

el Editor

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National Hispanic Organizations Urge Next Administration and Congress to Heed Hispanic Policy Agenda for 2004-2008

Despite its continued and accelerating growth, the Hispanic population faces increased challenges in its economic and political advancement, and failure to address these issues will prove detrimental to the United States as a whole. The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a non partisan coalition of 40 major national Hispanic organizations representing over 25 million Hispanics in the United States, today released its Hispanic Policy Agenda 2004- 2008. NHLA is urging elected officials at all levels -- corporate America and local communities -- to address five areas vital to the future of the Hispanic community and to America: Education, Health Care, Economic Empowerment, Civil Rights and Government Accountability.

"The educational attainment of Hispanic children, the communities overall access to health care, its economic growth and impact, its social advancement, and the level of political influence it achieves within a representative democracy is crucial to America and will be of increasing importance to the global position of the United States during this century and beyond."

NHLA's Agenda calls on political leaders to focus on legislation that addresses the Hispanic community's needs and works to measurably improve core economic, educational and social benchmarks that have largely failed to progress since the group issued its last report four years ago.

The key findings and recommendations of Hispanic Policy Agenda 2004-2008 include:

Bush, Kerry battle for Hispanic vote in close US election

Hispanic voters are hot commodities this year, as President George W. Bush and Democrat John Kerry fight to win their support in what is expected to be an extremely close presidential election on November 2.

There are more than seven million Hispanic voters in the United States, and their ballots could be decisive in five swing states where they make up a large chunk of the population -- Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado.

Although Hispanics traditionally vote Democratic, many support Republican Bush for his perceived Christian piety and his opposition to al orion and same-sex marriage.

In the 2000 presidential election, 62 percent of Hispanics voted for Democratic candidate Al Gore. Conservative Cuban-Americans in Florida however might have tipped the election toward Bush, who won the southeastern state -- and the election -- by just 537 votes.

Jobs and the economy top the concerns of Hispanics, followed by education, the war on terrorism and the Iraq war, according to a recent Washington Post poll.

Both campaigns have made an unprecedented effort to court Hispanics, even running ads in Spanish to reach out to the 40-million-strong community, the country's largest minority group.

The challenge is convincing them to cast ballots on election day, said Joe Velasquez, president of the Democratic group Hispanic Action.

"Getting Hispanics out to vote must be the overriding objective," he said.

Democrats say 6.9 percent of Hispanics are unemployed, surpassing the national rate of 5.4 percent.

"The Hispanic unemployment rate is up for the fifth time this year," Velasquez said. He added that "1.5 million Hispanic Americans are looking for work."

Hispanics "tend to agree that John Kerry is the better choice when it comes to the most important issues, such as jobs and accessible health care," he said.

Bush campaign officials are not impressed.

"We have a great candidate who knows the (Hispanic) community, the community knows him, and he has a long record of achievements... on all the important issues: education, health, immigration and the economy," said Sharon Castillo, a Bush campaign spokeswoman.

Bush needs 40 percent of Hispanic votes to win, according to campaign strategists. He had 35 percent of support in 2000.

A recent poll by the Latino Coalition showed that Bush has narrowed the 2000 gap: Kerry had 47 percent support among Hispanics, against 38 percent for Bush.

Castillo said Republicans already obtained 39 percent of the Hispanic vote in the 2002 legislative election. "We are working to get the majority of Hispanic votes," she said.

However a Zogby International poll in October gave Kerry a comfortable 60 to 32 percent lead over Bush among Hispanics.

Education

Hispanic children, representing 22 percent of the total U.S. child population under age five, are less likely to be enrolled in early education programs, have the lowest graduation rates of any ethnic group, and the

-- Adequately fund Hispanic-Serving Education Programs under the No Child Left Behind (NHLB) Act, including: Title III Language Assistance State Grants; Title I; Migrant Education Programs; Parent Assistance Programs; Dropout

majority of Hispanics lack access to quality health care and are reluctant to visit a clinic when sick. The Hispanic population has alarming rates of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, alcohol addiction, and HIV/AIDS.

Policy Recommendations:

-- Increase access to health care for Hispanic women and their families, support new programs to address specific health concerns, and support gender and ethnicity-specific research studies.

-- Develop programs and evaluation methodologies to further the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) development of Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Services.

Economic Empowerment

Hispanics represent the fastest-growing number of business owners in the United States and Hispanic purchasing power is estimated to be over \$700 billion, however, the overall total net worth gap between white and Hispanic households stood at 8 to 1 (\$88,651 vs. \$7,932) in 2002. Many Hispanics also face unequal access to home ownership; have few opportunities for job advancement or professional development; and encounter unfair wage and labor practices.

(Continued Page 5)



highest drop-out rate at 50 percent.

Policy Recommendations:

-- Establish a permanent National Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans appointed by the President.

Prevention; and After-School Programs.

Health Care

Hispanics are the largest group of uninsured Americans. As a result, a

Debaten la escasez de vacunas

El presidente George W. Bush acusó a su rival demócrata John F. Kerry de recurrir a la táctica de atemorizar a la población por la escasez de vacunas contra la gripa y por decir que, si gana, el Presidente privatizará el Seguro Social, mientras Kerry dijo que el futuro de este programa se decidirá en la boleta electoral del 2 de noviembre.

Ambos contendientes a la presidencia están enfrascados en una frenética campaña por los estados más competidos mientras los sondeos apuntan que puede ganar cualquiera de los dos por una ventaja mínima.

Entretanto, mientras Bush acusaba en Florida a su rival de emplear tácticas de temor, el vicepresidente Dick Cheney repitió en Ohio que las ciudades podrían ser blanco de ataques terroristas con armas más mortíferas que en 2001, y que el senador demócrata si resulta ganador en los comicios, no tiene la fortaleza, la agresividad y el liderazgo que se requieren para afrontar una crisis de ese tipo.

"La peor amenaza que enfrentamos ahora como país es la posibilidad de que los terroristas alcancen el centro de una de nuestras ciudades con armas más mortíferas que cualquiera de las utilizadas previamente contra nosotros: con agentes biológicos o con un arma nuclear o química que puedan poner en peligro las vidas de cientos de millares de estadounidenses", declaró Cheney.

Kerry asegura a los ciudadanos que sería un líder "fuerte y agresivo", como Bush, en la lucha contra el terror, "pero yo no lo creo. No creo que haya pruebas de que pueda serlo en la práctica", afirmó Cheney.

Vacunas en campaña

Mientras tanto, la escasez de vacunas contra la gripa se convirtió en tema de campaña, ya que el bando Kerry-Edwards ha sostenido que si la Administración Bush no está ni siquiera preparada en este frente, qué pasaría si este país tiene que hacer frente a un ataque con armas biológicas o químicas.

En una entrevista concedida ayer a la Radio Pública Nacional (NPR), Kerry dijo que "si no pueden obtenerse vacunas contra la influenza para los estadounidenses, ¿qué tipo de programa de salud se está administrando?", cuestionó el senador demócrata.

En un mitin realizado en Florida, Bush trató de borrar los temores de los millones de ancianos y personas en los grupos de alto riesgo que no han podido vacunarse contra la gripe por la escasez actual que el Presidente atribuyó a un "gran defecto de manufactura" en las vacunas.

"Sé que algunos presentes aquí están preocupados por la temporada de gripa. Quiero decirles que nuestro gobierno está haciendo todo lo posible para ayudar a los ancianos estadounidenses y a los niños a obtener sus vacunas, a pesar del gran defecto de manufactura que ocasionó este problema", dijo Bush.

"Tenemos millones de dosis a mano para los más vulnerables y otros millones serán recibidos en las próximas semanas. Estamos acumulando más de cuatro millones de dosis de la vacuna de la gripa para los niños. Estamos trabajando de cerca con funcionarios estatales y locales para lograr que se distribuyan las vacunas a los estadounidenses más vulnerables de todo el país", agregó Bush.

(Continúa en la Pagina 5)

México extenderá el Seguro Popular a residentes en EE.UU.

El presidente mexicano, Vicente Fox, anunció esta semana que incorporará a los mexicanos residentes en Estados Unidos y a sus familias al Seguro Popular, que consiste en una póliza de gastos médicos.

"El propósito es darles pleno acceso a servicios médicos de alta especialidad y protegerlos de eventuales gastos catastróficos ante una enfermedad", señaló Fox durante la inauguración de la Cuarta Semana de Salud México-EE.UU. en el estado mexicano de Guanajuato.

En EE.UU. viven más de 24 millones de personas de origen mexicano, de los cuales unos 15 millones son nacidos en México y de ellos unos 5 millones son indocumentados.

El gobernante mexicano dijo que giró instrucciones al ministro mexicano de Salud, Julio Frenk, para que se "ponga en marcha un mecanismo que permita incorporar gradualmente a una modalidad de Seguro Popular a los mexicanos residentes en Estados Unidos".

Aseguró que para este propósito se está "poniendo en marcha la estrategia para evitar problemas de salud en ambos lados de la frontera".

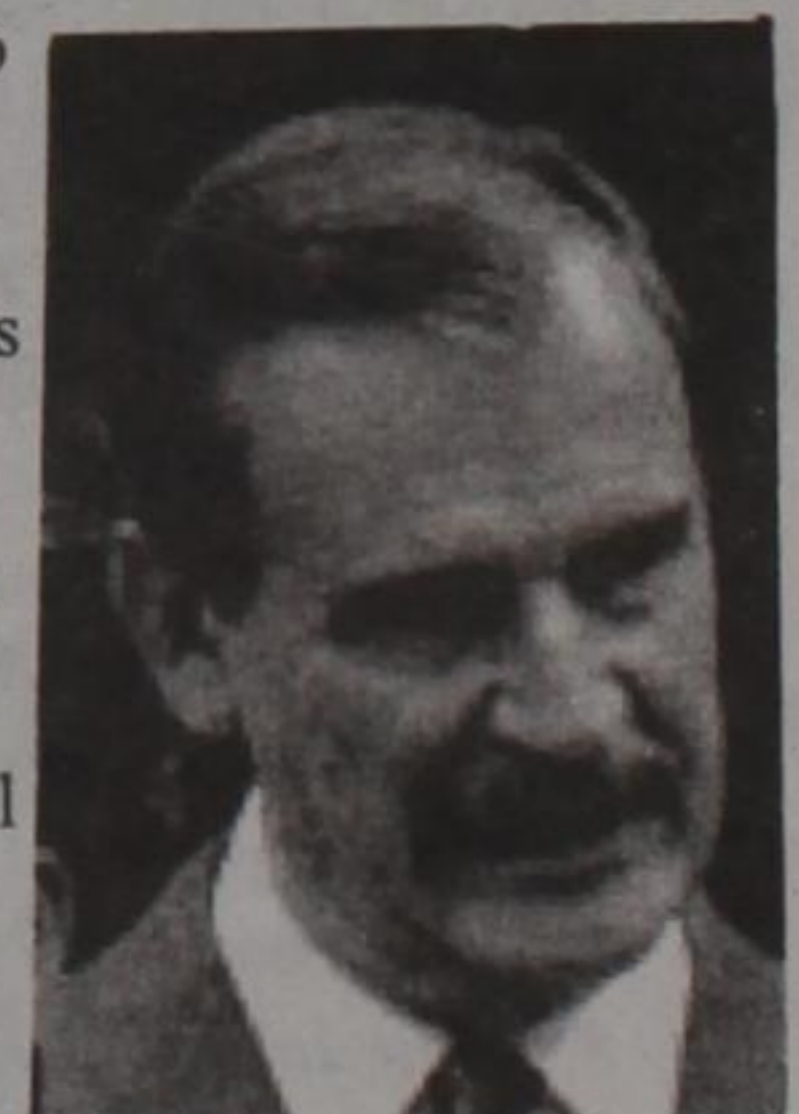
Fox recordó que en México 12.5 millones de familias reciben atención médica en el Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, y 2.5 millones de familias son atendidas en el Instituto de Seguridad para los Trabajadores del Estado.

No son terroristas

El presidente Fox defendió también la matrícula de identificación consular

que su gobierno emitió para los migrantes indocumentados en Estados Unidos y aseguró que los mexicanos que residen en aquel país no son delincuentes ni terroristas.

"La matrícula consular nuevamente está siendo cuestionada, pero la defenderemos a capa y espada porque nuestros paisanos allá ni son delincuentes ni son terroristas", subrayó.



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

In this edition of El Editor we are providing our readers the editorial board's opinion about who we believe will better serve us as an elected representative in various positions up for election on November 2.

In the 27 years of publishing El Editor we have established the tradition of providing endorsements in for political offices in order to help our readers make an intelligent decision about their vote.

During the past few weeks, we have been bombarded with advertisements on television, radio and newspaper that have been trying to convince us to vote for the different candidates. Almost all the 60-second commercials provide a negative opinion of the opposing candidate and provide no information about the candidate's position on issues that affect us.

In our editorial on page two this week we have asked questions of our congressional candidates. We decided to only ask questions of the Congressional candidates and not of the other races in Lubbock because we feel that in studying the issues, the congressional race is the most important in our area and the elected representative will most directly affect the community by their actions. We have specifically asked some questions that directly affect Hispanics.

We hope that our readers will take the time to read the answers provided by each of the candidates and we hope that their answers as well as our endorsements will help our readers to make an educated decision about who to vote for in this race.

eleditor@llano.net

Our Endorsements ¡Si! To Stenholm

According to the Avalanche Journal, "depth of legislative experience" was the overriding factor in the editorial board's endorsement of State Representative Delwin Jones over his opponent John E. Miller. The problem is that they then turn around and endorse the inexperienced Randy Neugebauer over the experienced Charles Stenholm in the race for the seat from the 19th Congressional District.

We at El Editor are not so wishy washy. We hold true to our convictions and we stand by the principles that guide us when we choose to endorse or not endorse a candidate in an election.

One of those principles is that experience matters. It is impossible to replace 26 years of legislative experience with 1.5 years, which is the amount of experience that Mr. Neugebauer has in the Congress. Additionally, it is being presumptuous to think that the Republican Party will continue to control not only the House but the Executive Branch; which is Mr. Neugebauer's reasoning for his effectiveness in Congress. We believe that at some point, you have to stand on your own two feet. Which, Mr. Stenholm has always done.

All elections are about the future, but remembering where one has come from is sometimes equally important. It is important to note that Mr. Stenholm is still in his political prime and not his political infancy. It is important to note that because of Mr. Stenholm's tenure, he is the ranking Democrat on the Agriculture Committee. And it is equally important to note that Mr. Stenholm was recently appointed to the very important Armed Services Committee. Obviously his colleagues don't think his better days are behind him.

That is what legislative experience gets you.

Therefore El Editor endorses Charles Stenholm as the person most experienced to represent the new 19th Congressional District.

Aside from experience, Mr. Stenholm has reached out to the Hispanic community more than his opponent, Mr. Neugebauer. He has made an honest attempt to appeal to the Hispanic constituency of the District. It's not as much as we would have liked, but we applaud his efforts.

In other races, we endorse:

President and Vice President – Democrats John Kerry and John Edwards –

There is no doubt in our mind that a major change is needed when it comes to the office of the President of the United States. The mess that has been created by President Bush in Iraq and the total lack of attention given to the needs of the everyday person cannot be fixed unless there is a change in the presidency.

County Commissioner Precinct 3 – Democrat Ysidro Gutierrez

We backed Ysidro for this position in the Democratic primary. In that race we saw that Ysidro's dedication to change and his determination to make the commissioner's position responsible for change in Lubbock was sincere and deserved our support. We continue to support Ysidro in his race for Commissioner in Precinct 3.

State Representative District 83 – Republican Delwin Jones

Representative Jones has been responsive and is willing to listen to us.

State Representative District 84 – Democrat Freda McVay

Although Ms. McVay is a neocomer to politics, we can see where if elected, she will be a good choice for the Representative's position, something which our current representative Carl Isett has failed to do.

We at El Editor strongly urge you to go out and vote. It is only by exercising this right, that you will make your voice heard!

Editor's Note: In an effort to keep our reader's informed about the candidates in this election season, El Editor asked 2 of the 3 candidates running for the seat from the new 19th Congressional District to answer questions compiled by the editorial staff.

Following are the answers to our questions from each one of the candidates.

We hope you find them useful and informative. We would also like to hear your views on the answers and encourage you to write us and express your thoughts.

But above all else, exercise your American right and Vote!

Neugebauer responses to El Editor questionnaire:

1. *What are the 3 biggest challenges facing the Hispanic communities in District 19 and how do you plan to address these challenges?*

Education, health care and economic opportunity. I support TRIO and increased funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions. I support rural health care initiatives to improve access and keep doctors in West Texas. And, less taxation and regulation will help more Hispanic families find jobs or start their own small businesses.

2. *What are the 3 biggest challenges facing the country?*

First, winning the War on Terror is the most important challenge for every American. Second, Congress must make President Bush's tax relief permanent. Third, we must defend the rights of the unborn, defend marriage between a man and a woman, and oppose efforts to take God out of public life.

3. *What is your stance on the war in Iraq? Do you support President Bush's decision to invade Iraq?*

I fully support President Bush's decision to topple Saddam Hussein and Bush's plan for peace will work if we stand firm. We must take the fight to the terrorists rather than wait for them to attack us again. Freedom and democracy are the best tools to fight terrorism.

4. *Do you support your respective parties presidential ticket, and if so, why? If not, why not?*

I support President Bush. Congressman Stenholm supports John Kerry, but I believe that Kerry is the wrong choice for West Texas. Kerry supports all forms of abortion, wants to legalize same-sex marriage, and wants to raise taxes. President Bush is the best person to restore conservative family values.

5. *What is your position on Immigration reform? Do you support an open or closed border immigration policy? If you win the election, what steps will you take to address the question of immigration reform?*

I support legal immigration, which enabled previous generations of my family to come to this country. However, those who break immigration laws should not have an advantage in the citizenship process because this only encourages more illegal behavior. Protecting our borders is important to keep terrorists out of the country.

6. *In the area of health care, most research shows that Hispanics lag behind in their ability to obtain and afford health care. If elected, what steps will you take to address this issue?*

I have secured grants for community health centers in the 19th District. I am also working with Texas Tech to establish an Institute for Rural Health and to fund border health research at Tech. I also support Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), which help lower income families better afford health care.

7. *In the area of jobs, do you support a livable wage as opposed to just raising the minimum wage?*

Raising the minimum wage hurts job-creating small businesses that employ most West Texans. I favor a more simple and fair tax system that lets workers keep more of their paycheck. I also voted to expand the 10% tax bracket to help lower income workers keep more of their money.

8. *What unique efforts have been made by your campaign to appeal directly to the Hispanic voters in District 19 that are different from your mainstream campaign strategies?*

I have made it a priority to listen to Hispanic leaders about issues of importance to them. I am advertising in Hispanic newspapers and on Hispanic radio. I have attended Hispanic fiestas, parades, and Chamber of Commerce meetings. Together, we will build a stronger, more prosperous and educated Hispanic community.

Stenholm responses to El Editor questionnaire:

1. *What are the 3 biggest challenges facing the Hispanic communities in District 19 and how do you plan to address these challenges?*

The public school system must be funded so it can provide quality education. We must ensure teachers are trained to teach bilingual children. Access to health care for families and immunizations for children should be improved. Additionally, adults need access to language education programs so they can get better jobs.

2. *What are the 3 biggest challenges facing this country?*

The country's budget deficit is the biggest challenge facing the country because it endangers important government programs. Another challenge is winning the war on terror and supporting our troops and veterans. We must also fix Social Security and keep our promise to current retirees and future generations.

3. *What is your stance on the war in Iraq? Do you support President Bush's decision to invade Iraq?*

I support the war in Iraq, our active troops and veterans. Like President Bush, I believe America is in danger and we must win the war on terror. We should remove our troops as soon as possible from Iraq, so that we can refocus the country's energies on domestic issues.

4. *Do you support your respective parties presidential ticket, and if so, why? If not, why not?*

My record proves I always put my constituents first, before national and party politics. My concern is for the people who live in the new 19th Congressional District and fighting for them. I am proud of my work with five Presidents of both parties, producing positive results for all families.

5. *What is your position on Immigration reform? Do you support an open or closed border immigration policy? If you win the election, what steps will you take to address the question of immigration reform?*

Those who legally obtain citizenship in the United States deserve our respect and welcome as fellow Americans. Changes to our immigration system should focus on properly training border patrol in order to control document fraud, and reducing the waiting time for those legally seeking residency or citizenship.

6. *In the area of health care, most research shows that Hispanics lag behind in their ability to obtain and afford health care. If elected, what steps will you take to address this issue?*

This is an issue of importance to me. I cosponsored legislation allowing Texas to retrieve allocated CHIP money lost when the state did not make its funding commitment to the program. I also support increasing access to the CHIP application process.

7. *In the area of jobs, do you support a livable wage as opposed to just raising the minimum wage?*

The federal government should help families with low wages through the Earned Income Tax Credit, School-to-Work and adult job training programs. I voted for \$250 million for School-to-Work programs and supported adult job training for an additional 386,000 participants. Also, I recently voted to protect workers and their overtime.

8. *What unique efforts have been made by your campaign to appeal directly to the Hispanic voters in District 19 that are different from your mainstream campaign strategies?*

I'm proud to say I have been door knocking in Hispanic neighborhoods throughout the congressional district, meeting and speaking with the residents. This opportunity is allowing me to meet the constituents and hear their concerns firsthand. My campaign has also committed to advertising on Hispanic television, radio and Hispanic-owned newspapers.

The End Can't Come Soon Enough!

By Abel Cruz

I'm probably like most people in that I wish this election season was over with!

Early voting started this past week, and by the looks of things, the turnout is impressive. Through Wednesday of this week, close to 10,000 ballots have been cast. Hopefully that trend will continue.

On a more optimistic note, I hope that a lot of the voters in the Hispanic community have decided that their vote does matter and have voted or are planning to vote.

In this week's edition of El Editor, you will see a Q&A submitted to and responded by 2 of the candidates in the race in the 19th Congressional District. The Libertarian Party candidate is not represented and my guess as to why not is that Mr. Peterson has done little or no campaigning, and is not considered a major party candidate.

Take a close look and see for yourself who you think will best represent you in Washington. Look at the answers to the questions and see if they are telling you what they think you want to hear or whether they are intelligent answers that answer the question thoughtfully and honestly.

My focus in these past few weeks has been on the 19th Congressional District race. I have essentially done what both presidential parties have done to this area. And that is to ignore the people of this state. If you need proof, just look at the candidate's schedules and see if any of their campaign appearances have included stops in Texas? Very few have.

Under our constitution, the presidential election is decided by the Electoral College and not by popular vote. Each state is allocated a certain number of electors based on the number of Senators, 2 in all cases, and the number of Representatives in each respective state. Except for a couple of exceptions, this is the way it works in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

Remember that even though Al Gore won the popular vote in the 2000 election, George Bush won the electoral votes necessary (270) to win the election. I use the term "win" loosely here.

Nevertheless, I hope that you, the voter, will explore both candidate's issues and platforms and make an informed decision when casting your vote.

But let's not kid ourselves. Although politicians are fond of saying that they have the solutions to all the issues and problems, nothing could be further from the truth.

The solutions to the problems in our communities lie in our hands. They begin in our barrios and perhaps end in our willingness to participate in the political process. They are also in our willingness to ask the hard questions of those that we elect, and hold them accountable for their actions.

They also begin deep within us and our willingness to address those issues that we have control over. Issues like making sure that our kids get an education and graduate from high school and go on to college. This will lead to better jobs, a better future, economic power and ultimately to political access.

We also must come together as a community and realize that there is power and influence in numbers. Although we are different in a lot of ways, there are certain bonds that bind us and that cannot be broken. We must build on those bonds, make them stronger, embrace our cultural heritage and make our voices heard.

After all, what can be better than leaving this world a better place than how we found it?

(c)acruz2004

Email: acruzsc@aol.com

Cartas al Editor



Dear Editor

Well, it was interesting to see that you're still pushing your old socialist beliefs. You socialist supporters believe that the government should have all the solutions to all the problems people of this nation face. Although I believe that some Americans do have special needs, your concern seems to be that all problems should be solved by the government. If the government has proven one thing, it's that it can't solve every problem, and when it tries, it only makes things worse. We need the government to stay the hell out of our lives and out of our pockets! The government's job is to protect our rights and our safety and to collect enough taxes to do so. You liberals and socialists think that all of the people's money belong to the government as clearly stated by Kerry in the last debate. He used that term exactly, "...the government's money." I, as an informed Hispanic, refuse to vote for a liberal who promises to increase the size of government, even more than it has, and to increase all taxes to do so. I also refuse to vote for a person whose photo is located in a communist country (Viet Nam) and is identified, along with Hanoi Jane Fonda, as a hero in Viet Nam. The only thing I greatly regret is that Mexican-Americans, Hispanics, Chicanos and what ever other adjectives we have used over the years are still living under the illusions of the years of Camelot, the John F. Kennedy years. Those years and the democrats that existed in that great era are long gone and replaced by power hungry liberals and socialists that have long ago given up any of the values that have made this nation great. Yes, all peoples should be given equal opportunity, but it's the people's responsibility to secure the blessings of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Too bad that today's liberal democrats use the goals of the U.S. Constitution to wipe themselves instead of enforcing the great values found in this document. I'm just one of a great growing numbers of Hispanics who are no longer buying into what you liberals and most especially, you socialists are selling. Here is something that may be strange and foreign to you. I'm responsible for my successes and for my failures. It's my responsibility to educate myself and my children to insure that we can secure the blessings that this great country has to offer. Until we do, we will continue to depend on the handouts that the democrats readily offer us every four years. And worst, this is what the liberal expects us to be satisfied with. Viva Bush. Viva the United States of America!

P/S - Print this in your newspaper.
Cezar J. Cervántez, Sr. - REPUBLICAN

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Bush: NO Second Term



By Domenico Maceri

Although George W. Bush was elected in very unusual circumstances, the tragedy of 9/11 gave him an opportunity to unite the country. Sadly, he has not done so. The Iraqi war and his handling of the economy have set the country back many years.

Right after 9/11 everyone was supporting Bush and his efforts of dealing with terrorism. The country gave its blessings to the war in Afghanistan and the attacks on the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Unfortunately, before finishing the job in Afghanistan, Bush began another war, which events clearly demonstrated was totally unnecessary.

The rationale for going to Iraq was the famous weapons of mass destruction which Saddam Hussein was said to possess. It is now evident that the Iraqi dictator did not have any weapons. It's also become evident that as bad as Saddam Hussein was, he had no connection with the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11.

To justify the war in Iraq, Bush used the fear created by terrorism. By taking advantage of the country's fear, he misdirected the country's resources. More than 1,067 Americans and thousands of Iraqis have lost their lives. The financial cost has also been huge. Nearly 200 billion dollars has been spent in an unnecessary war.

Unfortunately, Bush does not seem to be able to understand that the war was a huge mistake and continues to insist it was worth the effort. Does he really believe that or is he just playing politics?

Bush's handling of the economy has also been a disaster. Having inherited a budget surplus, Bush turned it into a huge deficit. In part, he did that with the significant tax cuts which to a large extent benefited people at the top of the economic ladder who did not need the extra money.

The tax cuts were supposed to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Although a small number of jobs have been created in the past year, the fact is that at the end of his four years as president, Bush will have generated a net job loss. Unable to stress his record

and his accomplishments, Bush has engaged in negative attacks against his Democratic opponent. He and his surrogates have described John Kerry as wishy-washy and unfit to be commander in chief.

Although it's true that Kerry has taken some positions which seem contradictory, he has also shown character and determination. Unlike Bush who "sat out" the Vietnam War in Texas and Alabama, Kerry volunteered and earned medals for heroism.

But even his military record has been the subject of negative attacks by Bush's "surrogates" including former Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole. Many newspa-

pers have investigated and found no truth to the Republicans' charges against Kerry.

The presidential debates, which gave voters an opportunity to see the two candidates standing face to face, clearly showed that Kerry is not just presidential, but has a command of the issues, which Bush clearly lacks.

In the rush to declare winners of the debate, people forgot to focus on the issues. Bush did not simply show he could not communicate, but he had little substance to provide on either the Iraqi war or the economy.

Kerry, on the other hand, came across as knowledgeable of issues and to the surprise of many, was even able to explain his points in simple and concise language.

In the final days of the campaign, you can expect more lies and dirty tricks. Without a record to run on, all Bush can do is attack his opponent.

Kerry will not be the perfect president. And if elected, he'll have to clean up the mess left by Bush. It's not going to be easy, but he is the best we've got. Four more years of Bush would mean more countries invaded, bigger deficits, skyrocketing healthcare, and the likelihood of Supreme Court justices resembling Scalia and Thomas.

The country and the world cannot afford four more years of George Bush.

John Kerry's Wife Promotes Voting in Spanish

In a speech delivered partially in Spanish, the wife of United States Democratic presidential hopeful, Teresa Heinz Kerry, called on residents of the south of Texas to go to the polls and make a difference.

"Don't forget that your vote is your voice," said Heinz to hundreds of sympathizers gathered last evening at the McAllen Civic Center, who in turn chorused their response also in Spanish "Si se puede" (We can do it).

Heinz assured that her husband John Kerry would search every option possible before sending young men and

women to fight in a war.

"John will never send a young man or a young woman in uniform anywhere in the world because of our voracity for petroleum," said Heinz.

According to this Monday's edition of The Monitor, a local paper, her speech was received well by the one thousand 200-member audience who has been affected by the deaths in Iraq of 10 soldiers originally from the South Texas Valley.

The wife of the Democratic candidate visited McAllen to take part in a rally Sunday afternoon and at a fund raising dinner later in the evening that

cost one thousand dollars per plate.

In her speech at the Civic Center, Heinz criticized the way President Bush handles relationships with other nations.

"Diplomacy is not about 'I'm warning you', Diplomacy is, 'what do you think'. If you cannot have respect for the other man, you cannot have diplomacy," she pointed out.

Heinz spoke in one of the most democratic areas of Texas, where almost four years ago, Democratic presidential candidate Albert Gore, received 61 percent of the votes against 38 percent for Bush.



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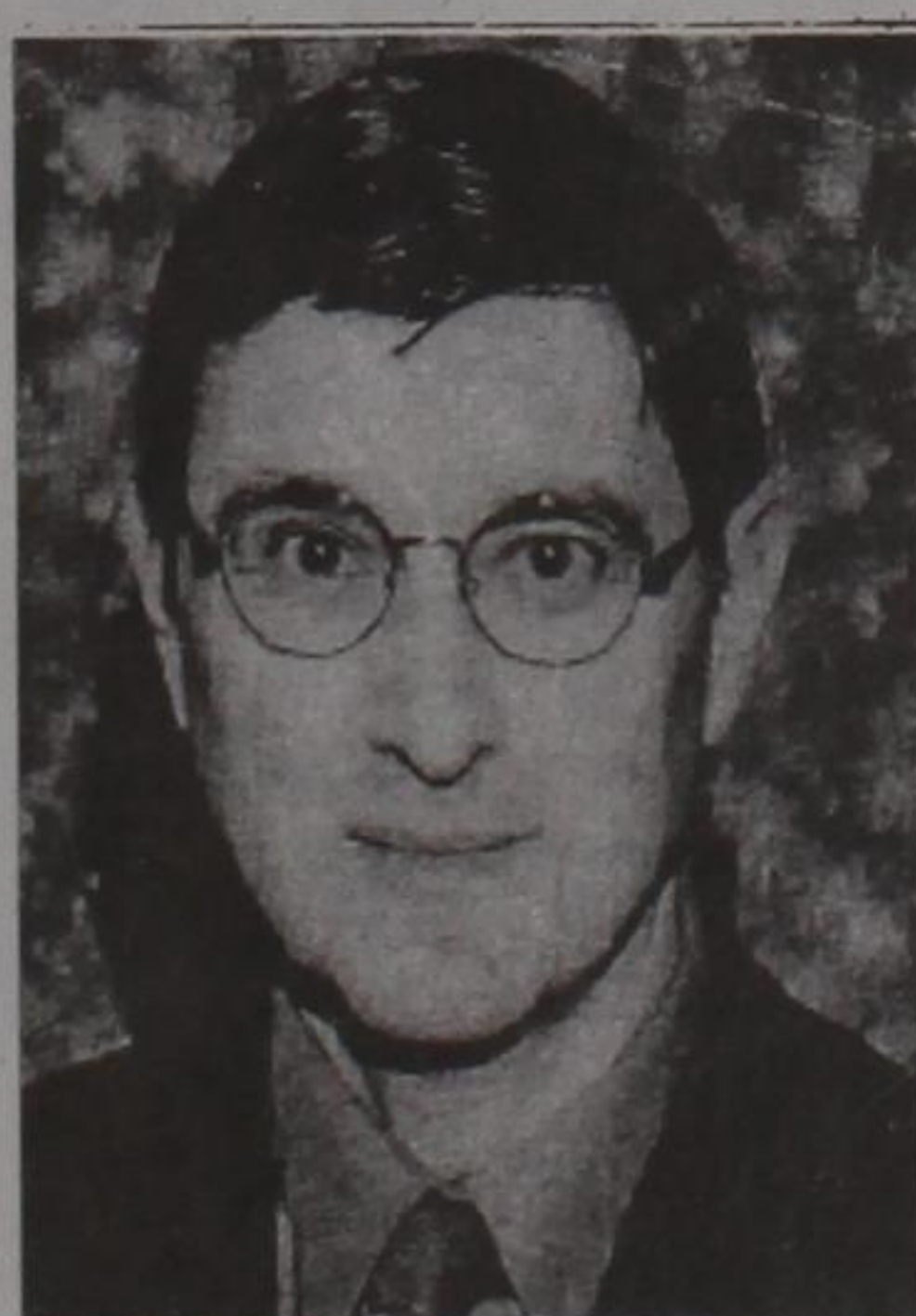
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Los Astros, una grata sorpresa en los playoffs

Ningún equipo ha brillado tanto con luz propia en estos playoffs como los Astros de Houston, que esta noche buscarán escribir la página más importante en la historia de la organización.

De la mano del único ga-

nador de 20 juegos en la Liga Nacional, Roy Oswalt, del ya legendario abridor ex Yankee Roger Clemens, y del sensacional boricua Carlos Beltrán, que lleva ocho jonrones en la postemporada, Houston se reinventó hasta ser el equipo que nadie quiere enfrentar, incluso esos mismos Cardenales que parecían una maquinaria demasiado pesada y hoy podrían decir adiós.

Tras caer en sus dos primeros juegos en San Luis, los Astros renacieron tres veces en Houston --donde son casi invencibles-- para colocar en punto de mate la Serie de Campeonato de la Liga Nacional frente a los Cardenales de San Luis.

Aunque los pájaros rojos eran los favoritos, los Astros han repetido en la postemporada el mismo derrotero de la campaña regular: renacieron al borde del abismo para darle un



vuelco a su situación.

Houston remató sobre la misma raya final a los Cachorros de Chicago y a los Gigantes de San Francisco para conquistar el wild card del viejo circuito y ahora están a sólo un juego de ir a su primera Serie Mundial.

Nadie pudo con el empuje definitivo de los Astros, que tras la pausa del Juego de las Estrellas se convirtieron en el equipo más candente de las Grandes Ligas al ganar 36 de 46 encuentros y los últimos 18 en casa de manera consecutiva.

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Jlo. abrirá escuela para enseñar a bailar salsa en NY

Jennifer López abrirá su propia escuela para enseñar a bailar salsa en Nueva York, convirtiendo en realidad su más reciente película "Shall We Dance" donde interpretó a una maestra de ese popular ritmo, reveló la prensa local.

La actriz de origen puertorriqueño ha dicho que su decisión, que coincide también de manera curiosa con su matrimonio con el salsero Marc Anthony, obedece a que desea devolver a su gente "algo de todo lo que le han dado", según la revista local "Female Fist".

Con ese motivo la escuela de la bella cantante y empresaria, conocida como Jlo., estará ubicada muy cerca del barrio en que nació y creció en la gran manzana y que en algún momento de su carrera musical la llevó a cantar "Jenny From The Block" (Jenny del Barrio).

"Jennifer ama bailar así que cuando surgió la idea, pensó que era algo fabuloso", dijo a la prensa local una fuente cercana a López, quien inició su carrera como bailarina antes de saltar a la fama mundial por su papel en la película "Selena".

Jlo. está feliz con su nuevo negocio,

U.S., Canada & Mexico must form a North American Security Force

By Patrick Osio

Securing the nation against further terrorists' attacks has become the number one preoccupation of US citizens and the administration. The Bush vs. Kerry campaigns success hinges on which candidate voters feel will be able to do a better job in such an effort. Part of the debate includes securing our borders against the illegal entry as fears mount that terrorists can and at some point, will cross unimpeded to mount further attacks.

The original 9/11 terrorists entered the country legally with a student or visitor visa provided by the US. Prior to that, other terrorists attempted to enter through a Canadian land port-of-entry but were foiled by observant immigration border inspectors. Thus far there is no knowledge that terrorists have attempted to enter the US legally through Mexico, the question, however, lingers as to whether any have crossed independent of or concealed among the thousands who make the daily crossings.

Finding an immediate, let alone a long term, solution to border security is in shambles due to anti-immigrant groups

mucking the issue with populist xenophobic rhetoric attempts at classifying all illegal immigrants as terrorists. Failure to recognize the distinct difference between those entering, albeit illegally, in search of work and those whose sole purpose to enter is to kill citizens and destroy property has only succeeded in creating class and ethnic divisions. These groups have added to border insecurity while doing absolutely nothing to improve either illegal-immigration or the potential of terrorists entering in a like manner.

The nation is faced with two issues - terrorists penetrating and illegal-immigration. Each must be dealt with separately; each requires a different strategy.

Illegal immigration is purely an economic issue: Mexicans need jobs, businesses need low cost labor. Mexico is not being hurt, to the contrary, by the migration of its people to the US where it is apparent they find jobs. The Mexican government would welcome an organized process, but for economic reasons not a stoppage of such migration. The present status-quo favors Mexico.

continued on page 5



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Debaten la escases de vacunas

viene de la primera pagina

Por otro lado, Kerry advierte que esa reestructuración pretende privatizar el sistema y que es una "invitación al desastre", porque la propia Oficina de Presupuestos del Congreso (CBO) ha indicado que si se pone en práctica, será necesario recortar los beneficios de retiro entre 25% y 40%.

Bush aún no indica cómo el Seguro Social compensará por las porciones que los empleados más jóvenes opten por depositar en cuentas de ahorro individuales.

Los hispanos, más que ningún otro grupo étnico, dependen del Seguro Social para su jubilación.

Ayer también se anunció que el Seguro Social proveerá un ajuste de costo de vida que supondrá, en promedio, un alza de 25 dólares mensuales para los beneficiarios, pero se anticipa que más de la mitad del alza sea absorbida por un alza en las primas de Medicare.

"Para dos millones de ancianos todo el incremento del ajuste de costo de vida será eliminado por primas de Medicare más altas. Eso implica menos dinero para comida, medicinas, para un regalo ocasional para un nieto o para salir y hacer algo. Eso no está bien. Amigos míos", afirmó Kerry.

Entre tanto, la campaña

Kerry-Edwards tuvo una teleconferencia para denunciar las conclusiones de reporte del Pew Hispanic Center sobre la brecha de ingresos entre los anglosajones y los hispanos y afroamericanos.

Esa brecha evidencia, según la campaña, cómo las políticas de la presente Administración han ido en detrimento de las familias de clase media, aunque el reporte abarca desde 1996, cuando el demócrata Bill Clinton era presidente, hasta 2002.

Los demócratas citan diversos reportes que apuntan a cómo las políticas de esta Administración han ido en detrimento para la clase media del país y para las minorías. Si a eso se suman los reportes de la inexistencia de armas de destrucción masiva en Irak, la conclusión de que no existen vínculos entre Irak y Al Qaida y que de todos modos se emprendió una guerra en contra de Irak que ha costado miles de vidas y miles de millones de dólares, este diario preguntó a qué atribuyen que la contienda esté tan cercada.

El congresista demócrata de California Xavier Becerra respondió que se debe en parte a la ventaja de la que siempre gozan los titulares, que usualmente es una forma de darle el beneficio de la duda al presi-

dente de turno, y los estadounidenses, dijo, han ido a extremos de darle a este presidente el beneficio de la duda.

Agregó que, según se acercan los comicios y el demócrata

National Hispanic Organizations Urge Next Administration

continued from page one
Policy Recommendations:

-- Propagate policies and programs to assist in the economic empowerment and positive employment practices affecting Hispanics.

-- Support an increase in the minimum wage to \$7.00.

Government Accountability and the Federal Workforce

In 1998, just over 6 percent of government workers were Hispanic, and in 2003 that rate climbed to a mere 7 percent, with only a small number of Hispanics holding high-level positions.

Policy Recommendations:
-- Develop strategic annual plans and accountability systems with measurable goals and objectives for the recruitment, retention and promotion of Hispanics.

-- Implement career development programs -- particularly for Hispanic women -- that foster skills for specific profes-

sional occupation groups, such as in information technology.
Civil Rights
Federal, state, and local agencies consistently fail to protect Hispanics from discrimination in employment, public benefits, public and higher education, and in the criminal justice system -- despite strong civil rights statutes.

Policy Recommendations:
-- Oppose national legislation or state laws establishing English as the official language and protect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 - amended in 1992 to protect "language minority groups."

-- Ensure that immigration policy is fair and equitable for all immigrants, and increase funding for civil rights enforcement agencies so that they can carry out their mission to protect the rights of all Americans.

From Page 4

The simplistic idea of "militarizing" the border which promoters insist would stop both illegal immigration and prevent terrorists from entering is unworkable. To secure 2000 miles of border 24/7 365 days would require troop deployment in excess of 500,000 soldiers at a cost of over \$50 billion a year.

Terrorists have demonstrated they are well trained, patient, and wily. They know that the entry methods used by those responsible for the 9/11 attack have now become harder if not impossible.

Obviously, if the border with Mexico is heavily fortified they will look for softer entrance channels. The 8000 mile Canadian border would then be high

on their list. Are we to also militarize that border with over a million soldiers?

Clearly the US has neither the manpower nor is able to afford the cost of such an endeavor.

The issue of Iraq has caused a breach between the three North American countries. Canada and Mexico neither agreed nor participate in the US's led war. But, Iraq and terrorism are two different issues.

As an independent issue -- war against terrorism -- the three nations must create a North American Security Force made up of military personnel from each country specifically trained under one flag on anti-terrorist warfare. Such a force would have a far better chance to secure common borders and other ports-of-entry.

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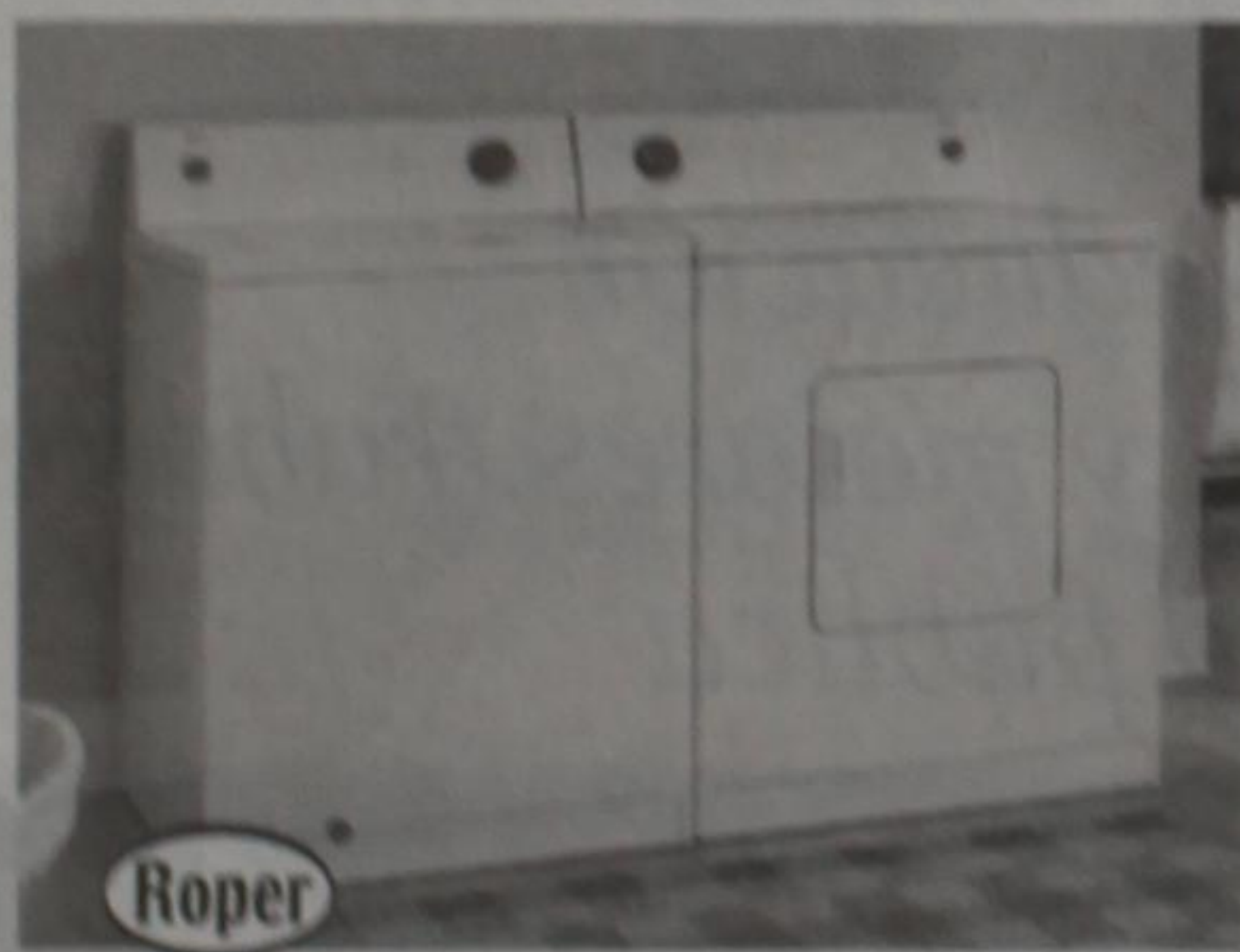
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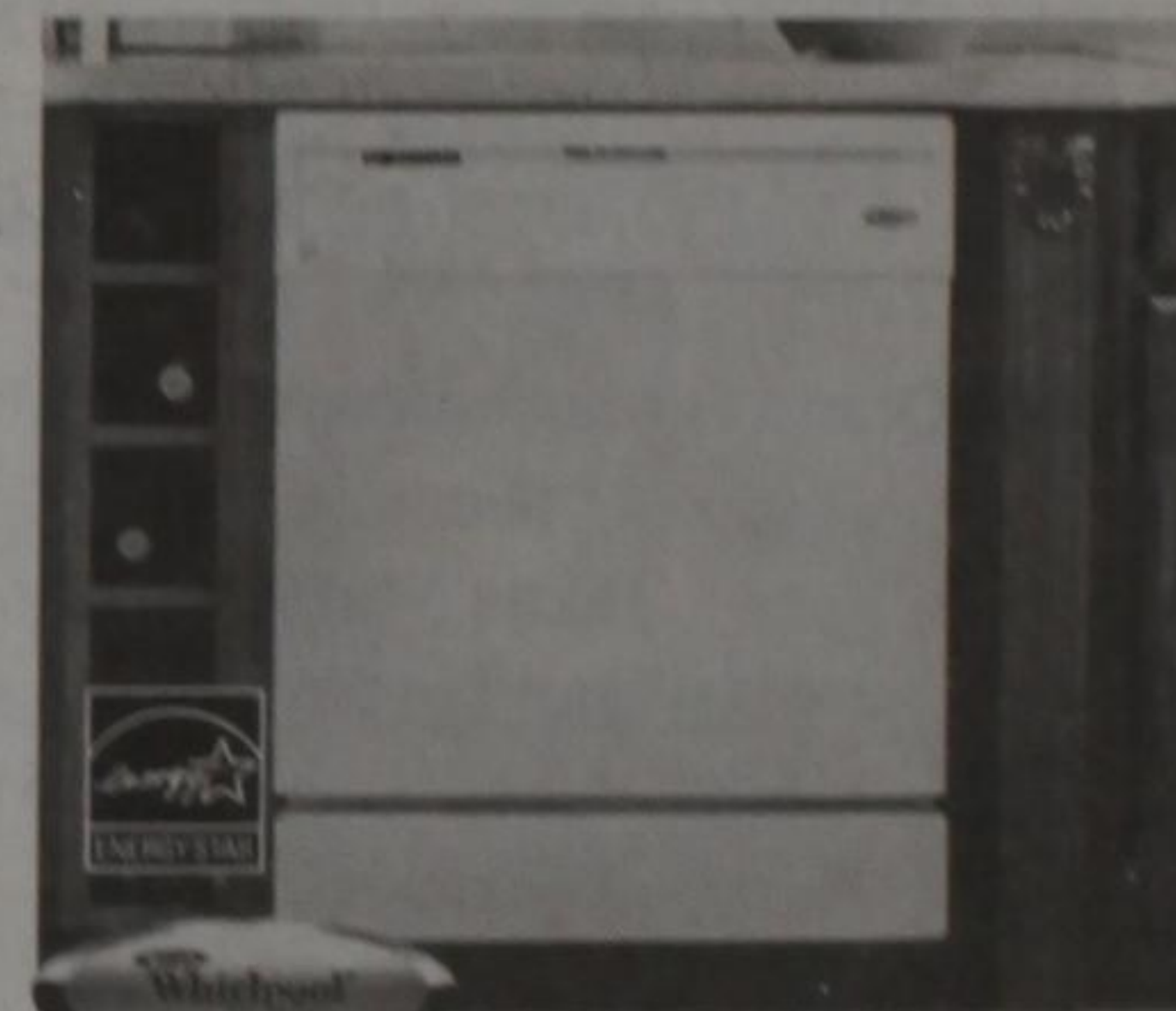
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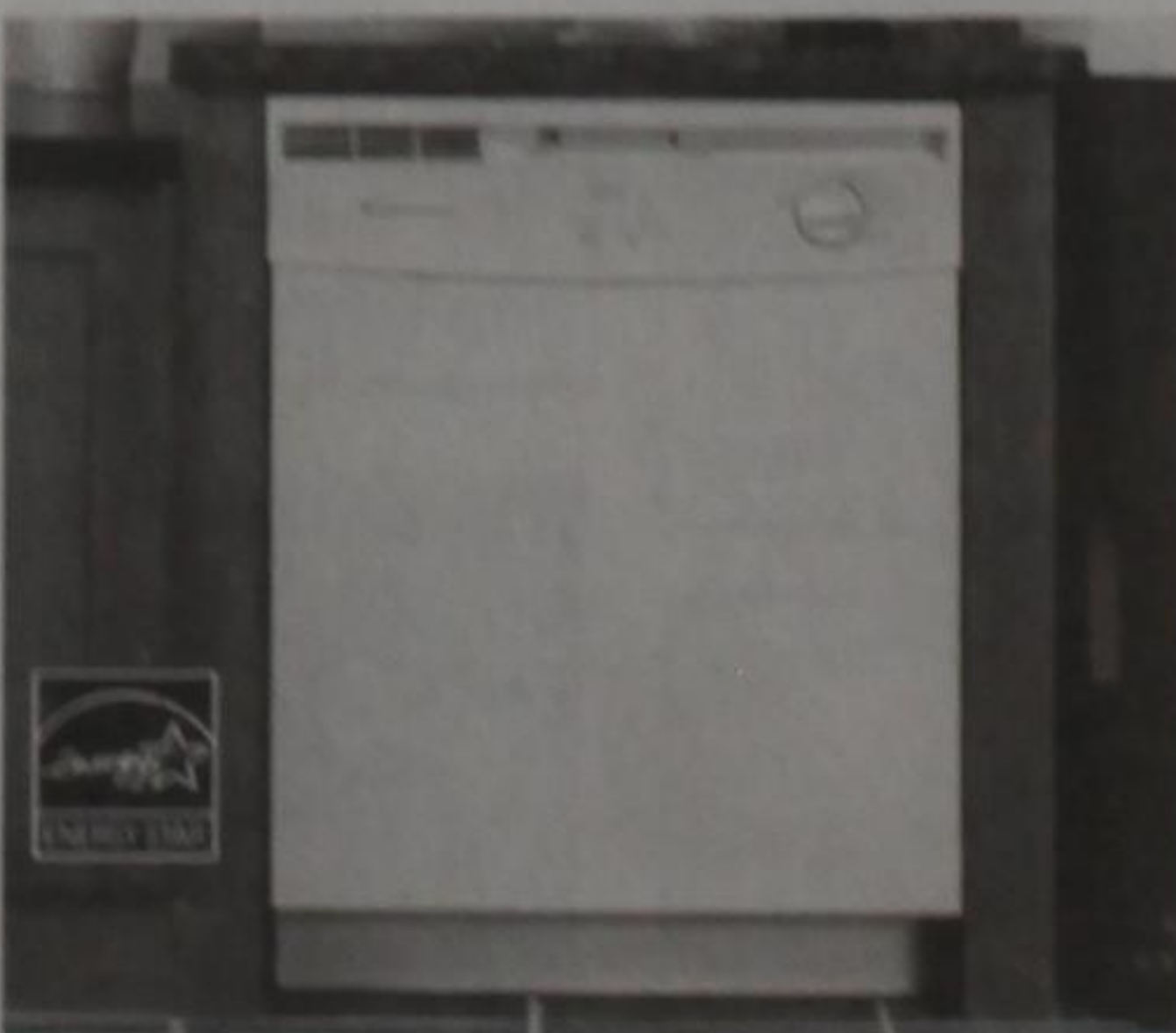
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¿No tiene tiempo para instalarlo usted mismo? Pregunte sobre la instalación de electrodomésticos por nuestros instaladores profesionales certificados.

Para el Lowe's más cercano a usted, llame al 1-800-993-4416 ó visítenos en internet en Lowe.com

Los precios pueden variar después del 5 de noviembre del 2004. Consulte en la tienda los detalles de las garantías de los productos. Nos reservamos el derecho a limitar las cantidades. *Garantizamos nuestros precios competitivos diariamente. Si usted encuentra un precio diario o anunciado más bajo por un artículo idéntico en existencia con un competidor minorista local, mejoraremos su precio en un 10% cuando lo compre con nosotros. Sólo presente el anuncio vigente del competidor o llamaremos para verificar el precio del artículo que usted encontró. Sólo se aplica a compras pagadas en efectivo o con tarjeta de crédito y para llevar. Quieren excluirse de esta oferta los artículos de un competidor por cierre, pedido especial, discontinuado, liquidación y dañados. En ventas con un porcentaje de descuento, igualaremos la oferta del porcentaje del descuento. Limitado a cantidades razonables para pedidos de cantidades para distribuidores en compras pagadas en efectivo y para llevar. Si el precio vigente de la tienda es menor, no se tomará en cuenta el precio Lowe's anunciado. La garantía de precios será aplicada en todas las tiendas Lowe's. Se excluyen de nuestra oferta de garantía de precios en nuestras tiendas, los cargos por mano de obra para instalaciones del producto con un Programa de Instalación de Ventas. Consulte todos los detalles en la tienda. Instalación profesional a través de subcontratistas certificados. Números de licencia de contratista de Lowe's: AK02841 AZ #R0C185518; CA #603295; CT#558162; FL #0017683; HI#23784; número de licencia del plomero de Texas disponible mediante solicitud; número de la #008-100140; número maestro de LA #1440 WSPS; NV#0-45450; número de NJ - consulte en la tienda; número de licencia del contratista de NY - C23784 - consulte en la tienda; OR#144217; Condado Suffolk#20162-#11; WA #96292K; MI#2101146796; Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., 0152 01 Drive North, Bates Creek, MI 48014. Instalación de calentador de agua: si los códigos locales exigen un tanque de expansión, éste tendrá un cargo adicional (no incluido en la mano de obra del calentador básico). Las cuotas por permisos son adicionales (no incluidas en la mano de obra del calentador básico). GA - equipos de gas #MR207878 - si los códigos estatales exigen el cumplimiento de la subvuelta de tierra, se aplicarán cargos adicionales (no incluidos en la instalación básica). Se pueden aplicar cargos adicionales por el pago de conversión LP. Las cuotas por permisos podrán ser adicionales. *No se requieren pagos por 6 meses en cualquier compra en tienda aprobada de recibos individuales de electrodomésticos grandes por \$299 o más cargada a su cuenta de crédito del consumidor de Lowe's del 12/10/04 al 31/1/05. Los cargos financieros y del seguro opcional de crédito/cancelación de deuda por su compra promocional serán cargados desde la fecha de compra, sin embargo los cargos financieros serán revertidos si usted paga el total de la compra en promoción y cualquier cargo relacionado de seguro opcional de crédito/cancelación de deuda dentro del periodo promocional. De lo contrario, usted será responsable de estos cargos financieros. Los términos regulares de crédito se aplican a compras que no estén en promoción. La Tasa Porcentual Anual es del 21% (13.9% para compras de \$2000 o más). El cargo financiero mínimo es de \$1.00 (\$0.50 en IA). La oferta está sujeta a la aprobación de crédito. Se excluyen cuentas empresariales.