obtenga licencias de conducir con documentos falsos.

El DPS no ha hecho cálculos de cuantas personas podrían resultar afectadas por la nueva medida.

Tan sólo en Houston, las oficinas del DPS rechazaron las solicitudes de más de cien personas que no reunían los requisitos legales para obtener su licencia de conducir.

"Si ellos están aquí en forma ilegal, por qué tenemos que darles una licencia de conducir?", cuestionó J.C. Hernández, miembro de la agrupación Texasos por una Reforma a la Inmigración.

Por su parte, García catalogó de "irreal" el alegato de dicho grupo, e indicó que "al negarles la licencia únicamente se les empuja a permanecer en la ilegalidad".

Los indocumentados que conducen su automóvil sin la debida licencia corren el riesgo de ser entregados a inspectores del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, si son detenidos por la policía.

La acción en Texas es contraria a una medida aprobada recientemente por la legislatura de Utah, que permite a los inmigrantes ilegales el obtener licencias de conducir.

Mange dijo que Texas ha decidido adelantarse y cumplir desde ahora con los requisitos federales para la seguridad vial, "porque las regulaciones más estrictas desalientan la falsificación" de documentos.

Los indocumentados que ya poseen una licencia de conducir en Texas podrán renovarla ya que ese documento permite verificar su identidad.

Pero los extranjeros que por primera vez gestionen su licencia de conducir deberán presentar algún documento del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, como su pasaporte con el visado estadounidense o un permiso para trabajar.

## Nace Grupo Hispano Para Enfrentar los Problemas de la Comunidad

Nueva York, - La deserción escolar, la pobreza y la falta de seguro médico son algunos de los problemas que afectan a la comunidad hispana en Nueva York y que se ha propuesto aliviar un grupo de reconocidas personalidades hispanas, conocido como "100 Hispanic men".

En la sede del Banco Popular en Manhattan se informó que la organización está liderada por Herman Badillo, quien fue designado el pasado viernes presidente de la Junta de Directores del Sistema Universitario de la ciudad de Nueva York.

Durante una conferencia de prensa, el grupo citó estadísticas alarmantes de un informe del Comité de Ciudadanos pro Niños de Nueva York, que señala que el 75 por ciento de los bebés hispanos nace en la pobreza y que el más alto índice de deserción escolar se produce entre los estudiantes latinos de la ciudad, con cerca del 21 por ciento.

El informe señala además que el mayor número de hospitalizaciones infantiles por asma se produce en East Harlem, conocido también como El Barrio, el vecindario con mayor población latina de Nueva York.

Badillo, quien ha sido congresista y vicecalde de la ciudad de Nueva York, dijo que "a las puertas del nuevo milenio, es oportuno para nosotros darnos cuenta de dónde estamos como comunidad y cuanto camino nos falta por recorrer".

Agregó que las conclusiones del Comité de Ciudadanos pro Niños de Nueva York, constituyen "una llamada a la acción".

"Debemos hacer todo lo que podamos para cambiar esta situación y detener la tendencia negativa que enfrentamos para asegurar una mejor vida a nuestros hijos", dijo Badillo.

Al explicar por qué la organización se plantea como objetivos lo que debe ser tarea del gobierno local, estatal o federal, Badillo dijo que, en base a su experiencia, la solución de los problemas hispanos debe recaer "sobre nuestros propios hombros".

"El error que hemos cometido a través de los años es pensar que el gobierno va a solucionar los problemas, esto no es verdad", declaró Badillo.

"Como congresista que he sido, les puedo asegurar que no existe ninguna posibilidad de que el Congreso o el gobierno de la ciudad o del estado vayan a resolver los problemas de empleo, de salud o de vivienda", agregó el ex vicecalde de Nueva York.

Badillo indicó que la nueva organización no tendría problemas de financiación, puesto que sus miembros realizarían un trabajo completamente voluntario, pero que serían "bienvenidas las donaciones que quieran realizar las personas o instituciones para esta causa".

Por otro lado, Badillo calificó de "tragedia" los problemas de lectura que aún presentan los estudiantes de cuarto grado, según señala un reciente informe sobre la situación escolar en la ciudad de Nueva York.

"El informe señala que las tres cuartas partes de los estudiantes hispanos no están leyendo ni escribiendo al nivel de cuarto grado", comentó Badillo.

"Si están atrasados en el cuarto grado, eso quiere decir que van a continuar atrasándose y que probablemente no van a graduarse ni de Escuela Superior, lo cual es una tragedia", dijo Badillo.

"Por eso es importante que nuestra organización de 'Cien Hombreros Hispanos' empiece a trabajar en las escuelas porque no podemos contar con la Junta de Educación para resolver los problemas de nuestra comunidad", comentó el actual jefe del sistema universitario de la ciudad.

Badillo indicó también que favorecía el uso del uniforme entre los alumnos de escuelas públicas de Nueva York para evitar problemas y diferencias entre los escolares.

Aunque el nombramiento de Badillo como presidente de la Junta de Directores del sistema universitario cuenta con el apoyo del alcalde de la ciudad, Rudolph Giuliani y del gobernador George Pataki, se creó una controversia en torno a él señalándose como una "acción netamente política" y no académica.

A Badillo no pareció importarle esos comentarios y dijo que su primera acción sería desarrollar un programa para que los diplomados de cualquier centro universitario de la ciudad "tenga la validez suficiente para desempeñar cualquier empleo".



Thousand of persons attende the celebración of a millenium mass that was celebrated this past Sunday at the Lubbock Civic Center. Pictures are available from John Cervantes at 744-1654.

## Hispanic Flock Needs More Priests

by Cecilia Avila

Austin, Texas, - Life was peaceful for Mexican seminarian Efrain Villanueva in his native San Luis de Potosi.

Villanueva, 27, grew up in a heavily Catholic community and by the age of seven knew he wanted to become a priest.

With a conviction unusual in an adolescent, Villanueva entered the seminary at age 17 and studied theology for seven years.

Villanueva, who still has two years to go before ordination, now struggles to meet the spiritual needs of the burgeoning flock in the San Jose parish, the largest in the Diocese of Austin, Texas, which contains 4,200 Hispanic families, mostly from Mexico, but also from Central America and the United States.

"For me, service is service, no matter where your are," Villanueva told EFE. "I took this first step (of coming to the United States) because of the need here for Hispanic priests."

As a result of the growth in the Hispanic population of the United States, the Catholic Church has been hard pressed to ordain enough priests to minister to this community.

A survey released last week

indicates that 25 percent of seminarians to be ordained in the United States in 1999 are minorities, and almost 20 percent come from abroad.

The survey, commissioned by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Vocations, also revealed that 10 percent of seminarians are Hispanic, a higher proportion than in the past, but below the 25 to 30 percent of U.S. Catholics who are Hispanic.

In an interview with the Houston Chronicle last December, Rev. Jose H. Gomez said nearly 70 percent of the 32 million Hispanics in the United States are Catholic. But there are barely 2,400 Hispanic priests in the country.

Some Church officials estimate that by the year 2010 half of U.S. Catholics will be Hispanic.

"Hispanic priests bring not just the Spanish language but also Hispanic culture, heritage and perspective" to their ministry, Jorge Delgado, director of the Hispanic Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Galveston-Houston, told EFE.

Young Villanueva says he is willing to work for as long as he is needed, in the United States or "wherever God calls me."

### JOHN CERVANTEZ PHOTOGRAPHY



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### CITY OF LUBBOCK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). The Lubbock City Council will conduct a final Public Hearing to allow citizens an opportunity to comment on the proposed use of 1999-2000 Federal Community Development Funds as recommended by the Community Development Services Board (CDSB). The scheduled time and date for this hearing is: June 10, 1999, 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers, Municipal Building 1625 13th Street

### 1999-2000 Proposed use of Community Development Resources by Grant

Table listing funding amounts for various grants: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, and EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT.

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# 'Fortune 1000' Boards Still Have Few Seats For Hispanics

By Patricia Guadalupe

The number of Hispanics on the boards of the nation's Fortune 1000 corporations has increased 17.5 percent since last year, but Hispanics still occupy very few boardroom seats, according to a biannual report by the Washington, D.C.-based Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility.

A few Hispanics serve on two or more boards. Thus, a total of 114 sit on 133 of the Fortune 1,000 policy bodies, holding a total of 165 seats.

"Though we salute the achievements of Hispanics serving on the boards of America's largest corporations, we realize there is still a long road ahead of us toward full inclusion," said HACR President Richard Jose Bela in releasing the report this month. HACR is a coalition of the largest Hispanic community organizations in the United States.

The HACR report also found that 13 of the Fortune 1000 companies are currently headed by Hispanics, either as presidents or CEOs.

Colorado businesswoman Linda Alvarado, president and CEO

of Alvarado Construction, Inc., in Denver, is the only Hispanic serving on the boards of four Fortune 1000 companies. One in five Hispanic board members is Latina.

"Hispanic directors bring valuable business experience to corporate boards," Alvarado told Hispanic Link. "Enlightened companies have begun to recognize the competitive economic advantage that Hispanic employees, officers and directors can bring to the corporate bottom line if given the opportunity to participate."

The HACR corporate governance study ranked the companies based on the number of their Hispanic board members. It found Hispanic members concentrated in two industries -- utilities and commercial banks. There are no Hispanic board members in 19 of the 61 industries represented in the Fortune 1000 sector, it revealed.

Hispanic representation is concentrated in companies headquartered in states with large Hispanic populations -- in particular California, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New York and

Texas. More than half of the 133 companies with Hispanic board members are based in those five states.

The report graded the companies, assigning an A for each Hispanic serving on a company's board, with a maximum AAA for those with three or more Hispanic board members. Four companies received a AAA rating: Popular, Inc., the Public Service Company of New Mexico, SBC Communications, Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Only 13 received the next highest rating of AA.

As the purchasing power of the Hispanic community, now calculated at \$380 billion, continues to grow, "savvy corporations will push for greater inclusion of this population as a consumer group and as business partners," HACR's Bela said. "Diversity is a bottom-line issue, especially at the highest levels of the workplace where Hispanics in senior positions can help companies better address the domestic Hispanic market and Latin America's millions of consumers."

For Wal-Mart, one of the top companies in the world, to appoint three Hispanics to its board last year "is phenomenal," Bela commented. "Corporate support for the community is not just about giving money and sponsoring a conference."

Many of the major corporations that advertise extensively in the Hispanic market, including AT&T, Campbell's Soup, Chrysler, Coca-Cola, Ford, General Motors, Kodak, Proctor & Gamble, Quaker Oats, Sears and Whirlpool, have no Hispanic board members.

"When we first did this study," Bela said, "corporations didn't pay attention, but over the years, the response rate has increased. Now the first thing they look at is what kind of rating they got. They recognize that Hispanics consider this rating as important criteria."

(Patricia Guadalupe is editor of the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.)

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# Juntas De Directores De 'Fortune 1000' Todavía Tienen Pocos Lugares Para Los Hispanos

Por Patricia Guadalupe

La cantidad de hispanos en las juntas de directores de las llamadas empresas "Fortune 1000" de la nación ha aumentado en un 17.5 por ciento desde el año pasado, pero ocupan todavía demasiado pocos lugares en estas juntas, según dice un informe bi-anual de la Asociación Hispana sobre Responsabilidad Empresarial (HACR en inglés), con sede en Washington, DC.

Pocos hispanos prestan servicios en dos o más juntas. Así, un total de 114 ocupan asientos en 133 de las empresas de Fortune 1000, ostentando un total de 165 lugares.

"Aunque saludamos los logros de los hispanos que prestan sus servicios en las juntas de directores en las mayores empresas de los Estados Unidos, nos damos cuenta de que hay todavía un camino largo delante de nosotros hacia la inclusión plena", dijo el presidente de HACR, Richard José Bela. HACR es una coalición de las mayores organizaciones de la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos.

El informe de HACR halló también que 13 de las empresas de Fortune 1000 están encabezadas actualmente por hispanos, ya sea como presidentes o directores de juntas.

La empresaria de Colorado, Linda Alvarado, presidente y directora de la junta de directorías de Alvarado Construction, Inc., de Denver, es la única persona hispana que presta servicios en las juntas de directores de cuatro empresas de Fortune 1000. Uno de cada cinco miembros hispanos de juntas es una latina.

"Los directores hispanos traen una experiencia de negocios muy valiosa a las juntas empresariales", dijo Alvarado a Hispanic Link. "Algunas compañías han empezado a reconocer la ventaja económica de competencia que los empleados, funcionarios y directores hispanos pueden traer al ambiente corporativo si se les da la oportunidad de participar".

El estudio de HACR sobre el gobierno corporativo clasificó a las empresas basándose en la cantidad de miembros hispanos de sus juntas de directores.

El mismo halló que los miembros hispanos se concentraban en dos industrias: Las empresas de servicios públicos y los bancos mercantiles. No hay miembros hispanos en 19 de las juntas de directores de las 61 industrias representadas en el sector de Fortune 1000, según reveló el informe.

La representación hispana está concentrada en las empresas que tienen sus oficinas principales en los estados de mayor población latina -- especialmente California, Florida, Illinois, Nuevo México, Nueva York y Texas. Más de la mitad de las 133 empresas que tienen miembros hispanos en sus juntas de directores tienen sus sedes en esos cinco estados.

El informe calificó a las empresas, asignando una "A" para cada hispano que prestara servicios en la junta de directores de una compañía, con un máximo de AAA para las que tengan tres o más miembros hispanos en su junta. Cuatro empresas recibieron una clasificación de AAA: Popular, Inc., Public Service Company of New Mexico, SBC Communications, Inc., y Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Sólo 13 recibieron la clasificación más alta inmediata de AA.

A medida que continúa aumentando el poder adquisitivo de la comunidad hispana, que se calcula ahora en \$380,000 millones, "las empresas conocedoras impul-

sarán a favor de una mayor inclusión de esta población como grupo de consumidores y como asociados mercantiles", dijo Bela.

"La diversidad es un asunto económico, especialmente a los niveles más altos del centro de trabajo, donde los hispanos en los trabajos de mayor importancia pueden ayudar a las empresas a enfocarse mejor sobre el mercado hispano y los millones de consumidores de la América Latina".

Para Wal-Mart, una de las empresas principales del mundo, el haber nombrado a tres hispanos para plazas de su junta de directores el año pasado es "fenomenal", comentó Bela. "El apoyo empresarial para la comunidad no es sólo dar dinero y auspiciar una conferencia".

Muchas de las empresas importantes que anuncian extensamente en el mercado hispano, incluyendo a la AT&T, Campbell Soup, Chrysler, Coca-Cola, Ford, General Motors, Kodak, Proctor & Gamble, Quaker Oats, Sears y Whirlpool, no tienen miembros hispanos en sus juntas de directores.

"Cuando hicimos este estudio por primera vez", dijo Bela, "las empresas no prestaron atención, pero durante los años el número ha aumentado. Ahora lo primero a que ellos miran es qué clase de calificación han obtenido. Ellos reconocen que los hispanos consideran estas calificaciones como criterios importantes".

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Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times

# Mexico's Zedillo Avoided Tough Issues on California Visit

By Joe Rodriguez

So, Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo didn't know the way to San Jose. Ni modo -- it doesn't matter -- because a lot of his countrymen do know the way.

Zedillo's goodwill tour of California this month skipped the home of the San Francisco Bay Area's largest Mexican-American and Mexican population, a city also led by one of the nation's most prominent Latino mayors.

He stopped in San Francisco instead, like another tourist with a Japanese camera. Makes you wonder who was giving Zedillo advice.

Must have been Hizzonner Willie Brown, or a snobby Mexican bureaucrat horrified by the thought of the presidential motorcade passing by all those taquerias in San Jose.

What would they have thought in the Polanco district, Mexico City's version of Melrose Avenue?

Ni modo. Zedillo apologized for snubbing San Jose, and that's good enough for me.

I also don't mind that he and Gov. Gray Davis spouted mostly platitudes and played it safe, like two heads of state declaring peace after a bitter war. After former Gov. Pete Wilson's anti-immigrant diatribes, a few nice words between California and Mexico are just what the national discourse over immigration needs.

Neither Davis nor Zedillo paid much attention to California Proposition 187, but then again -- ni modo. The initiative that would have denied public benefits to illegal immigrants is dead.

It doesn't matter much whether Davis fast-tracks or slow-tracks the state's defense. It would take years to resurrect even the softest provisions.

By then, I think the immigrant debate will have changed from how to throw out illegal immigrants to how to legalize them. Hasn't anyone in the pro-187 crowd noticed that California's economy is buzzing? The unemployment rate has dropped out of sight. State welfare recipients, at least in the first wave of welfare reform, are finding work in surprising numbers. Happy days are here again, and without throwing a single undocumented child out of school.

And still business complains about the shortage of skilled and unskilled workers. Every advanced nation, from Germany to Japan, imports laborers to do the grunt work simply because they desire and educate their own citizens for the most rewarding jobs. The United States economy hasn't reached that level of expectation, but our culture already has.

There isn't one school principal in the entire country, not even in the worst inner-city campus, who'd say, "Well, Mrs. Garcia, we're here to help your son Jose become the best janitor in America." Or something along the lines of, "Gee, Mr. Johnson, we think your daughter Sandra would make a terrific nanny, so you don't have to worry about putting her through college."

Well, maybe a principal in conservative Arizona might say so, but not in California. And especially not in Silicon Valley, where every classroom will soon be wired for Internet education.

With or without Prop. 187, we'll have to import more unskilled workers from abroad in

the future. The perfect forum for starting this discussion is the one inter-American achievement both Davis and Zedillo talked about a lot -- the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The idea of allowing more workers to cross borders wasn't included in the first round of NAFTA. That political potato was too hot for the U.S., Canadian and Mexican negotiators at the time.

It is still hot, but these are cooling times. Our rapidly integrating economics and societies demand a sensible flow of workers in both directions across the border. Sooner or later, the governor of California and the president of Mexico will have to say so.



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