

With Race Heating Up

Hispanic Optimistic About Their Role in Presidential Elections

By Jose A. Delgado

Washington. - Upcoming elections for the year 2000 will demonstrate a significant improvement in U.S. policy toward Hispanics, at least in the opinion of Hispanic congressional leaders.

"The best signal of the growing importance of Hispanics is that all the most important candidates are trying to address audiences in Spanish," said Rep. Xavier Becerra (Dem.-CA), former president of the Hispanic Caucus in Congress.

Hispanics account for 5 percent of the voters in the United States, 11 percent of the general population and by 2010 they will comprise the largest minority in the country, outpacing African-Americans.

Democrats, like Becerra and Rep. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, suggest that a victory by George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election would serve to reinforce "English Only" campaigns and legislation against bilingual education.

"Bush likes to speak Spanish, but his colleagues in Congress would love to eliminate

bilingual education and establish 'English Only,'" said Menendez, the four ranking member of the House minority.

to eliminate immigrants' social benefits was in a bill sponsored by a Democrat. The stereotype is incorrect. You have to look at the candidate, their platform and background," said Diaz-Balart, of Cuban descent.

The three legislators, who were contacted by EFE, agreed with the polls that indicate that, following the party primaries, which will start in February, Bush and Vice President Al Gore will be the respective candidates for their parties.

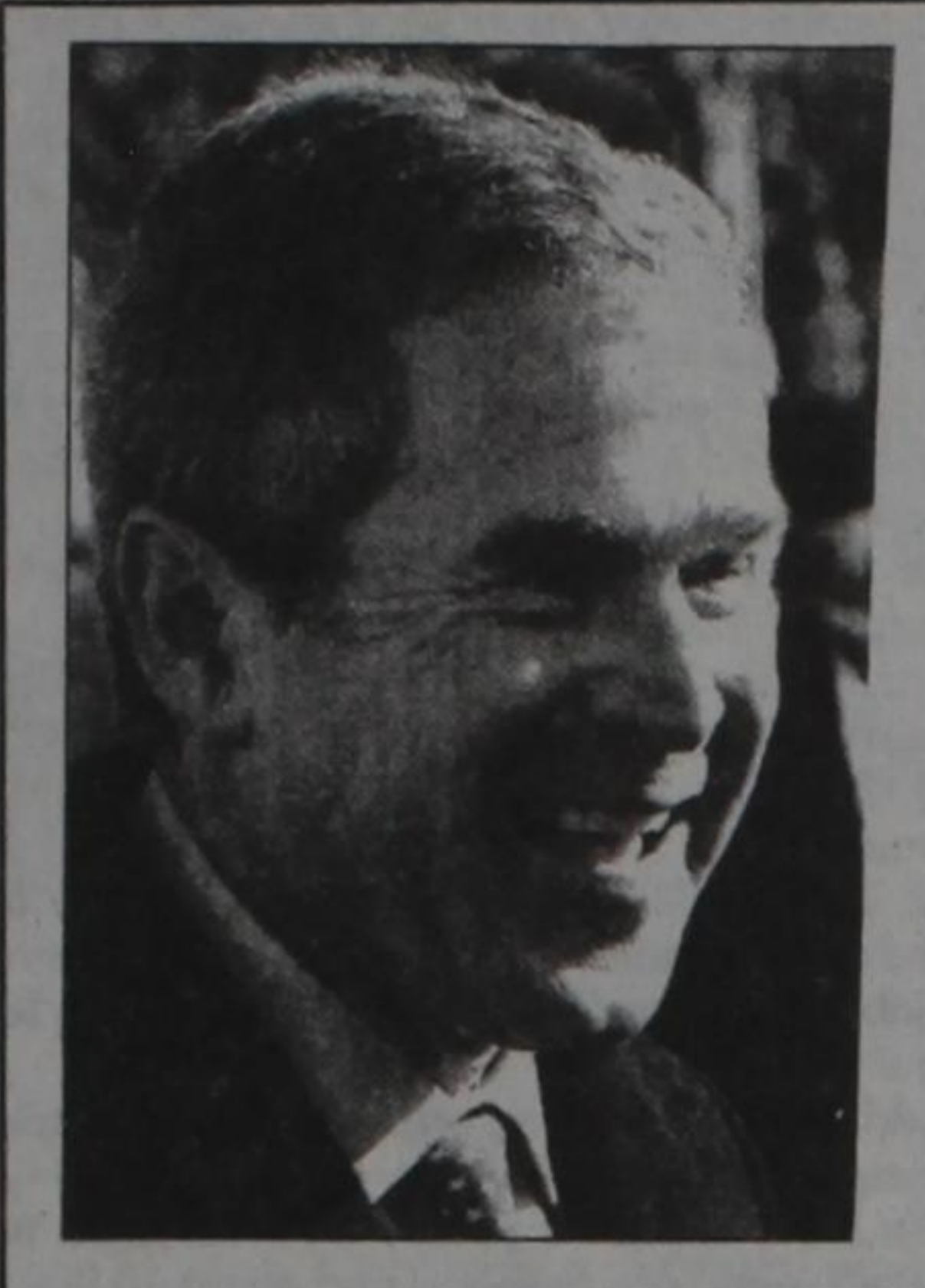
Bush's main rival is Sen. John McCain from Arizona, while former Democratic Sen. Bill Bradley is the only candidate with a chance to overtake Gore.

"It is clear that Bush is pro-Hispanic and has a great affinity with that community. This situation is totally different from the past when Republican candidates like Dole did not have a chance of winning the Hispanic vote nationwide," said Diaz-Balart of Florida.

Congressman Menendez believes that Clinton-Gore policies in favor of Latin America and immigration, educational aid for Hispanics and the appointment of Hispanics to key government positions will prove decisive in earning once again the Hispanic vote.

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Rep.-FL), co-president of Bush's presidential campaign for the state of Florida, said that the Republican Party has been "stereotyped" as if it were synonymous with anti-immigrant proposals.

"The first time I saw a proposal in Congress



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Comentarios de Bidal

My congratulations to Coca Cola for their recent decision to pull their support in the form of advertising from the WWF Wrestling program. I have sometimes seen small segments of the shows when my daughter and her friends go to her room to watch the show on TV. Soon after it starts I hear the yelling through the closed door. I'm not talking about phrases like "Hello Boys and Girls" or "Welcome to Our Neighborhood" but vulgar words that even I wouldn't repeat in this column.

I have always told my daughter that she should not tune it in. Being as young as she is, I can't really compete with the pressures of her peers.

Many of my friends like the -- what I call stupid - show and that it promotes violence among kids. It makes them want to beat each other up say vulgar words, make vulgar gestures and now they even promote lewdness by showing both men and women in skimpy clothes yelling at each other and hitting each other with chairs and everything else that isn't stuck to the floor.

I know that our local Coca Cola bottler had nothing to do with advertising on WWF and I personally know of their strong efforts to promote education and well being among kids. For this we applaud them and we now applaud national Coca Cola for sticking up to their good image.



By: Ysidro V. Gutierrez

Seventy-five members of West Texas Organizing Strategy traveled to San Antonio on November 7th to join over 6,000 revelers at a convention celebrating 25 years of community organizing by Communities Organized for Public Service - better known as COPS. Also in San Antonio for the celebration were groups from Los Angeles, Des Moines, New Orleans, Chicago, and a myriad of other cities throughout Texas and the Southwest. The celebration was attended by scores of political, business, labor, and religious leaders. Major guests included U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, AFL-CIO Executive Vice-President Linda Chavez-Thompson, and Archbishop Patrick Flores who stated that the revelers made him happy because they were "making a lot of noise." Raucous cheers from the crowd signaled approval of the Archbishop's comments.

One of the tenants of the COPS organization is to speak often and speak loudly about its achievements. The celebration offered a perfect opportunity to focus on what COPS has achieved and to interpose its vision for the future. Throughout the celebration COPS leaders spoke of Project Quest, a jobs training program described by Dr. Paul Osterman, MIT Economics Professor, as the best in the nation. They also spoke of the Human Development Fund as the hallmark project for San Antonio's future.

The convention started with COPS leaders telling stories of the early days of organizing. Father David Garza, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral stated, "They said it couldn't be done, that it wouldn't last, but we did it, we've been doing it for 25 years, and we will do it for a long time to come."

Ms Beatrice Cortez, a COPS leader spoke of the vision. "There is much work to do," she said, "we must build strong constituencies and craft our agenda for families. Who will make it happen? Remember the

Golden Rule; Nobody does it for you - we have to do it for ourselves."

COPS leaders proposed to hold a Domestic Strategy Summit to plan for a May referendum to increase the



Photo by John Cervantes

sales tax in San Antonio by at least 1/8-cent. The sales tax would create a \$16 million per year human development fund for education, literacy training, job training, and other essential services which benefit families. San Antonio Mayor Howard Peak along with Mr. Tom Frost of Frost Bank and the numerous other political, labor, business, and religious leaders committed to a Domestic Strategy Summit to work on a detailed proposal. Mayor Peak stated that he would, "Work to make San Antonio the nation's first Human Development Fund city." U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was asked if she would commit to work in support of the Domestic Strategy Summit. "Si" she said without equivocation and added, "We want everyone to have a chance to break the barriers and to succeed, I know this can only happen if we have the education and job training needed and I will work with you to insure we have all that."

Exuberance is the word most used to express the experience of the Lubbock delegation. Leaders of the West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS) have been organizing in Lubbock, Amarillo, and in the Midland Odessa areas since 1996. Like it's sister organization, the WTOS is a faith-based community organization. Its

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Generation Ñ Conquers the Internet For Hispanics

By Rocio Ayuso

Los Angeles. - The power of Generation Ñ is packing a wallop on the Internet as this virtual highway becomes increasingly real for the Hispanic community.

Spanish-language and bilingual websites targeting a predominantly Hispanic market, with names like "quepasa.com," "oyeme.com," "picoito.com," and "latinola.com," have proliferated.

It was just a matter of time before this phenomenon burgeoned, given the commercial strength the Hispanic community, wielding a combined purchas-

ing power of 383 billion dollars per year, has in the United States.

These figures, coupled with the fast growth of the U.S. Hispanic community, presently 31.5 million, have spurred the interest of the commercial sector, which has launched a campaign to reach Hispanics through television, radio, press and online advertising.

"This is the perfect media, because you can direct your message to the segment that interests you most," says advertising agency Dieste & Partners regarding the Internet.

Nowadays, campaigns like the

one started by Gateway computers Oct. 1 are becoming commonplace. Based in San Diego, Gateway has implemented an aggressive computer sales campaign among Hispanics which includes advertisements, sales service and technical support in Spanish, and programs and keyboards addressing the particular needs of the language.

Interest in the Hispanic market galvanized after studies revealed that in 1998, nearly one in three Hispanic homes boasted a computer, a significant increase over 1994, when merely one in eight Hispanic homes had

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News Briefs

Jose Feliciano and NCLR Join Forces to Combat Diabetes

New York. - The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and singer Jose Feliciano have launched a public awareness campaign on diabetes directed toward the U.S. Hispanic community, within which some 1.9 million Hispanics suffer from the disease.

Under the theme "Viva mas, viva mejor!" (Live Longer, Live Better), the campaign will give advice to Hispanics about the habits they should cultivate to live with non-insulin dependent diabetes, which typically appears in adulthood.

The public awareness campaign will include a comic strip entitled "The Family," which will be published in newspapers throughout cities in the United States with large Hispanic populations.

One of the comic strip's characters will be singer Jose Feliciano, a victim of diabetes, who will act as a counselor to a father of a family who is also diagnosed with the disease.

The campaign will also include brochures in Spanish and English which will be distributed throughout hospitals and clinics.

Hispanics will also have a toll-free telephone number which they can call (1-877-625-4410) where they can request more information and even ask for traditional Hispanic recipes specially created for diabetics by chef Douglas Rodriguez.

Director of NCLR's Health Program, Yanira Cruz, said during a telephone interview that the campaign is a priority for the organization, due to the large number of Hispanics that live in the United States who suffer from the disease.

According to statistics provided by NCLR, one of the country's most important Hispanic organizations, one out of every 10 Hispanics has diabetes and "are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes than the Caucasian population in general."

"It is a serious and expensive disease, but one that can be controlled," Cruz said, adding that NCLR has made it a priority to raise public awareness surrounding the issue.

Cruz recommended that people should get a checkup by their physician, because people often have the disease without realizing it.

Frequently, Type 2 diabetes goes undiagnosed and untreated among the Hispanic community, even when one in every 10 Hispanic adults suffers from the disease, although other studies raise the number to one in six.

The lack of diagnosis and treatment keep sufferers' glycogen - blood sugar - levels very high, which increases the risk of suffering a stroke, heart disorders, blindness, kidney malfunction and the need for amputations.



The U.S. and México Strengthen Cooperation Along Border

El Paso, Texas. - Political leaders, businessmen and academics from the United States and Mexico concluded a two-day seminar here Tuesday in which they analyzed ways to strengthen relations in the border region.

Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, general director for North America of the Mexican foreign ministry, defined the border's new vision as a long-term goal to improve living conditions in the region in the next millennium.

This way, he said, economic and social development of border towns will be promoted.

Ruiz Cabañas added that another priority is the improvement of the infrastructure to expedite the exchange of goods and services and he also declared his support for efforts that protect the environment and strengthen the cultural and educational cooperation between Mexico and the United States.

"The concept and the modalities with which the border operates have changed substantially with the passing of time," said Alejandro Carrillo Castro, commissioner of the National Institute of Mexican Migration.

During the seminar, "Common Borders: Mexican and United States Border Communities in the 21st Century," sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) commissioner Dorris Meissner said bilateral cooperation has allowed for practical solutions to common problems.

She cited the simplification and speeding up of immigration along the border as an example.

During the first day of the sessions, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, issues of cooperation to resolve problems of public health, environmental pollution, strengthening of infrastructure and of public security were discussed.

The seminar concludes as the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, visits Mexico, where she seeks to strengthen the administration of justice and the protection of human rights.

The Mexican government will take advantage of Robinson's visit to present her with the issues of immigration in the border region, where hundreds of Mexicans have died crossing the common border which extends 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers).

Activist groups on both sides of the border have blamed various INS operations for the deaths.

According to official figures, 306 Mexicans have died so far this year attempting to cross the border illegally, primarily in road or drowning accidents. Last year 377 died.

Hispanic Worker's Death Highlights Working Conditions

New York. - The death of a Hispanic construction worker this week in Brooklyn when a building on which he was working collapsed, highlights the dangerous conditions in which many immigrants work.

Eduardo Daniel, 30, died and 10 other workers were injured - eight of whom were Mexican - when the building they were constructing in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn collapsed.

The workers had just begun construction on a fourth floor when the building collapsed, trapping them under tons of rubble, from where they were rescued by firemen and police.

Authorities suspended this and several other construction projects by the company involved until investigations can determine the work conditions and the quality of the material being used.

A large number of illegal immigrants are employed in the service sector, manufacturing and as construction workers, where they are paid below minimum wages and are exploited by their bosses, according to repeated criticisms by organizations that defend their rights.

Daniel's death provides further evidence of the precarious working conditions that many Hispanics in New York face, especially illegal immigrants who do not speak English and do not report the conditions for fear of being deported.

Mexican Consul Norberto Terrazas, head of the department for the protection of Mexicans, told EFE that he has offered help to Daniel's few relatives in New York to transport his remains to his birthplace of Cholula, Mexico, at an undetermined date.

Terrazas added that the construction company would be held responsible for its role in the accident, which made the front page Wednesday of all of the city's major newspapers.

"We will be very wary as to the degree of responsibility of the company to properly compensate the families of all affected by the incident," he said.

Esperanza Morales, of the Tepeyac Catholic Association created to help Mexican immigrants in New York, said they plan to meet next week with the injured workers to sort out the details of what happened, and to discuss worker safety and their salary.

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Latin Leaders Confront Own Hypocrisy At Cuba Summit

By Miguel Pérez

When democratically elected world leaders were hosted by a Communist dictator at the Ibero-American Summit in Havana last month, the reality they faced there made them speak out against their own hypocrisy. No longer could they overlook the suffering of the Cuban people.

Leaders of Spain, Portugal and 14 Latin American nations, who for years have ignored Fidel Castro's human rights violations in order to keep doing business with his regime, were lining up in Havana, sometimes standing right next to Castro, to condemn everything the dictator stands for.

This is one summit that backfired on the host, and one public relations disaster for a dictator who has, until now, mastered the art of manipulating public opinion at home and abroad.

"Democracy permits the freedom to express our ideas, to dissent with those who govern," said Panama's president, Mireya Moscoso, in a country where, for the last 40 years, such dissent has automatically sent people to prison.

Even Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, representing one of Castro's closest allies -- the only Latin American nation that never broke relations with Cuba -- surprised Cuba watchers in the United States and Mexico when he spoke at the summit's closing session.

"There cannot be sovereign nations without free men and women," Zedillo said, "men and women who can fully exercise their essential freedoms: freedom to think and give opinions, freedom to act and participate, freedom to dissent, freedom to choose."

Choose? As in choose their own leaders in free and democratic elections? When the Mexican president makes such insinuations in Havana, that's news -- a clear sign that Castro is running out of friends, even among the hypocrites who have been willing to look the other way while the dictator has continued to stomp on the Cuban people for almost four decades now.

The summit was expected to be a coup for Castro. They said that hosting a major summit would bring him international prestige. But it turned into a coup for his opponents.

For wanting to speak freely, dozens of Cuban dissidents, accused of trying to sabotage the summit, were rounded up and jailed in an effort by the regime to stop dissident groups from calling world attention to human rights violations in Cuba.

But nevertheless, at least a half dozen heads of state met with prominent Cuban dissidents, a first on Cuban soil since Castro has been in power.

Even Castro, clearly irritated, complained that the meetings between world leaders and the dissidents overshadowed the achievements of the summit.

Castro, of course, is always inclined to blame all his failures on the U.S. government, even when the president in the White House is flirting with him. And he was at it again: "The whole *yanqui* strategy was to shift the view from the essential and vital themes of the summit so that the world believes there is large dissident, an enormous opposition. ... That does not exist in reality," Castro said.

It does. And it was heard. And what the dissidents told the world leaders later resonated at the summit. Most important, it also resonated among the Cuban people.

Even before the summit began, King Juan Carlos, the first reigning Spanish monarch to set on Cuba since Columbus claimed the island for Spain, opened the floodgate of criticism against Castro.

"Only with an authentic democracy, with full guarantee for liberties and with scrupulous respect for human rights by all of us can our peoples face the challenges of the 21st century with success," Carlos told Fidel.

The following day, at the summit's opening ceremony, it was Portugal's turn. "Democracy is the primary ally of development and development is the primary ally of democracy," said Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio.

For about three days, most of the news that was coming out of Havana was about human rights

violations and presidents meeting with dissident and taking rhetorical shots at Castro.

The summit's major themes -- Ibero-American integration and the world economy -- were lost in the shuffle. That's the price you pay for holding a summit of democratic leaders on a communist island.

Only three presidents really had the right idea. Citing Cuba's human rights record, showing that they didn't have to go to Havana to suddenly take off their horse-blinders and see the oppressed Cuban people, the presidents of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador refused to attend the summit.

Yet Castro, with a straight face, defended Cuba's non-party, put Communist-dominated elections as "a thousand times more serious and more honest" than U.S. elections.

In fact, he is right. His rigged elections have "serious" repercussions on the Cuban people and they are as "honest" as you can get. Before the election begins, he tells you who is going to win.

Castro's elections are as serious and honest as the summit he just hosted. But you have to wonder why it has taken world leaders four decades to look at themselves in Cuban mirrors and see their own hypocrisy.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with The Record in Bergen, N.J.)

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Conversations With a Political "First"

By Megan Beste & Patricia Guadalupe

Lydia Camarillo had been the CEO of the Democratic National Convention for a week when we first spoke to her, and she already was breathless, running from one appointment to the next, smiling broadly.

The convention will be held in Los Angeles next Aug. 14-17 at the Convention Center and the Staples Center, the latter currently being remodeled to fit its needs. Now more than three months into the planning process, Camarillo is ahead of schedule and catching her breath.

During the convention, delegates will select the Democratic nominees for president and vice president, and adopt the party's platform. Prior to her selection as the first Hispanic to run the event, Camarillo directed the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), the largest organization of its kind in the nation.

She and her husband, Michael Anthony Cohen, live in Los Angeles with their 8-year-old son, Miguel Alejandro.

Here Camarillo speaks to Hispanic Link's Megan Beste and Patricia Guadalupe. Beste edited the interview for length.

Q: What was your reaction to being chosen to run the convention?

A: When I attended the '96 convention, never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be heading it. I'm honored that the Democratic National Committee has selected me. When one is the first, one has an awesome responsibility to do the right thing so that generations to come can have similar or better opportunities.

Q: Describe what happens at the convention, and any goals you are setting for yourself.

A: The 4,633 delegates come from the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and abroad. The delegates are elected in their communities. It's our job to inspire them. We want them to leave full of excitement so they can get out the vote.

Additionally, there will be 25,000 members of the press and guests participating and watching.

We have about 30 people on staff right now, and we're going to have about 250 staff members or more, and about 10,000 volunteers.

Q: What are some of the techniques you are going to use to make sure Latinos and everyone else participates?

A: Southwest Voter's efforts were always about bringing in new voters, often Hispanics who were not thought of as politically consolidated or considered "high-propensity" voters. At the convention, my responsibility is to work with the high-propensity voters, as well as the occasional voters and new voters who are not politically consolidated.

I will develop a process by which everybody has a voice. I want the convention to look and feel like America, including all communities.

We have to figure out how we can share the Democratic values through technology and media, like the Internet. But it is important to remember that not every community we are targeting has this kind of technology. We have to be creative in what's available and what's possible.

Q: Describe a typical workday.

A: It hasn't been at all typical. Every day is different. I'm there by 8 in the morning, and I don't leave until 8 p.m. Sometimes I go in at 6 a.m. because offices on the East Coast open at that time. Right now, I'm building infrastructure by interviewing and hiring staff.

Q: How has your background shaped the person you are today?

A: I come from the housing projects of El Paso, Texas. I moved to California the summer before my senior year (in college). I grew up there politically. My parents told me and my seven siblings that we had to work hard and contribute.

I never thought of myself as poor. My father was a working person.

I have something to offer, but not because I thought that I was better or that I knew more, but rather because I have the passion, and the *ganas* and the *coraje* to understand that we need a better place. I want my children to have opportunities that I didn't have.

(Megan Beste and Patricia Guadalupe write for the Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.)

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Una Conversación Con Una "Primera" de la Política

Por Megan Beste y Patricia Guadalupe

Lydia Camarillo había sido CEO de la Convención Demócrata Nacional durante sólo una semana cuando hablamos con ella por primera vez, y ella estaba ya sin aliento, corriendo de una cita a la próxima, sonriendo ampliamente.

La convención tendrá lugar en Los Angeles entre los días 14 y 17 de agosto del año próximo, en el Centro de Convenciones y el Centro Staples; el segundo actualmente está siendo remodelado para ajustarse a sus necesidades. Ahora, a tres meses de haber comenzado el trámite de planificación, Camarillo está adelantada al programa.

Durante la convención, los delegados elegirán a los candidatos demócratas para presidente y vice presidente, y adoptarán la plataforma del partido.

Antes de su selección como la primera hispana que dirigirá dicho acontecimiento, ella dirigió el Proyecto del Sureste para Inscripción de Electores y Educación (SVREP en inglés), la mayor organización de su clase en este país.

Ella y su esposo, Michael Anthony Cohen, viven en Los Angeles con su hijo, Miguel Alejandro.

Aquí, Camarillo habla a las reporteras de Hispanic Link, Megan Beste y Patricia Guadalupe. Beste editó la entrevista.

Q: ¿Cuál fué su reacción al haber sido seleccionada para dirigir la convención?

R: Cuando asistí a la convención de 1996, nunca, ni siquiera en mis sueños, pensé que estaría dirigiéndola. Me siento honrada que el Comité Demócrata Nacional me haya seleccionado. Cuando una es la primera, tiene una asombrosa responsabilidad para hacer lo bien, para que las generaciones que vienen puedan tener oportunidades semejantes o mejores.

Q: ¿Describe lo que sucede en la convención, y las metas que usted esté fijando.

R: Los 4,633 delegados proceden de los 50 estados, Puerto Rico, las Islas Virgenes, Guam y otras regiones. Los delegados son elegidos en sus comunidades. Nuestro trabajo es inspirarlos. Queremos que se marchen llenos de emoción, para que puedan conseguir los votos.

Además, habrá 25,000 miembros de la prensa e invitados que participarán.

Ahora mismo tenemos 30 miembros del personal, y vamos a tener 250 miembros o más, así como 10,000 voluntarios.

Q: ¿Cuáles son algunas de las técnicas que usted va a emplear para asegurarse de que los latinos y todas las demás personas participen?

R: Las gestiones del SVREP siempre fueron el tratar de captar a nuevos electores, a menudo hispanos de quienes no se pensaba que estuvieran unidos políticamente o considerados electores de alta propensión. En la convención, mi responsabilidad es trabajar con los electores de alta propensión, así como con los electores ocasionales y los electores nuevos que no estén unidos políticamente.

Desarrollaré un trámite por el cual todos tengan una voz. Quiero que los delegados en la convención reflejen las diferentes comunidades en los Estados Unidos.

Tenemos que decidir cómo podemos compartir los valores democráticos mediante la tecnología y los medios informativos, como la Internet. Pero es importante el recordar que no todas las comunidades que estamos enfocando disponen de esta clase de tecnología. Tenemos que ser innovadores en lo que esté disponible y lo que sea posible.

Q: Describe un día de trabajo típico.

R: No ha sido típico de un todo. Cada día es diferente. Estoy allí para las 8 de la mañana y no me voy sino hasta después de las 8 de la noche. Algunas veces llego a las 6 de la mañana, porque las oficinas del este del país abren a esa hora. Ahora mismo estoy desarrollando la infraestructura, entrevistando y reclutando personal.

Q: ¿Cómo ha conformado sus antecedentes a la persona que usted es hoy?

R: Vengo de los barrios de El Paso, Texas. Me mudé a California en el verano antes a mi último año de la escuela superior. Crecí políticamente allá. Mis padres nos dijeron, a mis siete hermanos y a mí, que teníamos que trabajar árdamente y contribuir.

Nunca pensé que yo fuera una persona pobre. Mi padre era un hombre de trabajo.

Tengo algo que ofrecer, pero no porque pensara que yo soy mejor o que supiera más que nadie, sino mas bien porque tengo la pasión, las ganas y el coraje para comprender que necesitamos un lugar mejor.

Quiero que mis hijos tengan las oportunidades que yo tuve no.

Lideres Latinos Se Enfrentan A Su Propia Hipocresia En La Cumbre Efectuada En Cuba

Por Miguel Pérez

Cuando los líderes mundiales elegidos democráticamente fueron hospedados por un dictador comunista en la cumbre Ibero Americana en La Habana, el mes pasado, la realidad a la que ellos se enfrentaron los hizo hablar en contra de su propia hipocresía: Ellos ya no podían descartar más el sufrimiento del pueblo cubano.

Los líderes de España, Portugal y 14 naciones de la América Latina, que han pasado por alto durante años a las infracciones de los derechos humanos cometidas por Castro, a fin de continuar haciendo negocios con su régimen, estaban alineándose en La Habana, algunas veces de pie junto a Castro, para condenar todo aquello que el dictador representa.

Esta es una "cumbre" en la que al anfitrión "le salió el tiro por la culata," un desastre de relaciones públicas para un dictador que hasta ahora ha dominado el arte de manipular a la opinión pública en su país y en el extranjero.

"La democracia permite la libertad para expresar nuestras ideas, para disindir de los que gobiernan," dijo la presidenta de Panamá, Mireya Moscoso, en un país donde durante los últimos 40 años el disenso ha enviado a prisión automáticamente a personas.

Aún el presidente de México, Ernesto Zedillo, que representaba a uno de los aliados más allegados de Castro -- la única nación de la América Latina que nunca rompió relaciones con Castro -- sorprendió a los observadores de Cuba en los Estados Unidos y México cuando habló en la sesión de clausura de la cumbre.

"No puede haber naciones soberanas sin hombres y mujeres libres," dijo Zedillo, "hombres y mujeres que puedan ejercer plenamente sus libertades indispensables; la libertad para pensar y manifestar sus opiniones, la libertad para actuar y participar, la libertad para disindir, la libertad para seleccionar."

¿Seleccionar? ¿Como en seleccionar a su propio líder en elecciones libres y democráticas? Cuando el presidente de México hace tales insinuaciones en La Habana, eso es noticia -- una señal clara de que Castro está quedándose sin amigos, aún entre los hipócritas que estuvieron dispuestos a volver la cara cuando el dictador pisoteaba al pueblo cubano durante cuatro decenios.

Se esperaba que la cumbre fuera un éxito para Castro. Se decía que el hospedar a una cumbre importante le llevaría prestigio internacional. Pero se convirtió en un éxito para sus opositores.

Por querer hablar libremente, docenas de disidentes cubanos, acusados de tratar de sabotear a la cumbre, fueron arrestados y encarcelados, en una gestión del régimen para evitar que los grupos de disidentes llamaran la atención mundial a las infracciones de los derechos humanos en Cuba.

Pero, no obstante, por lo menos una docena de jefes de estados se reunieron con conocidos disidentes cubanos, la primera vez que eso haya ocurrido en suelo cubano desde que Castro ha estado en el poder.

Aún Castro, visiblemente irritado, se quejó de que las reuniones entre los líderes mundiales y los disidentes eclipsaban los logros de la cumbre. Castro,

desde luego, siempre está inclinado a culpar de todas sus fracasos al gobierno de los Estados Unidos, aún cuando el presidente que se halle en la Casa Blanca esté coqueteando con él. Y así, Fidel hizo lo suyo nuevamente: "Toda la estrategia yanqui fué cambiar la visión desde los temas indispensables y vitales de la cumbre, para que el mundo crea que hay una inconformidad grande, una oposición enorme. ... Eso no existe en la realidad," dijo Castro.

Si que existe. Y fué escuchada. Y lo que dijeron los disidentes a los líderes mundiales resonó después en la cumbre. Lo que es más importante, también resonó entre el pueblo cubano.

Aún antes de que empezara la cumbre, el Rey Juan Carlos, el primer monarca español reinante que haya puesto el pie en Cuba desde que Colón reclamó a la isla para España, fue el que comenzara las lluvias de quejas contra Castro.

"Sólo con una democracia auténtica, con garantías plenas para las libertades y con respeto escrupuloso para los derechos humanos, pueden nuestros pueblos enfrentarse a los retos del siglo XXI con éxito," dijo el Rey Juan Carlos a Fidel.

Al día siguiente, en la ceremonia de apertura de la cumbre, le llegó el turno a Portugal. El Presidente de Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, dijo: "La democracia es la aliada primordial del desarrollo y el desarrollo es el aliado primordial de la democracia."

Durante tres días, la mayoría de las noticias que salían de La Habana trataban de las infracciones de los derechos humanos y de las reuniones de los presidentes con los disidentes, y lan-

zaban descargas de retórica en contra de Castro.

Los temas principales de la cumbre -- la integración iberoamericana y la economía mundial -- se perdieron en el desorden. Ese es el precio que se paga por llevar acabo una cumbre de líderes democráticos en una isla sojuzgada por los comunistas.

Sólo tres presidentes tuvieron realmente la idea correcta. Mencionando el historial de Cuba en materia de derechos humanos, mostrando que ellos no tenían que ir a La Habana para quitarse de súbito sus anteojeras de caballo y ver al pueblo cubano oprimido, los presidentes de Nicaragua, Costa Rica y El Salvador se negaron a asistir a la cumbre.

Empero Castro, con la cara seria, defendió a las elecciones de Cuba sin partidos pero controladas por los comunistas, como 'mil veces más serias y honradas' que las elecciones de los Estados Unidos.

De hecho, él tiene la razón. Sus elecciones amañadas tienen repercusiones "graves" sobre el pueblo cubano y son tan 'honradas' como se pueda lograr. Antes de que empiecen las elecciones, él les dice a ustedes quién va a ganar.

Las elecciones de Castro son tan serias y honradas como la cumbre que él acaba de hospedar. Pero hay que preguntarse por qué les ha llevado a los líderes mundiales cuatro décadas para mirarse en los espejos cubanos y ver su propia hipocresía.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista del Bergen Record, en Bergen, Nueva Jersey.)

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

Hispanics In Military Experience Highest Rates of Discrimination

By Patricia Guadalupe

Hispanics and other groups of color in the U.S. military have a more negative perception of race relations in the service than their non-Hispanic white counterparts, according to a Nov. 23 survey of military personnel by the Department of Defense.

Nearly 53 percent of the 76,754 randomly selected military personnel responded to the survey, which was ordered by Congress in 1996.

The study, "Armed Forces Equal Opportunity Survey," found that as many as 85 percent of Hispanics had experienced an "offensive encounter," either with military or non-military individuals. An offensive encounter is defined as being subjected to insensitive language or physical assault because of race or ethnicity. Personnel in lower ranks had the highest rate of incidence.

blacks.

More than a third of Hispanics -- 37 percent -- said they did not report the incidents, with the main reason being that "nothing will be done."

However, when the incidents were reported, 63 percent of Hispanics said their immediate supervisors "made honest and reasonable efforts" to correct the situations.

"It is worrisome that the percentages are higher for Hispanics," said Raúl Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza. "It is also worrisome that this was a congressionally mandated survey, and not done on their own initiative. But in fairness to the military, these numbers and attitudes reflect what is going on in the general population, too."

Nevertheless, the survey also found that military personnel of

"paid the right amount of attention" to racial issues.

Additionally, 56 percent of Hispanics said they would receive a fairer job performance evaluation in the military than in civilian life, while almost half -- 48 percent -- responded that they had better education and training opportunities in the service.

Half of all groups said that if they had to decide, they would choose to remain in the military.

"It's not a perfect world out there, but the military has been doing a very good job of improving race relations. It's a more balanced and colorblind place than the civilian world," Col.

Gil Coronado (Ret.), director of the Selective Service System told Hispanic Link.

"Because of the way it is set up, Latinos have plenty of opportunities to contribute and move up in the military," he added. "There are many examples out there. (Army Secretary) Louis Caldera, for instance, is just one example."

Pentagon officials say they plan to conduct a similar survey next year.

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

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Percentage.....	White.....	Black.....	Latino.....
Junior Enlisted.....	70.....	77.....	85
Senior Enlisted.....	64.....	73.....	74
Officers.....	46.....	71.....	60

Seventy percent of Hispanics experienced offensive encounters involving other military personnel, contrasted to 63 percent

all groups believe that race relations were better in the armed services than in the civilian world. Half of Hispanic respond-

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Lubbock Joins Celebration

Continued From Front Page

membership is made up of 28 area churches. WTOS is one of 12 in a network of community organizations in Texas. It is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, a national training

foundation, "When the people speak, politicians listen, such is the power of voice."

The organization provides a way for its members to actively participate in the democratic process. "We do not want

newsmakers to be our voice, we are thousands, and we can speak for ourselves," stated Ms Beatrice Cortez of COPS, and mentor to WTOS. The COPS celebration is considered by many to be one of the purest forms of practical democracy in America. It was organized by the people, for the people, and it was of the people. No special interests groups played a role in the celebration.

WTOS believes that all men and women have the ability to understand, to judge, to speak, to persuade, and to resolve issues that impact their lives, families, neighborhoods, and communities. Men and women are often untrained and untaught in the means and methods to communicate their interests, but time and again they have proven their ability to grow and develop themselves. "We will organize ourselves first then we will take action," stated Ms Cortez. "Power before Projects and People before Profits" are two operative phrases imparted by COPS to WTOS leaders.

Organizing for power works. In 1984 \$800 million were pumped into poor schools throughout Texas as a result of organized people meeting with decision makers to voice their needs. In 1989 a \$100 million bond package was approved by Texas voters to provide sewer and water for poor communities in South Texas. During the COPS celebration U.S. Senator Kay



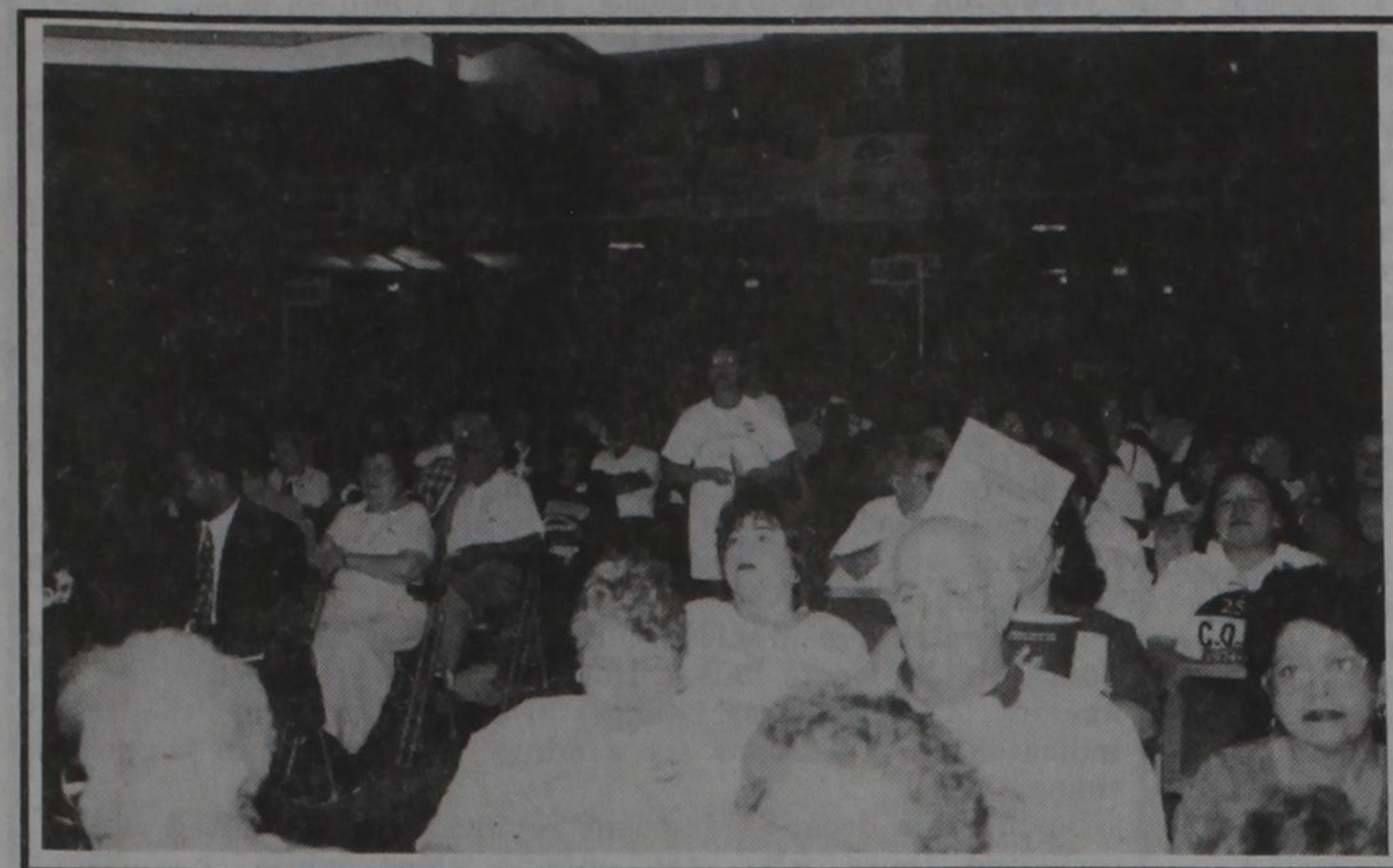
Bailey Hutchison, stated, "the first amendment I passed as your U.S. Senator provided \$50 million to start cleaning up colonias in 1993, we have now passed \$350 million."

Like COPS, WTOS works by uniting churches and institutions in Lubbock and throughout West Texas to gain the power needed to address and help resolve issues, which impact families. "Where there is no power there is injustice," says Ed Chambers, Executive Director of IAF, "since we want justice we must first get power."

WTOS works to teach leadership. Common people are taught the skills needed to work for the betterment of the lives of children, the elderly, the poor, the working poor, families, and communities. WTOS leaders work with church members to build relationships of trust, commitment, and accountability. Together they identify issues affecting the community and take actions to influence the outcomes of those issues. "Politicians hear us clearly, but they seldom listen to

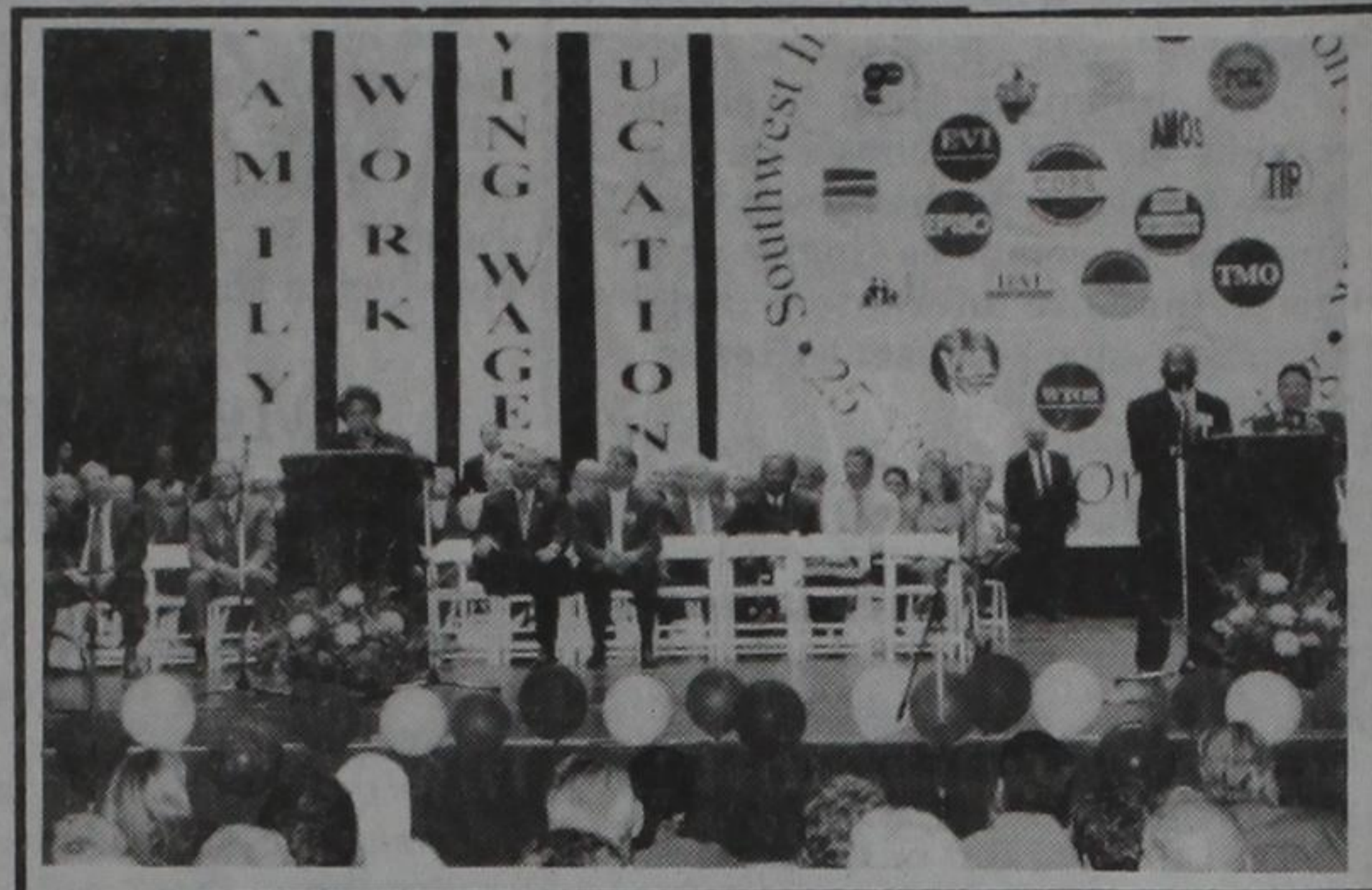
us unless we give them a reason to," says Mr. Ernesto Cortez the Southwest IAF Network, Chief Organizer. "We teach the WHAT OF LEADERSHIP and leave the HOW to individual initiative. We do not focus on issues. People are the issue, as are families, neighborhoods, communities and churches. We work to make them stronger and better." When people are stronger, the church is stronger.

In the words of COPS, West Texas "Ain't seen nothing yet."



and education foundation whose network is made up of 75 organizations that operate mostly in major urban centers of the nation, including COPS in San Antonio.

WTOS and its sister organizations work to empower Christians to act on their Judeo-Christian values. It is dedicated to renewing the interest and desire of a broad-base of citizens to participate in the decision making process in West Texas. WTOS works to transform institutions, to build a just society, and to make democracy work for the common person. One of its mantras was expressed during the COPS celebra-



Photos by John Cervantez

Nuevos fármacos facilitan investigaciones contra gripe

Maite González

Praga - Los nuevos tratamientos contra el virus de la gripe abren una vía de investigación para luchar contra esta enfermedad, que llega de forma cíclica todos los inviernos, a veces con carácter muy grave, y para la que hasta ahora sólo existían el reposo y las medicinas que alivian los síntomas.

En una reunión celebrada en esta ciudad sobre el tratamiento de la gripe en el Siglo XXI, se presentó a médicos de todo el mundo un nuevo fármaco cuyo

principio activo es el zanamivir, y que es el primer medicamento que actúa directamente contra el virus responsable de la enfermedad.

El nuevo fármaco, que está recomendado por ahora para personas entre los 12 y los 65 años, es un inhalador bucal en forma de polvo seco que actúa directamente sobre las células infectadas del pulmón y evita su proliferación. El hecho de que el medicamento penetre en el organismo en el tracto respiratorio, que es donde se inicia la infección, hace que los efectos terapéuticos sean muy rápidos y que no tenga efectos secundarios.

El medicamento actúa además sobre los distintos tipos de virus de la gripe, el A y el B, ya que

es eficaz en la parte central del agente responsable de la infección, con un efecto que hace que se reduzcan tanto la virulencia de los síntomas como la duración de la enfermedad.

Los médicos y virólogos reunidos en el simposio de Praga señalaron que ahora es mucho más urgente que antes hacer el diagnóstico de forma precoz. Durante muchos años, los virólogos no habían conseguido desarrollos novedosos en la terapia gripal, debido a la característica mutación del virus que la produce, que causa cada cierto tiempo pandemias muy peligrosas.

Tres de las 31 pandemias de gripe de las que se tiene conocimiento han ocurrido en el Siglo XX, que comenzó con la conocida como gripe española en 1918,

From Page One

a computer, compared to one in four for the rest of the population.

The rate of Hispanic Internet users has also soared, going from two percent in 1994 to 15 percent in 1998, according to the Tomás Rivera Political Institute.

"Hispanic homes may be the fastest growing segment among Web users," said UCLA Professor Jeffrey Cole.

The number of Hispanic studies centers using the Web to contact their community or carry out research is also growing. They include the Tomás Rivera Political Institute

(www.trpi.com), the Aztec page

(www.azteca.net/aztec), and the Chicano/Hispanic network (cinet.ucr.edu).

"The reason is pure and simple demographics. The number of Hispanics being promoted and having more power and responsibility continues to grow," said Refugio Rochin, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Hispanic Initiatives.

Harry Pachon of the Tomás Rivera Political Institute noted the increased economic clout of the Hispanic community over the last 30 years, reflected in a larger percentage of Hispanics in the middle class, as well as the increase of Hispanics with higher education degrees.

However, the Hispanic presence online does not necessarily

translate into an expanded use of Spanish on the Internet.

Studies show that even among those who seek online services in Spanish, Hispanic users prefer sites that offer a multicultural, or at least bilingual, approach.

Nevertheless, the use and importance of Spanish continues to increase, as evidenced by Spanish-language services provided by America Online, Yahoo! and Prodigy Communications, the top three providers targeting a market that has adopted the N as a symbol of their identity.

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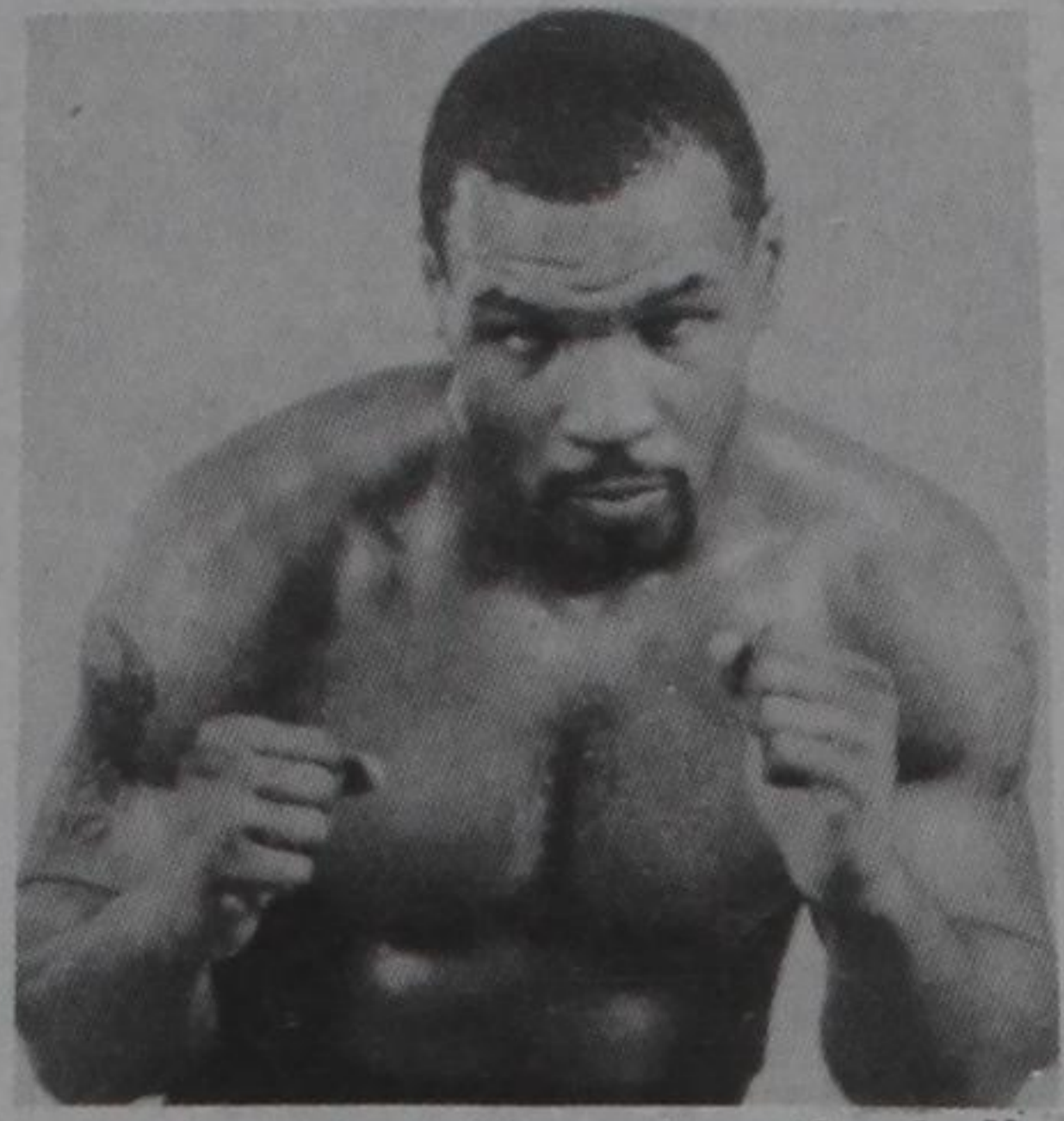


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Tyson to Fight In Germany In August

Reuters BERLIN, Dec 1 (Reuters) - Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will fight Ukraine's Vitali Klitschko in Germany next August, Klitschko's manager was quoted as saying on Wednesday. "The fight will take place in August," manager Klaus-Peter Kohl told the daily Bild. Kohl said he would like the fight between Tyson and Klitschko, the German-based World Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight champion, to be staged in Hamburg's main soccer stadium. The manager said the fight, which was originally scheduled for January, would be Tyson's first since his October 23 no contest against Orlin Norris in Las Vegas.



son punched him after the bell at the end of the first round.

Norris injured his right knee and could not continue after falling to the canvas when Ty-

Jones Says Irvin Might Play Again This Year

ATLANTA -- Despite indications to the contrary, neither the playing career nor even the 1999 season of Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin might be over after all.

In town for a special NFL meeting, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones told SportsLine on Wednesday that he will meet with Irvin "within the next couple days" to discuss the future of the 12-year veteran. Asked if there is any chance Irvin might return to the field and help the Cowboys during a playoff stretch run, Jones allowed such a scenario is a long shot, but still remains a possibility.

"Right now, I definitely wouldn't rule it out," Jones said. "Not yet at least. The odds might not be great, but I think there's some chance it will happen. I know how hard Michael has been working. And he is working as if he's trying to get himself in shape to play again this year. There definitely is a purpose now to the way in which he has been working lately."

Jones said it was his understanding that Irvin met Tuesday with specialists assessing his rehabilitation from a neck injury. He said he could not confirm that meeting occurred, but said he and Irvin tentatively plan to get together later this week. The Cowboys owner said he will not push Irvin for a decision on his status for this season or

beyond. "We owe Michael the same loyalty he has always demonstrated to the Cowboys," said Jones, who has met at least twice with Irvin in recent weeks. "I will tell you that the subject of retirement never has come up. I haven't mentioned it to Michael and he has never used that term with me. Obviously, he has a lot to think about and lots of information from the doctors to consider."

Neither Irvin nor agent Steve Endicott could be reached for comment on Wednesday. Cowboys coach Chan Gailey had hoped for a decision this week, and Endicott indicated last Thursday that a resolution probably was imminent, but it is uncertain if that will occur.

Sources close to Irvin told SportsLine two weeks ago that the wide receiver will not play again in 1999 but labeled premature broadcast reports that he has decided to retire at the conclusion of this season. Endicott confirmed at the time that all of the neurological testing of Irvin has been completed but that his client still was assimilating the results.

"Based on what I know, and what Michael has been told, nothing will surprise me," Endicott said last week. "He's a guy who is very aware of the risks of coming back."

Irvin sustained the neck injury in the Oct. 10 game at Phil-

King y De La Hoya, Uno De Los Dos Miente

Alejandro Moreno

El mundo del boxeo acaba de entrar en una nueva polémica en cuanto a quién ha sido el responsable de que no se vaya a dar el próximo año la pelea-revancha entre el puertorriqueño Félix "Tito" Trinidad y el estadounidense, de origen mexicano, Oscar De La Hoya.

Cuando los máximos responsables y profesionales del boxeo aseguran que quieren de verdad comenzar a darle credibilidad y limpieza al deporte que representan, surgen las figuras del promotor Don King y De La Hoya con versiones completamente opuestas sobre un mismo asunto que no concuerdan con sus deseos de cambio.

El polémico triunfo logrado por Trinidad frente a De La Hoya el pasado mes de septiembre dentro de la categoría de los

pesos welter dejó abierta la puerta de una pelea-revancha para el año 2000, pero ahora resulta que nada de eso se va a cumplir.

De acuerdo al polémico y poderoso King, De La Hoya es el único responsable porque ha evitado verse de nuevo frente a Trinidad en un cuadrilátero.

"Oscar es una auténtica gallina, que rehuye un combate de revancha con el indiscutible y único monarca de la categoría welter como es Tito Trinidad", declaró King en Panamá, mientras asistía a la 78ª Convención Anual de la Asociación Mundial de Boxeo (AMB).

King explicó a los medios periodísticos locales que De La Hoya siguió su actitud de no enfrentarse abiertamente contra el doble campeón del mundo.

"Primero lo hizo en el cuadrilátero al rechazar el combate abierto y ahora esquiva una pelea revancha, que es la que desean los aficionados", explicó King.

Pero mientras King daba su versión de los hechos, De La Hoya también lo hacía en Los Ángeles y como es lógico era completamente diferente a la del promotor que representa los intereses de Trinidad.

"Trinidad se echó para atrás a la hora de aceptar la pelea-revancha y no me genera ningún problema porque permaneceré un año más en la categoría de los welter y luego decidiré mi futuro", confirmó De La Hoya vía telefónica.

De La Hoya dio una cifra económica concreta que su promotor Bob Arum le había puesto sobre la mesa a King el pasado sábado 13 en Las Vegas, cuando ambos se encontraron en la pelea de unificación por el título de los pesos pesados entre el británico Lennox Lewis y el estadounidense Evander Holyfield.

"Arum le dijo a King que aceptáramos darle a Trinidad más dinero que a mí, exactamente la bolsa de 20 millones de dólares y organizar la pelea en Nueva York", explicó De La Hoya.

El ex campeón del mundo welter explicó que lo último que supieron fue el rechazo por parte de Trinidad y su padre de la oferta que les llevó King.

"Prefirieron subir de peso, como demuestran los hechos, al aceptar la pelea por el título medio no junior, versión Asociación Mundial de Boxeo (AMB), frente al estadounidense David Reid, una decisión que le va a costar muy cara en todos los sentidos", señaló De La Hoya.

El ex campeón welter reiteró que sólo si hubiese aceptado Trinidad la pelea revancha para el año 2000 los aficionados se mantendrían con interés.

"No se puede entender cómo Trinidad rechazó una oferta de las características de la que le hicimos y la única explicación posible es que no quiere enfrentarse de nuevo porque sabe que perdió la primera vez", subrayó De La Hoya.

El "Golden Boy" reiteró que el rechazo de Trinidad no le va a generar ningún problema en su calendario de cuatro peleas para el año 2000 y que iba a volver a ser campeón del mundo.

"Estoy más motivado que nunca por recuperar un título mundial que nunca perdí en el cuadrilátero y seguir dando la imagen positiva y válida del deporte del boxeo", agregó De La Hoya.

Pero el gran interrogante quedó establecido porque hay dos versiones muy diferentes sobre un hecho concreto como es una pelea-revancha, lo que significa que uno de los dos -King o De La Hoya- mintieron a los aficionados con sus declaraciones.



adelphia and lay motionless on the field for nearly 15 minutes after a collision with Eagles safety Tim Hauck that precipitated swelling in two areas of his spine. During a subsequent examination, it was determined Irvin suffers from cervical stenosis, which means that he has an abnormally narrow spinal column.

Cervical stenosis, which has forced the retirement of several former NFL players, including Green Bay Packers cornerback Tim Lewis and Houston Oilers linebacker Frank Bush, is a congenital condition. It does not necessarily increase the likelihood of another injury but it can increase the trauma to the spinal column if an injury does occur.

According to Endicott, it is the stenosis, and not the injury of Oct. 10 which most concerns Irvin and has him carefully reviewing his career options.

News Briefs

Mexicans in U.S. Send Home 16 Million Dollars a Day

San Diego, - Mexicans residing in the United States send on average 16 million dollars a day to relatives back home, according to a report by Mexico's National Population Council.

According to council statistics, some 5.5 million people depend directly on remittances sent by relatives in the United States.

The money sent home is used mainly to pay for necessities. According to a study done by the University of Zacatecas, up to 95 percent of the 6 billion dollars sent annually goes toward helping people meet their most pressing needs.

More than 5.5 billion dollars of the total remittances are used to purchase food, clothing, health services and, to a lesser extent, education and housing.

Remittances to some Mexican states, such as Guanajuato, amount to double, for example, the state budget for education.

The total amount of money sent to Guanajuato from the United States exceeds 652 million dollars annually, according to the study. The state's education budget is 312 million dollars.

Council head Rodolfo Tuiran Gutierrez said millions of Mexicans would face crisis without the monthly envelopes from the North.

The Center for Mexican-U.S. Studies at the University of Southern California in San Diego confirmed that, although the amount of remittances changes from year to year, the trend indicates that Mexicans are sending more money to Mexico as time passes.

During this decade, Mexicans residing in the United States, including those who stay only a short while, have sent approximately 33 billion dollars to Mexico.

The new report indicated that Mexico tops the list of countries receiving money in remittances from other countries.

Data from the Mexican Foreign Ministry also indicate that in some states - including Michoacan, Zacatecas, Guanajuato and Jalisco - 50 percent of families there have at least one family member in the United States.

Mexicans Protest Paisano Program with Boycott

Los Angeles, - The Mexican Coalition for Rights and Dignity announced a boycott Wednesday of several Mexican products and companies to protest the new regulations of the Paisano Program.

The organization, comprised of Mexicans living in California, opposes the guarantee deposits required by the Mexican government from anyone traveling by land to Mexico between Dec. 1 and January 10, 2000.

The Mexican government's Paisano Program requires that visitors crossing the border in their own cars, whether Mexican or American, pay a government's Paisano Program requires that visitors crossing the United States.

More than half of the Mexicans who visit their relatives during the Christmas holidays travel by car, causing traffic jams at border crossings, particularly between Dec. 10 and 22.

The deposits - which the government assured would be returned - are 400 dollars for cars of model years prior to 1994, 600 dollars for cars made between 1995 and 1998 and 800 dollars for models 1999 and 2000.

According to officials, the purpose of the deposit is to prevent the highly profitable sale and purchase of stolen cars in Mexico and Central America.

Some demonstrators, however, fear the intentions of the Mexican government, noting that many poor people lack credit cards and enough money to pay the deposit and bring gifts to their families.

The boycott is supported by Hispanic groups in the California cities of San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The brand-names subject boycott are Maseca flour, Bimbo bakeries, Gamesa crackers, Corona Beer, Orendain tequila and Ariel detergent, boycott coordinator Pedro Arias told EFE, who added it could be expanded to include five other Mexican products in December.

The coalition called on "all Hispanics in California, particularly Mexicans, not to buy tickets from Taesa airlines and not to shop at Gigante supermarkets," said Arias, who has organized a demonstration in front of the Mexican consulate Wednesday.

According to the Mexican Association of Hotel and Motel Owners, the National Chamber of the Restaurant Industry and the National Confederation of Travel Agencies, the deposits required under the Paisano Program could cause a 25 percent drop in the number of people traveling to Mexico for the holidays.

Respected Hispanic Activist Dies in Denver

Denver, - Charles Tafoya, a pioneer of Hispanic politics here and founder of the oldest Hispanic scholarship organization in the country, has died at age 88.

Tafoya, born in New Mexico in 1911, became a leader of Denver's Hispanic community during the 1940s.

In 1947, Tafoya was one of the few Hispanics in the Denver government, responsible for the city's health care system and social assistance.

In 1949 he founded the Latin American Educational Foundation (LAEF), an organization that awards scholarships to Hispanic students attending Colorado universities.

Although LAEF now has sufficient economic support, when the organization was created Tafoya and the other founders would walk door to door asking for donations.

In 1965, Tafoya was asked by the Denver government to organize the Community Relations Committee during a time of intense political and community activism by the city's Chicano community.

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Noticias Breves

Clinton Dice Que Debe Reforzarse la Vigilancia en la Frontera

Washington, - El presidente de Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton, dijo hoy que el hallazgo de dos fosas comunes en la frontera con México reafirma la necesidad de reforzar la vigilancia en esa zona, que suele ser utilizada para el tráfico de drogas.

"Aparentemente se trata de un ejemplo horrible del exceso de los carteles de drogas en México", declaró Clinton en la Casa Blanca antes de viajar a la III Conferencia Ministerial de la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) en Seattle.

Un grupo de forenses y agentes de las policías de EEUU y México comenzaron hoy a investigar la identidad de los primeros cadáveres encontrados en dos fosas, donde se calcula están sepultadas más de cien personas, 22 de ellas estadounidenses.

El subdirector de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), Thomas Pickard, indicó que las dos fosas, localizadas a las afueras de Ciudad Juárez (México), pueden contener por lo menos un centenar de cadáveres.

Clinton sostuvo que el éxito de los últimos años en la lucha contra los carteles de drogas de Colombia ha provocado un aumento en el tráfico de narcóticos desde México hacia Estados Unidos, utilizando la frontera de 3 200 kilómetros que les une.

"Hay que recordar que en esa misma zona, un par de años atrás, a un honesto y bravo fiscal mexicano le hicieron más de 100 disparos enfrente de su esposa e hijo. Es una situación muy violenta y peligrosa, y tenemos que tomar medidas", agregó Clinton.

Los cadáveres hallados en Ciudad Juárez serán sometidos a exámenes forenses en los laboratorios de criminología de Estados Unidos.

Esta mañana las fosas, ubicadas en ranchos al sur de Ciudad Juárez, estaban rodeadas por militares mexicanos, mientras en los sitios trabajaban centenares de policías y médicos forenses, incluidos miembros del Departamento Estadounidense Antidrogas (DEA).

Las autoridades consideran que los asesinatos pueden ser responsabilidad del cartel de Juárez, que controla el tráfico de drogas en la zona de la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

Según las autoridades, en esas fosas se enterraron los restos de personas asesinadas durante la lucha interna que se desató en el cartel de Juárez tras la muerte de su líder, Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

Muerte de Hispano Revela las Duras Condiciones en Que Trabajan

Nueva York, - La muerte de un obrero hispano, al derrumbarse el martes el edificio en construcción en el que trabajaba en Brooklyn, revela una vez más las penosas condiciones laborales y de seguridad que soportan muchos inmigrantes latinos.

Eduardo Daniel, de 30 años, murió y diez trabajadores resultaron heridos -ocho de ellos mexicanos- cuando se desplomó un edificio que construían en el sector Williamsburg, del condado neoyorquino de Brooklyn.

Las autoridades suspendieron esta y otras construcciones de la misma compañía hasta que se finalice la investigación sobre las condiciones en que se realizaba la obra y la calidad de los materiales.

Gran parte de los indocumentados se emplea en el sector de los servicios, la manufactura y como obreros de la construcción, donde no reciben ni el salario mínimo que exige la ley, y son explotados por sus patronos, de acuerdo a reiteradas denuncias de organizaciones que defienden sus derechos.

La muerte del mexicano Eduardo Daniel puso de manifiesto las precarias condiciones laborales de muchos hispanos en esta ciudad, especialmente para los indocumentados que no hablan inglés y que por temor a ser deportados no denuncian estos problemas.

Los trabajadores que se disponían a construir un cuarto piso cuando el edificio se desplomó de súbito, quedaron atrapados entre toneladas de cemento fresco, hierros y escombros, de donde fueron sacados por bomberos y policías.

El cónsul Norberto Terrazas, jefe del departamento de Protección a Mexicanos, declaró a EFE que ha ofrecido ayuda a los pocos familiares que tiene Daniel en Nueva York para trasladar sus restos al pueblo natal de Cholula, en Puebla, en una fecha que aún no se ha precisado por ser mañana, jueves, día de fiesta en EEUU.

Terrazas dijo además que estarán muy atentos a la responsabilidad que debe asumir la empresa por este accidente, que captó hoy las portadas de todos los periódicos neoyorquinos.

"Estaremos muy atentos a la responsabilidad de la empresa para resarcir de este grave daño a la familia que pierde un hijo y a todos los demás que sufrieron lesiones", subrayó Terrazas.

El cónsul dijo además que visitó en el hospital a los ocho obreros mexicanos lesionados, que se encuentran en condición estable.

"Están un poco confundidos pero nada de gravedad", afirmó. De acuerdo a Terrazas, las quejas que reciben en su departamento están relacionadas con la falta de pago.

"Recibimos quejas básicamente sobre impago de salarios. No hemos recibido quejas de falta de seguridad. Deberíamos de recibirlas, pero siento que muchas veces el trabajador mexicano por temor a ser despedido, no lo hace", sostuvo el funcionario del consulado mexicano en Nueva York.

Por su parte, Esperanza Morales, de la Asociación católica Tepeyac, creada para ayudar a los emigrantes mexicanos en esta ciudad, manifestó que la próxima semana tienen previsto reunirse con los obreros lesionados para conocer qué sucedió, la seguridad de empleo que les ofrecía el patrono y su salario.

Según Morales, muchos patronos contratan obreros "itinerantes" a quienes recogen todos los días "en las esquinas" y a los que ofrecen un empleo temporal.

Suelen recibir entre 40 y 70 dólares diarios, muy por debajo de lo que ganaría un trabajador legal de la construcción en esta ciudad, sueldo que estimó en unos 30 dólares la hora.

"De esta manera no están obligados a proveerles de seguro médico ni de ningún tipo de beneficio", dijo Morales.

Agregó que estas empresas tampoco cumplen con las condiciones de seguridad que requiere la ley, como el uso de cascos protectores o guantes.

Indicó que los mexicanos se quejan de compañías que cambian frecuentemente de nombre y de oficina para no ser localizadas cuando les reclaman su salario.

A raíz de este accidente, continuó, es posible que la ciudad aumente sus acciones en contra de los indocumentados en lugar de prestar más atención a las violaciones que cometen las compañías contratantes.

Hispanos En Servicio Militar Sufren El Mayor Nivel De Discriminacion

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Los hispanos y otros grupos minoritarios en el servicio militar de los Estados Unidos tienen una percepción más negativa de las relaciones raciales en las fuerzas armadas que sus colegas anglosajones, según una encuesta del 23 de noviembre hecha del personal militar, por el Departamento federal de Defensa.

Casi el 53 por ciento de los 76,754 miembros del personal militar seleccionados al azar respondieron a la encuesta, ordenada por el Congreso en 1996.

El estudio, titulado "Encuesta sobre Igualdad de Oportunidades en las Fuerzas Armadas," halló que tanto como el 85 por ciento de los hispanos habían sufrido un "encuentro ofensivo," ya sea con personal militar o civil. Un encuentro ofensivo se define como el ser sujeto a language insensible o ataque físico por razones de raza o etnicidad.

servicio militar que en la vida civil, mientras que casi la mitad - el 48 por ciento -- respondió que tenían mejores oportunidades de capacitación y educación en el servicio militar que en la vida civil.

El cincuenta por ciento de todos los grupos dijo que, si tuvieran que decidir, elegirían permanecer en el servicio militar.

"No es un mundo perfecto, pero el servicio militar ha estado haciendo un buen trabajo de mejorar las relaciones raciales. Es un lugar más equilibrado y con menos atención al color de la gente que el mundo civil," comentó a Hispanic Link el Col. Gil Coronado (jubilado), director del Sistema de Servicio Selectivo.

"Debido al modo de que se halla establecido, los latinos tienen bastantes oportunidades para contribuir y ascender en el servicio militar. Hay muchos ejemplos de esto. El secretario del ejército, Louis Caldera, por

El personal de bajo rango tuvo la tasa más alta:		
Por ciento.....Blancos...Negros...Latinos		
Alistados de bajo rango.....	70.....	77.....85
Alistados con mediano rango	64.....	73.....74
Oficiales.....	46.....	71.....60

El 60 por ciento de los hispanos sufrió encuentros ofensivos que involucraron a otro personal militar, en contraste con el 63 por ciento para los anglosajones y el 76 por ciento para los afroamericanos.

Más de un tercio de los hispanos -- el 37 por ciento -- dijo que no reportaron los incidentes, la razón principal siendo que "no se hará nada."

Sin embargo, cuando los incidentes fueron reportados, el 63 por ciento de los hispanos dijo que sus supervisores inmediatos "hicieron gestiones sinceras y razonables" para rectificar la situación.

"Es inquietante el que los porcentajes sean más altos para los hispanos," dijo Raúl Yzaguirre, presidente del Consejo Nacional de La Raza. "También es inquietante el que ésta fuera una encuesta ordenada por el Congreso y no hecha por iniciativa propia. Pero para ser justo con los militares, estas cifras y actitudes reflejan lo que está ocurriendo con la población en general."

No obstante, la encuesta halló también que el personal militar de todos los grupos cree que las relaciones raciales son mejores que en el mundo civil. La mitad de los encuestados hispanos dijeron que las fuerzas militares han "prestado la cantidad adecuada de atención" a los asuntos raciales.

Además, el 56 por ciento de los hispanos dijo que ellos recibirían una evaluación más equitativa de sus desempeños en el

ejemplo, es uno."

Los funcionarios del Pentágono dicen que se proponen efectuar una encuesta semejante el año que viene.

(Patricia Guadalupe es editora del Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C.)

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Por Pastor: Frank García
Lubbock, Texas

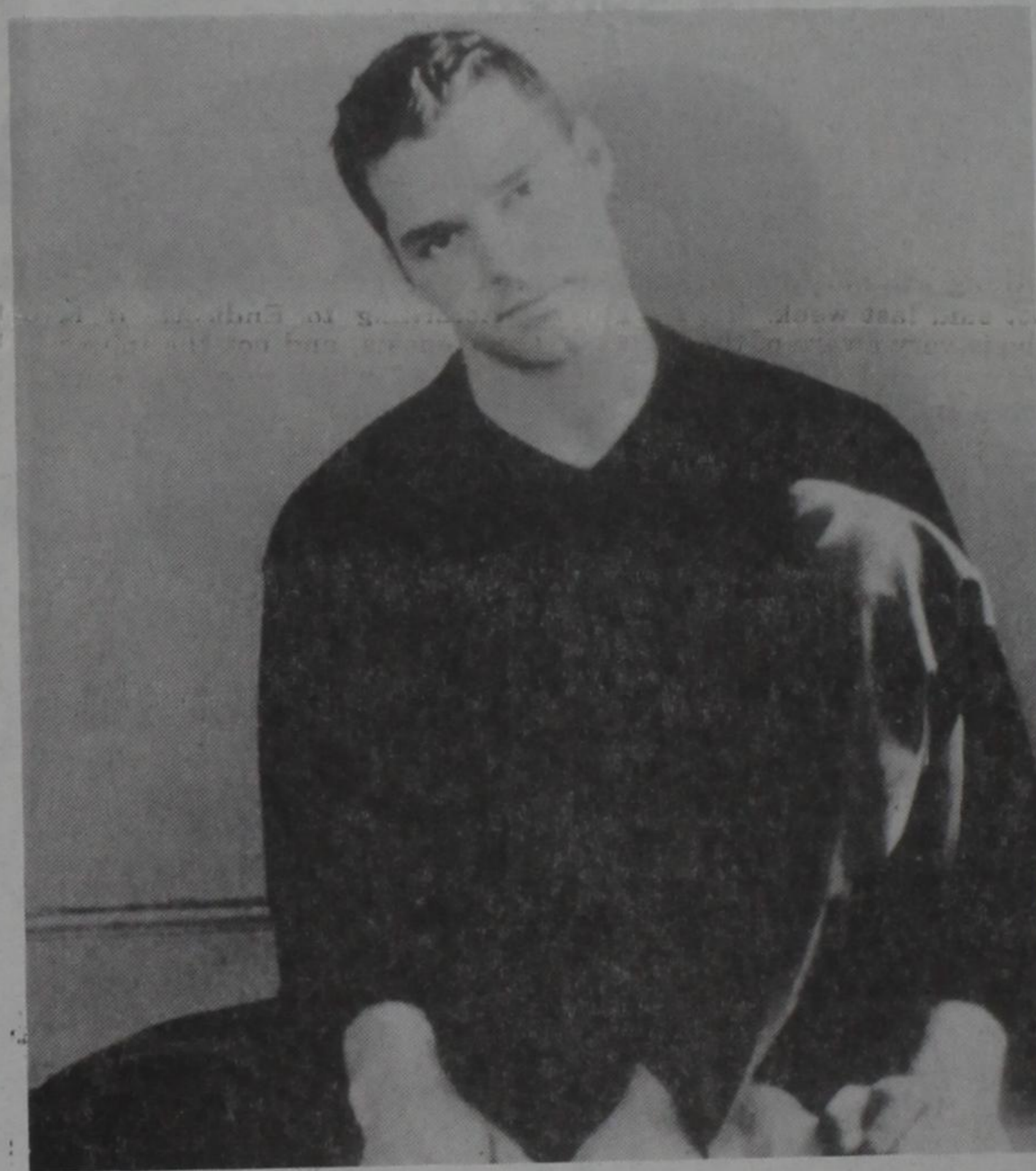


LA LIMOSNA Y LA ORACION

Que sea tu limosna en secreto;
Tú cuando orares, entra en tu cámara,
Mateo 6:4,6.

En esta parte en el sermón del monte nuestro Señor trata de dos asuntos; que son las limosnas y la oración. Tanto al uno como al otro, los judíos daban grande importancia, y tanto el uno como el otro, merecen ser atendidos de parte de los cristianos. NOTESE: Nuestro Señor Jesucristo propuso, que todos los que se llaman discípulos suyos dan limosna. Por lo tanto el único punto a que se refiere es de la manera que se debe hacer o desempeñar ese deber. Porque esto es en gran manera instructivo, y condena a los que se niegan a socorrer a los menesterosos. ¿Cuántos hay que son ricos a sus propios ojos, mas pobres a los ojos de Dios? y ¿Cuántos hay que no contribuyen ni un centavo para aliviar los cuerpos o las almas de sus semejantes? Merecen tales hombres titularse cristianos? Es muy dudoso: Porque un Salvador dadivoso debe tener también sus discípulos dadivosos. OBSERVESE: Observese en seguida que todos los que se llaman sus discípulos hacen oración. Y el Señor explica de qué manera se debe orar. Y esta es otra circunstancia que bien merece tenerse presente, por cuanto nos enseña que los que no oran no son cristianos verdaderos. No es suficiente tomar parte solamente los domingos en las oraciones de la congregación, o durante las semanas en las de la familia; sino que es preciso orar también en secreto. Pero que sin hacer esto, pudieramos ser miembros de la iglesia visible, pero no de la invisible. PREGUNTA: ¿Cuáles son las reglas que Jesús prescribió para dar limosna y para orar? Ellas son pocas y sencillas, sí, pocas y sencillas, pero dan lugar a profundas reflexiones. No debemos dar como para que el mundo vea cuán generosos y caritativos somos, y como que estamos solicitando la alabanza de nuestros semejantes. Pues nuestro deber es dar, piadosamente sin hacer alarma, sino que más bien tratando de conformar al espíritu de esa enseñanza... "Cuando tú des limosna no sepa tu izquierda lo que hace tu derecha" LA ORACION: Al orar debe de procurarse ante todo estar a solas con Dios. Y donde podamos abrir nuestro corazón con la seguridad que nadie nos está observando, excepto Dios. Aunque para muchas personas es un extremo difícil conformarse con esta regla. En la práctica de todos nuestros deberes como cristianos, ya sea que demos limosna o que oremos, la gran verdad que debemos tener es; que el Gran Dios a quien servimos sabe todas las cosas y escudriña todos los corazones.

Ricky Martin Confirmado Entre Personas Mas Fascinantes Del Año



Los Angeles - El cantante puertorriqueño Ricky Martin ha sido incluido en la lista de las personas más fascinantes del año, de acuerdo con la presentadora de televisión Barbara Walters.

Según Walters, considerada una de las personas con más influencia en la televisión estadounidense, la presencia de Martin en esta lista es "indiscutible".

"Es un fenómeno. Además lo está llevando tan bien. No hay nada cínico o ególatra en su persona", agregó la periodista.

Según describió Walters, Martin no sólo es fascinante por la sencillez con la que ha asumido su triunfo, sino por la calidad de su trabajo como intérprete, tanto en inglés como en castellano.

"No he visto un movimiento de caderas tal desde Elvis Presley", reconoció la periodista, que estuvo con Martin durante su concierto en el Madison Square Garden de Nueva York.

Algo más discutible ha sido la inclusión en esta lista del nombre de Mónica Lewinsky, la ex becaria que protagonizó el pasado año un escándalo sexual en la Casa Blanca.

"No es un monstruo y no podía dejarla fuera de la lista dado que, sin lugar a dudas, es la historia más importante del año", contestó Walters a las protestas hechas contra Lewinsky.

En su opinión, "estamos viviendo en una sociedad llena de hipocresía", donde un gran número de personas aseguraron no haber visto la entrevista entre Walters y la persona que tuvo un idilio con el presidente estadounidense, Bill Clinton, a pesar de ser uno de los espacios de mayor audiencia.

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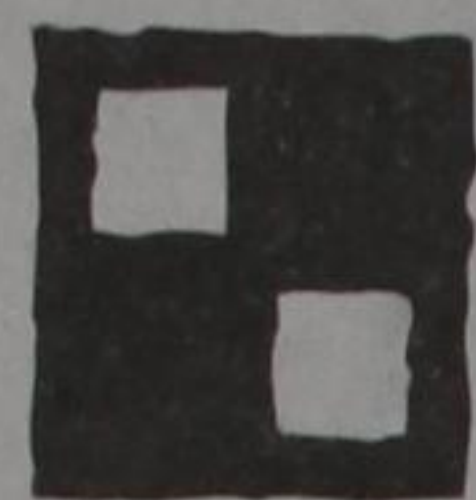
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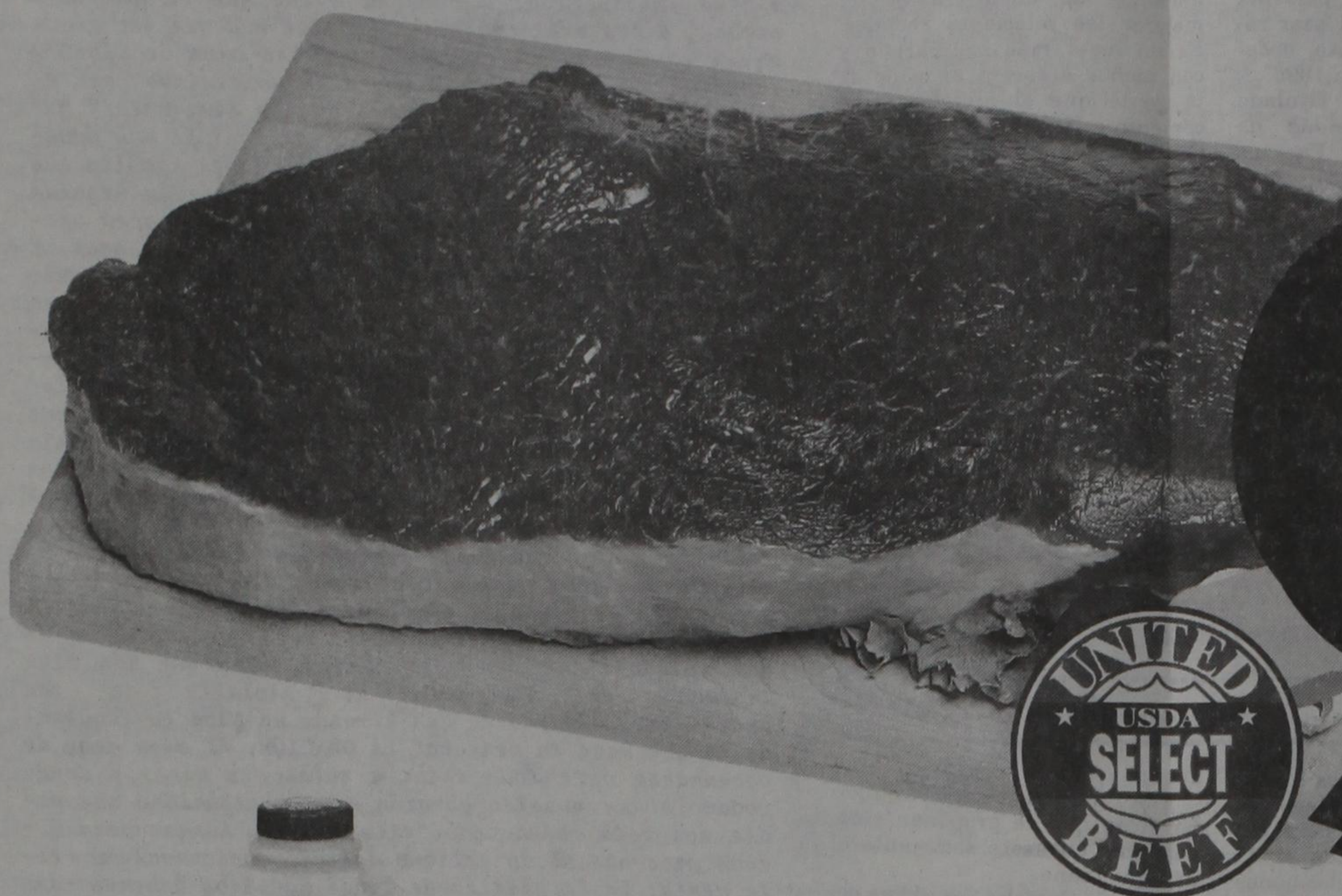


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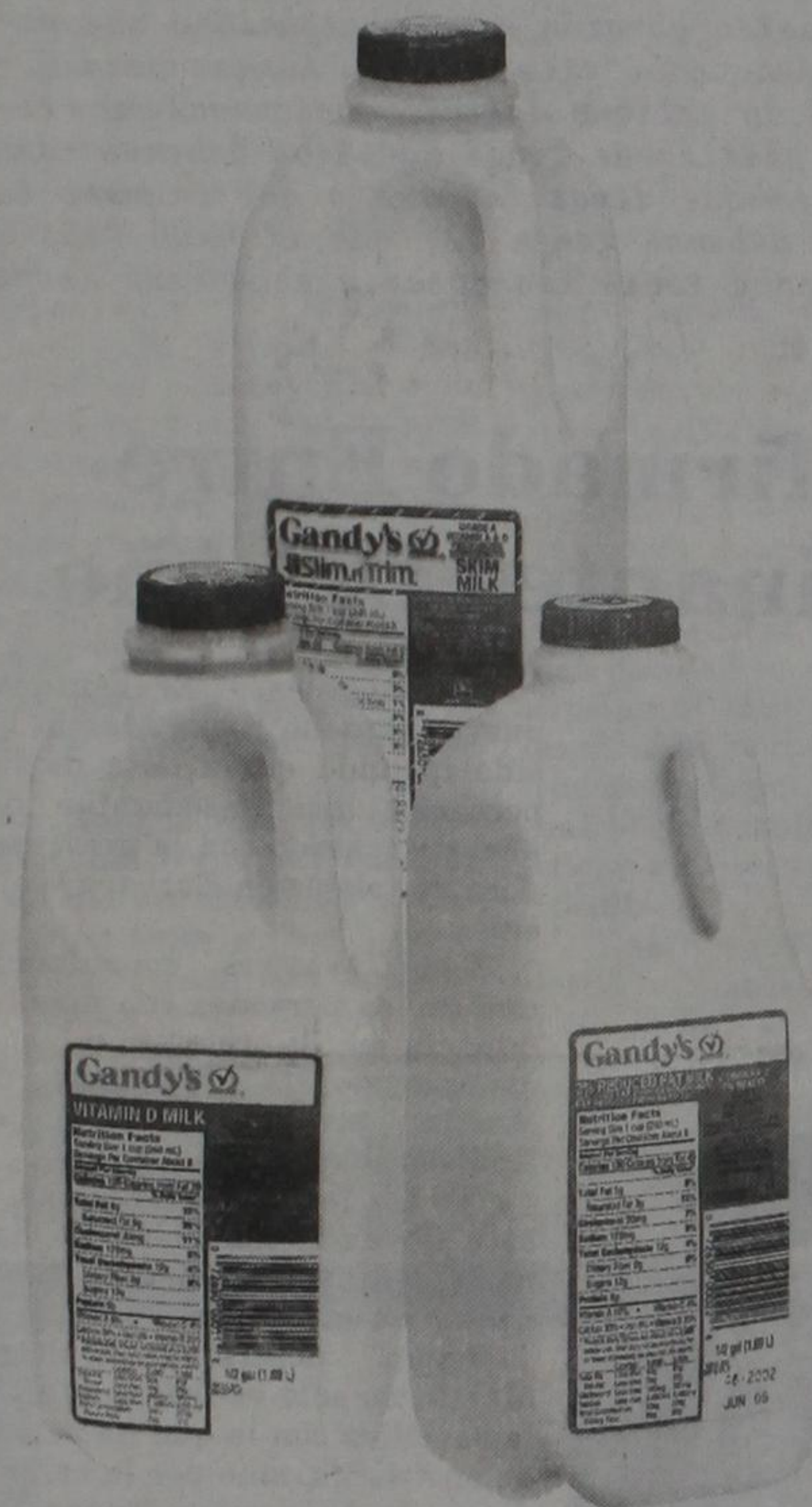
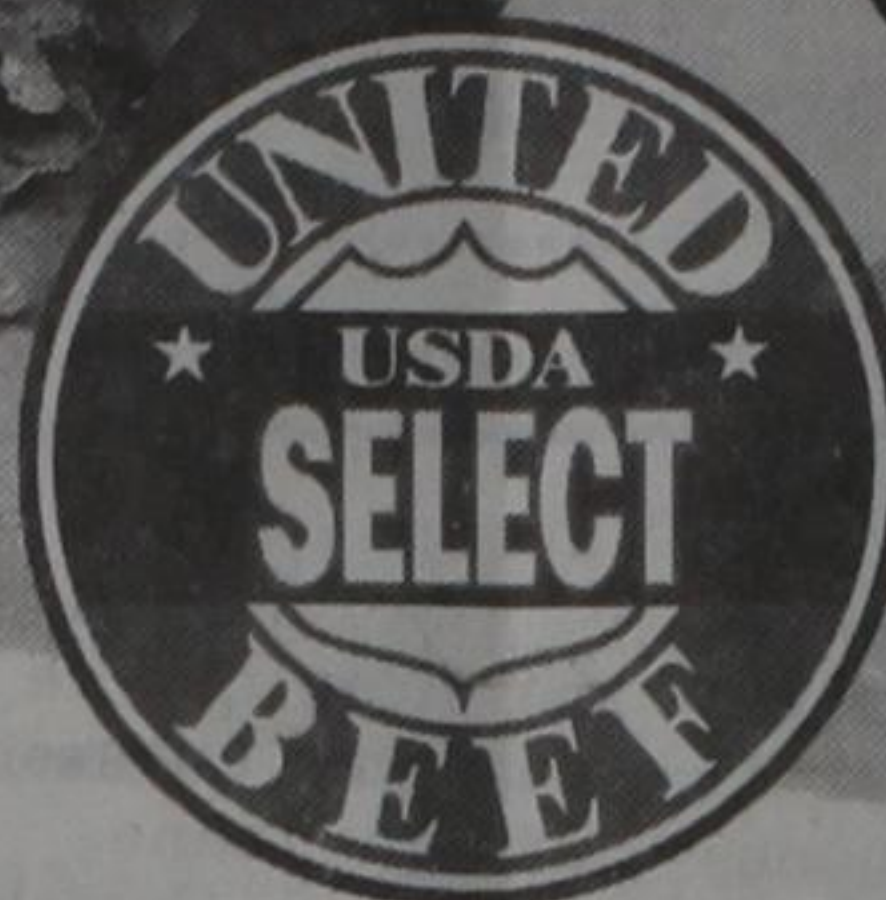


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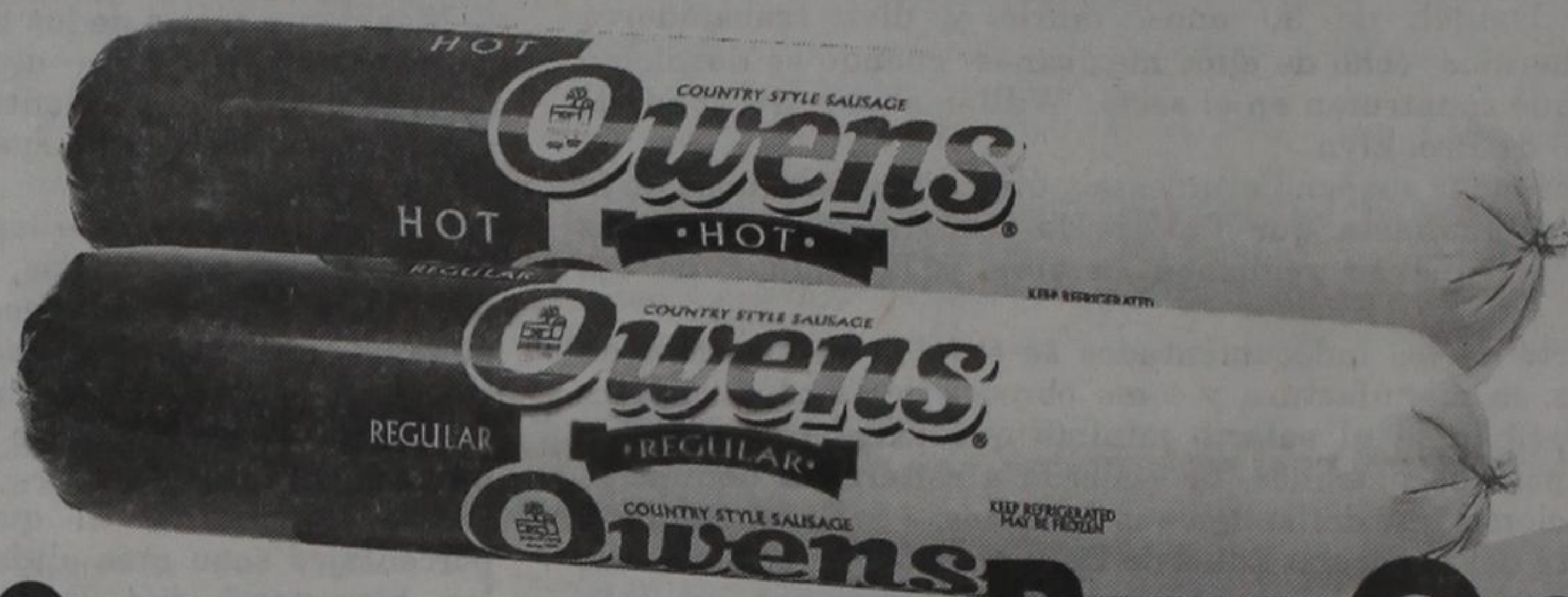
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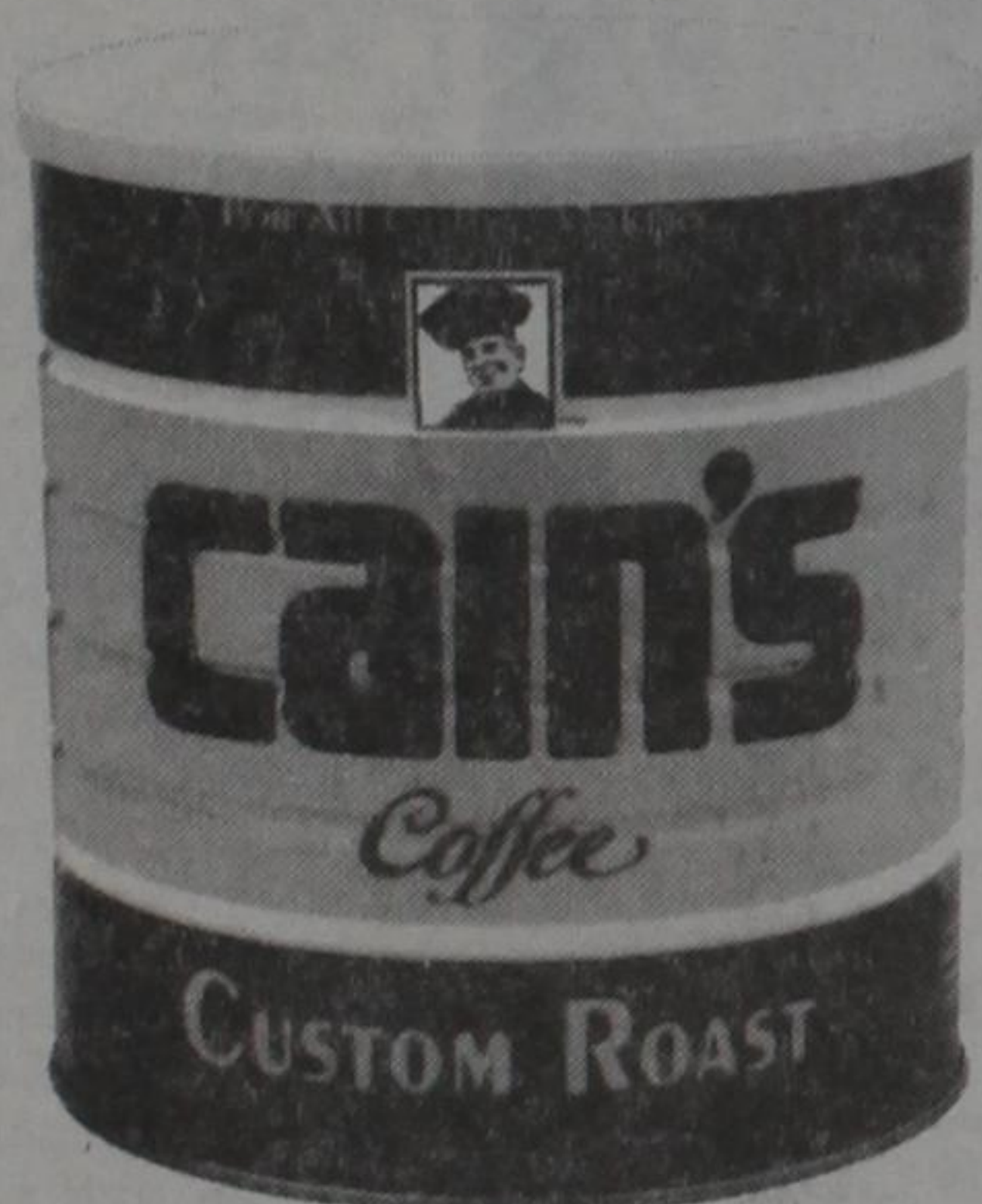
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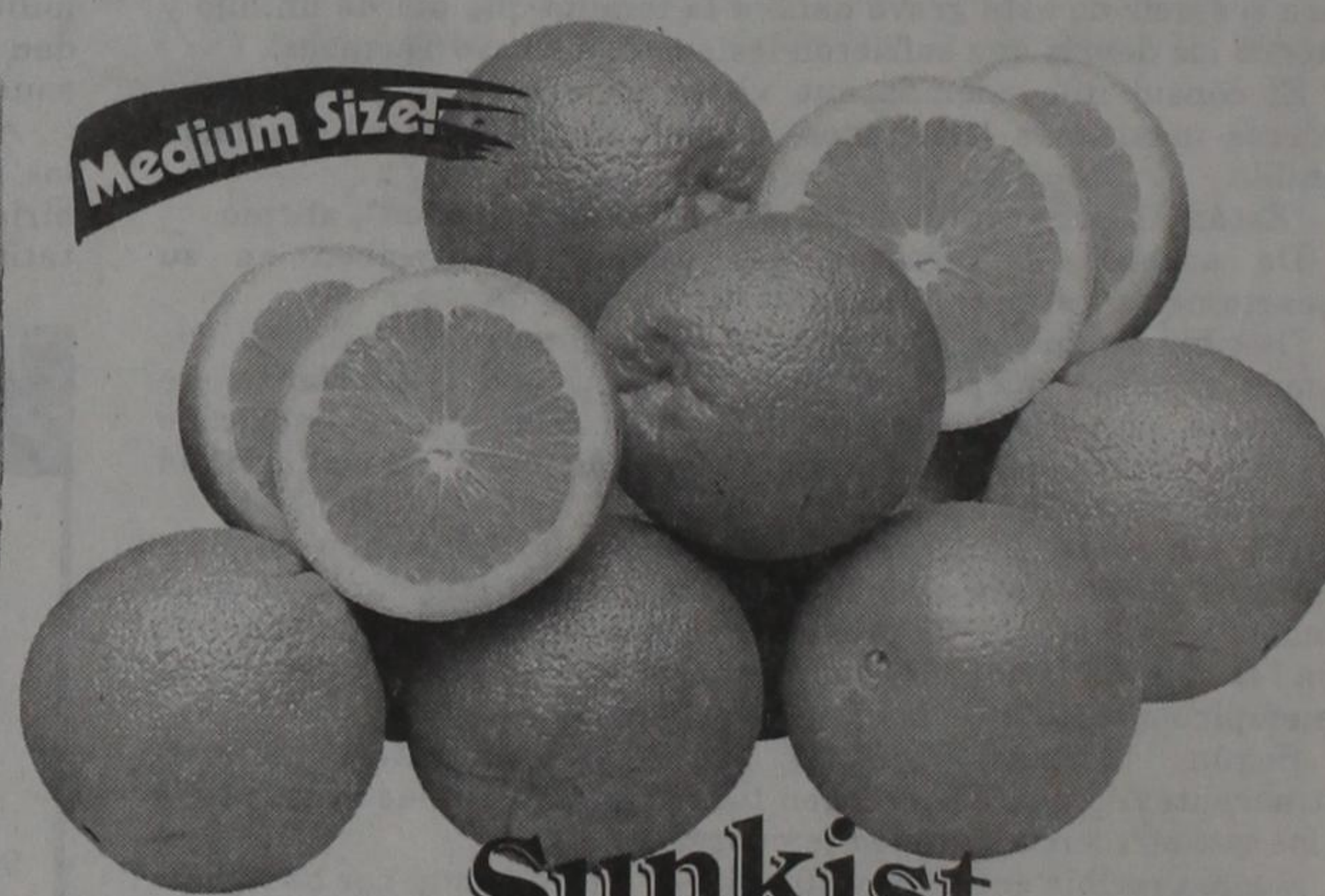
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