

el Editor

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White House Record is Picture of 2 Years of Neglect, Disinterest and Disrespect toward Hispanics

By Arlene Martinez

In a speech July 13 at the group's annual conference in Austin, Texas, National Council of La Raza president Raúl Yzaguirre shed some of his political patience. He delivered the organization's harshest criticism of the administration since George W. Bush took office in January 2001.

In areas of education, the economy, civil rights and health care, the Bush administration "doesn't care if Latinos are in the picture," he said, adding that the White House record is a "picture of two years of neglect, disinterest and disrespect."

While news outlets beyond Texas all but ignored Yzaguirre's verbal thrashing of the president, other Latino leaders heard him clearly. Those who missed the speech were quickly told of its ferocity by peers.

Since the Sept. 11 tragedy, leaders of a number of Latino advocacy groups -- including Yzaguirre -- have exercised caution in publicly criticizing the administration's war agenda. The few who did were slapped by

critics with an "unpatriotic" label. The question now, as Bush's re-election campaign begins to unfold, is are they ready to follow Yzaguirre's lead and take off the gloves?

Despite an invitation, for the first time in 15 years an official representing the White House did not attend NCLR's conference. (Calls by Hispanic Link to the White House for comment on the administration's absence were not returned.)

In his keynote remarks, Yzaguirre singled out the "paltry" funding allotted for the No Child Left Behind Act; the administration's failure to provide health benefits to pregnant women and to immigrant children who are legal U.S. residents; and Attorney General John Ashcroft's attacks on immigrants.

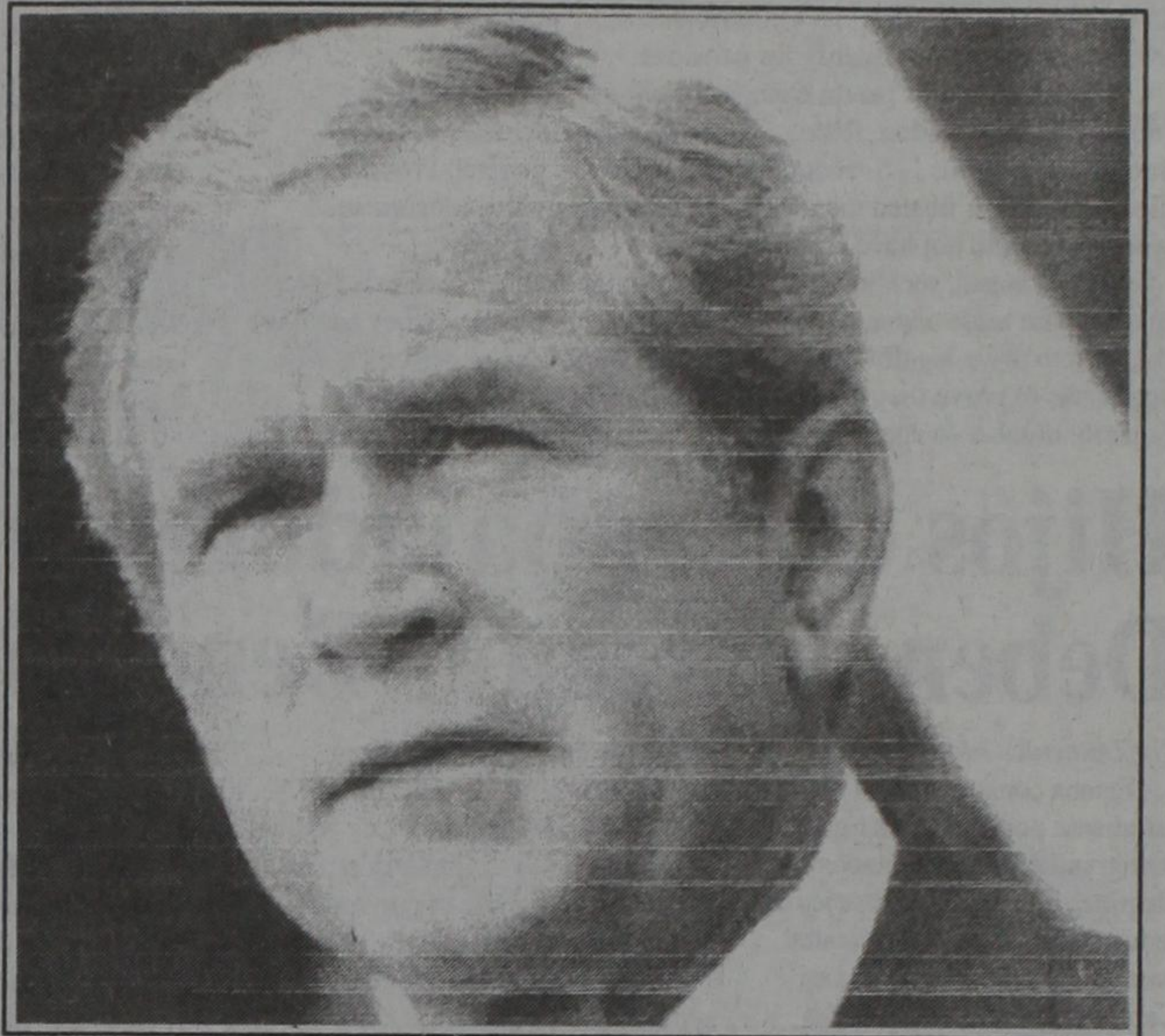
"He's fairly accurate in terms of the frustrations," said Brent Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens. The difference is that he voiced them all at once, Wilkes added, noting that, "You

have to wonder what (Bush will) say he's done for Latinos" come time to hit the election trail."

Larry González, Washington, D.C., director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, characterized Yzaguirre's remarks as a wake-up call to the Latino community. Hispanics have a "personal responsibility to be engaged on what's going on in their community. ... On paper we're the big thing, but the way we (stay in focus is) by letting our voices be heard. We speak through our vote."

While the speech attacked both parties for lack of progress on issues affecting the Latino community, Yzaguirre made the point that "we can't hold (Democrats) accountable for things they can't control." He stressed to Hispanic Link during a telephone conference call on July 22, "They don't have a majority in either house, nor do they control the White House."

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Historial de la Casa Blanca es un panorama de dos años de negligencia, desinterés y falta de respeto

Por Arlene Martinez

Durante un discurso pronunciado el 13 de julio frente a la conferencia anual del Concilio Nacional de la Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés), en Austin, Texas, el presidente del concilio, Raúl Yzaguirre virtió algo de sus paciencia con la política. Pronunció la crítica más severa proferida por su organización desde que asumió la presidencia nacional George W. Bush en enero del 2001.

En los sectores de la educación, la economía, los derechos civiles y la salud, a la administración de Bush "no le interesa si figuran los latinos en el panorama", dijo, añadiendo que el historial de la Casa Blanca es "un panorama de dos años de negligencia, desinterés y falta de respeto".

Si bien los distribuidores de noticias más allá de Texas hicieron caso omiso de la descarga verbal de Yzaguirre contra el presidente, otros líderes latinos lo oyeron claramente. Los que no alcanzaron a oír el discurso recibieron rápidamente noticia de su ferocidad de sus colegas.

LULAC is Appalled by House Decision to Weaken the Federal Head Start Programs

LULAC is appalled by the House of Representative's vote to dismantle the Federal Head Start Program, perhaps one of the most successful education programs in the country.

This week Congress has targeted the Head Start program in eight states with legislation that gives block grants without the federal performance standards currently in effect. This is likely to weaken the program considerably. "The block granting of Head Start is a slippery slope towards dismantling this program that is so critical to the Hispanic community and sends the message that Latinos and low income children don't matter," said Hector Flores, President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

HR 2210 allows states to run "Head Start" programs with: lower educational standards, minimal comprehensive services and less oversight and accountability. The changes are being made without evidence that states can do an equally good or better job than the Federal Head Start program and the legislation does not require academic improvements to the state-run programs.

"By relieving states of the need to require comprehensive services currently provided by Head Start it is allowing states to supplant federal dollars spent on early education that will affect Latino children currently benefiting from the program," said LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes.

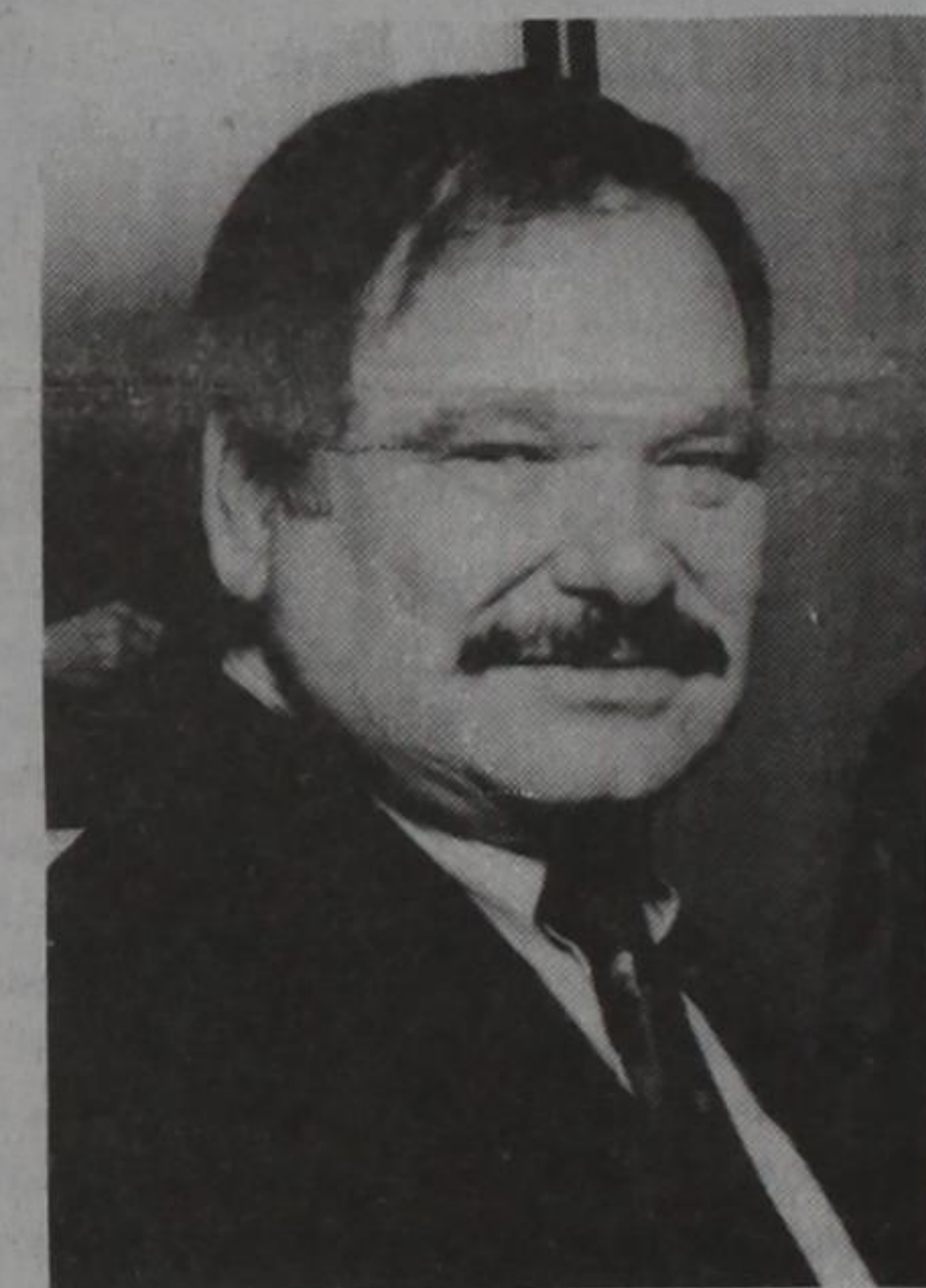
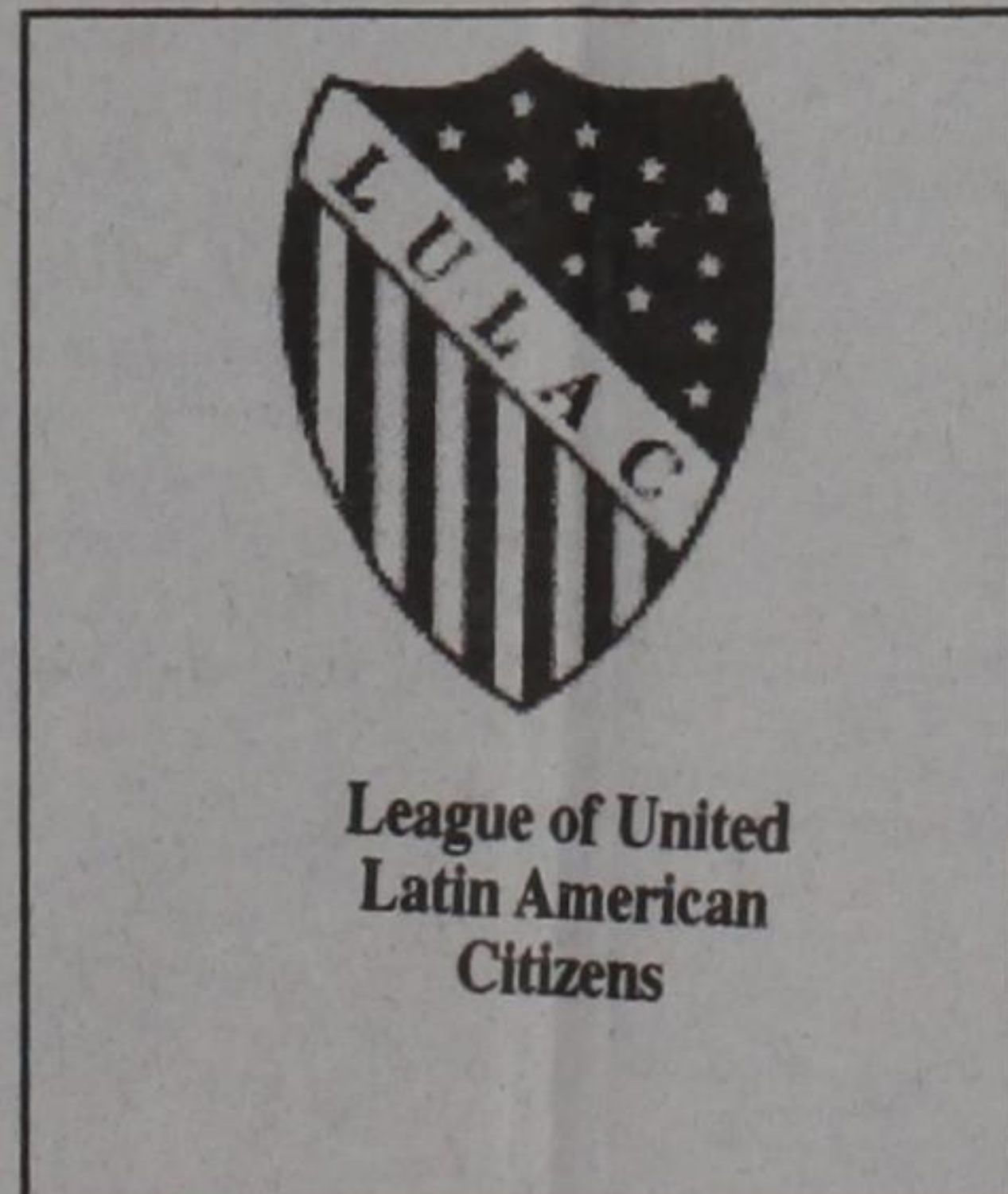
"It is incomprehensible to think that Republicans want to weaken one of the best education programs in the country," said Mr. Flores. "Instead of dismantling a program that has been identified by the National Institute for Early Education Research as one of the best and most successful public service programs in the nation, we should be working to improve it."

The program has demonstrated that it is effective and innovative in helping children at every stage of their development," added Flores.

Head Start, originated as a LULAC project in Texas under the name "Little School of the 400" which helped Latino children learn 400 basic English words and gave them a foundation for the language. President Lyndon B. Johnson adopted the program and transformed it into the Federal Head Start Program.

"This program has helped and continues to help Hispanics, the nation's largest growing minority group with the highest drop out rate. Now more than ever we need to improve this program not do away with it," Flores added.

"I cannot begin to tell you how many Hispanic children have benefited from this program and how important it is to the Latino community, but also to our 100,000 LULAC members nationwide," said LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes. "I can tell you however, that Latinos are watching and will be ready to make their voices heard in the next elections."



que comente la ausencia de la administración no recibieron respuesta).

En su discurso plenario, Yzaguirre señaló específicamente la financiación "mezquina" para el acta No Child Left Behind (que no se quede atrás ningún niño); el que la administración no haya ofrecido beneficios de salud a mujeres embarazadas y a los niños inmigrantes que son residentes legales de los Estados Unidos; y los ataques del fiscal John Ashcroft contra los inmigrantes.

"Ha acertado bastante bien las frustraciones", dijo a Hispanic Link Brent Wilkes, director ejecutivo de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos. La diferencia es que las tocó a todas juntas, dijo Wilkes, agregando que "Hay que preguntarse qué dirá (Bush) que ha hecho para los latinos a la hora de comenzar la campaña de reelección".

Larry González, director de la asociación nacional de funcionarios elegidos y nominados, en Washington, D.C., caracterizó los comentarios de Yzaguirre como una sacudida para la comunidad latina. Los hispanos tienen "una responsabilidad personal de estar envueltos en lo que ocurre en su comunidad. ... En teoría somos lo más importante, pero cómo continuamos enfocados es hacernos oír. Hablamos a través del voto".

(continúa en la pagina 3)

Filibuster Continues on Hispanic Nominee

Senate Republicans lost a seventh filibuster vote Wednesday in their fight to make Miguel Estrada the first Hispanic on the federal appeals court in the nation's capital. Democrats appeared to be setting up more filibusters on President Bush sites's judicial nominees.

As Congress worked toward an August recess, Republicans pressured Democrats to confirm Bush's nominees.

"The American people deserve it," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "They understand that we are not fulfilling our responsibility in this body without an up-or-down vote. That is our job. That is our responsibility in advise-and-consent."

But the GOP fell five votes short of the 60 votes needed to cut off debate and move Estrada's nomination to confirmation, and Democrats appeared to be setting up another filibuster for Henry Saad, an Arab-American judge from Michigan whom Bush has nominated to the federal appeals court. A Saad filibuster would be the sixth for federal appellate nominees this year.

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The GOP kicks the little kids again while they're down.

It is better to shaft a Democrat than to help a little kid - Governor Ricky

Over the years I have forced myself NOT to become too mad at Republicans when it comes to governing, and common sense. They never cease to amaze me.

Well, last week I was slack-jaw amazed again. Did you catch it? Carol Keyton Rylander (the Republican state treasurer) obviously did not call in to get her marching orders. Perhaps being the fairer sex she still has a spark of caring about little kids, and what happens to them. Something we know her male Republican state officials got rid of a whole long time ago.

Anyway, seems she found some money that came in extra, and she thought that this extra tax money that came in unexpectedly could be used to ease up on some of those nasty cuts that are going to be made to health care for children. That way not all of the half million kids the Republicans cut off of CHIPS and Medicaid health care would be cut off in September completely. And she said that it would be nice if Governor Perry could add this to the special session going on RIGHT NOW in Austin.

Now Governor Perry said that this special session - the first called since the 1980s - was reserved for important stuff. Like rescuing the poor insurance companies that insured old buildings against asbestos lawsuits brought by limiting what those trouble making old and sick workers could sue for. He also took pity on the poor health insurance companies by limiting the amounts they would have to pay out to those sleazy sick people that sued when they got butchered by a doctor.

Of course Governor Ricky knows that the most important thing in this special session is redistricting which will shaft minorities, rural folks, and working people by drawing the districts so lots of new apple cheeked Republican white guys get elected to con-gress while giving the Democrats a knee to the groin.

And with such a smile we might add. Anyway back to our story: When told that there was money available to help the little children what did the Governor Ricky do?

Governor Ricky (as compassionate a conservative as the last Governor - his Mentor) said that he did not see a way to add it to this special session at all - but that they would try to deal with it later through committee.

There you have it ladies and gentlemen - he will try and deal with it later - maybe, possible could, it just might happen, maybe yea, maybe no - que es

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Undocumented Workers' Children Should Receive State Education Benefits

By Domenico Maceri

My student was upset because children of undocumented immigrants qualified for the lower resident fees to attend college in California. She, on the other hand, a foreign student from a Western European country, had to pay out-of-state fees, which are considerably higher. In her mind, students who are here illegally are treated better than those who come with permission.

At first thought, she appears to be right, but when you scratch beneath the surface, the truth is quite different.

California, Texas, New York and Utah are states that allow the children of undocumented residents to attend public colleges and pay the resident fees. Several other states are considering following suit.

Students from other countries, who are legally in the United States and have student visas, pay the much higher out-of-state rates. At my school, my foreign student pays about \$750 in fees for one of my classes; California residents pay about \$60.

Is it fair? Not according to my student. It pays to be illegal. You get more benefits.

In fact, it is fair. The educational benefits the children of undocumented workers receive are paid in full. Their parents work and pay taxes. The taxes mean that they are residents of a state, and as such, they qualify for the same benefits as other residents. Because of their illegal status, undocumented workers don't receive all the benefits they are entitled to. One of the benefits undocumented workers miss out on is Social Security. In the past 10 years, they have contributed more than \$20 billion into the system, but they don't qualify for pensions.

Fortunately, some recent changes in governmental policies are improving the situation. Recognizing the undocumented workers' contributions to the U.S. economy, and society in general, President George W. Bush floated the idea of giving amnesty to undocumented workers who do not have criminal records.

Several states, such as Utah, North Carolina and Tennessee, believe that because undocumented workers contribute to business, they can have the right to drive legally. Those three states don't require driver's license applicants to prove they are here legally. They don't require a Social Security number to apply for a driver's license, accepting in its place a

taxpayer ID number, which is available to undocumented workers. By giving them a taxpayer identification number, the United States is saying that undocumented immigrants can work and pay taxes. Giving their kids educational benefits makes sense.

In essence, U.S. officials are beginning to accept the fact that undocumented workers satisfy our business thirst for cheap labor. The undocumented workers' toil produces benefits for all of us. Many are employed in the service industry. That means the prices of agricultural products are kept down. Consumers pay less for food. Hotel guests pay less for their rooms. Many small contractors would not exist if they had to find union workers who would demand fair treatment in addition to decent wages. In brief, just about every U.S. resident benefits from the "illegal" toil of undocumented workers.

U.S. companies obviously benefit from the presence of undocumented workers. It's easy to argue that if people are working illegally, the companies that hire them are just as guilty of the crime. Illegal immigration would, in fact, disappear if proper identification were required to obtain employment.

Even those who still believe that illegal immigration is a crime must recognize that the sons and daughter of undocumented workers are not criminals. If anyone committed a crime, it would be the parents of these college students. Many of these students were brought into the United States at very young age. Some have little or no connections with their parents' country. Their plan is to stay here and contribute to our society after they graduate.

Although the United States is a land of immigrants, newcomers historically have not been greeted with a red carpet. Remember the "No Irish Need Apply" signs? Every ethnic group has suffered indignities. Yet a few generations down the road, when the children of immigrants assimilate fully, they begin looking at their roots and see heroism in their grandparents' actions.

The same will likely happen with today's undocumented workers. When their children and grandchildren graduate from college and become integrated into society, the "illegal" acts of their forebears could easily be viewed as acts of heroism.

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The More Things Change...

By Abel Cruz

Almost 14 years.

That's approximately how long it was before my path in life led back to the place where I was born. So much has happened in my life since then, and I'm sure in yours as well. But then again, in some ways it seems that time has stood still and that nothing much has changed. As I run into people that I haven't seen in a long time, and as we compare notes, I realize that we've all gotten older and that our kids are all grown up. And sad to say, I find that many of us have lost loved ones, both family and friends. But, it's good to know that we still feel that bond of friendship just like if it was still 1989. And most importantly, those memories that we once shared are still very much alive in our hearts and souls.

I left Lubbock in May of 1989 for greener pastures in Washington, DC. Having been recruited by The Washington Post after a 9 year career with the Lubbock AJ, I decided I did not want to live in that dark "what if I had gone and didn't" world so I decided I couldn't pass up the opportunity to work for one of this country's premier newspapers. So off I went!

Never mind that I had no idea what I was getting into or even had a remote idea how tough a city Washington was. But somehow I managed to survive and left after 12 successful years learning how to work at a fast paced newspaper that had become famous for helping to expose a "crooked president". The experience there was invaluable and allowed me to be exposed to some incredible events. But somehow, despite some of my experiences in Washington, some of the highlights during those times were those very times that I would come back to visit family and friends.

After leaving The Post, I spent some time in San Jose, California working for the Knight Ridder newspaper chain at the San Jose Mercury News and then moved to Shreveport, La. to work for a Gannett newspaper (Gannett is the country's largest newspaper publisher, they own USA Today). Again, a different experience but nevertheless, invaluable.

But after all this time, I decided that home is that place that I had been longing for after all those years and somehow the road has led me back here. So I decided to move back to Lubbock and see how long I could live here before getting antsy and deciding to move again. Or who knows, maybe I'll never leave again? I guess only time will tell!

Much to my surprise though, I feel extremely happy to be back in the town that I have always called home. I guess I always knew that I would return one day, I just didn't know when. Things happen at the most opportune time and I think that things such as a move back here are guided and destined by a greater power than you or I. Or at least I like to think so...

So now what? Well, I will be writing what I hope will be a weekly column in this newspaper where I hope to deal with some issues that need addressing and about things that are happening in our city that may or may not be covered by the local media. I plan to follow city politics and give you, the reader, a perspective that I assure you, you won't read in any other Lubbock publication. For one thing I did learn while in DC was that it is so important to expand one's horizons and to share that as much as possible. And I can assure you that you won't find too many of the views expressed in this newspaper in the local newspaper. It's been my personal experience that the views that are printed in the local paper are just that, local and mainstream, and sometimes very narrow.

So I invite you to join me from week to week, and I hope you enjoy the column. But most importantly, I hope you take time to write to me either via email or old fashioned pony express and give me some feedback on what you have read or what you would like to read about. And yes, I especially want to know if you hate the column. I will provide both my email and physical address at the end of this column.

I have also decided to form a business relationship with Bidal Agüero, owner of El Editor, to try and make some changes at this publication. In the weeks to come you will notice these changes and hopefully you will enjoy them. Most importantly, I hope that as we move forward, that you give us an opportunity to become your "hometown newspaper".

We hope to produce a weekly product that you can be proud of and something that you will look forward to reading. More to come on these exciting changes as we move forward!

This week, I leave you with something called "The Watcher" that somehow captures my return home. There is no author's name attached to this, just true, simple words...

The Watcher

"She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate"
"Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is,
She must be watching yet",
"Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late-
Watching from Heaven's window,
Leaning from Heaven's gate"

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Hijos de Trabajadores Indocumentados Deben de Recibir Beneficios de Educación

Por Domenico Maceri

Estaba consternada mi estudiante por lo que los hijos de inmigrantes indocumentados son elegibles para pagar la matrícula reducida de residentes estatales para asistir a la universidad en California. Ella, por otro lado, estudiante extranjera de un país de Europa occidental, tenía que pagar la matrícula considerablemente más alta de los que no residen en el estado. Para ella, los estudiantes que están aquí ilegalmente reciben mejor trato que los que llegan con permiso.

A primera vista, pareciera que tiene razón, pero si escavamos un poco la superficie, la verdad que surge es otra.

Los estados de California, Texas, Nueva York y Utah son los que permiten que los hijos de residentes indocumentados asistan a universidades públicas pagando como residentes del estado. Hay varios estados más que están considerando seguir el ejemplo.

Los estudiantes de otros países, quienes están en los Estados Unidos legalmente y que cargan visas de estudiante, pagan la matrícula universitaria mucho más alta. Donde enseño yo, mi estudiante extranjera paga unos \$750 por una de mis clases; los residentes de California pagan unos \$60.

¿Es justo? No, según mi estudiante. Vale la pena estar aquí ilegalmente. Se reciben más beneficios.

En realidad, es enteramente justo. Los beneficios de educación

que los hijos de trabajadores indocumentados reciben están pagados por completo. Los padres trabajan y pagan impuestos. Los impuestos significan que son residentes de un estado y como tales, son elegibles a recibir los mismos beneficios que otros residentes.

Dado su estado de inmigrantes ilegales, los trabajadores indocumentados no reciben todos los beneficios que les corresponden. Uno de los beneficios que no reciben los trabajadores indocumentados es el Seguro Social. Durante los últimos 10 años, han contribuido más de \$20 mil millones al sistema, sin embargo, no son elegibles a cobrar pensiones.

Afortunadamente, algunos cambios recientes en las políticas del gobierno están mejorando la situación. En reconocimiento de las contribuciones de los trabajadores indocumentados a la economía y sociedad estadounidenses en general, el presidente George W. Bush ha lanzado la idea de dar amnistía a los trabajadores indocumentados que no tengan expedientes criminales.

Varios estados, como Utah, Carolina del Norte y Tennessee, creen que porque los trabajadores indocumentados contribuyen al comercio, tienen el derecho de conducir legalmente. Ninguno de los tres requiere que los solicitantes de la licencia de conducir prueben que están alegalmente. Tampoco requieren que presenten un número de Seguro Social para solicitar la

licencia, sino que aceptan el número de identificación de contribuyente, al que tienen acceso los trabajadores indocumentados. Al otorgarles un número de identificación de contribuyente, los Estados Unidos acepta que los trabajadores indocumentados trabajen y paguen impuestos. El otorgar a sus hijos beneficios de educación tiene sentido.

Esencialmente, los funcionarios estadounidenses están comenzando a aceptar el hecho que los trabajadores indocumentados satisfacen nuestra sed comercial por mano de obra barata. La labor de los trabajadores indocumentados produce beneficios para todos nosotros. Muchos están empleados en el sector de servicio, lo cual significa que los precios de los productos agrícolas se mantienen bajos. Los consumidores pagan menos para la comida. Los huéspedes de los hoteles pagan menos para las habitaciones.

Muchos contratistas pequeños no existirían si tuvieran que encontrar trabajadores sindicalizados que requerirían trato justo además de un sueldo decente. En resumen, prácticamente todo residente de los Estados Unidos deriva beneficios de la labor "ilegal" de los trabajadores indocumentados.

Las empresas estadounidenses claramente se benefician de la presencia de los trabajadores indocumentados. Es fácil argumentar que si trabajan ilegalmente, las empresas que los contratan son igualmente culpables del crimen. La inmigración ilegal

desaparecería, de hecho, si fuera requerida la identificación apropiada para obtener un empleo.

Hasta los que todavía creen que la inmigración ilegal es criminal deben reconocer que los hijos y las hijas de los trabajadores indocumentados no son criminales. Si alguien fuera culpable de cometer un crimen, serían los padres de estos estudiantes universitarios. Muchos de los estudiantes llegaron con sus padres a los Estados Unidos de muy pequeños. Algunos carecen de vínculos con el país de sus padres. Su idea es quedarse aquí y contribuir a nuestra sociedad al graduarse.

Aunque los Estados Unidos es un país de inmigrantes, históricamente los recién llegados no han sido bien recibidos. Recordemos los letreros que rezaban: "Que ningún irlandés solicite empleo". Todo grupo étnico ha sufrido indignidades. Sin embargo, a pocas generaciones de la primera, cuando los hijos de inmigrantes se asimilan completamente, comienzan a mirar sus raíces y ver heroísmo en las acciones de sus abuelos.

Lo mismo ocurrirá con los trabajadores indocumentados de hoy. Cuando sus hijos y nietos se gradúen de la universidad y se integren a la sociedad estadounidense, las acciones "ilegales" de sus antepasados podrán fácilmente verse como actos de heroísmo.

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Q&A on Redistricting

Why Texans Oppose DeLay's power-grab to disenfranchise minority & rural TX-How GOPers are corrupting the process to pass it-Why TX Dems must use TX Constitution to stop it

Q: Why are Texas Senate Democrats breaking a quorum?

A: GOP leaders are breaking the Senate's decades-old "two-thirds rule" - and Lt. Gov. Dewhurst's own "Dewhurst 2/3 Standard" requiring 21 votes for Congressional redistricting - so Dems have no other legislative tool to stop Tom DeLay's unprecedented re-districting plan to reduce rural voting strength and disenfranchise 1.3 million

Texas Hispanics and African Americans - the greatest assault on minority political power in the nearly 40 years since the Voting Rights Act became law.

Q: What is the Senate's "two-thirds rule"? How and why are GOP leaders breaking it?

A: Since at least the 1950s, the Senate has forced bipartisan cooperation by requiring a two-thirds vote (21 of 31 Senators) to bring up legislation. While Anglo, GOP Senators have repeatedly used this rule, GOP leaders are now breaking it to prevent minority Senators from stopping a plan that disenfranchises minority and rural Texans

- a plan that the public opposes. (The rule is enforced by filing an inconsequential "blocker bill," which prevents all other bills from reaching the Senate Floor without a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules. But Dewhurst has refused to file a blocker bill in this special session.)

Q: Are they fugitives who can be arrested? What does it cost taxpayers? What about other priorities?

A: No. They violated neither state or federal law. Quorum breaking is a legitimate legislative procedure - provided by the Texas Constitution - and people like Abraham Lincoln in the

19th century and Republican U.S. Senators in the 1980s have tried it. Quorum breaking costs nothing, but passing DeLay's map could cost \$9 million - \$1.7 million per special session, plus \$5 million in legal fees to defend it in court.

Re-districting is the only issue at stake - unless Perry adds the school finance crisis to the agenda

Q: Did Gov. Perry, Dewhurst, AG Abbott suggest using off-duty police or private investigators as vigilantes or bounty hunters to kidnap Senators who are fulfilling their constitutional duty to defend their constituents?

A: Yes - just as Perry, Speaker Craddick and Tom DeLay abused state and federal security resources against House Democrats in May. Texas voters will never stand for such an abuse of power.

Q: How do the GOP plans disenfranchise 1.3 million African American and Hispanic Texans?

A: By eliminating 7 minority impact districts: DeLay's plans shift minority voters from competitive districts - where coalitions of minority and independent voters elect Democrats who support minority interests - to safe GOP, Anglo districts - where they would be powerless to defeat GOP candidates who oppose their interests. (In Congress, TX GOP Members support the NAACP 24%, and the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda 12.5%. TX Democrats support the NAACP 82%, and the NHLA 80%.)

Q: Did GOP Senators use the two-thirds rule to block redistricting in 2001? Can they change the rules now?

A: Sen. David Sibley and other Anglo GOPers used the two-thirds rule to kill redistricting in 2001, so it would corrupt the redistricting process if GOP leaders change the rules now just to prevent Senators who represent minority Texans from having the opportunity to stop a plan that discriminates against African American and Hispanic voters. (All 11 quorum-breaking Senators represent minority districts.)

Q: GOPers claim to have "precedents" for breaking the Senate's traditional 2/3 rule for redistricting?

A: Grossly misleading. The GOP "precedents" (1971, 1981, and 1992 sessions) refer to the first election cycles after the census - not an unprecedented

mid-decade special session like this one. And in each case, a substantial Senate minority did not object to the lack of a blocker bill, so the two-thirds rule wasn't an issue.

Q: Did Lt. Gov. Dewhurst himself set the "Dewhurst 2/3 Standard" for redistricting this year?

A: Yes. "The Senate won't take up the idea, he [Dewhurst] said, unless it comes over from the floor."

Q: Doesn't the Texas public overwhelmingly oppose redoing redistricting?

A: Clearly. In Senate hearings around Texas, 89% testified against it. A recent statewide poll found that just 30% (mostly GOP partisans) support it, and that Perry's job approval rating dropped. Local officials from Lubbock to Waco (GOP and Dem) oppose it. So do African American and Hispanic voters and groups.

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GOP begins to fret on Bush's chances for reelection

For the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, rank-and-file Republicans say they are worried about President Bush's re-election chances based on the feeble economy, the rising death toll in Iraq and questions about his credibility.

"Of course it alarms me to see his poll figures below the safe margins," said Ruth Griffin, co-chair of Bush's 2000 campaign steering committee in New Hampshire. "If he isn't concerned, and we strong believers in the Bush administration aren't concerned, we must have blinders on."

The worries emerged as Griffin and nearly two dozen other GOP stalwarts were interviewed by The Associated

Press in advance of the Republican National Committee's meeting this week in New York, site of the 2004 GOP presidential convention and the starting point of Bush's wartime surge in popularity.

Bush's poll ratings skyrocketed after the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center as he led the nation in mourning and then to war with blunt talk and a confidence that soothed an anxious nation. Polls show that about six of every 10 Americans still approve of the way he's doing his job, a solid rating that buoyed Republican hopes that Bush will overcome his current problems and breeze to re-election.

But the president has seen a drop in other early warning in-

dicators, including the number of people expressing confidence in his credibility and leadership along with his handling of the economy and postwar Iraq.

"We've got nine Democrats out there beating up on him. That's the problem," said Joyce Terhes of Maryland, a member of the 165-person RNC.

"The economy is touch and go," said Dick Taylor, another RNC member from Maryland. "I've got to believe it recovers really fast. If not, obviously we'll be in some trouble."

Republicans said there will be trouble for Bush if postwar Iraq continues to claim the lives of American troops. Another U.S. soldier was killed Tuesday, bringing the total killed in action to 153 - six more than during the 1991 Gulf War.

"This guerrilla warfare is disturbing," said former Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt, an RNC member from Arkansas.

A recent CNN-Time poll found that 47 percent view Bush as a leader they can trust, down from 56 percent in March. A thin majority of voters said they harbor doubts about his leadership.

Some Republicans say they

fear the drop is the result of Democrats harping on 16 words in Bush's Jan. 28 State of the Union address in which he cited a British report suggesting that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for a nuclear weapons program.

The claim has been challenged by U.S. intelligence officials. As the White House moved to shelter Bush from criticism, CIA director George Tenet and deputy national security adviser Steven Hadley apologized for the snafu.

Bush has refused to shoulder any blame himself, drawing criticism from some GOP officials who fear he may damage his image as a straight-shooting, buck-stops-here leader.

"For the first time he's waffled a little bit on the Niger-uranium story," Hammerschmidt said. "They didn't confront that totally. They let Tenet take the bullet."

"I'm not sure they've totally gotten their act together," said the Arkansan.

Other Republicans said the polls reflected voter concerns with Bush's staff, not the president himself.

"I really think it's a concern about the people he has around him, and not really about him and his character," said Christine Olson, an oil and gas drilling contractor and RNC member from Pennsylvania.

There was unanimity among the Republicans that Bush's word is still golden with them, and they dutifully predicted he will overcome challenges on the economy, postwar Iraq and his handling of intelligence.

"The Democrats have hung their hopes on one sentence," said former Connecticut GOP chair Chris DePino. "The nation would be better off hanging its hopes on George Bush."

Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman said, "It's also important to point out that many of today's loudest critics agreed that Saddam Hussein threatened our national security just a few months ago. A lot of what we hear today is Democrat primary politics."

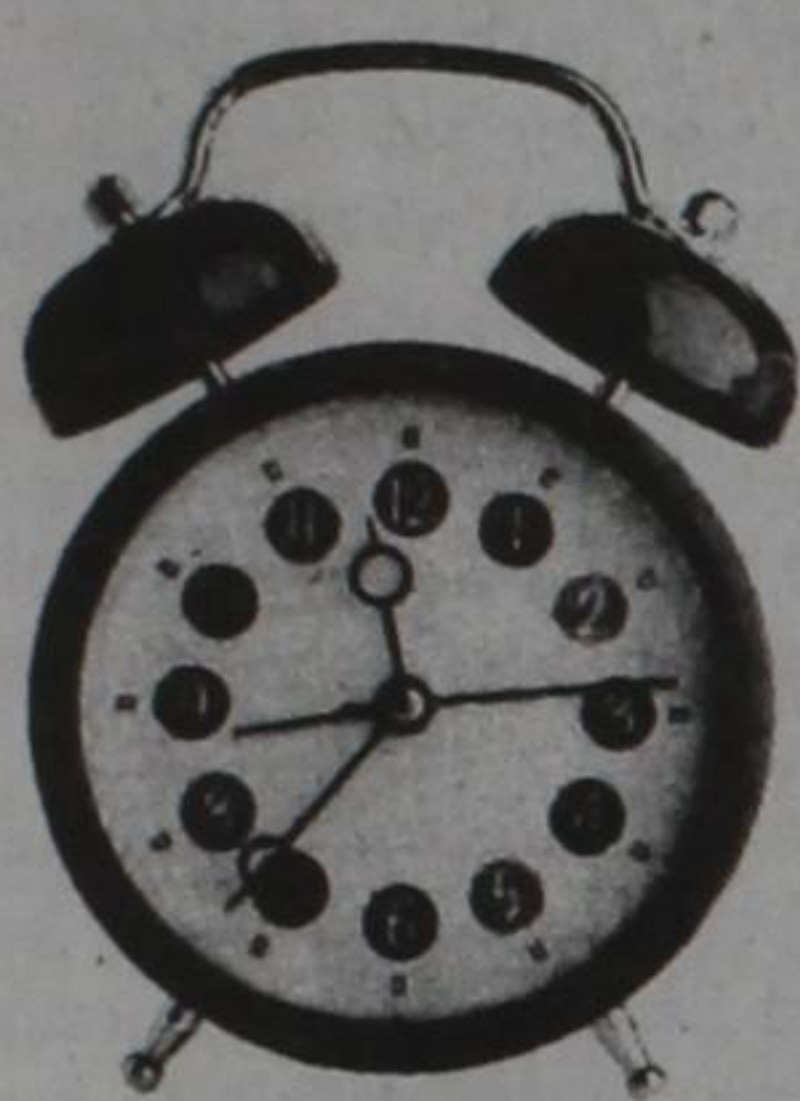
Bush's main justification for war was the assertion that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, but none has been found.

The administration also has not located terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden nor Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, though a U.S. raid Tuesday killed Saddam's sons.

Hammerschmidt, the former Arkansas congressman, said that if given a chance he would tell Bush there's a simple way to regain ground lost in polls.

"Talk very frankly and candidly to the American people," he said. "That has been your strength."

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Yzaguirre
from Page 1

He also voiced dismay that the administration has yet to meet with leaders of Hispanic advocacy organizations, noting that Latino leaders had already met with President Bill Clinton and George H. W. Bush at this point in their administrations.

"You either respond to critics or you try to isolate them and go around them," Wilkes said. "NCLR and LULAC don't run for election."

The White House and Republican leadership would be making a mistake not to return calls and freezing Latino leaders out, he warned.

Oscar Sánchez, executive director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, called Yzaguirre's speech "rather mild in comparison to what's happening to Latino workers."

He said it was "unconscionable" that the administration has not focused any attention to normalize the status of hundreds of thousands of Latino workers, using national security as justification.

However, those Latino groups that Republicans count on regularly for support didn't let the president down. On foreign policy, the administration received high marks from the Cuban-American National Foundation. Executive vice president Dennis Hays stressed to Hispanic Link that Bush has long been a "very strong advocate for freedom and democracy in Cuba." Hays, a former ambassador to Suriname, said the administration has done a good job protecting the national security.

Sharon Castillo, spokesperson for the Republican National Committee, pointed to areas where Bush has helped Latinos: initiatives that seek to increase the number of Latino homeowners; the soon-to-be finalized free trade pact with Chile; and extension of temporary protected status for Nicaraguans and Hondurans.

"It's the responsibility of Hispanics to look out for the interests of all Latinos," not solely to represent the liberal left, Castillo said of Yzaguirre's remarks.

Both parties predict that the Latino role in the 2004 presidential election will be of unprecedented importance. How active and influential Hispanic organizations are in the race could spell the difference. That's something on which there is little disagreement.

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Yzaguirre Critica Bush

viene de la primera

Si bien el discurso atacó a ambos partidos por no progresar sobre los asuntos que afectan a la comunidad latina, Yzaguirre indicó que "no podemos hacer responsables a los demócratas por lo que no pueden controlar". Enfatizó a Hispanic Link durante una llamada telefónica de conferencia el 22 de julio que "no cuentan con una mayoría en ninguna de las dos cámaras, ni tampoco controlan la Casa Blanca".

También dio voz a su decepción con la administración por no haberse reunido aún con dirigentes de las organizaciones pro-latinos, señalando que los líderes latinos ya se habían reunido con los presidentes Clinton y Bush (padre) para estas alturas de sus administraciones.

"O se responde a los críticos o se intenta aislarlos y evitarlos", dijo Wilkes. "Las organizaciones NCLR y la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos no hacen campaña de elecciones". La Casa Blanca y el liderazgo republicano estarían cometiendo un error al no responder a llamadas telefónicas y al querer aislar a los dirigentes latinos, avisó.

Oscar Sánchez, director del consejo laboral para el progreso latinoamericano, dijo que el discurso de Yzaguirre fue "algo ligero comparado con lo que ocurre con los trabajadores latinos".

Le dijo a Hispanic Link que era "inescrupuloso" que la administración no se haya enfocado en nada para normalizar el estatus cientos de miles de trabajadores latinos, justificándose con razones de seguridad nacional.

Aquellos grupos latinos con

los que cuentan los republicanos regularmente no le fallaron al presidente.

En cuanto a la política exterior, la administración recibió altas notas de la fundación nacional cubana-americana Dennis Hays, vice presidente ejecutivo de la fundación enfatizó que hace mucho tiempo que Bush ha sido "un gran promotor de la libertad y la democracia en Cuba". Hays, antiguo embajador a Surinam, dijo que la administración ha hecho bien al proteger la seguridad nacional de los Estados Unidos.

Sharon Castillo, vocera para el comité nacional republicano, señaló sectores en los que Bush ha ayudado a los latinos: las iniciativas cuya intención es aumentar el número de propietarios de casa latinos; el tratado de libre comercio próximo a finalizarse con Chile; y la extensión del estado protegido temporal para nicaragenses y hondureños.

"Es responsabilidad de los hispanos velar por los intereses de todos los latinos", no sólo representar la izquierda liberal, dijo Castillo del discurso de Yzaguirre.

Ambos partidos proyectan que el papel desempeñado por los latinos en las elecciones presidenciales del 2004 será de una importancia sin precedentes. La diferencia podrá residir en lo activos e influyentes que las organizaciones sean durante la campaña. He aquí un punto en el que todos concuerdan. (c) 2003 Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Tribune Media Services International.

El Editor



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Report:

Woman consented to sexual contact, but not intercourse

Kobe Bryant and the woman who accused him of sexual assault had some consensual sexual contact in his mountain resort suite, but prosecutors will argue the woman did not consent to intercourse, ABC News reported Wednesday.

Citing unnamed sources, the network also said the 19-year-old woman was in Bryant's room for less than a half hour and that Bryant later gave inconsistent statements to Eagle County authorities.

The woman suffered physical trauma in the vaginal area, the Rocky Mountain News reported Thursday, citing law enforcement sources close to the investigation.

Krista Flannigan, a spokeswoman for the Eagle County prosecutor, did not return calls or pages late Wednesday. She declined comment to the newspaper.

Bryant's attorney, Pamela Mackey, did not return a phone message seeking comment. Police and court records have been sealed and a judge has limited what officials can say about the case.

Bryant, an All-Star guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, has been charged with one count of sexual assault. Bryant, who is married with one daughter, said he had consensual sex with the

woman. Bryant has posted a \$25,000 bond and is scheduled to return to Colorado on Aug. 6 for an initial court appearance, where he will be advised of the charge against him and of his rights.

In a report posted on its website, ABC News reported that the woman, who was a concierge at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, gave Bryant a tour of the facility on June 30. He later called and asked her to come to his room and she did, the report said.

When he filed charges July 18, prosecutor Mark Hurlbert said he had both physical and testimonial evidence to prove the case. He said Bryant forced the victim into "submission" through physical force but refused to disclose other details.

County Judge Frederick Gannett will hear arguments Thursday during a four-hour hearing on whether the records should be made public. He agreed Wednesday to allow cameras in the courtroom for that hearing.

The Kobe Bryant case has brought unprecedented media attention to tiny Eagle, Colo.

Attorneys for media organizations -- including the Los Angeles Times, Denver Post and NBC -- have argued that many details have been pub-

lized already, some by Bryant and the district attorney. They also contend the public should have the opportunity to determine the veracity of statements made by those involved in the case.

Hurlbert on Wednesday asked the judge to postpone the hearing, saying a 230-page filing from media attorneys he received late Tuesday was "untimely, disorganized and overly lengthy." The judge denied the request.

Hurlbert and defense lawyers want to keep the records sealed, arguing that publicity could affect Bryant's right to a fair trial. Defense attorneys Mackey and Hal Haddon also have asked Gannett to reconsider an earlier order allowing cameras in the courtroom during Bryant's initial appearance.

Gannett has ordered a limit on public comment about the case by attorneys, authorities and others, including Bryant and any witnesses. He said the order was necessary to guarantee a fair trial.

Gannett also warned organizations not to publish or broadcast the name or photograph of any witness, juror, potential juror or the alleged victim and her family on the courthouse grounds. Any organization violating the order

could be denied a seat in the courtroom.

Legal experts said some of the sealed documents probably contain information that would not be admissible as evidence and could jeopardize potential jurors' impartiality.

"And frankly, you're dealing with Kobe Bryant, and Kobe Bryant is a celebrity," said New York criminal defense attorney Lawrence Goldman. "The only evidence that's going to come out presumably is going to be negative and will hurt his image personally, commercially and in terms of his stature as one of the great basketball players."

But judges typically have to explain their decisions and have good reasons to keep documents sealed, said Jane Kirtley, professor of media ethics and law at the University of Minnesota.

"Sometimes courts decide to seal everything to be safe, but that's not very sound reasoning from a legal standpoint," said Kirtley, former executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "Courts are supposed to be open and the nature of how courts do justice and how they get to the point of doing justice is supposed to be subject to public scrutiny."

Dotson gives interview from jail as autopsy is released

The man charged with killing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy suggested in a jailhouse interview he acted in self-defense and also said he has been hearing voices, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Police found Patrick Dennehy's body about four miles from Baylor's Waco, Texas, campus. "I thought he was my friend but he betrayed me," Carlton Dotson told the Dallas Morning News in a story in Thursday editions. "If someone points a gun at you and shoots and it doesn't go off, what would you do? If someone is pointing a gun at you and they start putting more bullets into the gun, what would you do?"

Asked what he did, Dotson, Dennehy's former teammate and roommate, only laughed and did not answer, the newspaper reported.

Dennehy had been missing about six weeks when his decomposed body was found Friday night in a grassy field four miles from the Baylor campus. Investigators had been searching for the 21-year-old at nearby gravel pits, a site police say Dotson provided to them after his July 21 arrest.

Dotson told FBI agents that he shot Dennehy after the player tried to shoot him, according to the arrest warrant affidavit. A preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday said Dennehy was killed by gunshot wounds to the head, and listed homicide as the cause of death.

After his arrest, Dotson told the Associated Press that he "didn't confess to anything." Since then, Dotson has not responded to a request from the AP for an interview. Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bond in his home state of Maryland and awaits extradition to Texas, which could take as long as three months.

Dotson told the Morning News that after he moved out of Dennehy's apartment, his friend often gave him rides.

"I wish I wouldn't (have) gotten into the truck that day," he said, declining to elaborate.

Dotson said his life has been threatened and that he has been hearing voices that say, "We are many. We are strong. We are behind you. We support you. We are ready for war ... a spiritual war." He also confirmed that Baylor paid for him to see a Waco therapist because of his increasingly erratic behavior.

The newspaper said Dotson also related a confusing story about meeting someone named Roman in Texas who told him he would be able to do miraculous things. At the end of the 10-minute session, Dotson asked for prayers.

"I'm really not a bad person,"

he told the newspaper. "Some things happen that aren't in your control."

Baltimore television station WJZ-TV reported late Wednesday that Dotson was placed on suicide watch in jail Tuesday.

A .32-caliber revolver that belonged to Dennehy was found near his body, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported Wednesday, citing an unidentified source close to the investigation.

Near the gun, authorities found .32-caliber bullets that had spilled from an ammunition box, the newspaper reported. There was no evidence the .32 had been fired, but officials recovered nearby shell casings from a 9mm pistol, the paper reported.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced the ownership of a gun found near Dennehy's body, said Mark Curtin, a spokesman in the Austin office. He declined Wednesday to reveal those results.

McLennan County sheriff's Capt. Paul Wash would not say whether any weapons were found near Dennehy's remains.

Dotson's attorney, Grady Irvin Jr., told the Associated Press late Wednesday that he had no knowledge of his client being around Dennehy when guns were present.

Irvin criticized the media, saying, "Until they get some hard facts, I think it's journalistically irresponsible to report inferences. The media is supposed to report the news, not make the news, and that's what the media is doing in an effort to be first."

Dennehy was killed in the field where his body was found, according to the preliminary autopsy report by the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas. It does not specify how many times he was shot, whether he suffered any other wounds or the day he died. The complete autopsy was expected to take several more weeks.

Jessica De La Rosa, who dated Dennehy for two years, said she believes he never would have pretended or tried to shoot Dotson.

"I was not there, but I know Patrick extremely well. ... Patrick would not do that even if the gun was completely empty," De La Rosa told the Associated Press from her home in Albuquerque, N.M. "But God does know. God saw it. I hope Dotson knows that because it will sit in his heart."

A funeral service is set for Aug. 7 at the Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose, Calif., near where Dennehy grew up. A campus memorial service is being planned Aug. 28 at Baylor, the world's largest Baptist university with 14,000 students.

Federal prosecutors back San Antonio Express-News

Unseal Court Documents on Case of Former Texas Attorney General Morales

Federal prosecutors are backing the San Antonio Express-News' request to unseal a court document that reportedly

specifies what former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales did wrong in his fraud case. Court transcripts show U.S.

District Judge Sam Sparks sealed the eight-page "factual basis" on July 17 for reasons he did not specify. On July 18, the newspaper filed a motion seeking to unseal the document.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Blankinship filed a response Wednesday saying the newspaper's request should be granted.

As of Friday, no responses have been filed by lawyers for Morales or his co-defendant, Marc Douglas Murr. The judge has not set a hearing on the

matter.

If unsealed, the document is expected to more specifically state what activity was behind the charges Morales pleaded guilty to -- mail fraud and falsifying his 1998 tax return. The charges stem mainly from how Morales handled litigation against tobacco companies that resulted in a \$17.3 billion settlement for the state in 1998.

At the plea hearing, prosecutors alleged a scheme in which Morales aimed to cut Murr in on the settlement when he did little or no work on the case.

Services for Homeless Families

Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality Network will host a free one-hour introduction to services for homeless families and their children. A short program and refreshments will be available 5:30-6:30 pm. August 28 in the lower level of the Trinity Church, 7002 Canton.

Volunteers and staff will explain how LIHN is restoring hope and futures for children who have experienced homelessness with their low-income, working parents. Local families who have progressed from homelessness to having their own place through services at LIHN will discuss their experiences by video.

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Vi a Celia el dia despues Que Murio

Por Olivia Muñoz

El día después que murió la legendaria cantante de salsa, Celia Cruz, la vi. No fue ni un sueño ni una aparición, sino la percibi en los ojos y los gestos de un actor llamado Francesca.

Habiendo visto a Celia Cruz por televisión la mayoría de mi vida, conocía los gestos típicos: el zapateo rápido pero sutil, la cabeza ladeada, coqueta, recuerdo de sus presentaciones juveniles en Havana, la sempiterna sonrisa, la sacudida de los dedos al cantar "La vida es un carnaval". Esta canción, cuyo tema es vivir de

lento la vida, fue un éxito para Celia en el 2001, a cinco décadas y 70 álbumes de comenzar su carrera.

Cuando supe que podría asistir a la presentación de un imitador (y afanoso de por vida) de Celia Cruz, aproveché la oportunidad. Así fue que vi una presentación de "Celia Cruz" el día después de su fallecimiento en La Cueva, un club nocturno latino peñeñísimo, recientemente inaugurado, en Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Al sentarme entre el escaso público en lo que podrá ser el único club latino de travesties

en Michigan, no sabía a qué atenerme.

¡Pero qué espectáculo me esperaba!

Mientras Francesca recitaba y bromeaba e imitaba a Celia cantando, el público aplaudía y ofrecía propinas, al igual que yo. La luz del traje largo, dorado, de lentejuelas de la imitadora de Celia reflejó en la docena de espectadores. Previo a la actuación habíamos guardado un momento de silencio para honrar a la cantante que murió en julio a los 77 años después de luchar siete meses con cáncer al cerebro.

"Doy gracias a Dios por permitirme existir sobre la tierra con ella. Es la que me enseñó todo", dijo Francesca, un joven cubano quien se negó a proporcionarme con más que su pseudónimo.

Cuando vi la noticia del fallecimiento de Celia Cruz por la pantalla en la sala de redacción del periódico donde trabajo, me quedé estupefacta.

Lo primero que se me cruzó por la mente fue, "Doña Celia, ¿quién rellenará sus pelucas, sus trajes de lentejuelas, sus

zapatos de tacones plataforma? ¿Quién perdurará como ella, quién podrá dar y dar más a sus admiradores? ¿Quién agregará el azúcar -- ese azúcar del que usted habló - a nuestras vidas?"

Será su familia, sus admiradores, y si, hasta los actores como Francesca, quien de su propia manera le rinden tributo a la Reina de la Salsa.

Aunque se le conozca tanto por su voz como por su estilo (hay en la colección permanente de la Smithsonian Institution un vestido suyo con botas blancas, anaranjadas y rojas y zapatos forrados con la misma tela), se le recordará también por los muchos honores que recibió. Nominada para el premio Grammy diez veces, Celia Cruz, quien cantaba más que nada en español, recibió el premio de éxito vitalicio -- el Smithsonian Lifetime Achievement Award, una medalla nacional de las artes, y doctorados honoríficos de la universidad de Yale y de la de Miami. La Calle Ocho, avenida principal de la pequeña Havana en Miami, ha sido vuelta a nombrar "Celia Cruz", en honor a ella. Nada mal para una muchacha con 13 hermanos del Barrio Santa Suárez, Havana, ¿no?

Celia, ¿quién calzará esos luminosos zapatos con bolas? Pero más importante, ¿quién alcanzará a tener su voz?

En un país atiborrado de presentadores regocijándose en libretos de penas de amor, de ira y de miseria, usted cantaba de vivir la vida, como la vida es un carnaval. Cantó del amor, la felicidad, y el dulce, dulce azúcar. Gracias por todo.

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I saw Celia the day after she died

By Olivia Muñoz

The day after salsa legend Celia Cruz died, I saw her. Not in a dream or as an apparition, but in the eyes and the movements of a performer named Francesca.

Having watched Cruz on TV for most of my life, I knew the typical moves: the quick but subtle shuffling of the feet, the coquettish head tilt she brought from her youthful performances in Havana's night spots, the ever-present smile, the finger-shaking as she sang "La vida es un carnaval." The song, about living life to the fullest, was a

hit for Celia in 2001, five decades and 70 albums after she began her career.

When I had the chance to see an imitator (and lifelong fan) of Celia Cruz, I took it. And so it was that I saw "Celia Cruz" perform, a day after her death, at La Cueva, a tiny, newly opened Latino nightclub in Grand Rapids, Mich.

When I took my seat among the sparse audience at what is perhaps Michigan's only Latin cross-dressing club, I didn't know what to expect.

But what a show awaited me!

continued on page 6

The Family of Genaro Stephen Chavez

On behalf of our family, we wish to express our gratitude for the kindness evidenced in thought and deed and your attendance at the funeral service of our son Genaro Stephen Chavez. We would like to thank all those who remembered us during our time of grief and the many who brought food, sent flowers, and/or just provided companionship. We are grateful and no words could express what your support has meant to us. We wish to thank Calvillo Funeral Home, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fathers David Cruz and Brendan Walsh and Deacons who provided a beautiful service. Also, the U.M.C. staff; our brothers and sisters from L.U.L.A.C.; his brothers from Theta Chi at the University of Texas in Austin; and all his friends. Stephen will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

May God be with you all.

Sinceramente y de todo corazon, Gracias!



Hope Buried After Private Dawn Funeral

Bob Hope was buried at San Fernando Mission Cemetery Wednesday following a private funeral Mass.

The service -- attended by about 100 family members and close friends -- at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, a few blocks west of the Hope Toluca Lake estate, was held at 6:30 a.m., police Sgt. Tony Carranza said. There were no details about the Mass, which was a closely guarded family secret.



Police then led a 25-car procession to the cemetery in Mission Hills, a northern San Fernando Valley neighborhood about 12 miles from the Hope estate, Carranza said. There was a half-hour burial ceremony.

Streets around the cemetery were blocked by police to give the family privacy. The family left in three black limousines, about 8:30 a.m.

The burial location had been shrouded in secrecy, with speculation including Arlington National Cemetery.

Daughter Linda Hope said Monday that her father, who died Sunday at age 100, was recently asked by wife Dolores where he wanted to be buried and the wisecracking entertainer responded, "Surprise me."

The 86-acre cemetery is next to the historic San Fernando Mission Rey de Espana, founded on Sept. 8, 1797.

Other celebrities buried at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery include Richie Valens, William Bendix, William Frawley, Walter Brennan, George Gobel, June Marlowe, Jerry Colonna and Chuck Connors.

President Bush decreed in a special proclamation that flags be flown at half-staff Wednesday. The family also plans an Aug. 27 invitation-only Mass at St. Charles Borromeo and a public memorial that afternoon at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood.

AVISO PUBLICO ACLARACIONES BREVES DE LAS ENMIENDAS CONSTITUCIONALES eleccion especial del 13 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2003

PROPOSICIÓN 1 (HJR 68, Sección 1)

La sección 1 de la HJR 68 (Resolución Conjunta de la Cámara de Representantes), autorizará a la Junta de Tierras de Veteranos (Veterans' Land Board) a utilizar el exceso de ingresos en el fondo de Tierras de Veteranos y Asistencia para la Vivienda de Veteranos para el pago de bonos garantizados con ingresos fiscales y a usar el exceso de los activos de dichos fondos para proporcionar viviendas a veteranos.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la Junta de Tierras de Veteranos (Veterans' Land Board) a usar los activos en ciertos fondos de tierras y de ayuda para la vivienda de veteranos para proporcionar casas a veteranos ancianos o debilitados y para hacer pagos de capital, intereses y mejoramiento en los bonos garantizados con ingresos fiscales."

PROPOSICIÓN 2 (HJR 51)

La HJR 51 expandiría de seis meses a dos años el período en el que el expropiatorio de los derechos para explotar yacimientos de minerales que hayan sido vendidos para saldar impuestos inmobiliarios pendientes de pago, podría volver a comprar tales derechos.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para establecer un período de dos años para el rescate de un derecho mineral que se haya vendido para saldar impuestos ad valorem pendientes de pago durante una venta de bienes destinada a satisfacer impuestos no pagados."

PROPOSICIÓN 3 (HJR 55)

La HJR 55 autorizará a la legislatura a eximir de impuestos los terrenos propiedad de organizaciones religiosas que estén arrendados para usarse como escuelas o que se van a utilizar para expandir o construir un espacio para actividades religiosas que no producirá ingresos.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a eximir de impuestos ad valorem la propiedad perteneciente a organizaciones religiosas que esté arrendada para usarse como escuela o de la que son dueños, con la intención de expandir o construir un centro religioso."

PROPOSICIÓN 4 (SJR 30)

La SJR 30 (Resolución Conjunta del Senado) autorizará a la legislatura a permitir a los distritos de conservación y reclamación a utilizar impuestos para desarrollar y financiar ciertos parques e instalaciones recreativas. Además, la enmienda autorizará a la legislatura a permitir elecciones locales para emitir bonos para mejorar y mantener parques e instalaciones recreativas en el Distrito Regional de Agua de Tarrant o un distrito de conservación y reclamación ubicada parcial o totalmente en los condados

de Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller o Williamson.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que se relaciona con el desarrollo de parques e instalaciones recreativas en ciertos distritos de conservación y reclamación."

PROPOSICIÓN 5 (SJR 25)

La SJR 25 autorizará a la legislatura a eximir de todos los impuestos sobre la propiedad ciertas propiedades personales tangibles, lo que podría incluir una casa remolque de campamento que no esté substancialmente fijada a bienes raíces y que no se use como residencia.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a eximir de impuestos ad valorem a casas remolque de campamento que no se usen o participen en la producción de ingresos."

PROPOSICIÓN 6 (HJR 23)

La HJR 23 autorizará al propietario calificado de una vivienda, a refinanciar un préstamo cuya garantía es el valor líquido de la vivienda del prestatario, con una hipoteca invertida.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que permite refinanciar un préstamo cuya garantía es el valor líquido de la vivienda del prestatario con una hipoteca invertida."

PROPOSICIÓN 7 (HJR 44)

La HJR 44 reduciría de doce a seis el número de personas que forman el jurado en una corte de distrito en casos de delitos menores de carácter penal.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que permite un jurado de seis personas en un juicio que se lleve a cabo en una corte de distrito para juzgar un delito menor."

PROPOSICIÓN 8 (HJR 62)

La HJR 62 autorizará a la legislatura a permitirle a una persona asumir un cargo sin que se lleve a cabo una elección, si la persona es el(la) único(a) candidato(a) que reúne las condiciones necesarias para elección a ese cargo y la Constitución de Texas exige que se lleve a cabo una elección. Esta proposición se aplica a las subdivisiones políticas estatales y locales, mientras que la Proposición 18 se aplica a las subdivisiones políticas locales exclusivamente.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a permitirle a una persona asumir un cargo sin que se haya celebrado una elección, si dicha persona es el(la) único(a) candidato(a) que ha reunido las condiciones necesarias para elección a dicho cargo."

PROPOSICIÓN 9 (HJR 68, Sección 2)

La Sección 2 de la HJR 68, redefiniría la composición de los fondos escolares permanentes y disponibles, y exigiría que durante los próximos dos años fiscales se hagan distribuciones anuales al fondo escolar disponible de un porcentaje de cualquier aumento en el valor total de la inversión de los activos del fondo escolar permanente, y autorizaría dichas distribuciones anuales de ahí en adelante.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional con relación al uso de los ingresos y el aumento de valor de los fondos escolares permanentes."

PROPOSICIÓN 10 (HJR 61)

La HJR 61 autorizará a las municipalidades a donar suministros, materiales o equipo contra incendios sobrantes al Servicio Forestal de Texas (Texas Forest Service), el cual tendría autorizado a distribuirlos basado en las necesidades de los departamentos de bomberos voluntarios en las áreas rurales.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a las municipalidades a donar equipo o artículos contra incendios sobrantes, para beneficio de los departamentos de bomberos voluntarios en las áreas rurales."

PROPOSICIÓN 11 (HJR 85)

La HJR 85 autorizará a la legislatura a regular la operación de empresas vinícolas en Texas, sin importar si la empresa vinícola está ubicada en un área en la cual la venta de vino ha sido autorizada por elección de opción local.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "Una enmienda constitucional que permite a la legislatura promulgar leyes que autoricen y gobiernen la operación de empresas vinícolas en este estado."

PROPOSICIÓN 12 (HJR 3)

La HJR 3 autorizará inmediatamente a la Legislatura a imponer límites en los daños y perjuicios de naturaleza no económica que se pueden adjudicar contra un proveedor de cuidados médicos o de salud y, a partir del 1º de enero de 2005, a limitar la indemnización en todos los demás tipos de casos.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a determinar límites para daños y perjuicios no económicos en litigios civiles en contra de médicos y proveedores de servicios de salud y en otras acciones jurídicas."

PROPOSICIÓN 13 (HJR 16)

La HJR 16 autorizará a condados, ciudades, pueblos y a distritos de universidad de dos años a congelar los impuestos sobre propiedad designada y protegida por ley como residencia principal de una persona incapacitada o mayor de 65 años.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para permitir a condados, ciudades, pueblos, y a distritos de universidad de dos años, congelar el impuesto ad valorem sobre propiedades designadas y protegidas por ley como residencias principales

de incapacitados y de ancianos y sus cónyuges."

PROPOSICIÓN 14 (HJR 28)

La HJR 28 autorizará al Departamento de Transporte de Texas (Texas Department of Transportation) a emitir pagarés o pedir dinero prestado para financiar proyectos de mejoramiento de carreteras. Los plazos de los pagarés o préstamos no podrán exceder dos años.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a una agencia de transporte del estado a emitir pagarés o obtener préstamos a corto plazo para proyectos relacionados con el transporte y la emisión de bonos u otros valores que el fondo de carreteras del estado haya obtenido."

PROPOSICIÓN 15 (HJR 54)

La HJR 54 le prohibiría a un sistema local para la jubilación y a la subdivisión política que lo financie, reducir o de otra forma desvalorizar ciertos beneficios acumulados bajo el sistema local de jubilación.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que provee que ciertos beneficios bajo ciertos sistemas públicos locales de jubilación no puedan reducirse o desvalorizarse."

PROPOSICIÓN 16 (SJR 42)

La SJR 42 enmendaría la Constitución de Texas para permitir líneas de crédito garantizadas con el valor líquido de una vivienda, y permitir el refinanciamiento de un préstamo cuya garantía es la vivienda del prestatario por medio de una hipoteca invertida.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza una línea de crédito garantizada con el valor líquido de una vivienda, que estipula la interpretación administrativa de la ley de préstamos garantizados con el valor líquido de una vivienda, y que también se refiere al otorgamiento, refinanciamiento, amortización y al hacer cumplir de préstamos garantizados con el valor líquido de una vivienda."

PROPOSICIÓN 17 (HJR 21)

La HJR 21 prohibiría un aumento en los impuestos escolares sobre la propiedad designada y protegida por ley como residencia principal de personas incapacitadas.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para prohibir un aumento en la cantidad total de impuestos ad valorem de los distritos escolares que pueden imponerse a una propiedad designada y protegida por ley como residencia principal de familia de una persona incapacitada."

PROPOSICIÓN 18 (HJR 59)

La HJR 59 autorizará a la legislatura a permitirle a una persona asumir un cargo de una subdivisión política, sin que se lleve a cabo una elección, si la persona es el(la) único(a) candidato(a) que reúne las condiciones necesarias para elección a tal cargo y la Constitución de Texas exige que se lleve a cabo una elección. Esta proposición se aplica sólo a subdivisiones políticas locales, mientras que la Proposición 8 se aplica a las subdivi-

siones políticas estatales y locales.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a permitirle a una persona asumir un cargo de una subdivisión política sin que se haya celebrado una elección, si la persona es el(la) único(a) candidato(a) que reúne los requisitos necesarios para elección a dicho cargo."

PROPOSICIÓN 19 (SJR 45)

La SJR 45 le revocaría a la legislatura la autoridad de crear distritos rurales para la prevención de incendios. A partir del 1º de septiembre de 2003, todos los actuales distritos rurales para la prevención de incendios se convertirán en distritos de servicios de emergencia.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para revocar la autoridad de la legislatura para estipular la creación de distritos rurales para la prevención de incendios."

PROPOSICIÓN 20 (SJR 55)

La SJR 55 autorizará la emisión de bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no deberá exceder \$250 millones, que se utilizará para subvencionar préstamos para proyectos de desarrollo económico que beneficien a las comunidades en Texas relacionadas con la defensa.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza la emisión de bonos de obligación general o pagarés que no excedan \$250 millones, pagaderos mediante los ingresos generales del estado, para subvencionar préstamos a comunidades relacionadas con la defensa para proyectos de desarrollo económico, incluyendo proyectos que mejoren el valor militar de las instalaciones militares y que serán amortizados por la propia comunidad."

PROPOSICIÓN 21 (SJR 19)

La SJR 19 autorizará a los miembros actuales y jubilados de la facultad de una institución pública de educación superior a recibir compensación por sus servicios como miembros del cuerpo directivo de un distrito de agua.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional para permitirle a un miembro actual o jubilado de la facultad de una universidad o un colegio universitario públicos a recibir compensación por su servicio en el cuerpo directivo de un distrito de agua."

PROPOSICIÓN 22 (HJR 84)

La HJR 84 autorizará el nombramiento de un funcionario suplente temporal que serviría en nombre del(la) funcionario(a) público(a) del estado, distrito o localidad que sea llamado(a) a prestar servicio militar activo por más de 30 días.

La proposición aparecerá en la boleta de la forma siguiente: "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza el nombramiento de un(a) funcionario(a) para reemplazar de forma temporal la vacante creada cuando un(a) funcionario(a) público(a) entre al servicio activo de las fuerzas armadas de Estados Unidos."

Publicado por Gwyn Shea, Secretario de Estado de Texas

House Passes Bill Aimed at Lowering Drug Costs

The U.S. House of Representatives, defying some of its own leaders, passed a bill on Friday aimed at providing access to cheaper medicines by allowing Americans to import drugs from 25 nations.

The measure was promptly denounced by 53 senators who signed a letter saying they objected to efforts that would deny the administration the chance to pre-certify the safety of the program.

The 243-186 House vote, which crossed party, regional and ideological lines, was a rare defeat for the influential pharmaceutical industry. Some top House Republicans also worked hard to defeat it, and the White House and the American Medical Association weighed in against it.

House supporters said they felt momentum building in their favor. "We did this against an army of 600-plus lobbyists and millions of dollars of misinformation," Missouri Republican Rep. Jo Ann Emerson said.

The bill's backers argued it would give patients immediate relief from some of the world's

highest drug prices. Foes said it would jeopardize patient safety by allowing diluted, expired, tainted or even terrorist-engineered fakes across U.S. borders.

"It's injurious to the public health," thundered Michigan Democrat John Dingell. "You are not making cheaper drugs available; you are putting our citizens at risk."

Lead sponsor Gil Gutknecht, a Minnesota Republican, said his bill would allow people to import their own U.S.-approved medicines, and enable pharmacists and drug wholesalers to bring in lower cost supplies from approved countries. He predicted the overseas competition would bring down U.S. drug prices.

Gutknecht scoffed at safety concerns, saying if the United States could safely import everything from orange juice to uranium, it could figure out how to safely ship medications in tamper-proof packages.

The House Republican leadership had not wanted the vote but was forced to schedule it as the price for getting Emerson to cast the deciding vote

on their Medicare prescription drug benefit last month.

Gutknecht called the victory "a wake-up call" for House Republican leaders. "I think they've been misreading this issue for a long time," he said.

The drug industry's lobbying group, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said the bill would jeopardize safety "and import foreign governments' price controls."

Gutknecht and his allies stressed that the medicines would have to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and be manufactured in FDA-approved plants.

Drugs could be imported -- or re-imported if, as is often the case, they were U.S.-manufactured -- from Canada, Australia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, and European Union countries.

The House bill is much broader than language contained in Medicare prescription drug bills now the subject of House-Senate negotiations. That would allow importation only from Canada, on a one-year trial basis.

Similar drug import bills have been approved in the past, but officials refused to certify their safety so the programs never went into effect. This version does not require the administration to pre-certify the safety.

Democrats Target GOP Candidates for Defeat

House Democrats likely to be targeted by Republicans in 2004 are steadily building their campaign war chests after a slow start, to the relief of party strategists.

Rep. Jim Marshall, a first-term Georgian who raised \$53,000 in the first quarter of the year, pulled in another \$130,000 in the three months ending June 30. Rep. Jim Matheson of Utah, narrowly elected to his second term in November, has raised \$321,000 so far this year, after showing only \$61,000 in contributions as of March 31.

And Rep. Dennis Moore of Kansas, a perennial Republican target, has raised \$358,000 to date, after posting donations of \$124,000 in the first quarter.

"The amount of money that our folks were able to raise is very encouraging at this stage in the game. It means they're taking this very seriously and any challengers should beware," said Kori Bernards, a spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Republican lawmakers who were narrow winners in 2002 got off to far stronger starts in fund raising this year, aided by the Retain Our Majority Program, a GOP leadership-backed effort designed to help potentially vulnerable incumbents raise early money.

Republicans have used such efforts before and were well-

positioned to employ it quickly in this election cycle.

Democrats, by contrast, were in the midst of a complete leadership overhaul and slower in setting up a similar program, dubbed Frontline Democrats.

For months now, Democratic strategists have spoken about the need to expand the number of Republican-held House seats where they hope to compete and have dispatched campaign experts to at least 42 districts.

But while Democratic incumbents have begun to raise money, the same can't generally be said of challengers.

Only four Democratic challengers have more than \$10,000 in the bank, according to a GOP check of the campaign fund raising reports. Two are running against each another for the primary nod and the right to oppose Rep. Max Burns in Georgia, a first-term Republican in a district that President Bush lost overwhelmingly in 2000.

By contrast, Republicans say 11 of their potential challengers have more than \$100,000, including several lining up for rematches of races they lost last fall. Among them are Calder Clay, who narrowly lost to Marshall in Georgia; Adam Taff, who fell to Moore in Kansas; and John Swallow, whom Matheson defeated by slightly more than 1,600 votes.

Celia

From page 5

As Francesca recited and joked and lip-synched Celia's songs, the audience clapped and tipped, and so did I. The sequined, gold-lamé gown of the faux Celia bounced light off the dozen or so spectators.

Earlier, we all stood in a moment of silence for the singer who died at 77 this month after a seven-month struggle with brain cancer.

"I give thanks to God for letting me exist on this Earth with her," said Francesca, a young Cuban man who refused to offer any other name. "She is the one who taught me everything."

When I saw the news of Celia Cruz's death scroll across my screen at the newspaper where I work, I was stupefied.

My first thought was, "Doña Celia, who will fill your wigs, your sequined dresses, your platform shoes? Who will have that staying power, that ability to give and give to fans? Who will add sugar -- that *azúcar* you talked about -- to our lives?"

It will be her family, her fans and, yes, even performers like Francesca, who in their own way pay tribute to the Queen of Salsa.

Although she's known for her style as much as her voice (an orange, red and white polka-dot dress with matching shoes sits in a permanent collection at a Smithsonian Institution), she will be remembered for her many honors, as well. A 10-time Grammy nominee, Cruz, who sang chiefly in her native Spanish, received a Smithsonian Lifetime Achievement Award, a National Medal of the Arts and honorary doctorates from Yale University and the University of Miami. Calle Ocho, the main stretch through Miami's Little Havana, was renamed in her honor. Not bad for a girl with 13 siblings from Barrio Santra Suárez in Havana.

Celia, who will fill those bright, polka-dot shoes of yours? But more important, who will ever fill your voice?

In a country littered with entertainers reveling in lyrics of heartache, misery and anger, you sang about living life, about how life is a carnival. You sang about love, happiness and sweet, sweet *azúcar*. Thank you for that.

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Ofensiva de Bush contra los matrimonios homosexuales

El presidente George W. Bush dijo ayer que abogados del gobierno trabajan en un proyecto de ley que defina al matrimonio sólo como la unión entre una mujer y un hombre, descartando así los pedidos para que legalice los casamientos homosexuales.

"Creo que el matrimonio es entre un hombre y una mujer y pienso que debemos legalizarlo de una y otra manera, y tenemos abogados que estudian la mejor manera de hacerlo", dijo el Presidente en una extensa conferencia de prensa en la Casa Blanca.

Sin embargo, Bush pidió que Estados Unidos continúe siendo un "país tolerante" y no polarizado sobre el tema de la homosexualidad.

"Pienso que es importante para nuestra sociedad respetar a cada persona, acoger a aquellos que tienen buenos corazones", sostuvo.

"Por otra parte, esto no significa que alguien como yo tenga

que cambiar su opinión con respecto al tema del matrimonio", agregó.

Desde hace tiempo Bush se opone al matrimonio entre homosexuales, pero a comienzos de este mes consideró que una prohibición constitucional a las uniones de personas del mismo sexo presentada en la Cámara de Representantes no sería necesaria.

En junio pasado, en un fallo histórico, la Corte Suprema derogó prohibiciones a lo que algunos estados han llamado actos sexuales desviados. Algunos conservadores consideran que esta decisión abrió las puertas para la legalización de los matrimonios homosexuales.

Para ser incluida en la Constitución, la propuesta de los legisladores republicanos deberá ser aprobada por dos tercios de los representantes y senadores, y ratificada por las tres cuartas partes de los estados.

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