

El Salitaz

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"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

Lubbock, TX USA

Hispanic U.S. Senate pair face hard challenges on Latino Issues



EL EDITOR Bigger & Better in 2005

Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

Un poquito de Todo!

It's been a while since anyone really examined how much progress Hispanics have made in Lubbock. Next week I will start a series of articles written to examine how Hispanics in Lubbock and the area have progressed in the past year in various aspects of life. They will include education and politics and any other items which we feel need to be discussed.

Take Action!

ASK TEXAS SENATORS TO SPONSOR THE WISH ACT

Early this year, we hope to have a much-needed bill introduced in the U.S. Senate which will help battered immigrants and their children escape from abusive situations. The "Women Immigrants Safe Harbor (WISH) Act" would eliminate barriers that currently prevent many immigrants from accessing resources to help them leave situations of violence.

Bipartisan support of the bill is needed in order to ensure the bill's progress over the next year. It is critical that you reach out to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and convince them that their sponsorship is vital to the movement of this bill. We urge you to contact their offices in the coming weeks, writing letters and calling to demonstrate your support for the "WISH Act". Please use the model letter and sample messages provided in this alert to communicate how important the welfare of battered immigrants is to Texans.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Due to legal barriers that limit eligibility to programs when they need them most, most new immigrants are restricted from accessing federal benefits such as Medicaid, TANF, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This is especially problematic for low-income immigrant victims of abuse who need these programs so they can escape their abusers, protect other family members, and become self-sufficient. The "Women Immigrants Safe Harbor (WISH) Act" would eliminate the five-year bar that currently restricts battered immigrants from receiving federal benefits. Additionally, it would ensure that immigrant victims of trafficking, crime, and sexual assault would be able to access these programs, protecting them from continued violence.

Please let your senators know that you want to protect the health and well-being of battered immigrants! Click the link at the right to send your letter today.

contact Bidal at editor@llano.net

The new Hispanic pair at the US senate, republican Mel Martinez and democrat Ken Salazar, face hard challenges as the migratory subject and hearings of confirmation of Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General.

The republican majority in the Congress will look forward to showing its political force in supporting president George W. Bush in the partial privatization of Social Security? retirement system and simplification of the tributary code, although there are differences in terms of immigration.

At the senator's swear-in ceremony this Tuesday, the president of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, said, "we need to strengthen our borders, reform our asylum laws and improve the national norms for driver licenses.

The republicans did not manage to introduce those measures in the Intelligence Reform Legislation promulgated by Bush in December and have promised to insist on them at the beginning of the new legislative session.

In the meantime, Bush has reiterated his support to his initiative of temporary workers to confront the problem of undocumented immigration.

The Senate has predicted to analyze this Thursday the nomination of Gonzales as Attorney General, to whom their critics indicate that his policies led to cases of torture and will debate, on the other hand, how to fill the vacancies that could appear in the Supreme Court.

It later morphed into the all-encompassing Latino advocacy movement which is exemplified by NCLR, where Yzaguirre blossomed as the Latinos' leading lobbyist.

Raúl and I were among the first wave that landed in Washington during the early and mid-sixties when the movement was trying to find its legs. He was a college student and part-time medical technician and I was a journalist.

We were from the same Texas area with the same roots. I went abroad as a news correspondent while Raúl remained around Washington and Texas, already aware that advocacy was to be his lifetime commitment.

No one in Washington paid much attention to Latinos in those days, especially people like Raúl, who were a nuisance to politicians and bureaucrats who didn't appreciate upstart social engineers messing with the orderly procedure of governance. Nevertheless, in short time, he went from gadfly to serious people's advocate when he was picked to head the nascent NCLR in Washington in 1974.

NCLR, like its predecessor, the Southwest Council of La Raza, has always pronounced itself non-partisan, but its DNA is basically Democrat. The early leaders claimed they created NCLR after they were hounded by President Nixon's men and cut off from federal funds in 1972 because the organization allegedly would not endorse his re-election.

I was in the Nixon White House at that time and what they were told (but not by

Ken Salazar y Mel Martinez. QPWashington, D.C., 5 de enero, 2005 (Notimex) - La nueva dupla hispana en el Senado estadounidense, el republicano Mel Martinez y el demócrata Ken Salazar, enfrentan retos como el tema migratorio y audiencias de confirmación de Alberto Gonzales como procurador general.

La mayoría republicana en el Congreso buscará mostrar su fuerza política en apoyar al presidente George W. Bush en la privatización parcial del sistema de jubilación del Seguro Social y simplificación del código tributario, aunque hay diferencias en cuanto a migración.

En la ceremonia de juramentación de los senadores este martes, el presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Dennis Hastert, dijo que "necesitamos fortalecer nuestras fronteras, reformar nuestras leyes de asilo y mejorar las normas nacionales para las licencias de conducir".

Los republicanos no lograron introducir esas medidas en la ley de reforma del sistema de inteligencia promulgada por Bush en diciembre y han prometido insistir en ellas al inicio de la nueva sesión legislativa.

En tanto, Bush ha reiterado su apoyo a su iniciativa de trabajadores temporales para afrontar el problema de la inmigración indocumentada.

El Senado tiene previsto analizar este jueves la nominación de Gonzales como procurador general, a quien sus críticos señalan que sus políticas dieron paso a casos de tortura y debatirá por otro lado cómo llenar las vacantes que podrían presentarse en la Corte Suprema.

Martínez, de 58 años, quien en el gobierno de Bush se desempeñó como secretario de Vivienda, renunció al puesto para lanzar su candidatura ante el retiro del senador demócrata Bob Graham y derrotó a su contrincante demócrata Betty Castor en las elecciones pasadas.

En la ceremonia de juramentación de los senadores, a cargo del vicepresidente Dick Cheney, Martínez destacó su salida de Cuba para una mejor vida en Estados Unidos.

Asimismo, calificó como "la culminación de mi sueño americano" sus nuevos desafíos en el Senado, donde integrará los comités de Relaciones Exteriores, Banca, Energía y Personas Mayores.

Otros prominentes miembros de origen cubano en el 109 Congreso que también representan Florida son los legisladores Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln Diaz Balart y su hermano Mario Diaz Balart.

(Continúa en la página 5)

Dupla hispana en el senado de EEUU enfrenta difíciles retos

Changing the U.S. Latino Guard

By Carlos D. Conde

When Raúl Yzaguirre stepped down as president of the National Council of La Raza at the end of 2004, he left a legacy that may be matched but probably never equaled. His departure marks the end of an era in Latino advocacy and the beginning of another.

Yzaguirre began his odyssey in the early sixties just as the first contingent of Mexican-American reformists had finished laying the groundwork for the advocacy groups like NCLR that followed. In those days, "Latino" was still not the ethnic catchword.

It was largely a Mexican-American movement known in radical circles as the "Chicano" movement, the barrio slang preferred by young activists.

The Cubans were still fleeing Castro and preoccupied with establishing their niche in Miami. The large migrations from Central and South America had not yet materialized. Puerto Ricans were certainly evident, largely in New York, New Jersey and Chicago, but their alliance with Mexican Americans was still a work in progress.

The Yzaguirre era followed the first group of civil rights activists like Dr Héctor García, founder of the American GI Forum, Congressmen Ed Roybal of California and Henry B. González of Texas, and the brilliant Texas jurist Gus García.

They were part of the Mexican-American vanguard that created an awareness of the ethnic entity and its needs.

It later morphed into the all-encompassing Latino advocacy movement which is exemplified by NCLR, where Yzaguirre blossomed as the Latinos' leading lobbyist.

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We were from the same Texas area with the same roots. I went abroad as a news correspondent while Raúl remained around Washington and Texas, already aware that advocacy was to be his lifetime commitment.

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me) was to maintain their neutrality in the presidential election.

It forced the organization to seek foundation and corporate support and supposedly free itself of the political pressures that come with federal funds. This turned out to be an important factor in building the organization as it is today.

A lot of the credit goes to Yzaguirre for his uncompromising leadership. One of the most agile Washington bureaucrats ever, he survived six White House administrations, countless NCLR boards and a lot of arrows zinged at him from all directions.

He did what needed to be done in his tenure. He forged the original vision of the Latino pioneers into a viable national strategy serving the aspirations of the Latino community by confronting injustices and giving it a role in national affairs.

The torch has now been passed to a new generation of Latinos leaders, many of whom weren't even born at the time of the early struggles, who relate to them only through historical prologue.

It's a new stage with new challenges. Basically the parameters are the same — preserving all that is good of the Latino heritage while not forgetting the unmet needs of so many within this community now approaching 50 million.

Yzaguirre is replaced by Janet Murguía. She apparently has the right stuff to lead what has become the country's largest Hispanic advocacy

organization, with 300-plus affiliates serving four million Hispanics in 41 states.

A Kansas City native, with journalism, Spanish and law degrees from the University of Kansas, Ms. Murguía worked for a Kansas congressman and for the Clinton White House in legislative affairs and as deputy assistant to the President. She was a deputy campaign director for the Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign and later a UK vice chancellor.

Things have changed in the Latino world, happily for the better, since Yzaguirre first came on the job at NCLR. During the Yzaguirre era, the community became more prosperous, more sophisticated, better educated and better attuned to its ambitions. Yzaguirre's leadership was instrumental in changing perceptions and in creating the mood that has brought more opportunities.

If you accept that the transfer of leadership in a Latino flagship organization such as NCLR also marks the third phase in the Latino movement, Ms. Murguía's first priorities will be defining the new agenda and establishing her style of leadership.

She will need time to survey the landscape and assess what lies ahead. For sure, the Yzaguirre dynasty did not solve all the problems. But it did set the standard for advocacy that works.

That's why another of Ms. Murguía's initial tasks will be escaping the shadow of Raúl.

Relevo de la Guardia Latina

Por Carlos D. Conde

Cuando se retiró Raúl Yzaguirre de la presidencia del Concilio Nacional de La Raza (NCLR) a fines del 2004, dejó un legado igualable, quizás, aunque probablemente nunca lo será. Su partida marca el fin de una era en la lucha por los derechos latinos y el inicio de otra.

La odisea de Yzaguirre comenzó en los primeros años de la década de los sesenta, apenas el primer contingente de reformistas mexicano-americanos había terminado de sentar las bases para los grupos de abogacía como el NCLR que le siguieron. En aquella época el término "latino" aún no era el lema étnico que es hoy.

Fue, primordialmente, un movimiento mexicano-americano conocido en los círculos radicales como el movimiento "chicano", jerga del barrio que preferían los jóvenes activistas.

Los cubanos huían a Castro y estaban preocupados por establecerse como grupo en Miami. Las grandes migraciones de América Central y del Sur no se habían materializado todavía.

De hecho se evidenciaban los puertorriqueños, más que nada en Nueva York, Nueva Jersey y en Chicago, pero su alianza con los mexicano-americanos quedaba por cuajarse.

La era de Yzaguirre siguió la del primer

grupo de activistas en pro de los derechos civiles así como el doctor Héctor García, fundador del American GI Forum, los congresistas Ed Roybal de California y Henry B. González de Texas, y el brillante jurista de Texas, Gus García.

Formaban parte de la vanguardia mexicano-americana que creó conciencia de la entidad étnica y sus requerimientos. Más tarde se convirtió en un movimiento que abogaba por los derechos de todos los latinos, y su mayor ejemplo es NCLR, con el que Yzaguirre floreció como el mayor abogado por los latinos.

Raúl y yo estábamos entre la primera oleada que aterrizó en Washington durante la primera mitad de la década de los sesenta, cuando el movimiento aún se estaba formalizando. El era estudiante universitario y técnico médico a tiempo parcial y yo era periodista.

Proveníamos de la misma región de Texas, con las mismas raíces. Yo viajé al extranjero como corresponsal de noticias mientras que Raúl daba vueltas en Washington y en Texas con varias hazañas, ya consciente de que la abogacía por los derechos latinos sería su compromiso vital.

Nadie en Washington les prestaba atención a los latinos en aquel entonces, en particular no a gente como Raúl, pesado para los políticos y burócratas quienes no tenían mucho aprecio por los ingenieros

sociales novatos que se inmiscuían en el procedimiento ordenado del gobierno. No obstante, en poco tiempo pasó de fastidios a luchador por los derechos de gente seria como cuando fue elegido a la cabeza de NCLR en Washington en 1974.

El Concilio Nacional de La Raza, como su predecesor, el Concilio del Suroeste de La Raza, siempre se ha pronunciado sin partido, aunque su ADN es básicamente demócrata. Los primeros dirigentes decían haber creado NCLR tras presión de los hombres del presidente Nixon y sin poder recibir fondos federales en 1972 por lo que la organización supuestamente no apoyaría su re-elección.

Yo formaba parte de la administración de Nixon en ese momento y lo que se les dijo (pero no yo) fue que se mantuvieran neutrales frente a la elección presidencial.

Obligó a la organización a buscar apoyo financiero de fundaciones y empresas y así, supuestamente, librarse de las presiones políticas que acarrean los fondos federales. Esta situación resultó ser un factor importante para el fomento de la organización como existe hoy.

La muerte del crédito por el éxito se debe a Yzaguirre por ser un líder sin ambages.

Como uno de los burócratas de Washington más ágiles nunca, sobrevivió a seis administraciones presidenciales, un sinnúmero de juntas directivas de NCLR y muchas flechas que le zumbaban de todas las direcciones.

Yzaguirre hizo lo que había que hacer en su término. Forjó la visión originaria de los pioneros latinos en una estrategia nacional viable para servir las aspiraciones de la comunidad latina al confrontar las injusticias y dar a la comunidad un rol en los asuntos a nivel nacional.

Se ha pasado la antorcha ahora a una nueva generación de dirigentes latinos, muchos de los cuales no habían nacido cuando las primeras luchas, con las que se relacionan sólo mediante un prólogo histórico.

Hemos llegado a una nueva etapa con nuevos retos.

Los parámetros siguen siendo básicamente iguales — preservar todo lo bueno de la herencia latina al no olvidar las necesidades sin cubrir de tantas personas que caen dentro de esta comunidad que ahora se acerca a los 50 millones.

A Yzaguirre lo reemplaza Janet Murguía. Ella, por lo visto, cuenta con lo correcto como para orientar lo que ha llegado a ser la organización de abogacía latina más grande del país, con 300 y más filiales en servicio de cuatro millones de hispanos en 41 estados.

(Continua en la Pagina 5)

Not in my name: Latino nominee does not appeal

Maria Blanco

Recently, I participated in a live radio discussion with several Latino civil rights leaders about the nomination of Alberto Gonzales as U.S. attorney general.

When the talk show host asked me how I felt about the historic significance of the first Latino to be selected as U.S. attorney general, it gave me pause.

I responded that because of my concerns about his extreme interpretation of international and civil rights law, and his apparent political partiality, I could not support Gonzales simply because he is Latino.

As the debate among Latino and civil rights groups over whether to support the Gonzales nomination continues, I have decided that as a Latina civil rights attorney, I prefer to lend my support based on character, not skin color.

Yes, it is exciting that Latinos are breaking through the political glass ceiling. But it is simply not enough to be Latino to garner support from Latino communities.

Blanket support of this nature obscures the diversity of Latinos and their political perspectives. Latinos are mestizos, Africans, indigenous people, whites and Asians of many different races and countries of origin.

Race, ethnicity, geography and class often influence the

divergent political opinions of Latinos. There is a vast difference between the voting patterns of Puerto Ricans in New York, Chicanos in Los Angeles and Cubans in Florida.

Gonzales could not possibly represent a group so varied with respect to our cultural values and political goals.

Some suggest that President Bush nominated Alberto Gonzales to thank an increasingly conservative Latino electorate.

In fact, few of the now much talked about "moral values" are shared across this diverse electorate, and issues like abortion rights, the privatization of Social Security and the war in Iraq elicit a variety of reactions from Latino voters.

While the popular spin seems to be how well Bush did with this group, the political reality is that Latinos cannot be grouped together in the conservative column.

In fact, of the five heavily contested states with large Latino voting populations, Florida was the only one where Bush gathered a majority of the Latino vote, and even then, the Democrats' greatest gains with Latino voters from 2000 were in Florida.

So while Bush did make gains with Latino voters in the

2004 election, the gains were not very large.

Let's put ethnicity aside, and look at who and what Gonzales represents.

During his tenure as legal counsel in Texas, he wrote the legal summaries for 54 of the 150 men and women put to death by then-Gov. Bush, thereby setting a record for capital punishment in the United States.

More to the point, Gonzales failed to include key facts and did not address whether the condemned prisoner had received a fair trial.

These cursory legal summaries demonstrate how Gonzales sacrificed the due process rights of people of color and the poor in order to promote the policy positions of his client, Bush.

His role as White House counsel is even more damning.

Gonzales is responsible for extreme and unprecedented interpretations of international and civil rights law.

Let there be no mistake. He interpreted the Geneva Conventions, an agreement signed by the United States specifically to eradicate war crimes, to allow for the torture of enemy combatants by relying on a semantic argument: He suggested that the United States simply not designate them prisoners of war. By attempting to circumvent the Geneva Conventions, Gonzales has prioritized political expediency over the rule of law.

Sure, Gonzales is Latino, but

let's remember that Latin America has a long history of dictatorships and leaders who used torture to maintain their power. Many Latinos in the United States have left their home countries precisely because of that repression.

Gonzales' record cannot possibly justify his nomination to the office of the country's highest legal representative.

Given all the tough issues that are coming the way of the attorney general's office in the next four years -- most notably an investigation into the human rights abuses at Guantanamo Bay that Gonzales' legal memos justified -- political independence should be in the forefront.

So I must say, "Not in my name," to Bush.

Latinos are not so overwhelmingly absorbed in having a top-level Latino member of the president's Cabinet as to overlook a record that consistently substitutes expediency for human rights and due process, especially on issues that have a drastic impact on Latinos, immigrants and the poor.

It is condescending to Latinos to assume that appearance is more important to us than policy or that Latinos are unable to distinguish the two.

Maria Blanco, an attorney, is the executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

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No walls, no troops along the border will secure our nation

By US Sen. John Coryn

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship subcommittee, addressed the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement (IDGA) conference, "Smart Borders: The Implementation of US VISIT and Other Biometric Border Control Systems" Wednesday. Below are excerpts from his speech:

"We're making strides in bolstering our security. Some have suggested, wrongly, that our security needs dictate the need to build a wall between our countries, or deploy military troops along our border. Security must be achieved without causing irreparable damage to mutually beneficial trade and economic relationships, which create jobs and a better quality of life for those on both sides of the border. We also need to have common sense policies that reward those who obey our laws."

"I am personally committed to achieving an entry-exit system that meets our duty to protect the security of the American people, while allowing for legitimate traffic and trade along our border. We need to seek common sense policies that make border crossings quick, safe and as efficient as possible for those who follow our laws — but also form a solid barrier against those who violate our laws or seek to do us harm."

"The US-VISIT program is an effort that I believe is essential to this goal. It provides us with a continuum of security measures that will help ensure that those who follow the law will benefit from easier travel, while dramatically improving our ability to detect those who violate our immigration laws."

"Even at this early point, US-VISIT is working. Since the rollout in our airports and seaports, more than 10 million foreign visitors have been processed. And we've been able to arrest or deny admission to nearly 300 criminals or immigration law violators — including convicted rapists, drug traffickers, federal penitentiary escapees, people convicted of armed robbery and manslaughter, and numerous immigration violators and those attempting visa fraud."

In an effort to reform immigration policy and re-center law enforcement on border security, Cornyn introduced the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act (S. 1387) in July, 2003. The legislation is a comprehensive immigration reform to develop a temporary worker program and strengthen homeland security efforts at the borders. Identifying those who are here to work and then return home would allow law enforcement to focus on those who attempt to enter the United States illegally, or worse, enter for purposes of committing terrorist acts.

Sen. Cornyn chairs the subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights & Property Rights. He is the only former judge on the Judiciary Committee and served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Léa El Editor Primero

Building a Bastion of Home Protections for Our Hispanic Community

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (D-Tx.)

As a representative for the 15th Congressional District of Texas, I have been a tireless advocate for improving the living conditions of Hispanics not only in my District, but across America. I've seen first hand the conditions that exist in the "Colonias" along the border and the difficulties facing those who work in rural America to find decent housing in which to bring up their families. I've watched as unscrupulous lenders bound unsuspecting Hispanics to outrageous contracts simply because they did not know how to manage credit or defend their rights as consumers.

It is for these reasons and others that I decided to dedicate a great percentage of my time to improving housing, education and the quality of life for my constituents. In Congress, I serve on the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Financial Services as well as collaborating with Congressman Artur Davis (D-Ala.) in the creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

As a Hispanic American leader I also recognize our responsibility as Hispanic Congresspersons for the progress and advancement of our community across this great nation. That is why I am a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and why what I have learned and the efforts I make on behalf of my District are applicable all over the country.

The "Colonias" along the border are of particular concern. A great many of those who live there are first generation residents to this country who live in conditions of extreme poverty and are bereft of the bare necessities for a decent life. These families are the pioneers of the American dream and the forbearers to many current Hispanic Americans who have gone on to prosperity and remarkable achievements. As such, we owe it to the residents of the "Colonias" to do everything in our power to improve their lives.

These residents of underdeveloped, unincorporated communities along the border lack basic physical infrastructure elements such as running water, sewer systems, paved roads, electricity, safe and sanitary housing or storm drainage. The physical and social isolation of the "Colonias" residents creates a major obstacle to improving their living conditions.

Therefore, beyond the necessary improvements and repairs I've been able to draw to these communities through the Federal system, we have created a number of impressive and groundbreaking public/private partnerships for the improvement of the "Colonias". I'm particularly proud of our efforts, together with Fannie Mae, to bring a 4 billion dollar affordable housing strategy as part of the expanded "American Dream" commitment for the border region, an effort that will help provide affordable home ownership and rental opportunities to more than 50,000 individuals and families living along the Texas-Mexico border. We have also been busy partnering with such innovative organizations as "Proyecto Azteca", the South Texas Community Development Corporation (STCDC) and the North American Development Bank (NAD) to increase the availability of housing for extremely low income families along the border.

Through my most recent efforts in Congress we've been able to channel infrastructure improvement funds to the area for, among other projects, the implementation of water conservation programs in the Rio Grande Valley, the construction of an extension to the interstate highway system to finally connect South Texas to the interstate system and substantial upgrades in homeland and border security systems. We must never turn our backs on the problems facing those who live on our border for they are the true pioneers of the American Dream.

Many of our people live in substandard housing in rural areas across the nation. Roughly 2.6 million rural households live in homes that are plagued with severe structural damage and lack access to critical lifelines including sewage, electricity and heat and yet federal spending for rural rental housing has been cut by 73% since 1994. Rural rental housing unit production financed by the federal government has been reduced by 88% since 1990.

In our Rural Rental Housing Assistance Act of 2003 we proposed a \$250 million fund to be administered by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). The funds would be allotted to states based on their share of rural substandard units and of the rural population living in poverty. We propose the leveraging of federal funding by requiring states or other non-profit intermediaries to provide a dollar-for-dollar match of project funds. The funds would be used for the acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of low-income rental housing.

I am also extremely concerned about the knowledge and capacity of our community to properly access the financial system in this country and manage credit so as to take advantage of the opportunities that exist for improving living standards and prosperity in our community.

Our community lags far behind the nation in terms of the percentage of homeowners. Less than half (48%) of the Latino community in the United States own their homes, in comparison to over 68% of the general public. We know for certain that ownership of one's property is a gateway not only to prosperity for the home owner, but also a clear path to prosperity, higher education opportunities and the general well being of future generations.

This is why I have joined with Freddie Mac and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) to launch "CreditSmart Español," a free financial literacy program designed to help Hispanic residents build strong credit and make wise financial decisions. My friend, Antonio Flores, HACU President, has said of this program: "Financial literacy is an indispensable skill for helping students achieve their college goals, become future homeowners and enjoy a lifetime of financial security."

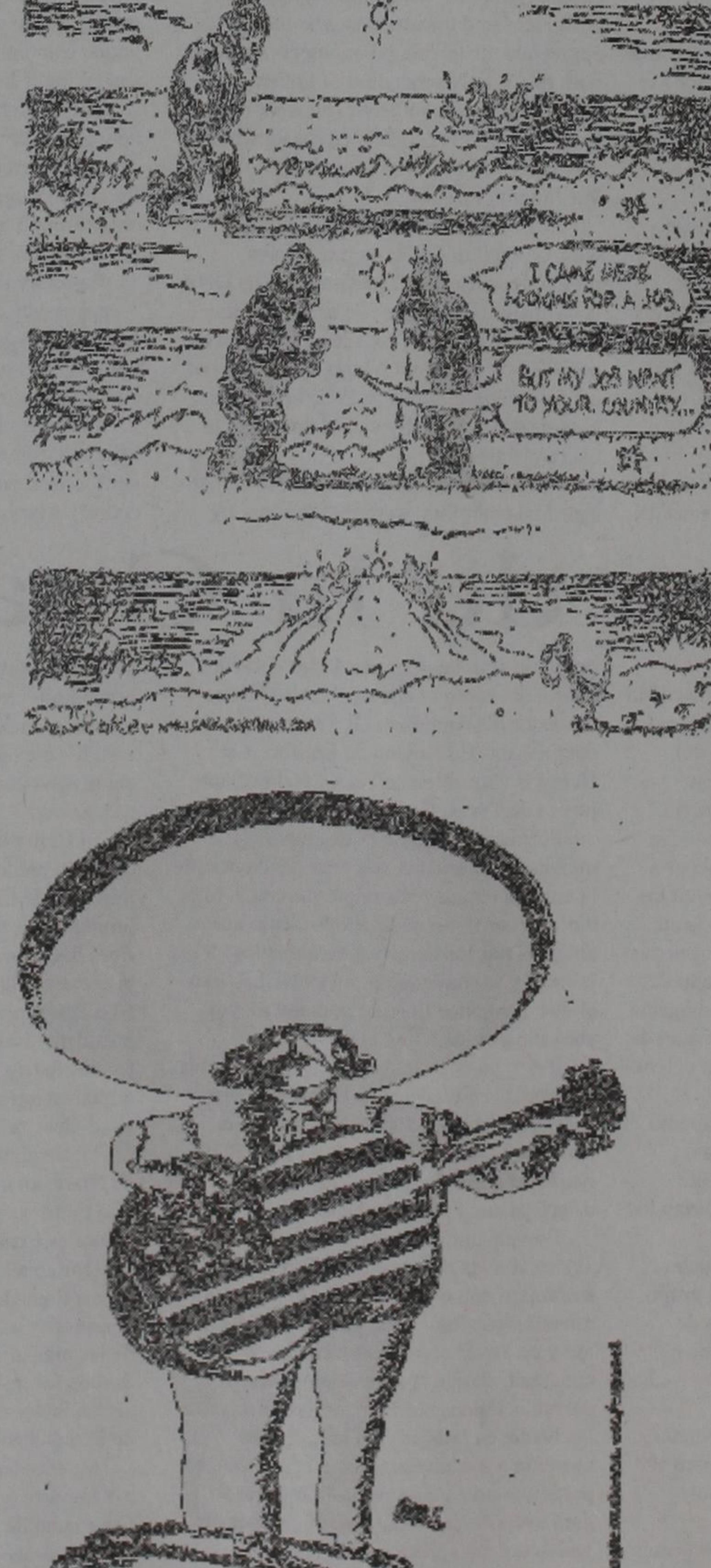
In testimony before the House Financial Services Committee I have outlined the barriers to bringing the un-banked into the mainstream financial system and advocated for "improving and encouraging the development of financial literacy programs that can only help increase the living standards of these nationals and Americans in general."

"CreditSmart Español" is a component of "Catch the Dream," Freddie Mac's comprehensive plan to achieve the federal government's goal of adding 5.5 million minority homeowners by the end of the decade. "CreditSmart Español" consists of a series of workshops designed to help consumers obtain the knowledge necessary to effectively manage their money and to positively impact their credit. The titles to some of the workshops are: managing your money, banking services, goal setting, your credit and why it is important, maintaining good credit, understanding credit scoring, thinking like a lender, avoiding credit traps, restoring your credit, planning your future and becoming a homeowner.

I am fortunate to have introduced this program in Hidalgo and Starr counties through South Texas Community College. Freddie Mac has done an excellent job of reproducing this program on a national scale. For a complete translation of the "CreditSmart Español" curriculum visit the Freddie Mac website at www.freddiemac.com.

We are a fast growing, entrepreneurial community with enormous potential and a bright future. I have dedicated my life to the improvement of living conditions for all Americans in my District and throughout this great country. I believe we are making effective progress in particular in housing and financial literacy for the Hispanic population in the United States. With the cooperation of partners in industry and the non-profit sector we will witness a day where homeownership among Latinos is equal to that of the population at large, our sons and daughters are educated at the same level as other Americans and our leaders are integrated into the general fabric of the nation. This is bound to happen and I am happy to be part of the effort to build this remarkable future.

EL EDITOR
Bigger and Better in 2005



Resumiendo El 2004:**Los Españoles Mostraron el Camino en el Cine**

Por Antonio Mejías-Rentas

En el 2004, los eventos de importancia fueron aclamación crítica por un número sin precedentes de películas en español, menos papeles para actores latinos en la televisión y el continuo rechazo y deserción de actores de Cuba. Esta es la primera de cuatro reseñas de la experiencia en el 2004 de los latinos en el mundo del espectáculo global y de los Estados Unidos.

Primera parte: EL CINE

Las películas en español — rodadas en los EEUU y en el extranjero — ganaron los primeros premios en los festivales por todo el mundo y se vieron prominentemente entre las rifas de premios de fin de año.

Ganador del Oscar 2003, el español Pedro Almodóvar, surtió gran efecto en mayo al estrenar su película, *La mala educación*, en el festival del cine en Cannes — primera vez que una película en español sale así galardonada. La misma abrió el festival de cine en Nueva York en octubre, pero al emitirse comercialmente en noviembre le cayó la categorización de N-17 (mayores de 17 años) por su contenido sexual, lo cual redujo importantemente su posibilidad de ser considerada para un Oscar.

No obstante, la película de Almodóvar sacó en pantalla

Summing Up 2004:

grande al actor mexicano Gael García Bernal, quien también había embelesado al público el año anterior con *Diarios de motocicleta*, la adaptación del director brasileño, Walter Salles, de un diario del joven Ernesto "Che" Guevara. *Diarios* (coproducción estadounidense con varios países europeos y latinoamericanos) alcanzó las listas de películas favoritas de varios críticos, lo cual colocó a García Bernal en posición de un serio postulante a una nominación para el Oscar.

Actor español Javier Bardem también ocasionó un zumbido serio para el Oscar en el papel de un hombre minusválido con deseos de morir en Mar adentro, del director chileno-español Alejandro Amenábar. Bardem ganó la Copa Volpi de este año por su actuación en el festival de cine de Venecia, en el que Mar adentro se llevó el gran premio del jurado. En diciembre, Bardem y Amenábar consolidaron las esperanzas para el Oscar con tres nominaciones del premio 2005 del Golden Globe.

Otra favorita de festivales fue la coproducción estadounidense-colombiana *Maria llena eres de gracia*, preferida del público en el festival Sundance en enero, como primera película en español a competir nunca en este festival. Catalina Sandino Moreno, en

su primera actuación, ganó premios por actuación mayores en los festivales de Berlín y Cartagena (Colombia) y la película llega en el 2005 como una de las de la primera lista de nominaciones para los premios para películas independientes Spirit este mes.

Salles y Amenábar estuvieron entre varios directores latinoamericanos a volver a sus raíces en el 2004 después de lograr éxitos en Hollywood. Luis Mandoki de México dirigió *Voces inocentes*, la que su país presentó a la nominación de película en lengua extranjera para el Oscar. Luis Llosa, peruano, viajó a la República Dominicana para adaptar *La fiesta del chivo*, novela de su primo Mario Vargas Llosa.

La República Dominicana atrajo a varias producciones internacionales el año pasado, incluyendo *The Lost City*, de Andy García, que marcó su inicio como director de películas comerciales.

La habilidad de pasar con facilidad de super éxitos de Hollywood a películas menores, con base en casa, tuvo su mejor ejemplo con Alfonso Cuarón, de México, cuyo *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* estrenó con \$93.7 millones, récord en taquilla. En noviembre Cuarón firmó un contrato sin precedentes de tres años con Warner

Brothers, que le permitirá desarrollar tanto películas en inglés para Hollywood y películas en español en México.

Por segundo año consecutivo, en el 2004 se nominó a varios artistas de cine latinos para el Oscar.

Actor puertorriqueño, Benicio del Toro, ganador del Oscar en el 2000 con *Traffic*, se llevó una segunda nominación el año pasado con *21 Grams*, debut en inglés del director Alejandro González Iñárritu, de México.

Fernando Meirelles, director brasileño, para sorpresa de todos recibió una nominación para Mejor Director por su aclamada *Cidade de Deus*, en portugués, que también fue nominada para la categoría de Cinematografía (César Charlone), Edición de Película (Daniel Rezende) y Guión Adaptado (Braulio Montovani).

Balseros, una película sobre refugiados cubanos de periodistas de televisión en español Carlos Bosch y Josep María Domenech, se ganó una nominación de la categoría Documental.

(Antonio Mejías-Rentas es editor de espectáculos para el diario de Los Angeles La Opinión. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: lataino@sol.com)

A continuación: La experiencia en el 2004 de los hispanos en la televisión © 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

**Gonzales en dura prueba oponentes le pedirán explique sobre 'memorandos de tortura'**

sos que todos hemos visto en las fotografías de la cárcel de Abu Ghraib", dijo Anthony Romero, quien dirige la Unión de Libertades Civiles de Estados Unidos.

El martes un grupo de generales retirados y admirables estadounidenses firmaron una carta expresando sus reservas acerca de los puntos de vista que Gonzales reflejó en aquellos memorandos.

En la misiva, firmada entre otros por el ex jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto John Shalikashvili, los militares dijeron que esa política puso además en mayor riesgo a los efectivos de Estados Unidos ya que podrían recibir un trato más duro cuando son capturados.

Amigo desde hace tiempo de Bush y actual consejero legal de la Casa Blanca, Gonzales acudirá ante la Comisión Judicial del Senado para su audiencia de confirmación como secretario de Justicia.

De ser aprobado su nombramiento por los legisladores, Gonzales, de 49 años, se convertirá en el primer hispano en ocupar ese cargo, que incluye las funciones de fiscal general.

Quienes se oponen a su designación adelantaron que esperan que Gonzales explique los llamados "memorandos de tortura", que escribió en 2002, en los cuales aconsejaba a Bush que no se les diera a los combatientes extranjeros capturados en Afganistán y en otros países el estatus de prisioneros de guerra bajo la protección de los Convenios de Ginebra.

Eos documentos consideraban que la naturaleza urgente de la guerra contra el terrorismo convertía en "obsoletas" las disposiciones de los convenios para prisioneros de guerra.

La oposición demócrata ha utilizado esos memorandos como prueba de que Gonzales no tiene la calidad para desempeñarse como el responsable de aplicar la ley estadounidense.

Peor aún, sus críticos señalan que sus opiniones podrían haber abierto el camino a las torturas de prisioneros en la base estadounidense de Guantánamo (en la isla de Cuba), en la prisión iraquí de Abu Ghraib y en otros lugares.

"Hay una gran cantidad de preguntas acerca del rol que cumplió Gonzales para desarrollar un marco legal que pudo haber llevado a las torturas y abu-

lación".

Desde que los memorandos se filtraron a la prensa, un año atrás, Gonzales tomó distancia de ellos afirmando que eran "irrelevantes e innecesarios", porque el Presidente había denunciado la tortura como táctica.

La carrera de Gonzales está estrechamente ligada a la del actual presidente desde hace 10 años. En 1995, cuando era gobernador de Texas, Bush lo nombró como su asesor jurídico. Fue secretario de Estado y juez de la Suprema Corte en Texas, antes de ingresar en la Casa Blanca para dirigir los servicios jurídicos.

Gonzales reemplazará como fiscal general al también controvertido John Ashcroft, quien renunció en noviembre pasado en el marco de una renovaciónemprendida por Bush en su gabinete para su segundo período que se inició el 20 de enero.

EL EDITOR-Lo Mejor En Noticias

Zorro con su correspondiente lente de aumento.

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Seeds · Bracket

AFC		PLAYOFF BRACKET		NFC	
Divisional Playoffs	Conference Championship	NFL	Super Bowl XXXIX	Divisional Playoffs	Conference Championship
1/15-16	1/23	2/6	Jacksonville	1/15-16	1/23

#5 N.Y. Jets
1/8, 8 p.m.
ABC

#4 San Diego
1/15, 4:30 p.m.
CBS

#1 Pittsburgh
1/16, 4:30 p.m.
CBS

#2 New England
1/16, 4:30 p.m.
CBS

#6 Denver
1/9, 1:00 p.m.
CBS

#3 Indianapolis
1/15, 8 p.m.
FOX

#1 Philadelphia
1/8, 4:30 p.m.
ABC

#2 Atlanta
1/9, 4:30 p.m.
FOX

#6 Minnesota
1/9, 4:30 p.m.
FOX

#3 Green Bay
1/16, 1 p.m.
FOX

Play Off Race

*Seattle 27 St. Louis 24 - The Rams swept the Seahawks this season, 33-27 and 23-12, but Seattle will be motivated by unpleasant memories of what happened at home -- the squandering of a 17-point fourth-quarter lead. This should be entertaining: Even in the low-scoring game in St. Louis, the teams combined for 834 yards.

*San Diego 24 N.Y.

Jets 18 - Things have changed for the Chargers since they were booted during their Week Two home opener, a 34-28 loss to the Jets. Sixteen weeks later, two late losses won't help N.Y.'s state of mind, and neither will S.D.'s run-stopping defense. The Jets can't exploit the Chargers' weakness, their secondary.

Wild Card Weekend - Sunday, Jan. 9, 2005

*Indianapolis 28 Denver 21 - It wouldn't matter at all that the Broncos won easily over the starter-resting Colts on Sunday -- except that Denver can do lots of damage against Indy's D this Sunday, too. The Broncos defend well against the pass, but shutting down Peyton Manning at home -- or anywhere else -- is a tall order.

*Green Bay 26

Minnesota 17 - You've gotta hand it to the talent-wasting Vikings: They've mastered the art of the fast start followed by the maddening late-season collapse. The Packers beat them twice for the first time since '00, both times by scores of 34-31, but Brett Favre and company look more than three points better this time.

* - Home Team

Los Afectos de la Falta de Sueño

Por lo menos 60 millones de personas en Estados Unidos tienen problemas para conciliar el sueño y, contrario a lo que se creía, tomar suplementos de melatonina parece ofrecer poco beneficio, según un nuevo reporte de la Oficina para la Investigación y Calidad del Cuidado de la Salud (AHRQ) titulado La melatonina como tratamiento para los desórdenes del sueño, el cual revisó más de 135 estudios enfocados en el tema antes de sacar esta conclusión.

Los trastornos para conciliar el sueño pueden ser ocasionados por factores tales como estrés en la familia o en el trabajo, labor turnos nocturnos, beber exceso de café o causas más serias como enfermedades mentales o físicas.

El insomnio, el desorden más común que altera el sueño, afecta del 6% al 12% de los adultos. Adicionalmente, del 15% al 25% de los niños tiene dificultades para dormirse y, cuando lo logran, para mantenerse dormidos.

Los suplementos pretenden impulsar la acción natural de la melatonina, una hormona que produce la glándula pineal del cerebro y que se secreta a la san-

gre para regular el ciclo para dormir y despertarse.

El nivel aumenta rápidamente por las noches, reduciendo la atención y provocando el sueño, y disminuye substancialmente por la mañana, provocando que la persona se despierte.

Los suplementos de melatonina, los cuales algunas personas utilizan además o como sustituto a los tratamientos convencionales como terapia conductiva, terapia ligera y de medicamentos con receta, pueden provenir de la glándula pineal del ganado vacuno o ser sintetizados.

Sin embargo, los investigadores encontraron evidencia que sugiere que la melatonina es efectiva si se utiliza a corto plazo para tratar a las personas con síndrome de sueño atrasado.

Cuando se padece de este síndrome, el reloj biológico de la persona se "desincroniza", lo grande que no pueda dormirse hasta muy tarde en la noche y que se despierte muy temprano en la mañana.

Adicionalmente, la melatonina parece ser segura cuando se continua en la página 5

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EL Editor

Red Raiders Finish Season Among Top 20



closed out the 2004 season ranked 17th by the coaches and 18th by the media.

Tech, which finished with an 8-4 record, wrapped up the 2004 season with an impressive 45-31 win over then-No. 4 California in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl on Dec. 30. The win propelled the Red Raiders from their pre-game No. 21 and No. 23 rankings to their current status.

Additionally, Tech is one of three Big 12 teams this season to finish among the top 25 in both polls, joining Oklahoma (third in both polls) and Texas (4th ESPN Coaches/5th AP).

The Red Raiders' No. 17 position in the coaches poll is the highest postseason ranking since 1976, when Tech capped off a 10-2 season ranked 13th in the AP poll.

Texas Tech has been ranked in seven season-ending AP polls since 1938. Tech twice finished ranked 11th (1938 and 1973) and was ranked 12th following the 1953 season. This year marks the third time since the coaches poll was added in 1982 that a Tech team finished among its top 25. The Red Raiders were 18th in 1989 and 20th in 1995.

LUBBOCK, Texas - For the first time since the conclusion of the 1995 season, Texas Tech is

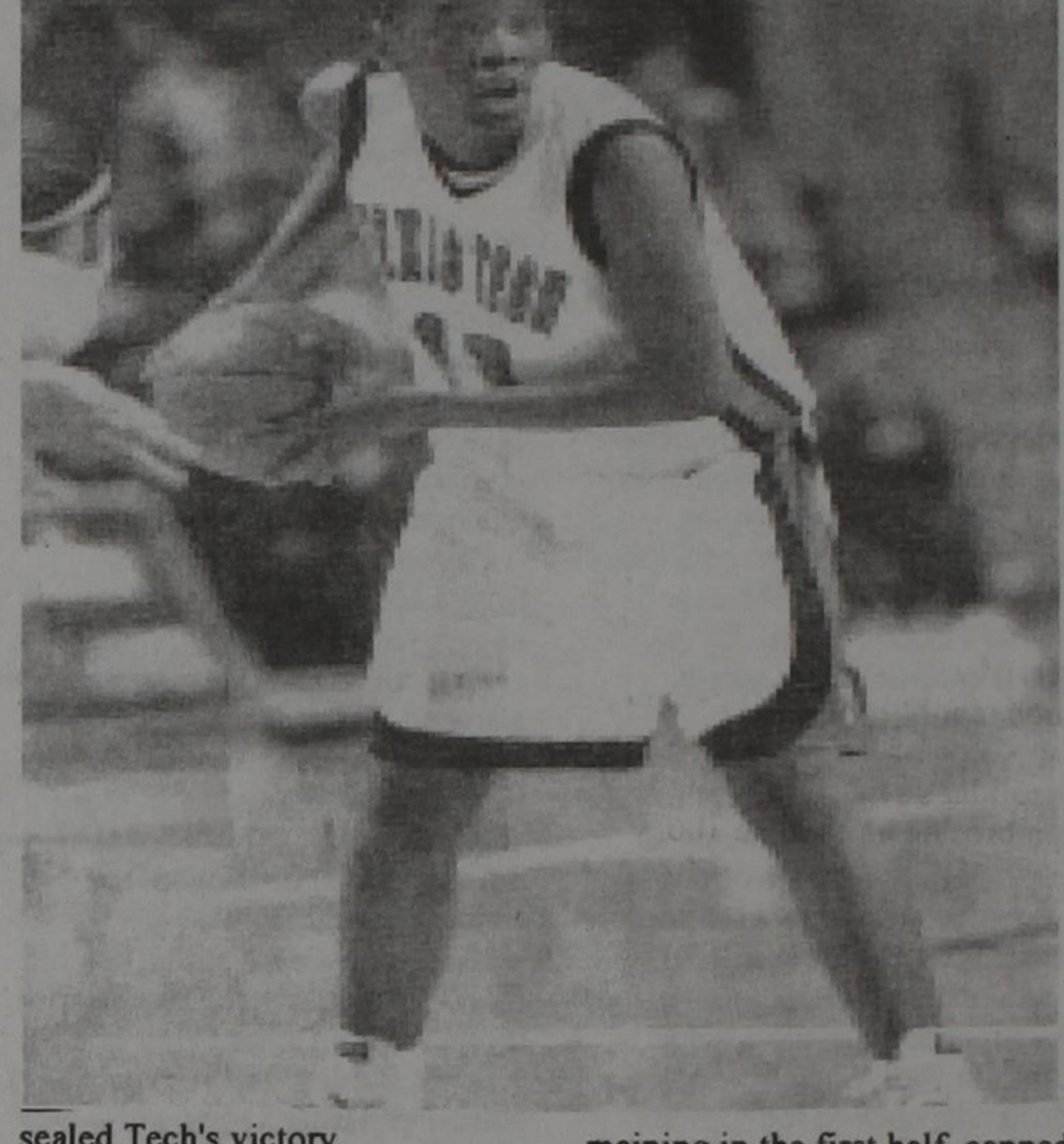
ranked among the top 25 in both the ESPN Coaches and Associated Press polls. The Red Raiders

Tech Opens Big 12 with 70-64 Win Over Oklahoma

LUBBOCK, Texas - LaToya Davis scored 22 points to lead No. 12 Texas Tech over Oklahoma 70-64 in the Big 12 Conference opener for both teams Wednesday night.

Cisti Greenwalt got her seventh double-double of the season with 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Lady Raiders (10-2). Chesley Dabbs added 11 points.

Trailing by three, Oklahoma (8-4) had a chance to tie the game at 67 with 30 seconds left, but a shot-clock violation



sealed Tech's victory.

Leah Rush led the Sooners with 23 points, and Dionna Jackson was one assist shy of her second career triple-double.

She wound up with her fifth double-double of the season, scoring 13 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. Chelsi Welch added 12 points for Oklahoma.

The Lady Raiders went on a 10-6 run with four minutes re-

maining in the first half, capped by Erin Grant's buzzer beater that cut Oklahoma's lead to 34-31.

After the break, Tech went on a 7-0 run to take its first lead since the beginning of the game.

A 9-0 run by the Sooners midway through the second half gave them a 55-54 lead before Tech went back ahead.

Texas Tech Downs Northern Colorado, 88-68

AP

Jackson hit 10-of-14 from the field and 4-of-7 from beyond the arc for career highs in both points and 3-pointers. His previous career high was 22 points in November in a 93-41 win over Centenary. Jackson has hit three 3-pointers in a game three times, most recently in a 72-58 win over Iowa State in March.

Tech (8-3) opened the second half with a 10-0 run to lead 47-31. Its largest lead, 63-40, came when Jackson hit a 3-pointer with 13:18 remaining in the game.

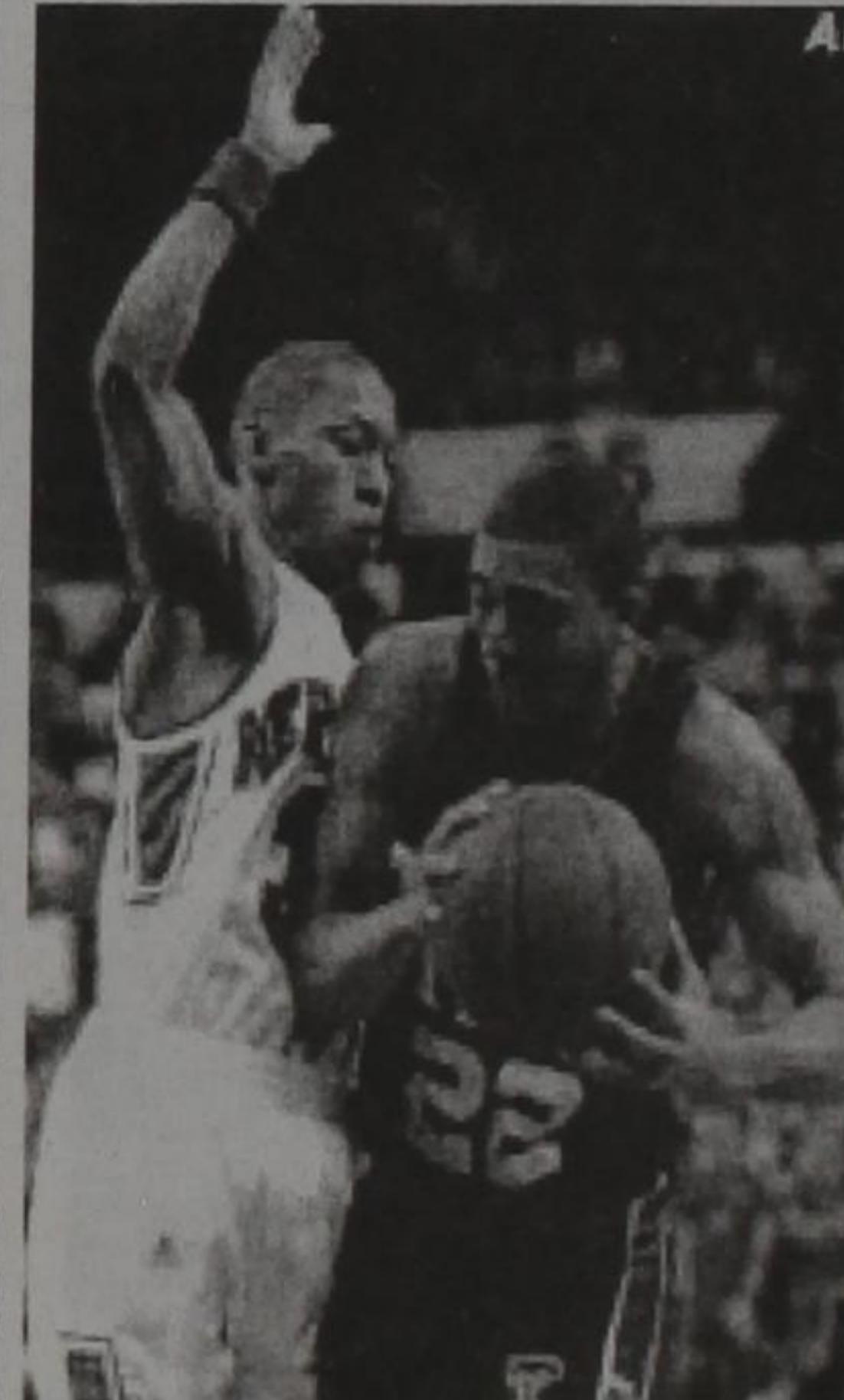
The Red Raiders had four players in double figures. Devonne Giles scored 20 points, Martin Zeno had 15 and Ronald Ross added 14.

Drew Coffman became the first Tech player in nearly two years to reach double digits in assists. He finished with 11. Kasib Powell had 10 in March 2003.

Sean Taibi scored 18 points and Kirk Archibeque added 16 to lead the Bears (3-13).

The Red Raiders led 37-31 at halftime.

The win gave Tech coach Bob Knight his 840th win, leaving him 40 shy of breaking the record, 879 amassed by Dean Smith of North Carolina. Knight, who is in his 39th season at the helm of Division I programs, is the leading active coach.



LUBBOCK, Texas - Jarrius Jackson scored 24 points, half of those on 3-pointers, to lead Texas Tech to an 88-68 win over Northern Colorado on Tuesday night.

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Pese a contar con la mejor ofensiva, Jefes quedan fuera

Pese a tener la ofensiva mejor clasificada por la Liga Nacional de Fútbol Americano (NFL), Jefes de Kansas City quedó marginado de la posttemporada, en tanto la mejor defensiva, la de Acereros de Pittsburgh, parece encaminada rumbo al Super Tazón.

Al término de la temporada regular, el ataque de Kansas City se encumbró como el mejor en la clasificación de la NFL, con promedio de 418.4 yardas y 32:14 minutos de posesión de balón por encuentro; asimismo, la "tribu" convirtió 91 de 193 intentos en tercera oportunidad y cuatro de 14 en cuarta.

Detrás del equipo de Mike Martz se ubicó el ataque de Potos de Indianapolis, con el pasador Peyton Manning en los controles, al promediar 404.7 yardas y 28:40 minutos en el terreno de juego por encuentro, con 70 de 164 en tercer "down" y cuatro de siete en cuarto.

Dupla hispana en el senado de EEUU enfrenta difíciles retos

viene de la primera pagina

Por su parte, Salazar, hijo de los españoles que colonizaron el suroeste del país y que se desempeñó hasta hace poco como procurador general de Colorado, derrotó en noviembre al empresario republicano Pete Coors, de la familia heredera del emporio cervecero homónimo.

A la ceremonia asistió Emma Salazar, de 82 años, para presenciar no solamente la juramentación de su hijo Ken como senador, sino también de su otro hijo, John, que juró a su vez como nuevo representante de Colorado.

Los republicanos han añadido cuatro escaños en el Senado, para consolidar su mayoría con 55 miembros de un total de 100, y también han incrementado tres escaños en la Cámara de Representantes, y ahora cuentan con 232 escaños de un total de 435.

Pese a representar el 13 por ciento de la población de Estados Unidos, los latinos todavía tienen una baja representación en el Congreso, con el 2.0 por ciento en el Senado y el 4.3 por ciento en la Cámara de Representantes.

A fin de evitar una confrontación con los demócratas, los republicanos modificaron este lunes su posición inicial sobre varias medidas que hubiera hecho más difícil castigar a miembros de su partido por violaciones al código de ética.

En su discurso, el líder de la minoría demócrata en el Senado, Harry Read, indicó que habrá oportunidades en que podrá trabajar junto con los republicanos en varios asuntos, pero reconoció que también "habrá veces en que no estaremos de acuerdo".

Revlevo de la Guardia Latina

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Oriunda de Kansas City, con títulos de periodismo, español y derecho de la Universidad de Kansas, la Sra. Murguía trabajó para un congresista de Kansas y en la administración de Clinton en asuntos legislativos y como sub-asistente al presidente. Fue subdirectora de la campaña presidencial Gore/Lieberman y más adelante vice-rectora de la Universidad de Kansas.

Las cosas han cambiado en el mundo latino, por fortuna para bien, desde que asumió la posición Yzaguirre en NCLR. Durante la era de Yzaguirre, se volvió más próspera la comunidad, más sofisticada, con más educación y mejor sentido de sus ambiciones. El liderazgo de Yzaguirre fue fundamental para la transformación de percepciones y la creación de una perspectiva que ha traído mayores oportunidades.

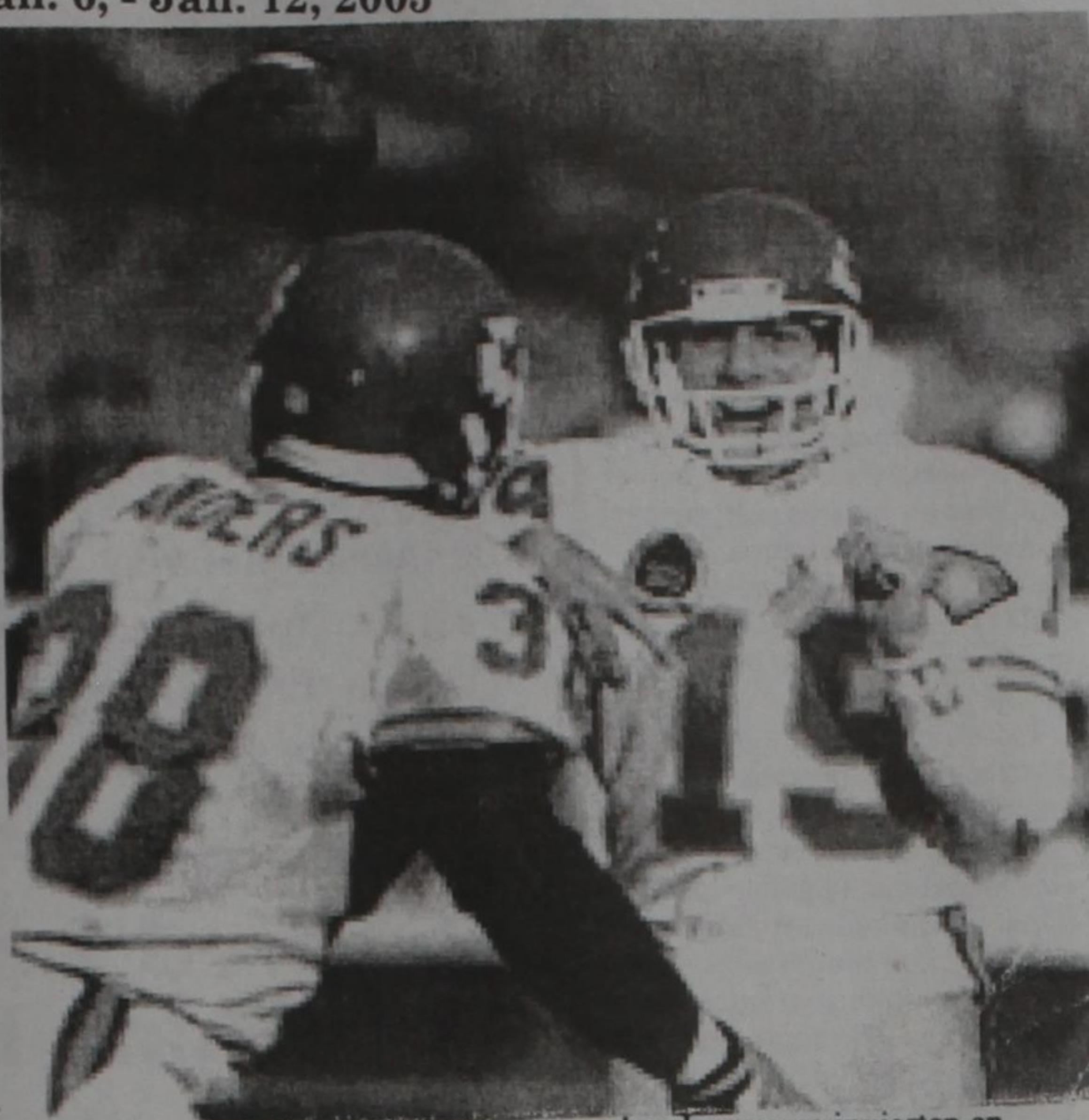
Si aceptamos que la transferencia de liderazgo en una organización primordial latina como NCLR también marca la tercera fase del movimiento latino, entonces las prioridades iniciales de la Sra. Murguía serán la definición de un nuevo programa y de su estilo de liderazgo.

Necesitará tiempo para examinar el panorama y evaluar lo que deparará el futuro. De hecho, la dinastía de Yzaguirre no resolvió todos los problemas. Sin embargo, si que sentó la norma para un programa de abogacía que funciona.

Por eso otra de las tareas iniciales de la Sra. Murguía será la de escapar la sombra de Raúl.

(Carlos D. Conde, de Boca Ratón, Florida, es columnista contribuyente de Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: cconde@aol.com)

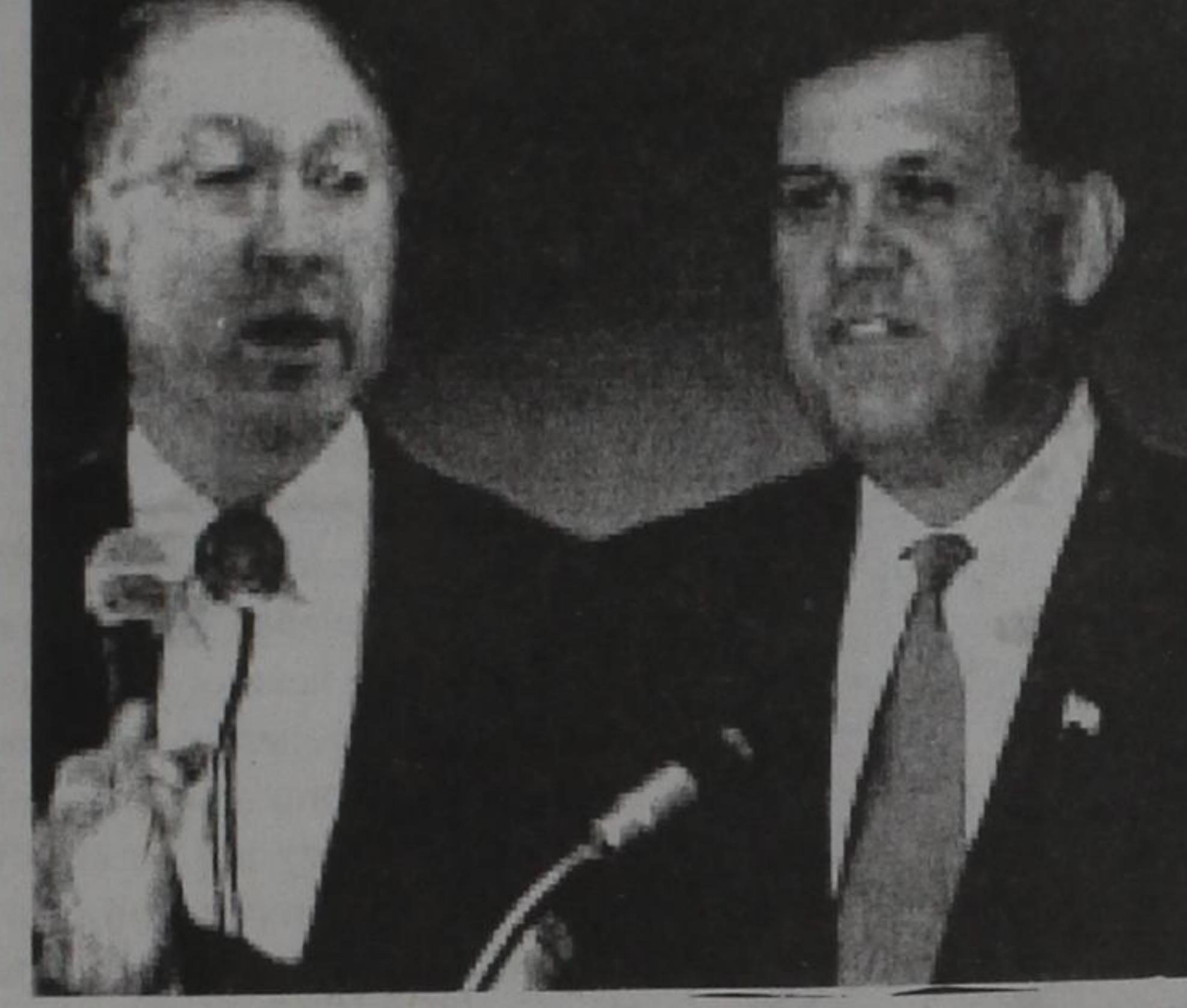
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Bills de Buffalo también quedó fuera de la posttemporada a pesar de que su defensiva fue la segunda mejor de la campaña al tolerar sólo 264.2 yd y 29:39 minutos de posesión por encuentro; admitió 77 de 214 intentos de tercer "down" y 11 de 15 en cuarto.

Pittsburgh ejerció un dominio prácticamente total en el renglón defensivo al ser también el que menos puntos admitió por juego, a razón de 15.7, permitió 26 touchdowns, ocho por tierra y 14 por aire, y 17 goles de campo.

En segundo lugar quedó los "metaleros" ejercieron un férreo dominio sobre sus rivales al permitirles avanzar sólo 258.4 yardas por partido y prestarles el ovoide a razón de 26:01 minutos; le convirtieron 63 de 193 terceras oportunidades y siete de 13 cuartas.



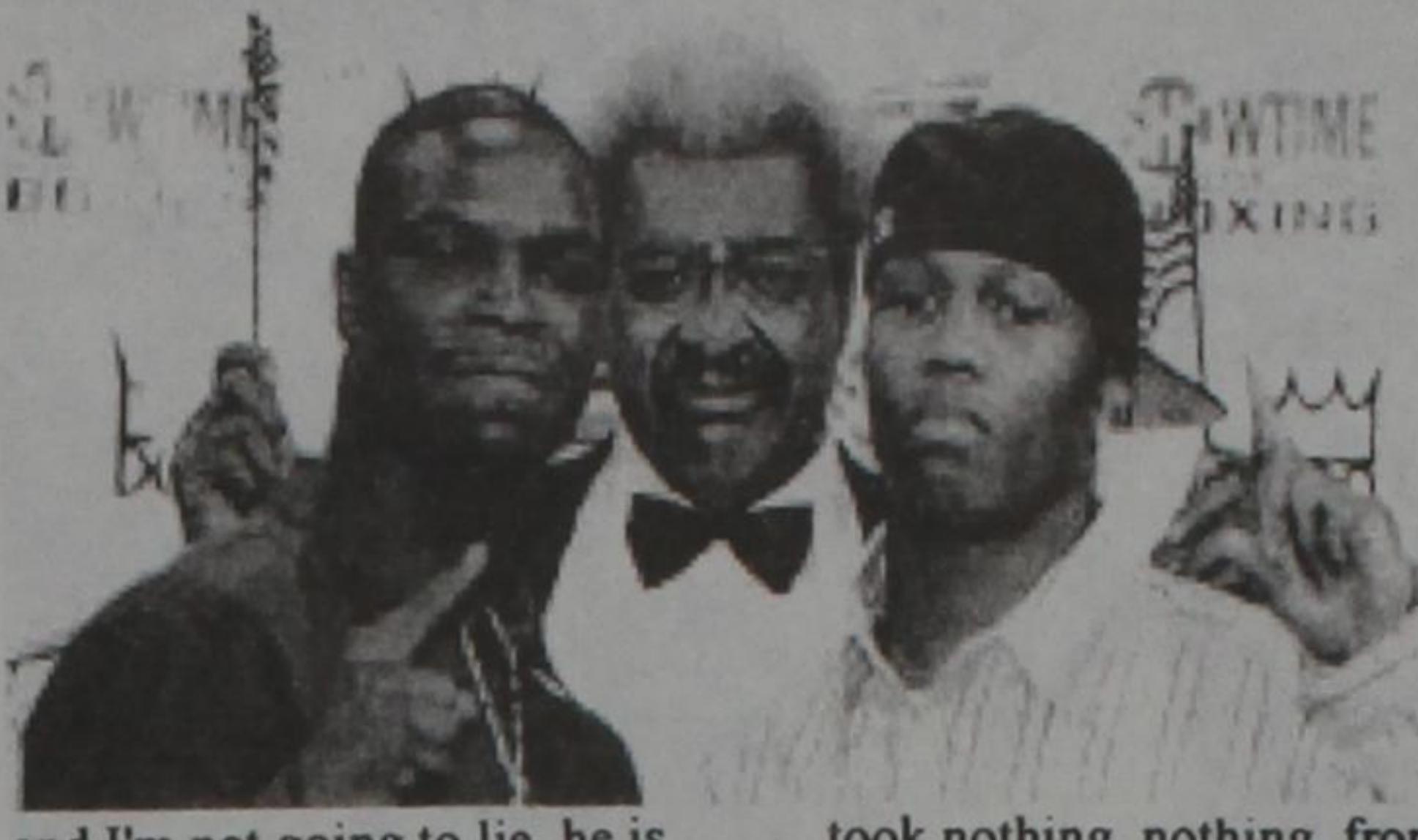
Los lugares se invierten en cuanto a la efectividad en la zona de anotación, renglón en que Potos fue el mejor de la liga con media de 32.6 puntos por partido al haber anotado 66 touchdowns, 10 por carrera y 51 por recepción, y 20 goles de campo.

En cambio, Kansas City, cuya infame defensa fue la culpable de su eliminación, anotó 30.2 puntos por juego con un total de 62 arribos a las diagonales, 31 de ellos por acarreo y 27 por pase, con 17 goles de campo.

En el renglón defensivo, los "metaleros" ejercieron un férreo dominio sobre sus rivales al permitirles avanzar sólo 258.4 yardas por partido y prestarles el ovoide a razón de 26:01 minutos; le convirtieron 63 de 193 terceras oportunidades y siete de 13 cuartas.

Thanks to Spinks, big-time boxing returns to St. Louis

VALS...MEET ME II



ST. LOUIS — Cory Spinks was hailed as a hometown hero by boxing promoter Don King at a news conference to hype next month's world welterweight title rematch against Zab Judah. Advertisement

King noted that Spinks' father, Leon, and his uncle, Michael, left town after achieving success in the sport. Cory Spinks intends to stay and has been training since November for the fight here Feb. 5.

"The new generation chooses St. Louis," King said Tuesday. "If he can continue to win he will continue to be ingrained indefinitely in the sands of time in St. Louis."

Spinks said he's had several offers to relocate.

"I'm very loyal, because my career has been built here and St. Louis showed me a lot of love," he said. "So this is where my heart is."

Spinks, 34-2 with 11 knockouts, decided Judah, of Brooklyn, N.Y., in his first defense of the IBF, WBA and WBC titles in Las Vegas on April 10. For the rematch, he and manager Kevin Cunningham pressed for St. Louis, which will host its first major boxing event in more than 40 years.

"It's like a dream come true, fighting in my hometown," Spinks said. "It's finally come true."

Spinks said Judah, 32-2-1 with 23 knockouts, was a worthy opponent, but one who will lose.

"They call him 'Super Judah'

and I'm not going to lie, he is super to me because you can't take away from what this man has accomplished," Spinks said.

"But, this is my backyard. No one comes in my backyard and takes my crown."

Cunningham echoed those remarks in even stronger terms.

"Zab is here and he ain't coming to visit, he ain't coming for no vacation, he's coming to take all the belts back to Brooklyn," Cunningham said. "But in 40 years of life, ain't nobody never

took nothing, nothing, from me.

"Zab wanted the rematch and he got his wish. I've got something to say to you, Zab: Be careful what you wish for."

Both fighters had a knock-down in the first match, and Judah is looking forward to more than one rematch.

"Hopefully, there'll be parts three, four and five," Judah said. "I guarantee when I leave here you guys will be convinced that I am the best fighter, pound for pound, out here."

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Procuran frenar las muertes en frontera



EL PASO, Texas.- En un intento más por frenar la ola de muertes en la frontera, las autoridades mexicanas han iniciado la distribución masiva de un folleto informativo sobre los peligros de cruzar la frontera sin documentos y los derechos de los inmigrantes.

Sin embargo, el documento llamado "Guía del Migrante Mexicano" no ha recibido gran acogida entre las autoridades de Estados Unidos, que han preferido no opinar sobre el mismo, ya que no participaron en su elaboración y han insistido en que el cruce indocumentado es ilegal.

"No queremos alentar a los inmigrantes a cruzar la frontera sin

Abre EEUU líneas extra para atender retorno de inmigrantes

San Antonio, EE.UU., 4 de enero, 2005 (Notimex) - Autoridades de Estados Unidos ordenaron la apertura, esta semana, de líneas adicionales en cruces internacionales con México, y el personal trabajará horas extras para atender la demanda de inmigrantes que regresan al país.

En el inicio de cada año, los cruces internacionales en la frontera México-Estados Unidos se congestionan por el paso de miles de inmigrantes que regresan a este país, tras pasar las fiestas decembrinas en sus lugares de origen en México y Centroamérica.

El vocero de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza de Estados Unidos, Rick Pauza,

dijo que el punto de mayor tráfico se da en los cruces fronterizos de Laredo, Texas, donde se espera que esta semana crucen más de 90 mil vehículos.

Durante los primeros días de enero, los cruces internacionales con México registran más de 50 por ciento de aumento en el tráfico vehicular.

En este período, los tiempos de espera para cruzar la frontera se incrementan en forma considerable y pueden llegar a sumar hasta tres o más horas.

Pauza explicó que la apertura de líneas adicionales y las horas de trabajo extra del personal ayudará a prestar un mejor servicio en el período en que más gente cruza la frontera. NTX

catecas, Guanajuato, Oaxaca y Jalisco, principales exportadores de migrantes a Estados Unidos.

El documento circulará en el interior de las páginas de uno de los principales libros de historietas, "El libro vaquero", adquirido por un gran número de trabajadores de escasos recursos en México.

La guía ha ocasionado gran polémica, y aunque el gobierno mexicano asegura que no intenta alentar la inmigración indocumentada sino salvar la vida de los compatriotas decididos a emigrar, grupos anti-inmigrantes aseguran que el libro ofrece recomendaciones para un mejor y más seguro ingreso indocumentado al país.

A juicio de Diana Hall, directora de la organización Estabilización de la Población en California, el gobierno de México debe focalizarse en prevenir el cruce indocumentado en lugar de decirles cómo hacerlo sin problemas.

También nosotros queremos que la gente esté a salvo, pero con la diferencia de salarios entre los dos países la inmigración seguirá llegando y esta guía no hace más que alentarlo", sostuvo Hall.

El portavoz de la Embajada de México en Washington, Alfonso Nieto, insistió en que la idea es reducir el número de muertes y por tanto se hace hincapié en los peligros y en el carácter ilegal del cruce indocumentado.

A pesar de esta advertencia, la guía reconoce la desesperación de muchos mexicanos y a ellos recomienda tener precauciones al cruzar el río, el desierto y

mantenerse alejados lo más posible de los "coyotes" (tradicantes de indocumentados).

Especificamente habla de la peligrosidad de cruzar el río con ropa pesada que dificulta nadar o flotar y recomienda no cruzar a pie avenidas transitadas y no esconderse en lugares peligrosos.

Aconseja no enfrentar, insultar o resistirse a los agentes federales y a entregarse pacíficamente en caso de que proceda la detención.

Por último informa sobre los derechos de las personas al ser detenidas.

Las autoridades mexicanas consideran que la guía puede llegar a disminuir los enfrentamientos entre inmigrantes y agentes migratorios, situación que beneficia al propio personal de las agencias federales.

Sin embargo, las autoridades estadounidenses aseguran que la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza cuenta ya con una campaña para disminuir las muertes en la frontera en la que piden abstenerse de intentar el cruce indocumentado.

Las agencias fronterizas consideran que dicha campaña ha disminuido el número de muertes en la frontera y de acuerdo con sus estadísticas en 2003 se registraron 340 indocumentados muertos en toda la frontera Estados Unidos-México, mientras que en 2004 el número disminuyó a 323.

En el sector de El Paso (que incluye Nuevo México) las muertes aumentaron, ya que en 2002 se contabilizaron nueve muertes, en 2003 el número ascendió a 10 y el pasado año fallecieron 18.

Alicia Aguero de Ysasa

Las familias Ysasa y Aguero quieren dar las gracias a todas las personas quienes nos acompañaron con sus condolencias en la muerte de nuestra querida esposa, madre y hermana. Esperamos que Dios los bendiga.



Beloved Local Party Chair Passes

Lubbock, Tx.- Lubbock

County Democratic Chair

Irma Guerrero died suddenly of an unexpected illness on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2004.

Under her leadership since 2001, the Lubbock County Democratic party has been a welcoming and inclusive coalition of all citizens.

Ms. Guerrero believed strongly in the importance and value of each individual and recognized their unique contributions. She believed in advancing America by elevating its poorest citizens. She believed America was better and stronger when its citizens are empowered and confident to lead their country fearlessly to their chosen future.

Ms. Guerrero was a lifelong Lubbock resident and graduate of Estacado High School. She is survived by her mother Irene Gallardo, two sisters Yolanda Guerrero and Ester Salazar and one brother Hector Guerrero, all of Lubbock. She was a professional photographer whose artistry celebrates the beauty of all people and things.

She is remembered by her childhood friend, City Council member Linda DeLeon, as a fabulous friend since elementary school. Mrs. DeLeon said she and Ms. Guerrero grew up together and went to the same school and church. "My fondest memories are of the summer softball games with the local churches. Our team never lost a game because of the undefeated Guerrero sisters. To this day, I'll smile when I think of Irma hitting any ball that was thrown near the base," said DeLeon.

She was the heart of the Democratic Party in Lubbock, Texas. Her warm and generous spirit encouraged many new people to volunteer and form new strong alliances. The party will continue to honor her memory and her legacy by seeking out diversity and encouraging and recognizing the true potential of every individual. She will be missed by her friends, family and members of the Democratic Party everyday.

Services are pending with Resthaven Funeral Home.

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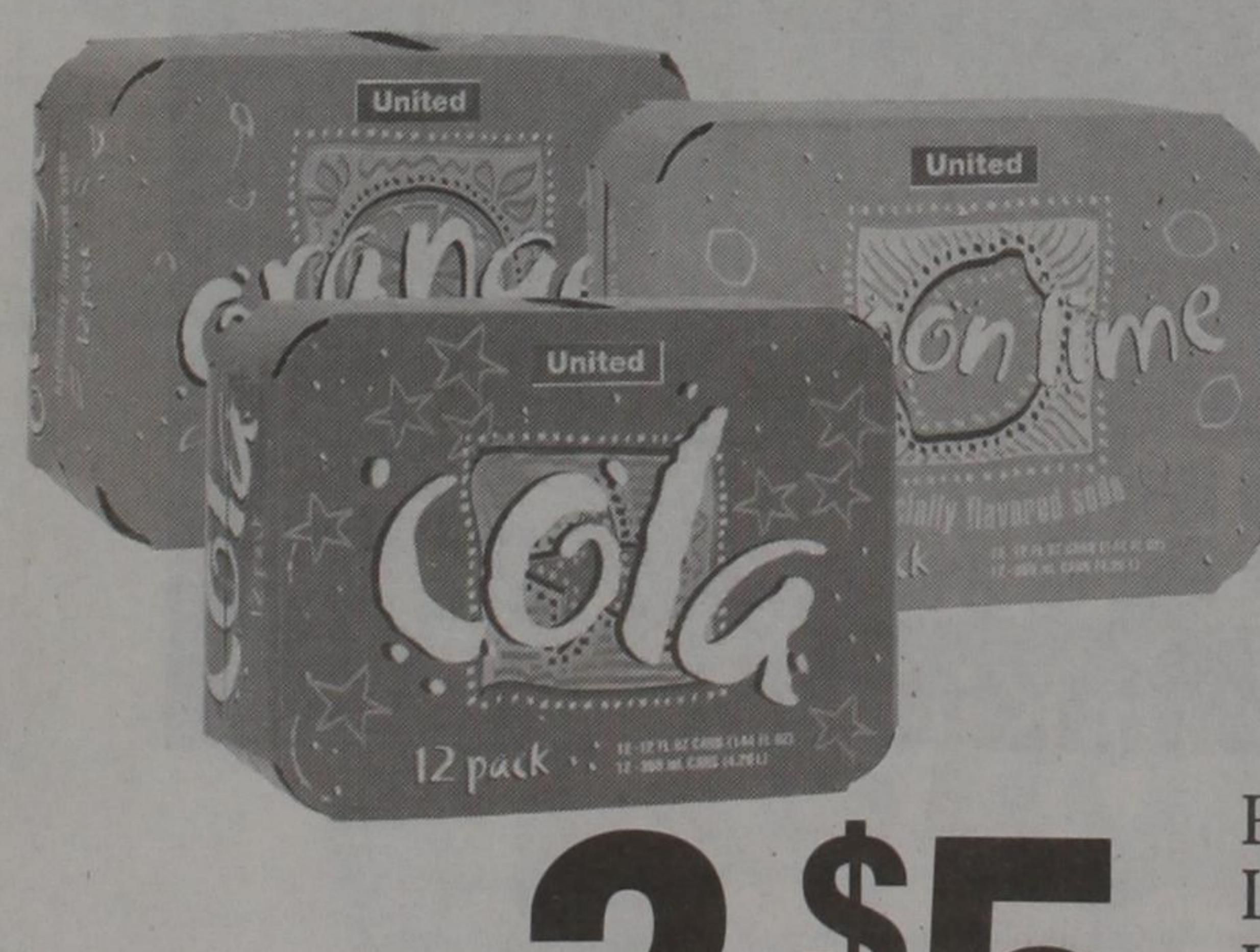
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