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A Desirable Public Investment

Increasing Hispanic Participation in Higher Education

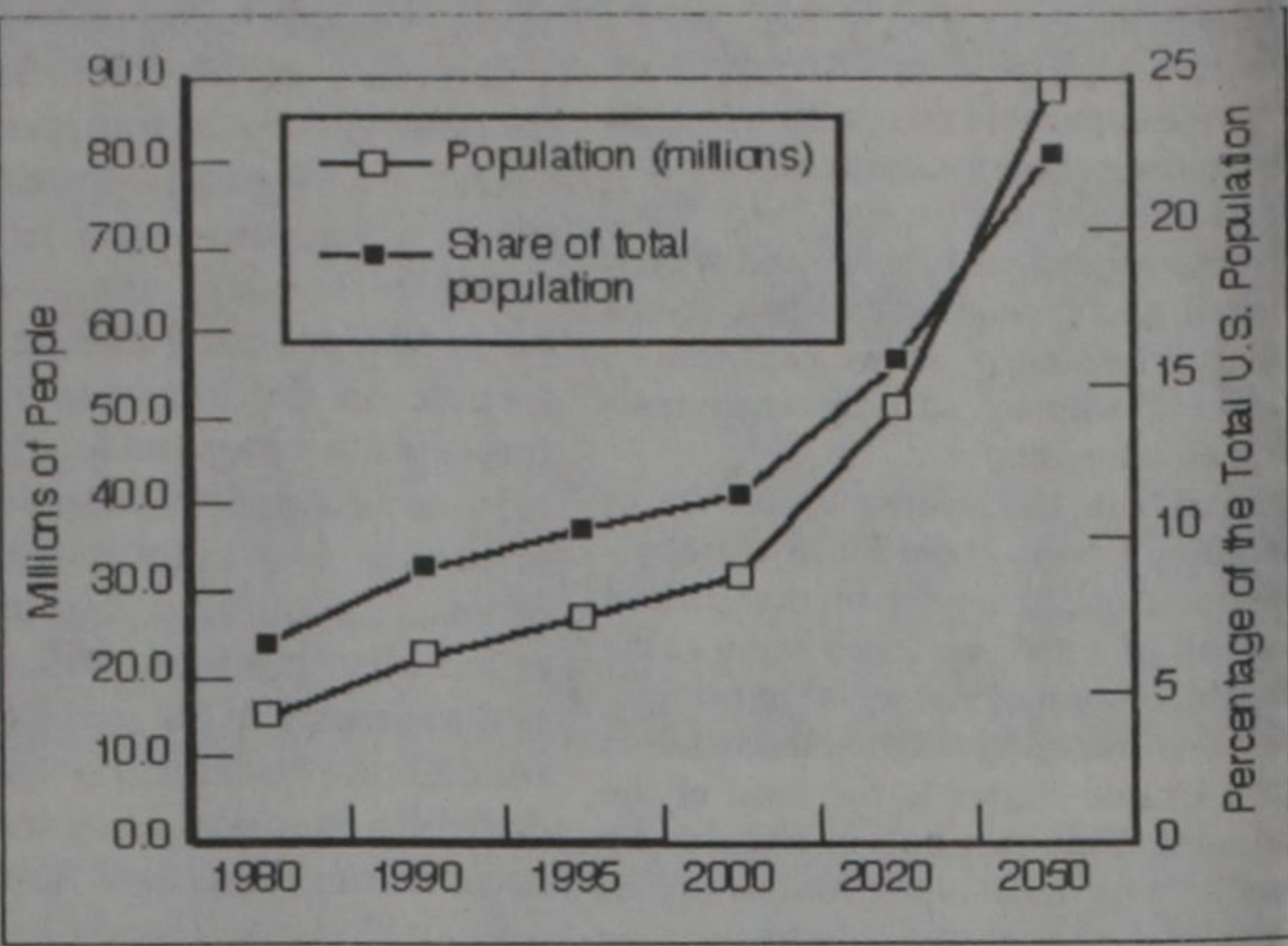
by Stephen Sorensen, Dominic J. Brewer, Stephen J. Carroll, and Eugene Bryton

Hispanic youth represents the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, and Hispanics now account for more than a quarter of all new entrants into the labor force. Education has historically been the path for upward occupational, economic, and social mobility in this country, but Hispanics complete college at much lower rates than other ethnic groups do and are much more likely to drop out of high school. What will it mean for the nation to have a growing, significant proportion of the population competing for low-skill jobs and locked in the lowest socioeconomic brackets?

The answers to this question will require a great deal more research than has yet been done on Hispanic education and its socioeconomic effects. There are surely benefits to society of closing the educational gap between Hispanics and other ethnic groups in terms of equity and social stability, though these benefits might be difficult to quantify. However, it is possible to estimate roughly what increasing Hispanic participation in higher education would mean for individuals' income and, thus, for the U.S. tax base and funding of social programs. In this paper, we present our estimates and conclude that, given the effects, increasing Hispanic education levels seems very much in the best economic interests of the country.

A Growing Population with Low Educational Attainment

The Hispanic population in the United States has grown remarkably. At more than 9 percent of the population in 1990 and with projected growth of about 3.5 percent every five years, Hispanics could



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Figure 1 - Hispanic Population Growth and Projections

account for 20 percent of the U.S. population by 2020 (see Figure 1). In addition, the age structure among Hispanics is pyramid-like, with nearly 40 percent below the age of 19, compared with 29 percent for the total population. Given this structure, the Hispanic share of the labor force is likely to increase even more.

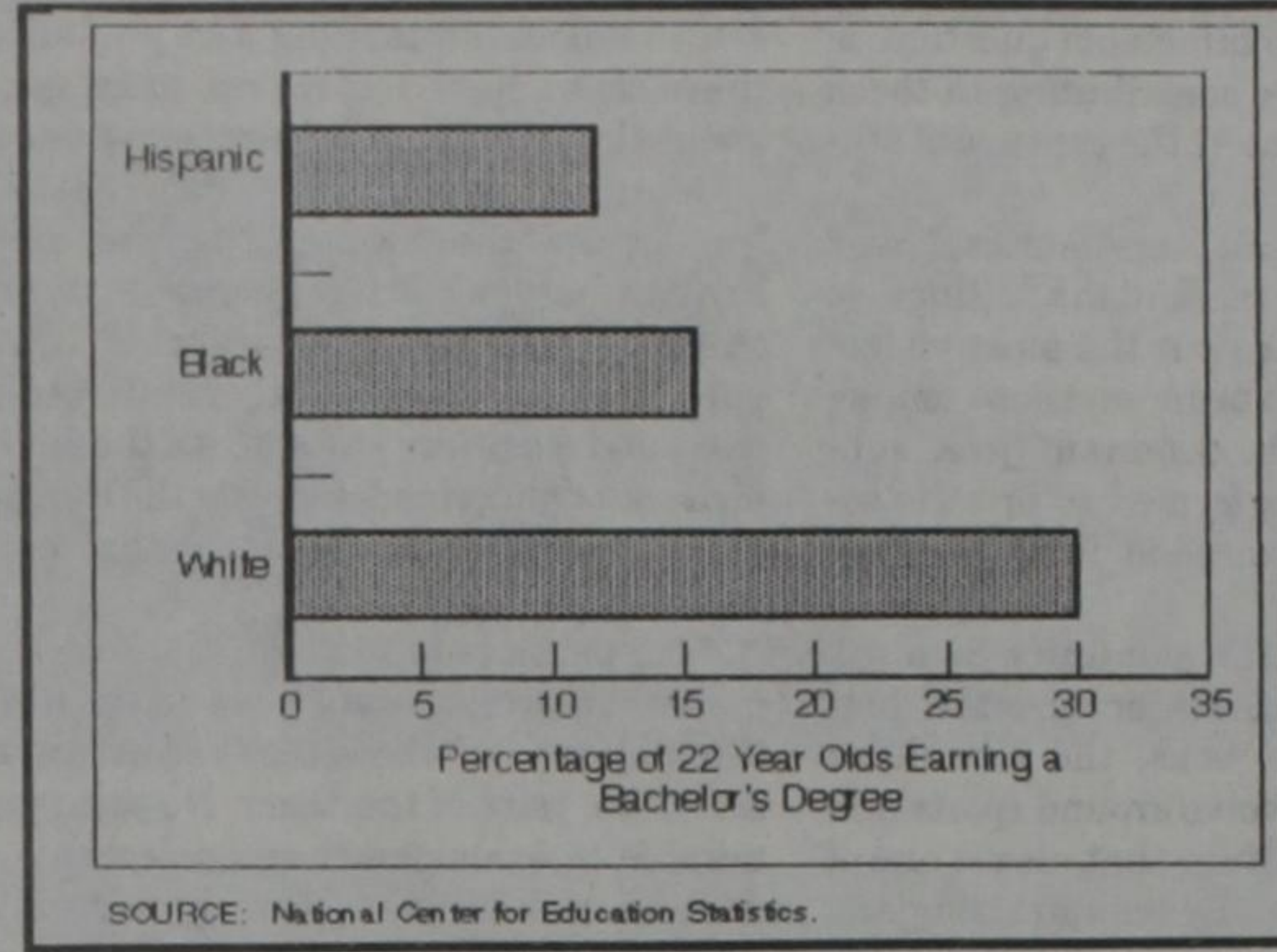
The educational achievement of Hispanics has not kept pace with their increasing share of the population and the labor force. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, high school completion for Hispanics aged 22-24 was only 64 percent, compared with 91 and 84 percent for whites and blacks, respectively. Although this figure for all Hispanics partly reflects the entry into the United States of young adult immigrants with low levels of education, the high school completion rate

of native-born Hispanics (78 percent) still remains significantly lower than for other groups. Even more alarming, the growth rate for Hispanic high school completion lags that for blacks and has been only slightly higher than that for whites.

Low high school graduation rates have obvious repercussions for Hispanic higher education. Since there is a

much smaller pool of college-eligible students, one would expect Hispanic college participation to be lower than other groups' participation. In fact, Hispanics are among the most severely underrepresented groups in higher education.

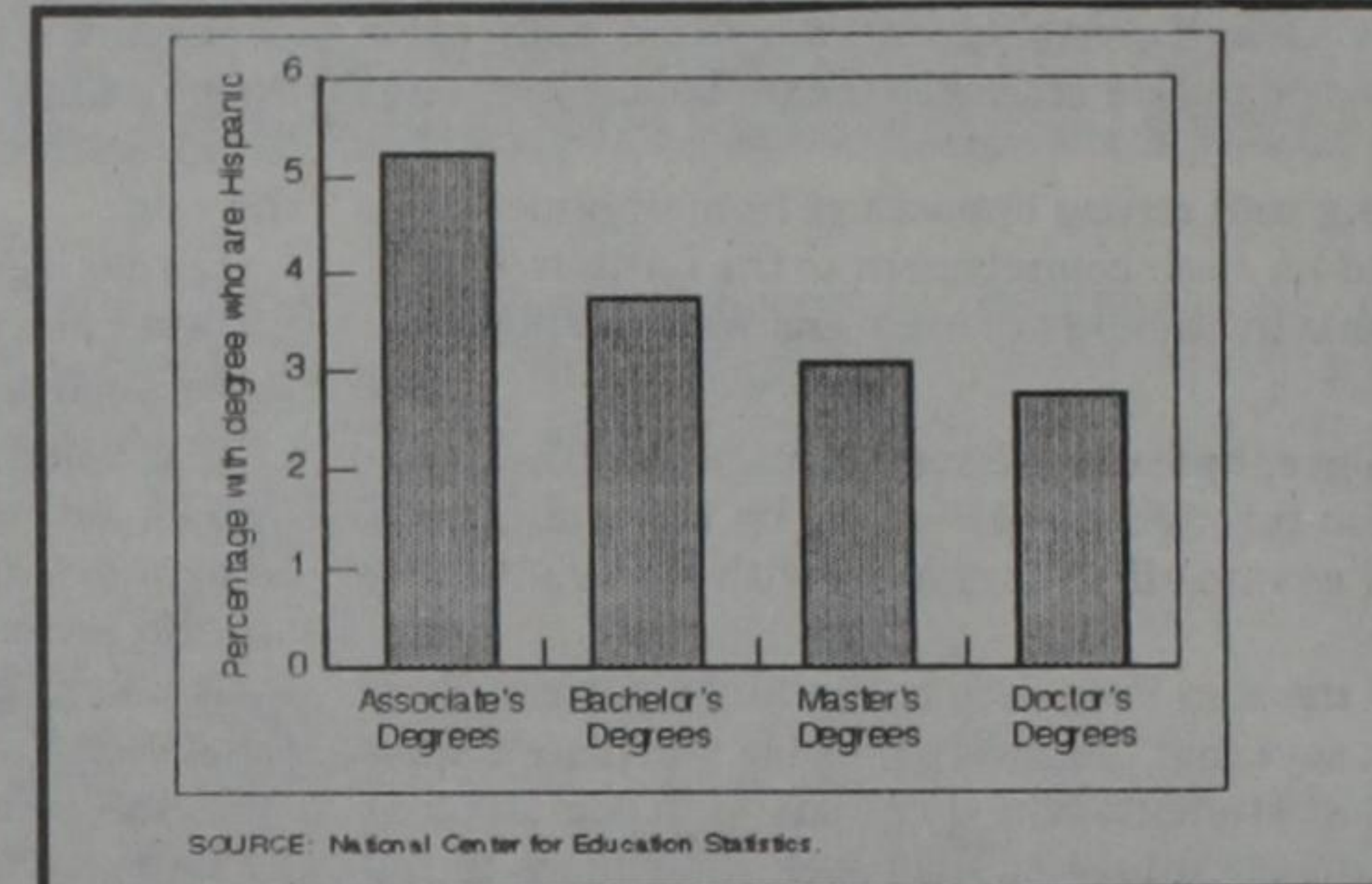
Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics' High School and Beyond database, Pelavin and Kane report that over 58 percent of white students attend some college within four years of high school graduation, compared with 45 percent of Hispanics (and 47 percent of blacks).^[1] Moreover, Hispanic degree attainment is much lower than that of whites, with only 12 percent of Hispanic 22 year olds earning bachelor's degrees (see Figure 2). This rate is four-fifths of the rate for blacks and less than half of the rate for whites.



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics.

Figure 2 - Hispanics Are Less Likely to Complete Bachelor's Degrees

The effect of low academic attainment cascades through all levels of higher education. Figure 3 shows that the Hispanic share of the educated population dwindles as education levels increase. The



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics.

Figure 3 - Hispanic Share Falls as Degree Level Rises

disproportionately small percentage of Hispanics with bachelor's degrees necessarily means underrepresentation in professional and graduate schools, as well.

What Do Hispanics Lose from Low Participation in Higher Education?

A bumper sticker glibly asserts that "if you think education is expensive, you should try ignorance." This assertion is strongly supported by income statistics in the United States. Those with a bachelor's degree earn significantly more than those with only a high school diploma. In

fact, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the premium for a bachelor's degree (over a high school degree) at about \$600,000, or 75 percent more in lifetime earnings.

Using the Census methodology, we estimated the lifetime premiums for higher education for the current cohort of Hispanic males and females. (We calculated (Continued Page 20)

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Week of May 29 to June 2, 1999

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



A Father to His Son - The Graduate

I saw you crawl before you walked. I heard you cry before you talked.

It seems so long yet precious few, those many times just me and you.

There's some regrets, I've got so many, of you my son, I don't

have any.

So as you start your life today, there's so many things, I'd love to say.

I love you more, each passing day. I loved you all those precious years.

Through happy times, and all those

tears, you brought me joy and happiness.

You brought me joy and happiness, you pulled me through my loneliness.

You gave me hope and strength you shared, you gave me love and showed you cared.

There's one regret I have of you, I didn't grow up to be like you.

I hope for you the best in life, you'll do the best, you know what's right.

You've made me proud to be your friend, I love it when you call me Dad.

De Un Papa a Su Hijo - El Graduante

Te vi gatiar antes de andar. Te escuche llorar antes de hablar. Paso el tiempo parece poco, las muchas veces entre tu y yo.

Hay unos pesares que tengo yo, de ti mi hijito no tengo ni uno.

Y hoy que empieces, tu vida nueva, so muchas cosas que quisiera decir.

De día en día te amo mas y mas cada año que pasara por tiempos buenos y cada llanto, me traes soriza.

Me ayudaste, pasar pesares, me diste esperanza, compartiste tu fuerza, con darme tu amor.

Tengo un sentimiento que yo siento, que no crecí a ser como tu.

Espero lo mejor, por toda tu vida, haras lo mejor por ser lo bien.

Soy muy orgulloso de ser tu amigo, pero me encanta escuchar cuando me dice Papá.

News Briefs

Film Honors Mexican Women in Texas in 19th Century

Austin, Texas, - "Atanasia," a new film by director Alicia Villarreal, seeks to capture the lives of Mexican-American women living in Texas in the 19th century and "to pay tribute to the courage of these women, who fought for what was theirs."

One of the focal points of the film, now being produced, is that women have remained for such a long time in the shadows of men, especially when it comes to narrating the course of history.

To be a woman and to be Mexican-American in the 19th century in this part of the world was to wage a long and silent struggle against racism and the travails of daily life, as the movie documents.

Alicia Villarreal found inspiration in the life of her great-grandmother to make the movie "Atanasia Escobedo."

"She fled from war-torn Mexico and arrived in south Texas, an area plagued by violence. Her first husband died in the Mexican civil war and during the war against the French, her children were kidnapped and forced into servitude," Villarreal said.

After organizing a plan to rescue her children in the state of Matamoros, on the border with Texas, Villarreal's family moved to La Atravesada ranch, now the Riskinen Riviera ranch in southern Texas.

There, her great-grandmother met her second husband, who was subsequently killed in a raid organized by "Anglo" ranchers against Mexican-American ranchers, as told by Villarreal.

"Her brought Texas forest rangers with them and killed nearly 100 Mexicans," Villarreal added.

The movie begins in 1853 at a party at El Tunal ranch, near the state of Monterrey, where Atanasia was born. The film also ends at a party, this one in 1874.

At the end, the film focuses on the great-grandmother's descendants, some of whom work on the Kennedy ranch and others who have become lawyers and other professionals.

"Her decision to leave Mexico for a brighter future proved to be the right one for her family, despite the incredible suffering she had to endure. In the film we see the American Dream become a reality," the director commented, said.

Besides having directed several shorts, Alicia Villarreal has also shown ability as an actress and, in this film, will also play a leading role. Other roles will be acted by local residents.

Republicans Weigh Importance of Hispanic Vote

By Ramon J. Vazquez

Washington, - The increasing importance of the Hispanic community in the political arena is a phenomenon that gains momentum every day in the United States, members of the Republican Party acknowledged on Monday during a two-day annual conference in Washington.

With an eye toward the 2000 general elections, the GOP is vigorously searching for candidates who can win the Hispanic vote, as the Republicans try to soften their image as a hard-line, anti-immigrant party.

Dozens of GOP leaders, including congressmen and businessmen, attended a conference organized by the Republican political action committee, GOPAC.

Various minority interest topics were discussed during the conference.

"We have to attract Latins, serving them in areas where many need help such as education and safety, (as well as) economically," businessman Ruben Barrales told EFE.

Barrales, one of the speakers at the conference, was the first Hispanic to be elected, for two terms, to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, south of San Francisco, California.

There are currently four Hispanic Republicans in the California State Assembly, three of whom were elected last November.

Barrales, of Mexican descent, indicated that more opportunities for education are needed in the Hispanic community, including the possibility of more private, or charter, schools.

¡Felicidades!

The True Cause of High School Violence

Embedded in the 'Jock' of Conformity

By Andrew Reding, Pacific News Service
The shootings at Columbine High School and in Georgia will soon vanish from the news...

cannot prosecute a teenager for making fun of another teenager, can you?
Sam associates with the "Goth" subculture, as does Laurianne, my 14-year-old niece...

values and role models that are the opposite of - and often mock - those of the dominant subculture.
In so doing, they provide a refuge from the "emotionally traumatizing" effects of the jock subculture.

HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMS ASSAILED AS UNFAIR

By Ronald Sal Panuco
As part of California Gov. Gray Davis's education reform plan, high school seniors will be required to pass a statewide exam before receiving their diploma.
It's an idea that is running into strong opposition from organizations and educators long recognized for their commitment to the Latino community...

sure you put the best teachers in disadvantaged areas. You cannot be sending teachers with temporary credentials to Hispanic schools just because the parents won't complain.
"Everything that you test must be taught. You must test what you teach," she said.
Latino legislators say they will work with Davis to ensure that provisions are placed in the proposal to help limited-English-proficient students and students of color.

LA PRIMER ESCUELA EL "HOGAR"

Por Mario Sanchez

En el presente artículo tratare de definir algunos términos, tales como casa, hogar, niños, educación y disciplina.
Los acontecimientos sangrientos que están ocurriendo en las aulas escolares indudablemente que nos han puest a pensar y acustionamos, porque? A esto respondo, porque algo anda mal en la institución que tiene la responsabilidad de formar el carácter de los hijos.

Serán dichosos, con mentes sanas, dispuestos a ver la vida objetiva y positiva mente, habrá más posibilidad de que sean buenos hijos, buenos estudiantes y ciudadanos productivos y serán la dicha para cualquiera de los padres que pasen los últimos de sus días en paz.
Indudable mente que la primer escuela es el hogar, los primeros maestros son los padres. Cuando los niños asisten por primera vez a las escuelas publicas, ya han aprendido más de lo que suponemos. Tenemos que recordar que existen tres factores determinantes en la formación del carácter en los niños y son asaber, primero: la herencia, segundo; el medio habienrte y tercero; la educación.

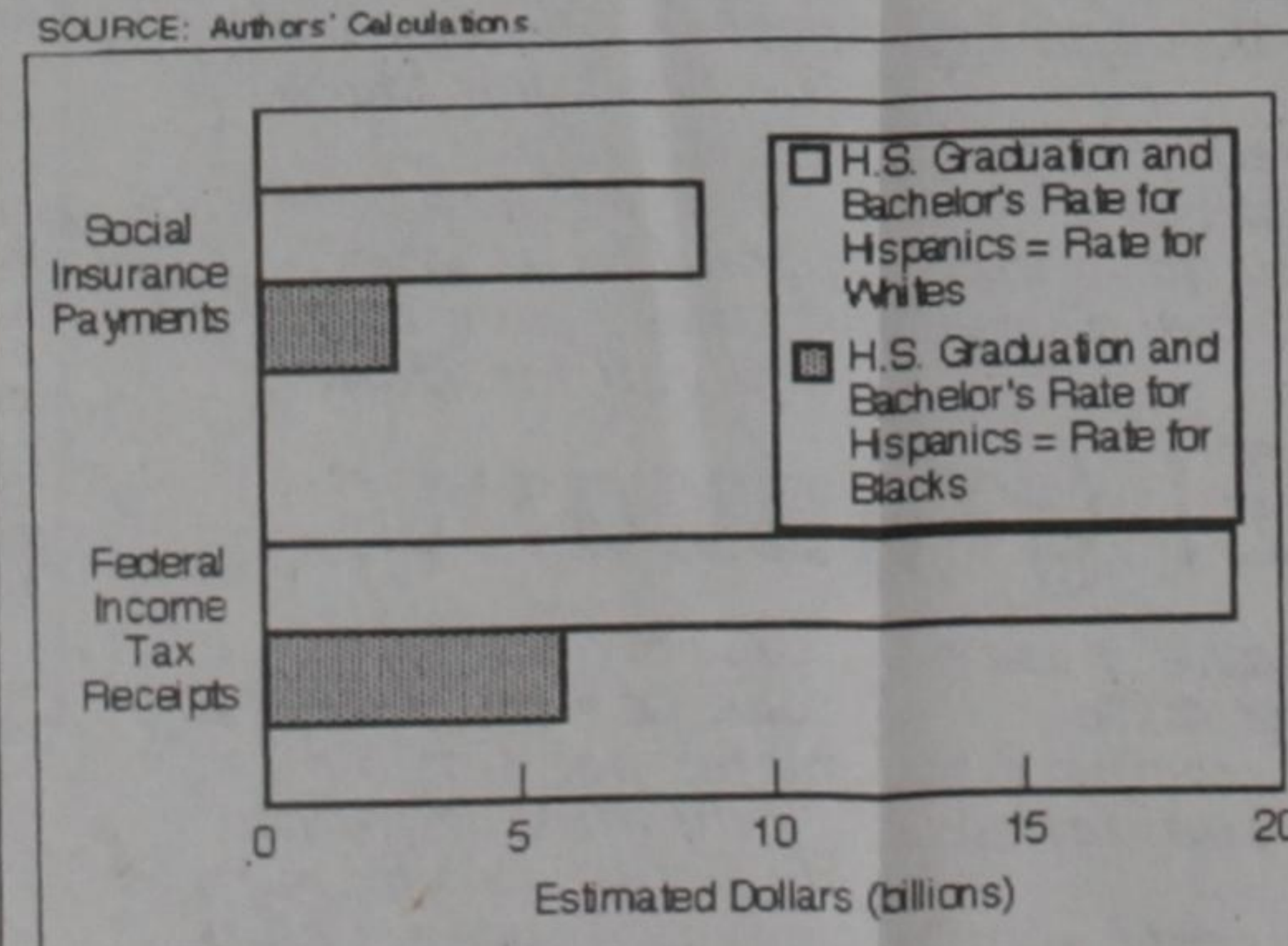
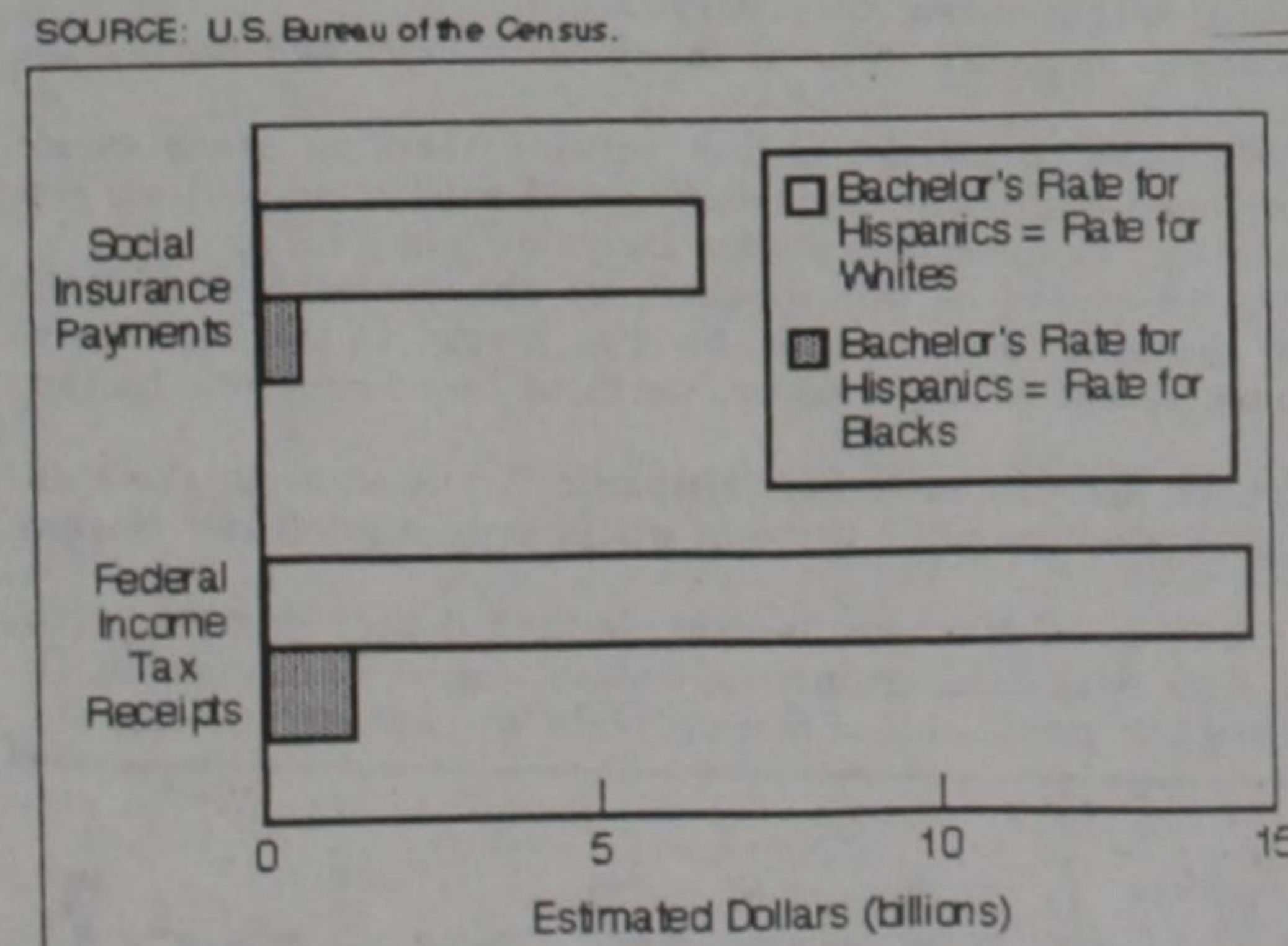
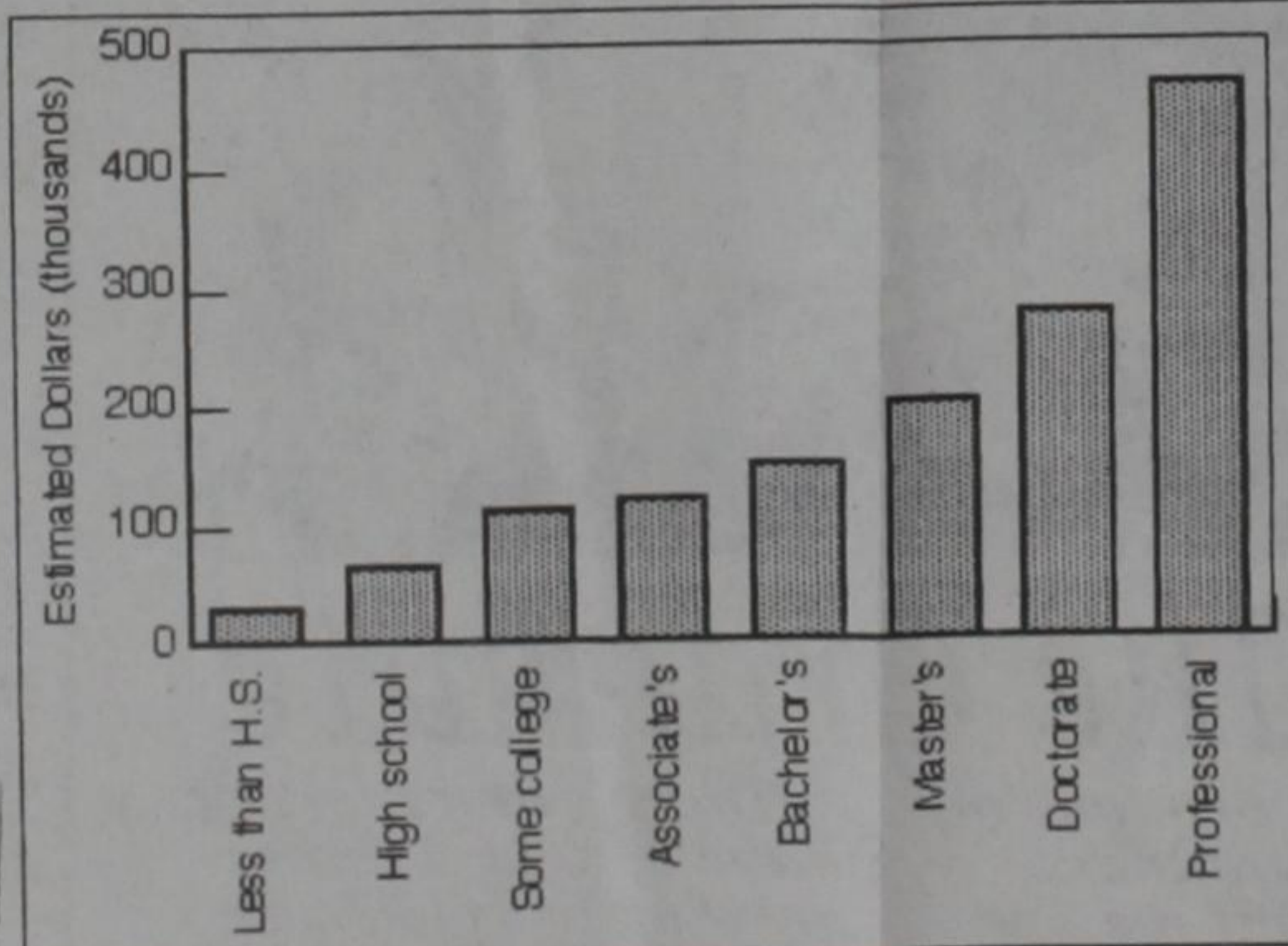
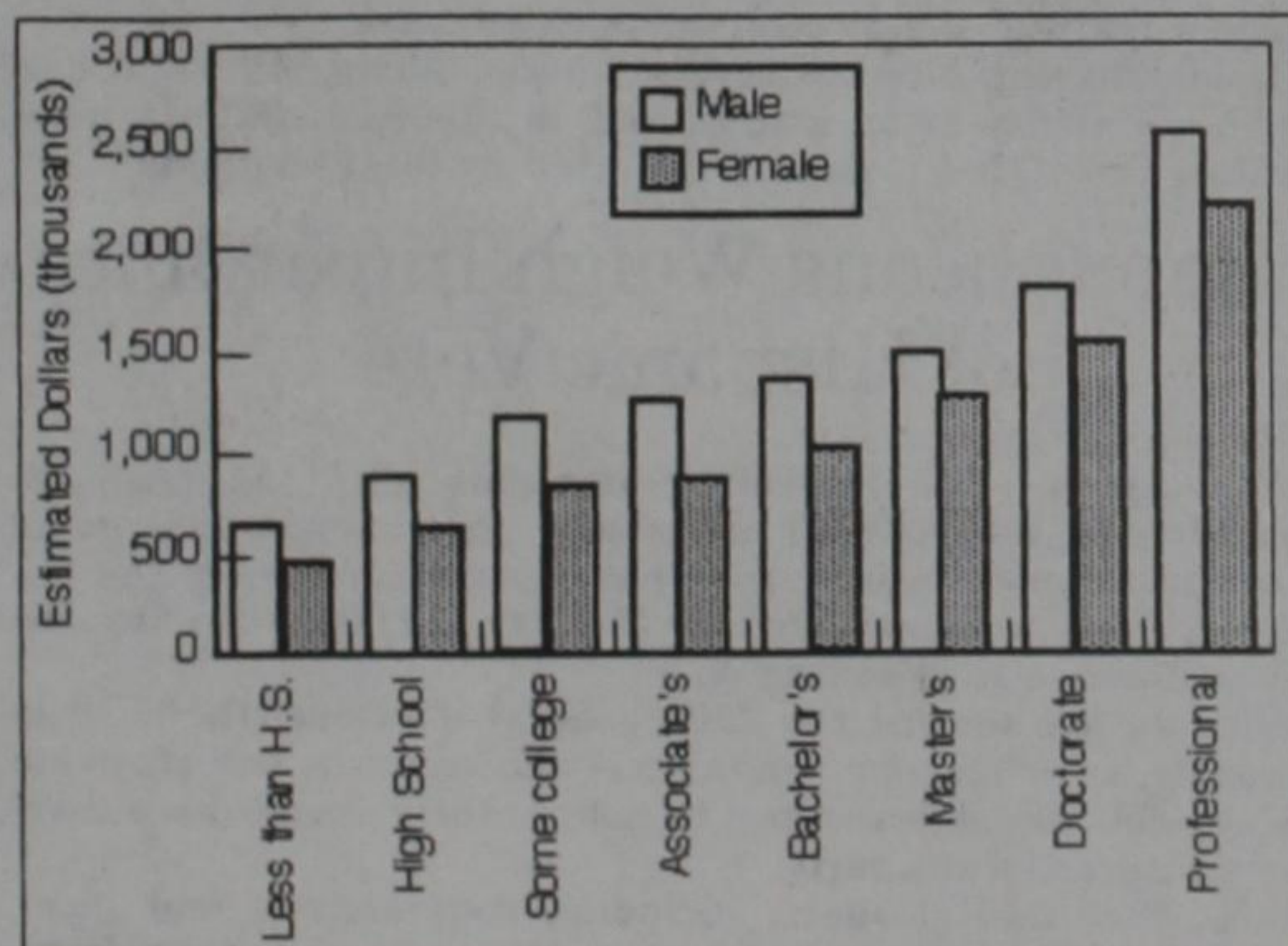
Increasing Hispanic Participation

From Page One

lifetime income for an individual under a 40-year earning horizon. We then used the current mean earnings for four age groups - 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64 - as estimates of the individual's income.

diploma is about \$500,000 for Hispanic men and \$400,000 for Hispanic women. More striking, the premium for a Hispanic with a professional degree is about \$1.7 million, over 200 percent more in lifetime earnings.

(and concomitant higher earnings) pay significantly more in taxes than people who have only high school diplomas. Figure 5 shows estimated lifetime income tax payments based on the current tax schedule for Hispanic individuals with various educational levels.



a professional degree will pay an estimated three times as much as those with a bachelor's degree. These estimates were generated under the conservative assumptions that the wage gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanics would not be closed.

Increased Tax Revenues: Scenario One

With the caveats noted above in mind, we considered how raising Hispanic educational levels would affect tax revenues. The completion rate for bachelor's degrees is 12 percent for today's cohort of 18-year-old Hispanics.

These numbers may seem small compared with the federal debt. However, these increases reflect the gross effects of increasing the college participation rate of only the current 18-year-old cohort of the Hispanic population.

school. Raising the high school graduation rate would increase the pool of Hispanics eligible for college.

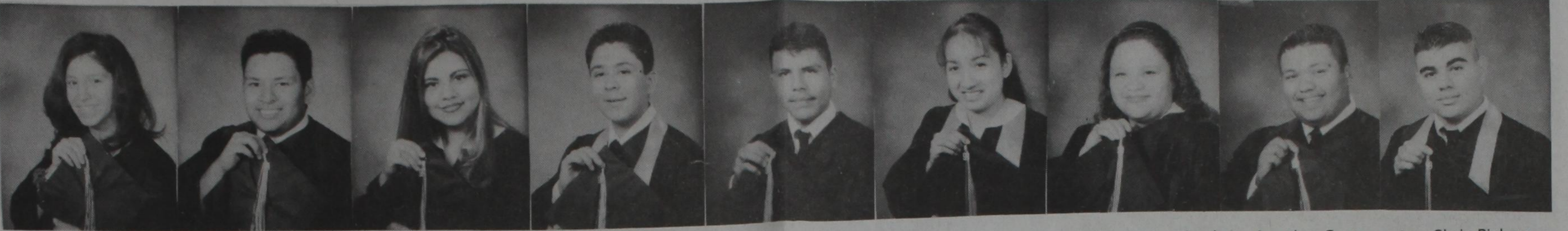
We tested the possible effects of increasing that pool by also raising the Hispanic rate of high school graduation to the levels of either blacks or whites (see Figure 7). With the rate for blacks (84 percent) for high school graduation, 15 percent for college participation, the additional income tax revenue from Hispanics would be about \$6 billion.

Conclusions

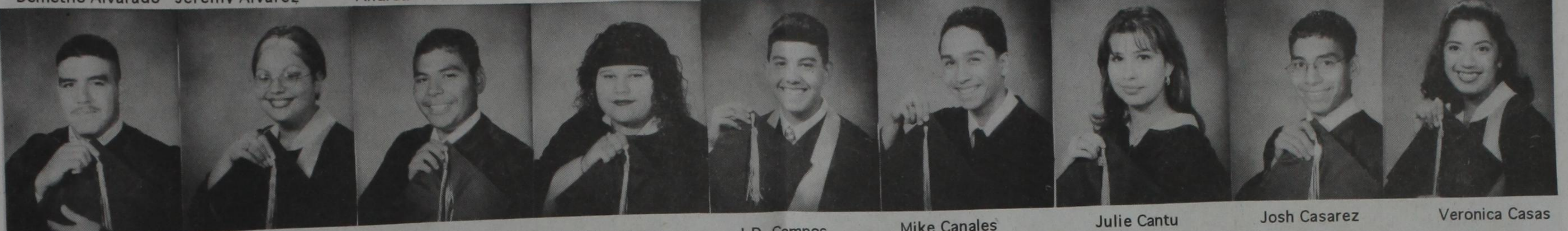
Although these estimates suggest that increasing Hispanic participation in higher education would be a sound public investment, they should not be taken as predictive: A definitive conclusion about the magnitude of this increase for Hispanics is not possible given the present lack of research on how higher education affects their earnings specifically.

[1]Sol H. Pelavin and Michael B. Kane, Minority Participation in Higher Education, Washington, D.C.: Pelavin Associates, 1990. Results of specific studies are documented in other RAND publications and in professional journal articles and books.

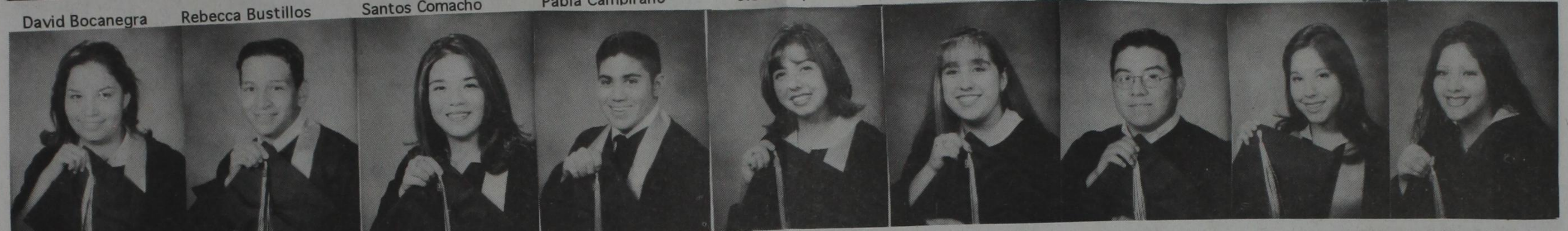
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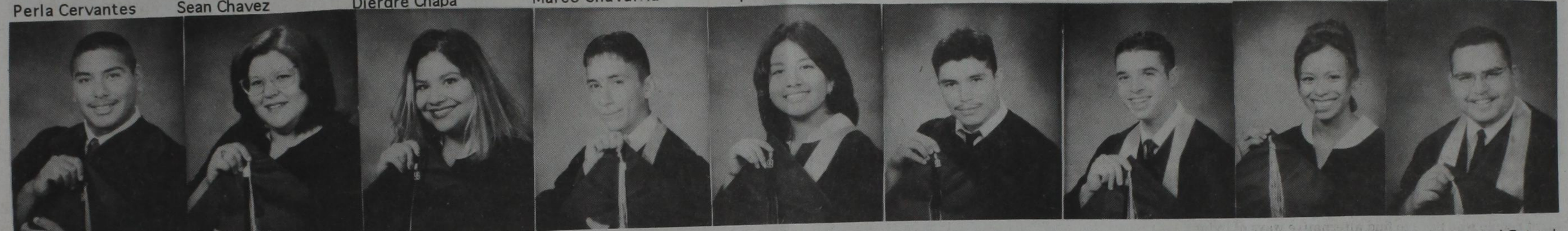
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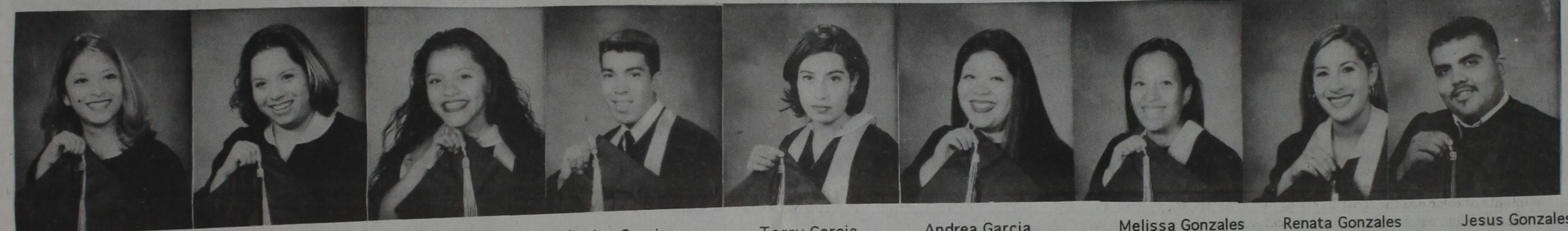
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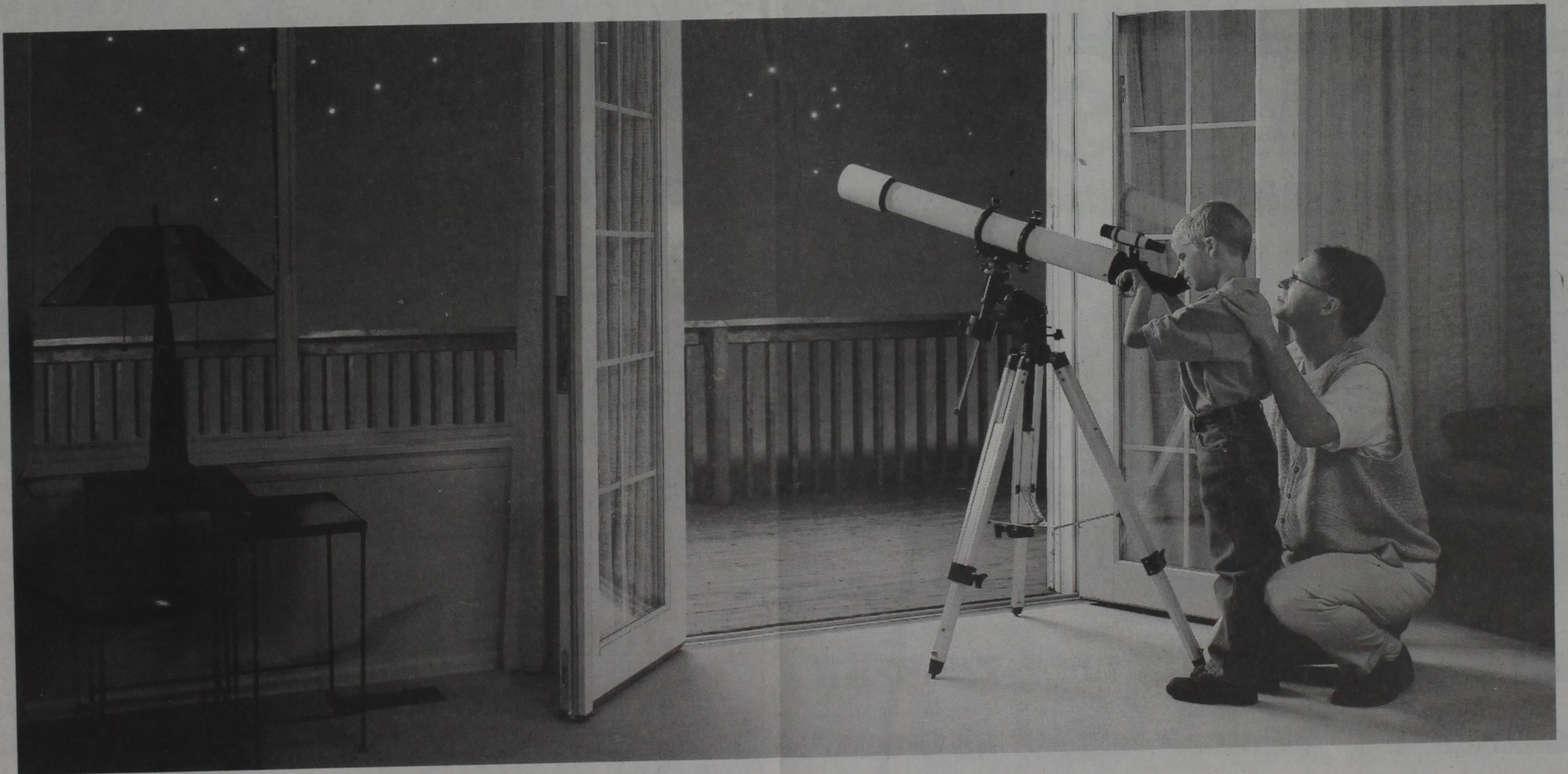
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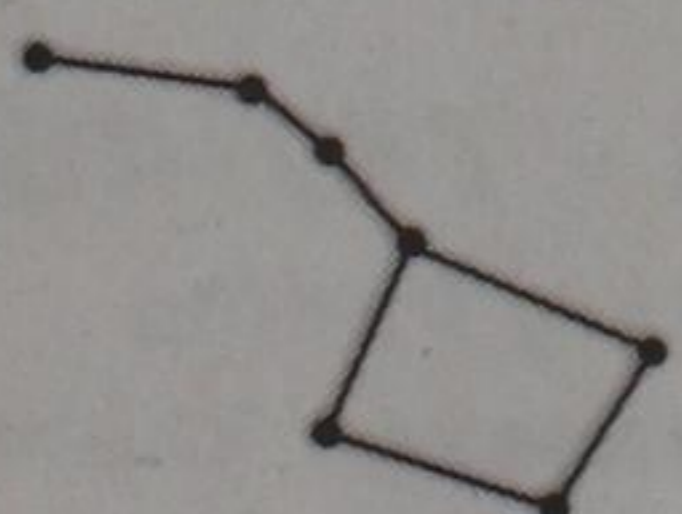
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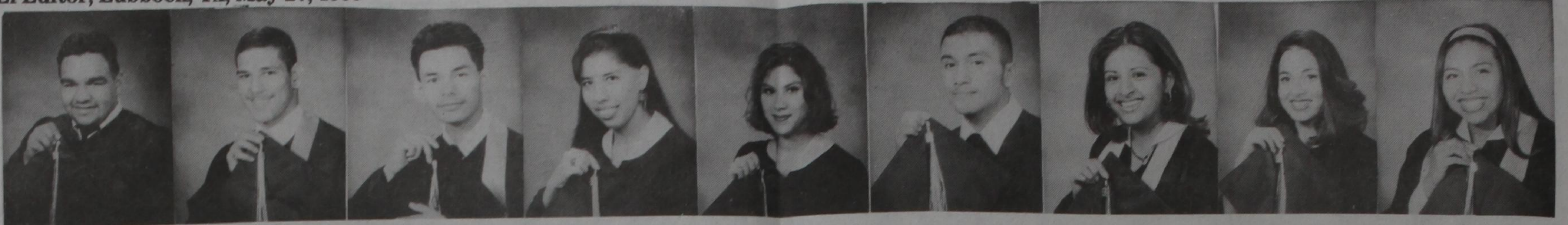
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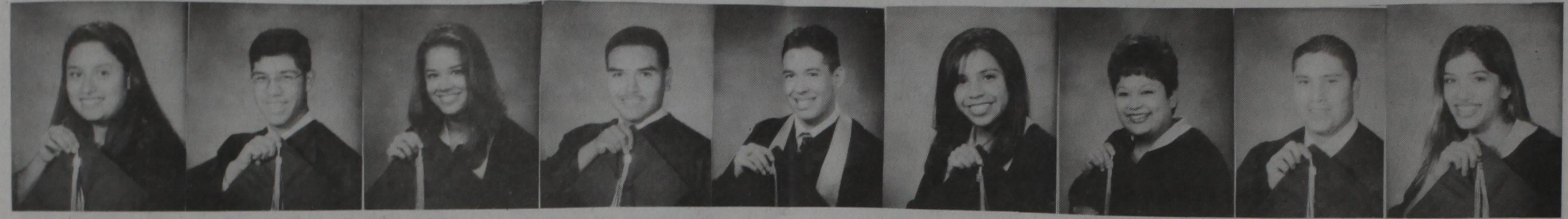
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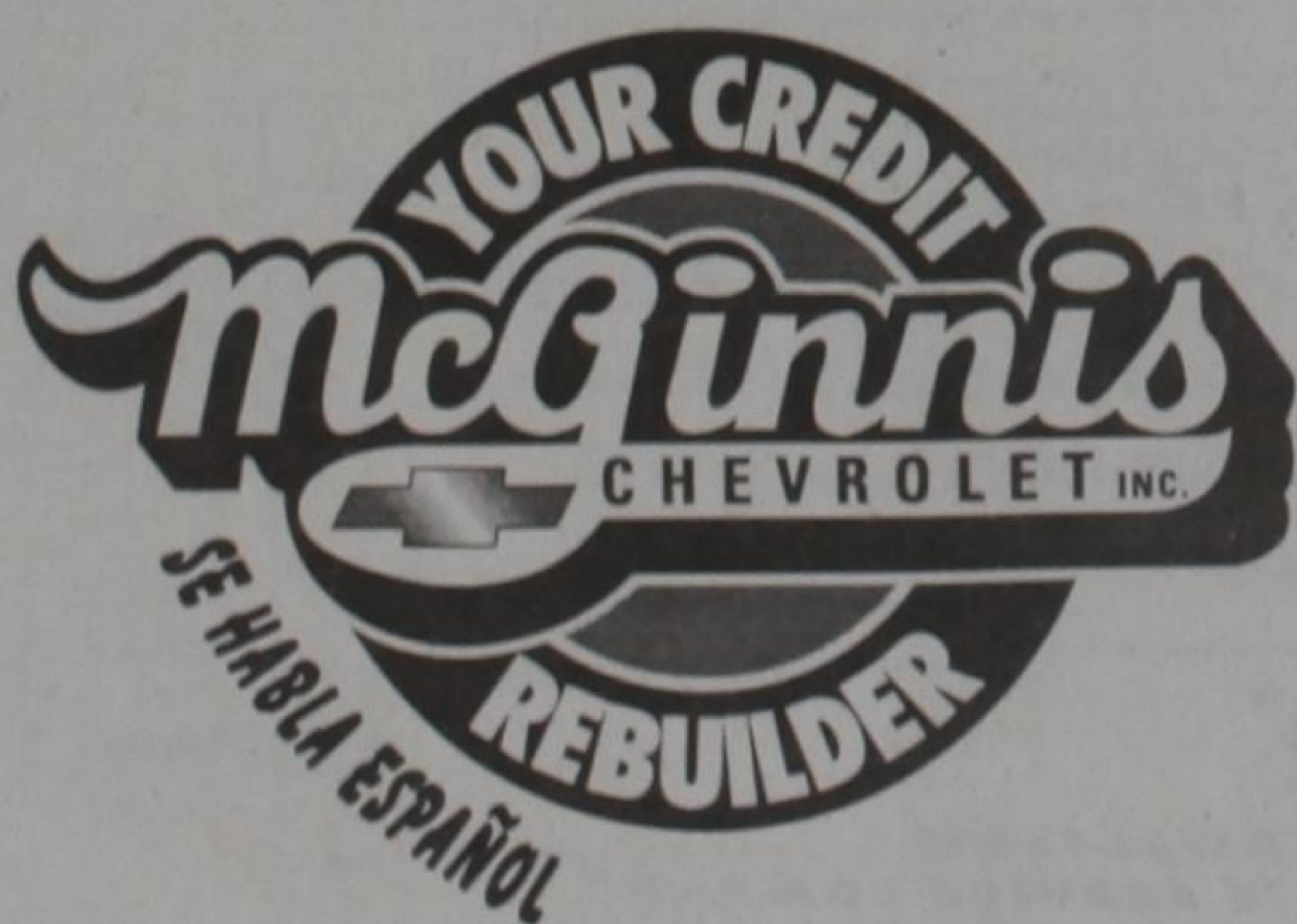
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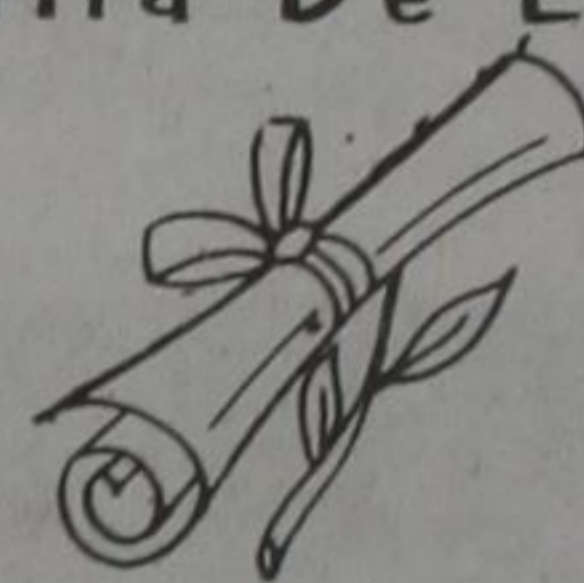
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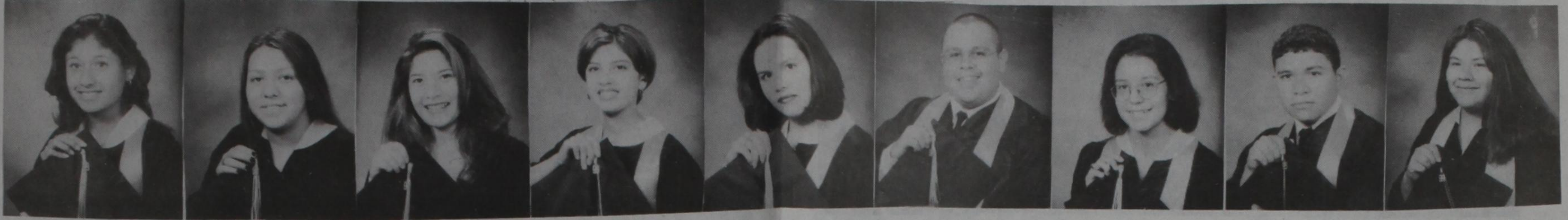
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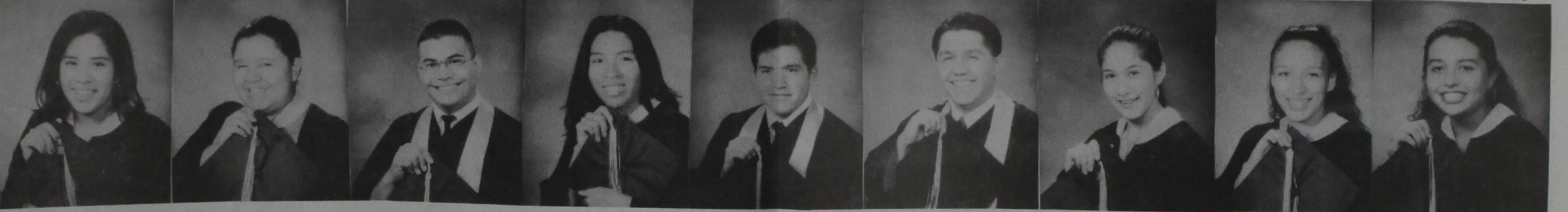
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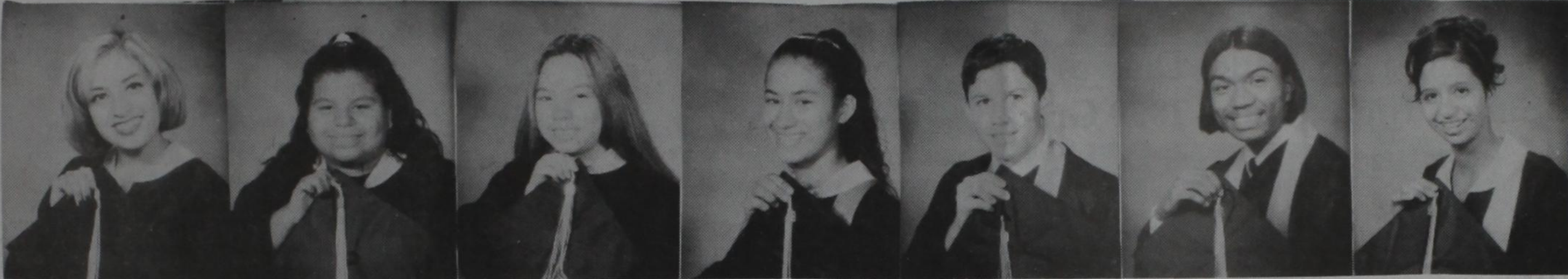
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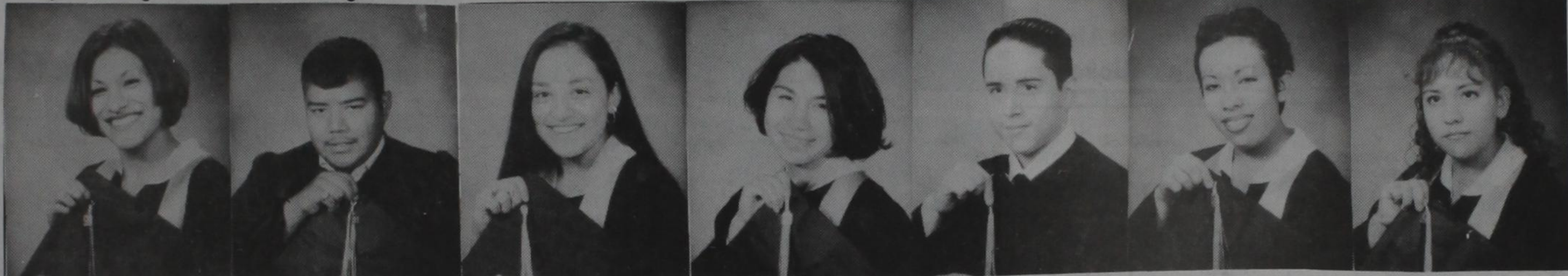
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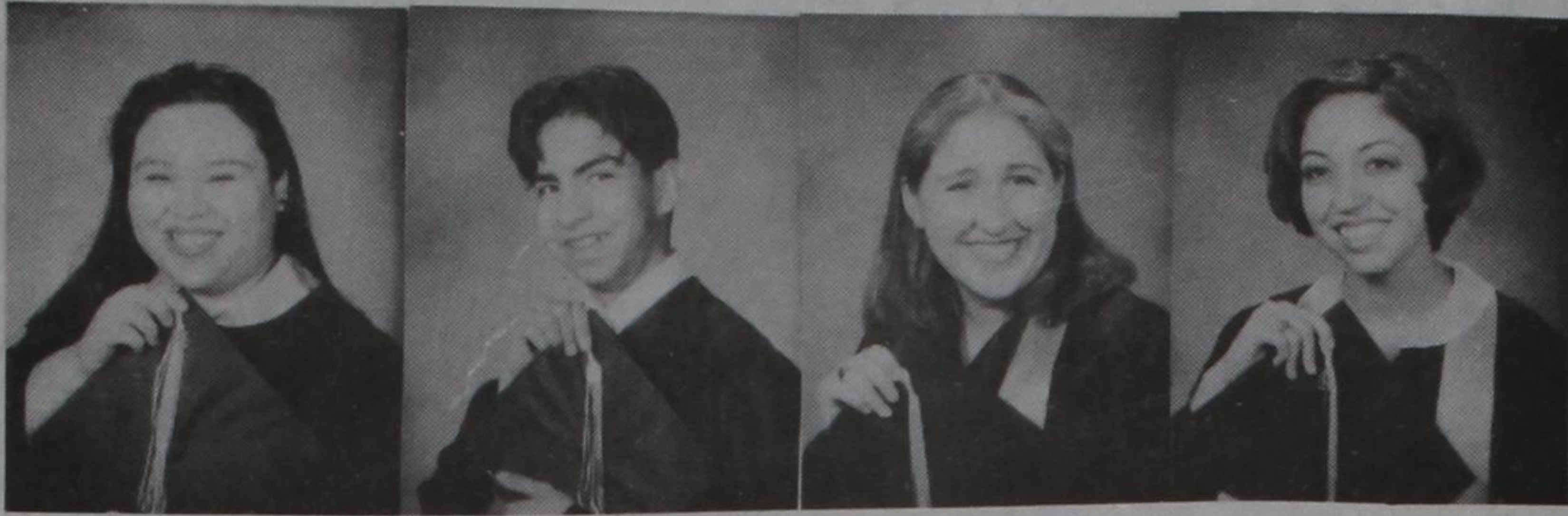
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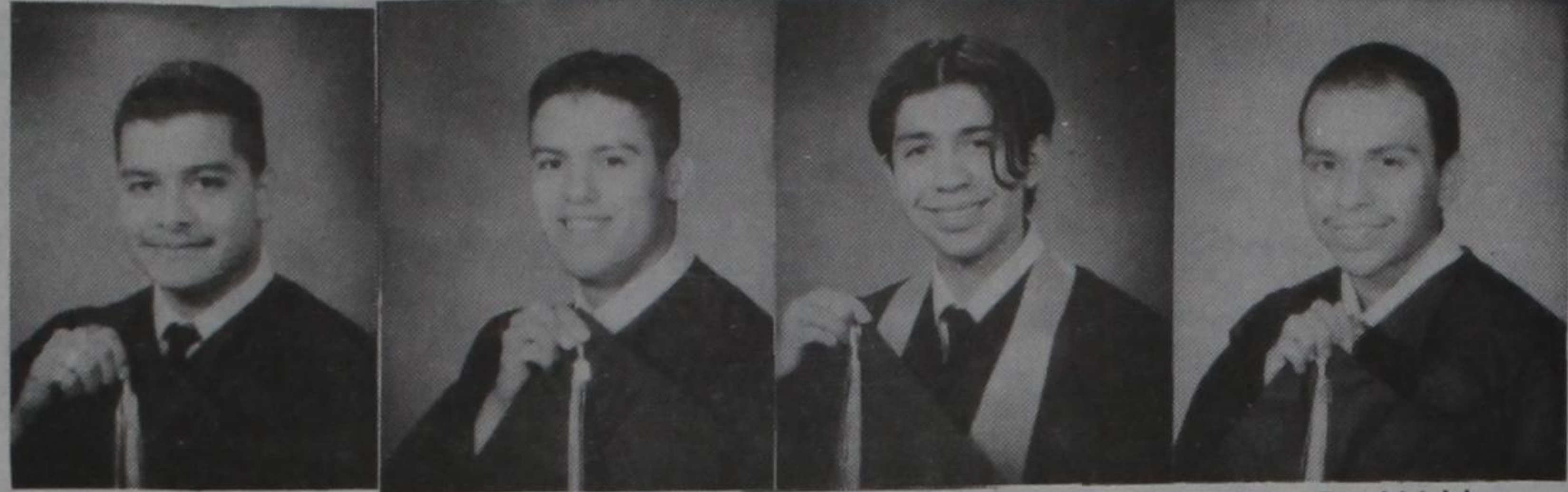
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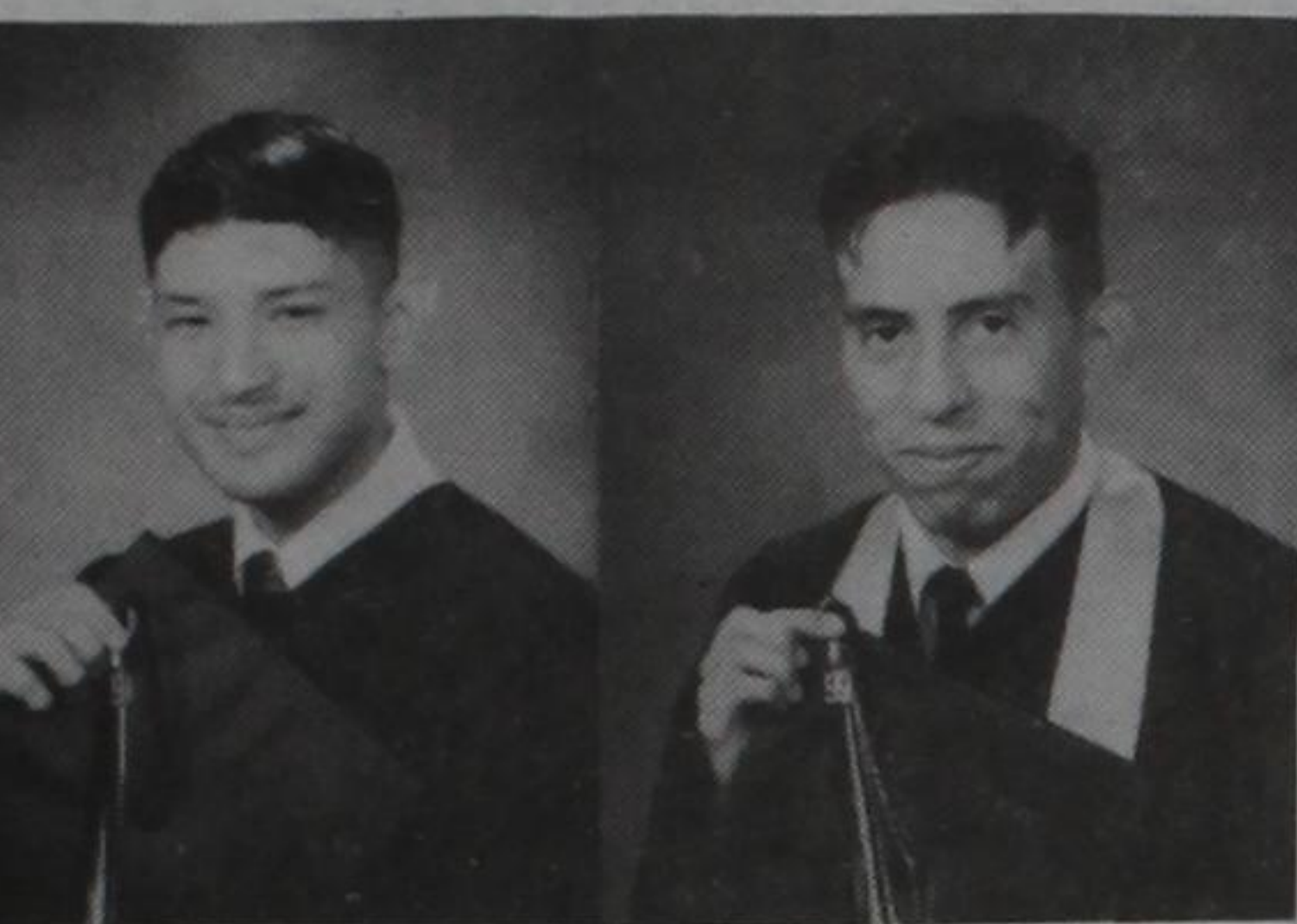
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Felicidades Mike Diaz Jr. Slaton High School 1999 Grad



Mike 4 yr. old



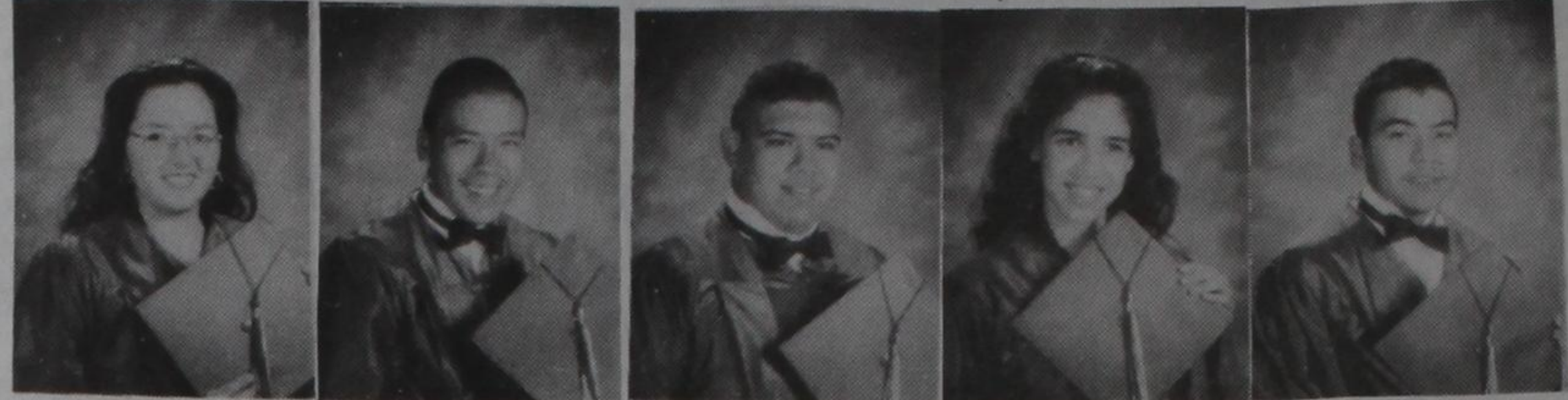
Mike the Graduate 1999

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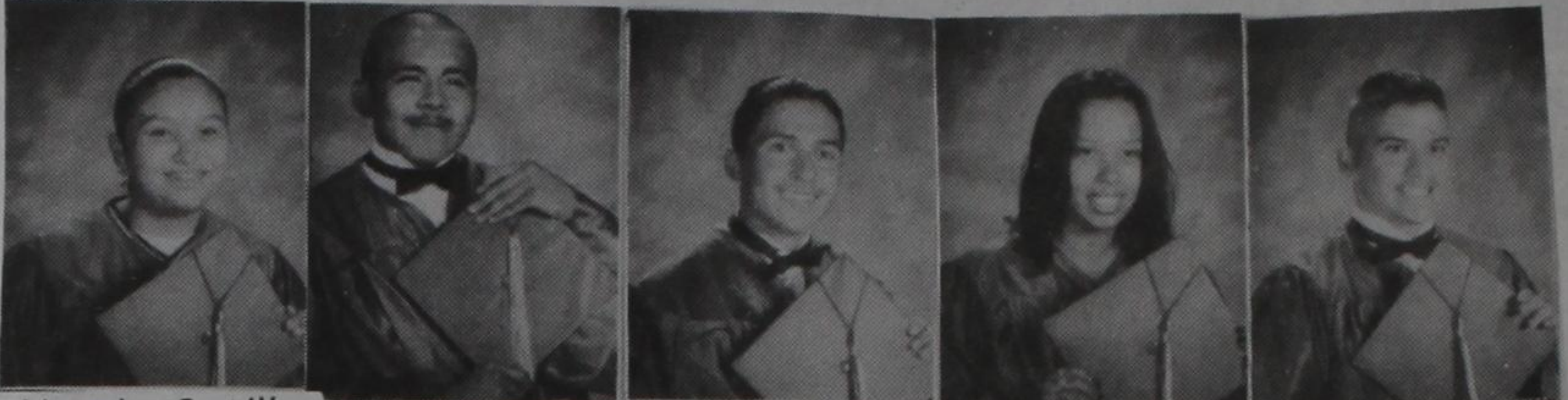
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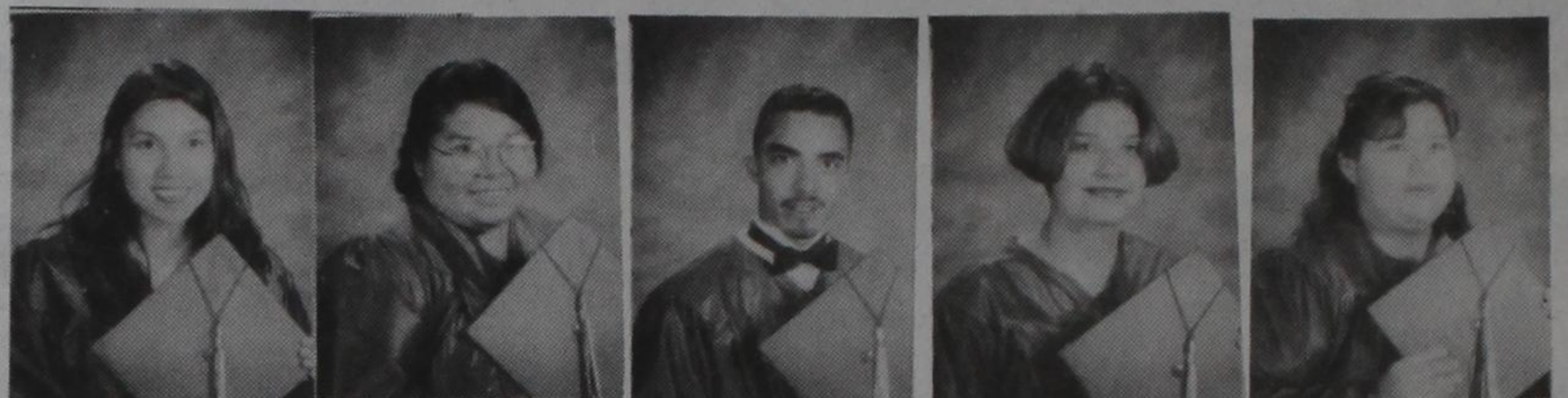
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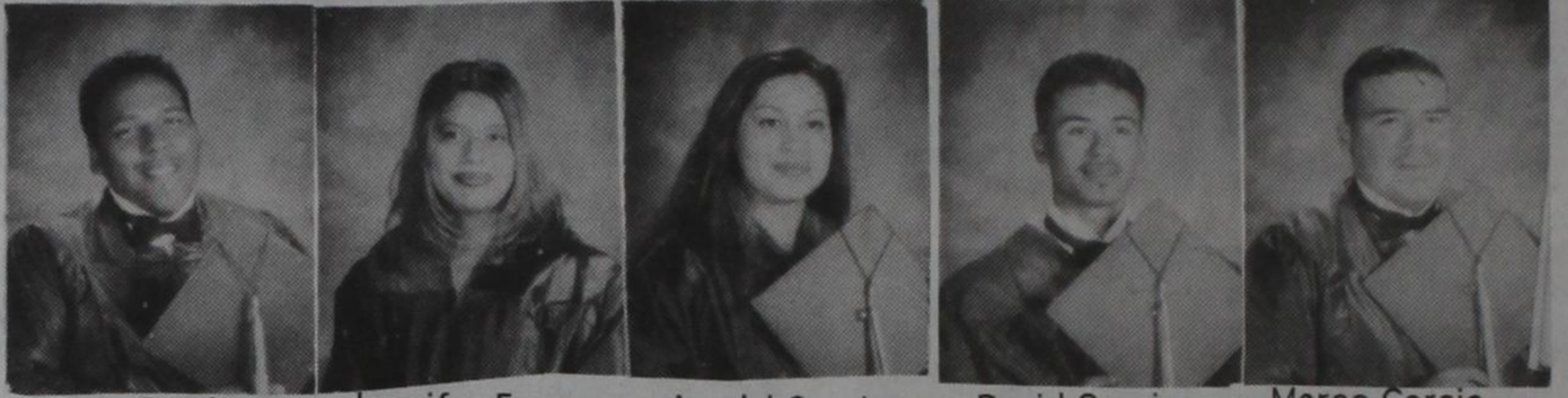
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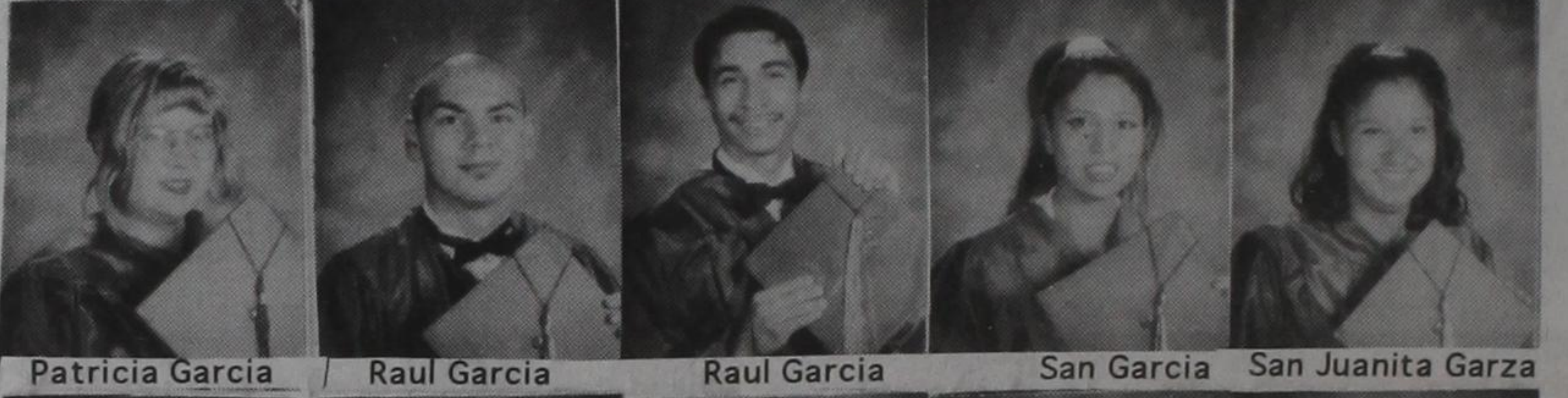
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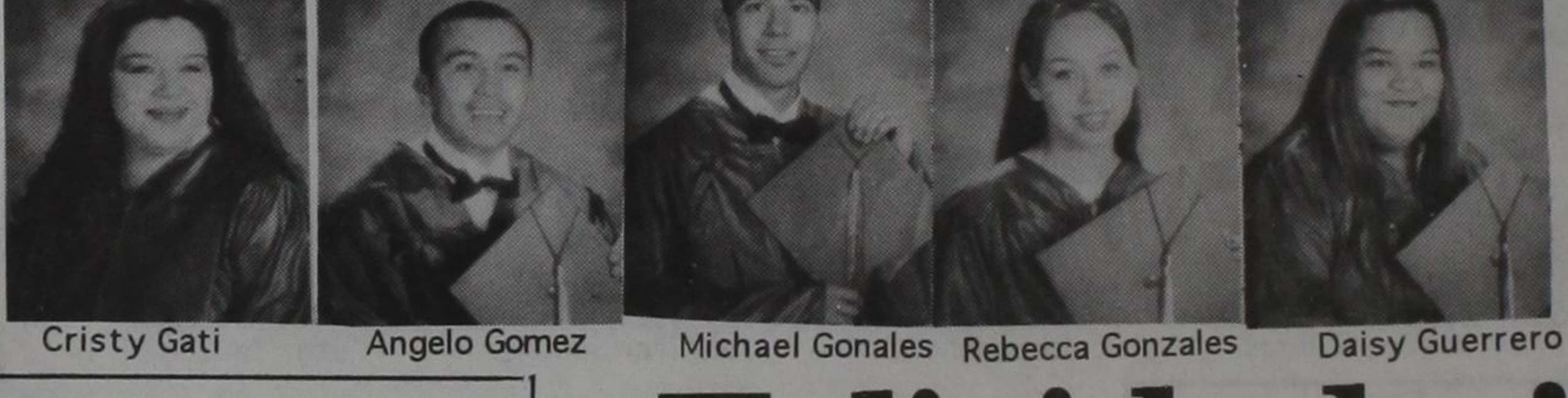
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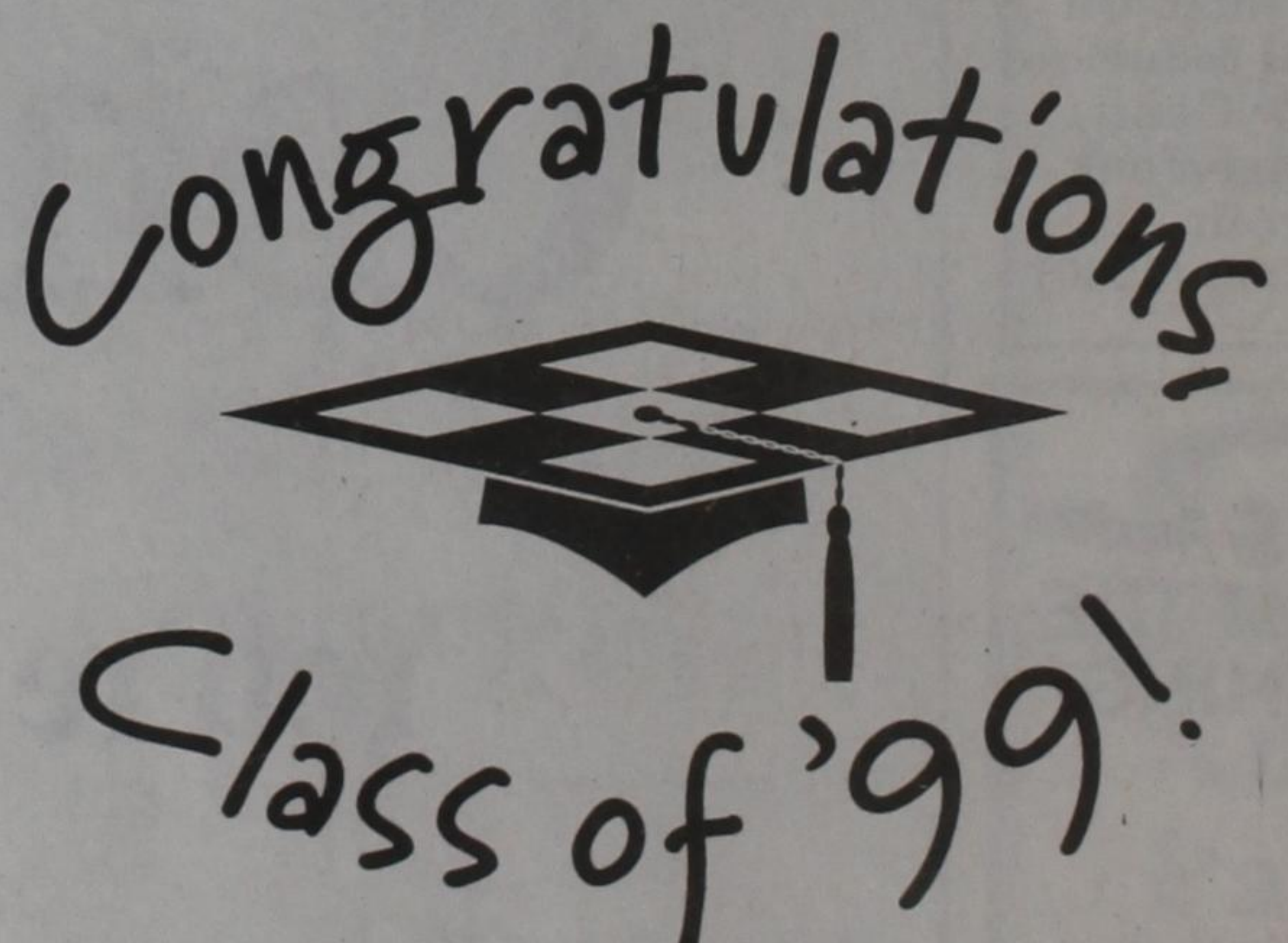
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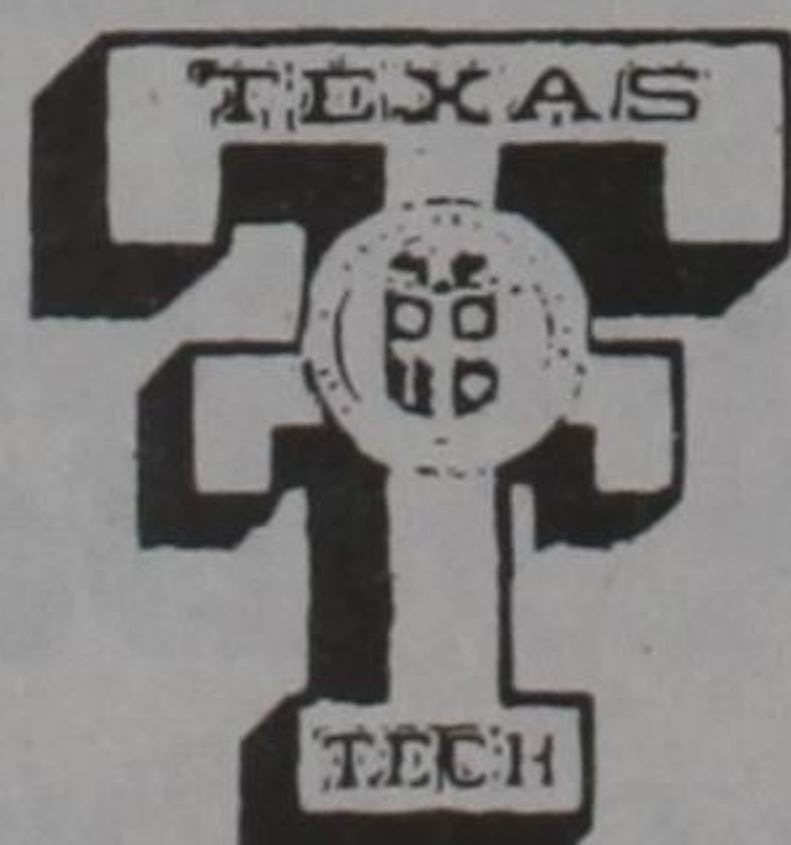
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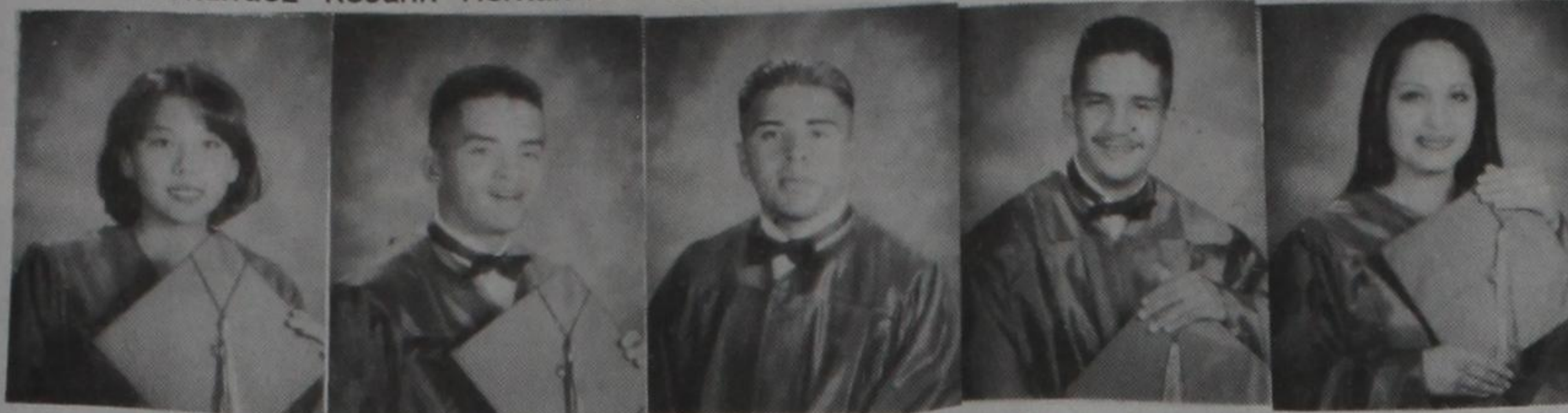


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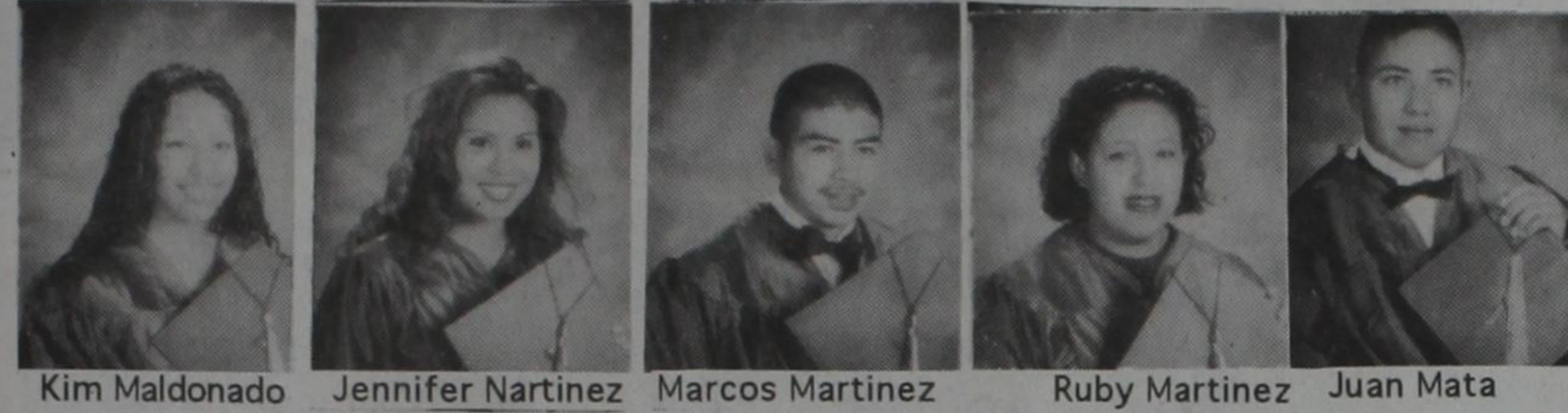
Estacado 1999 Seniors



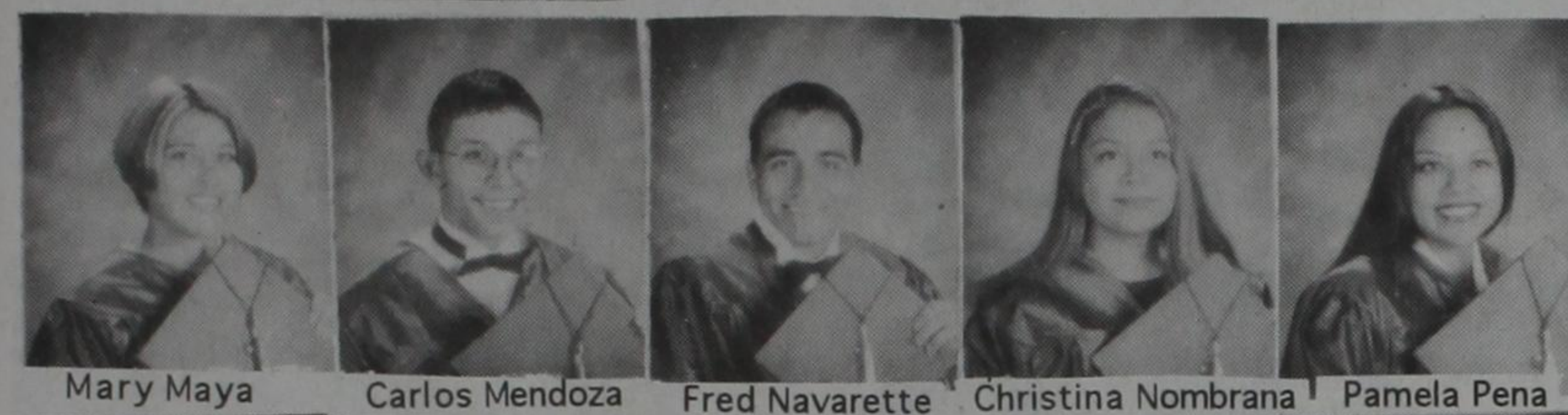
Tami Hernandez Rosann Hernandez Jamie Hernandez Adam Hernandez Andrea Juarez



Amanda Juarez Manuel Lechuga Jose Lopez Sonny Lopez Nicole Lucio



Kim Maldonado Jennifer Nartinez Marcos Martinez Ruby Martinez Juan Mata



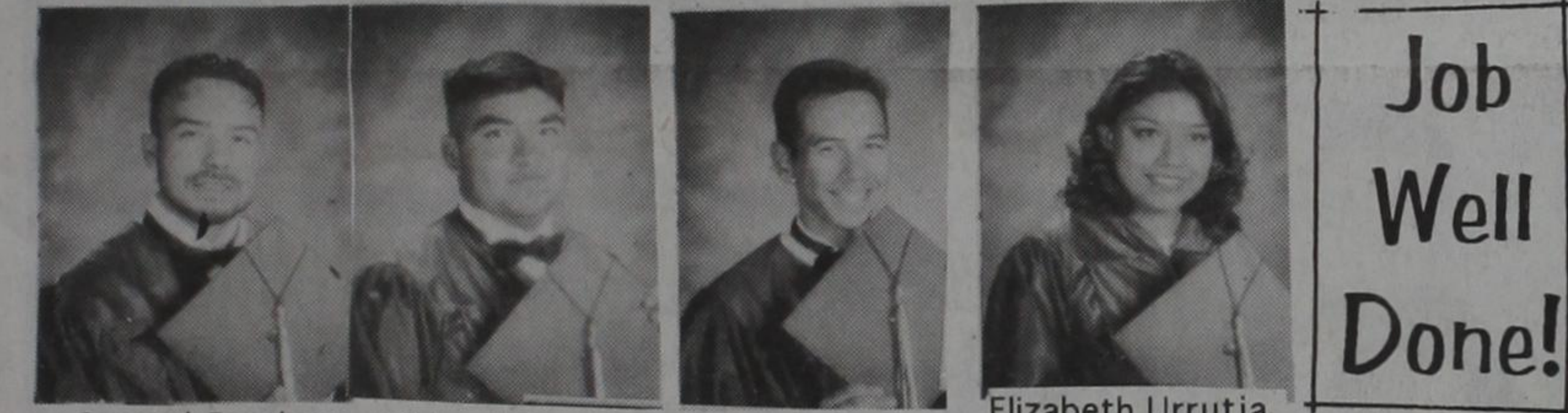
Mary Maya Carlos Mendoza Fred Navarette Christina Nombra Pamela Pena



Noel Perez Anabel Perez Antionette Ramos Angelo Reyna Celeste Peyes



Not Available Inez Rosas Monica Salas David Saldena Andrea Sanchez



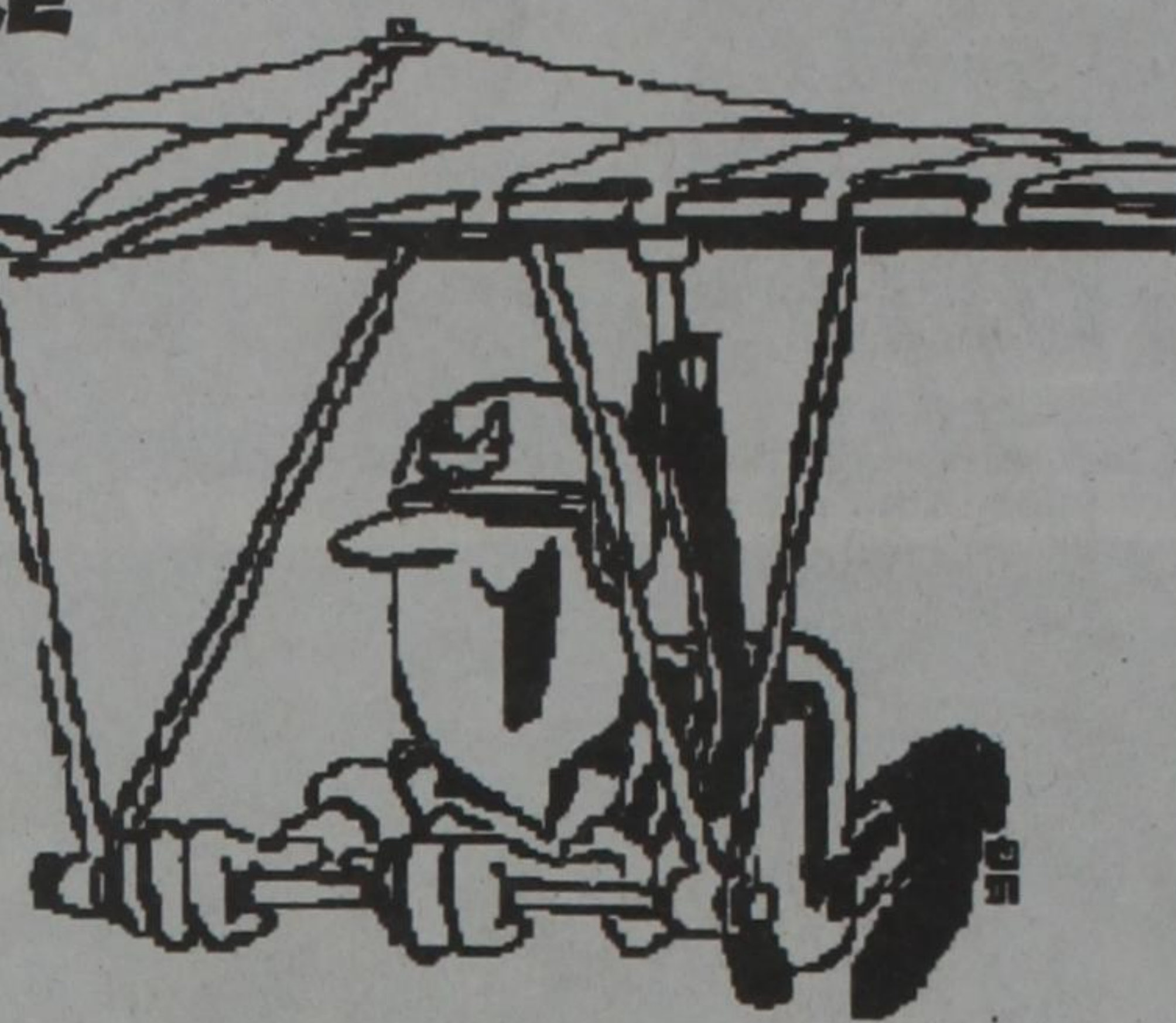
Samuel Sanchez Michael Torres Chris Trevino Elizabeth Urrutia

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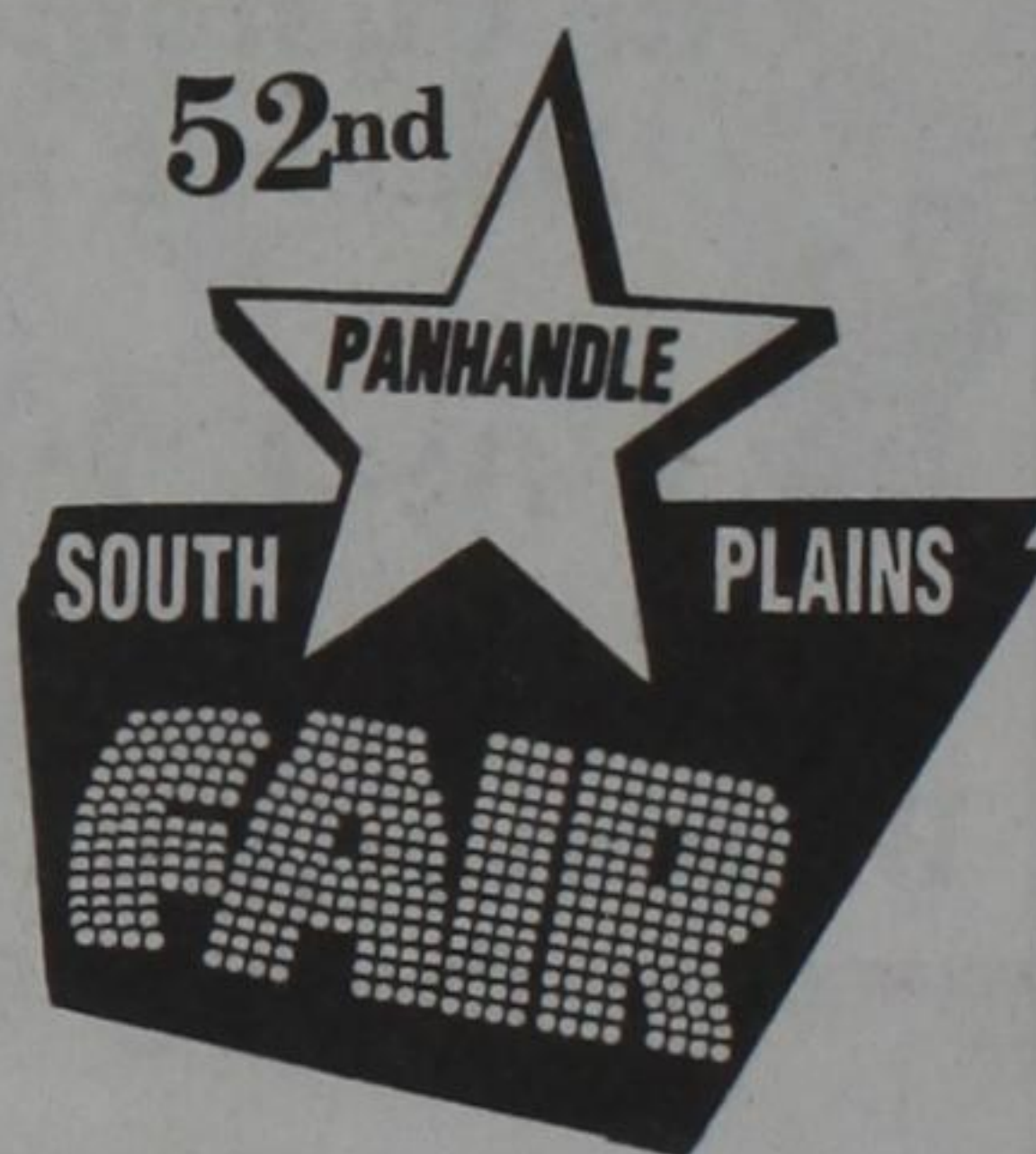


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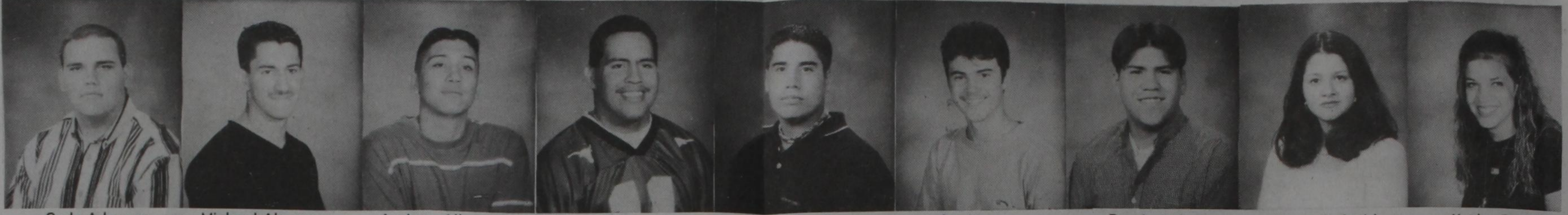
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is a weekly bilingual published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806-768-8841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

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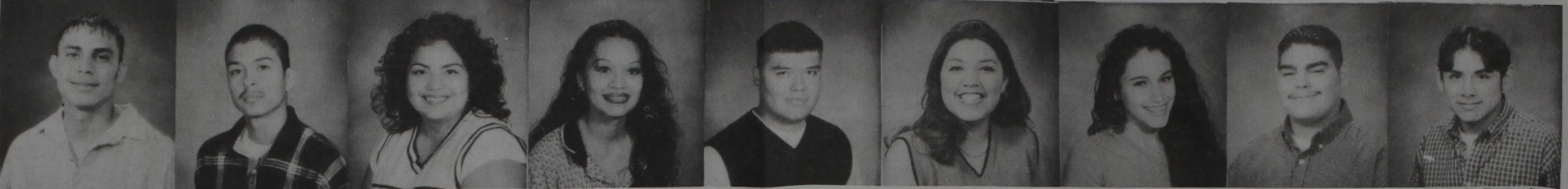
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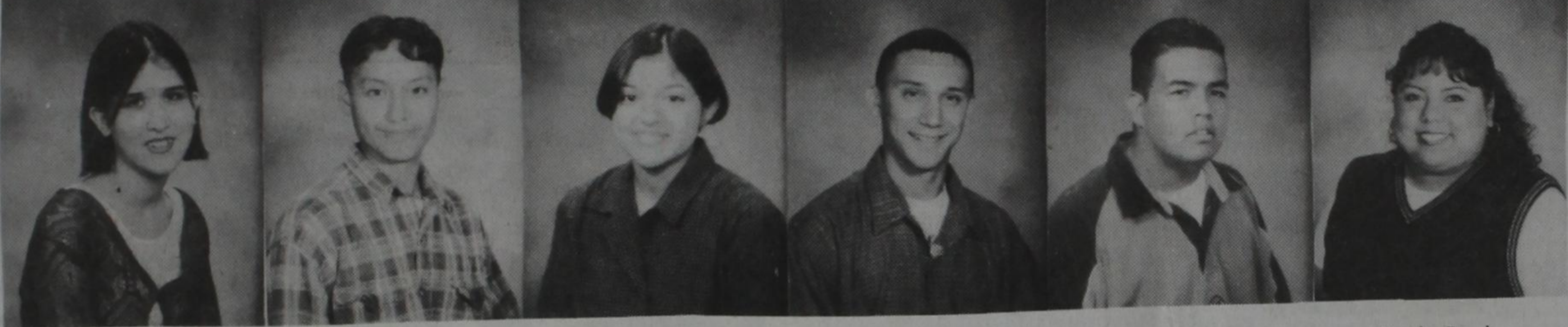
Ben Caudillo Adam Charles Amanda Cizneros Patricia Cortez John Compean Heather Criado Erin Estrada Jesus Estrada Isaac Esqueda



Joe Garcia Raymond Garcia Not Available Simone Gutierrez Amanda Guzman Cristina Hidalgo Ambrosia Hurtado Kimberly Lee Janet Lara



Amanda Luera Stephanie Lucero Deena Lopez Vanessa Martinez Stephanie Medina Marisa Mejia Ivy Mejia Veronica Moling Shaun Moralez



Mai Nguyen Paul Paiz Veronica Perez Andres Puente Royce Quintero Nicole Rocha




Omar Rodriguez, Jr. Rachel Ramirez Mark Rivera




LeAnn Sisneros Felicia Sanchez Joe Salazar

Que La Virgen de Guadalupe guíe a todos los estudiantes que se graduan.



Bishop Plácido Rodríguez congratulates all graduating students. ¡Felicidades Mil! You are in our prayers




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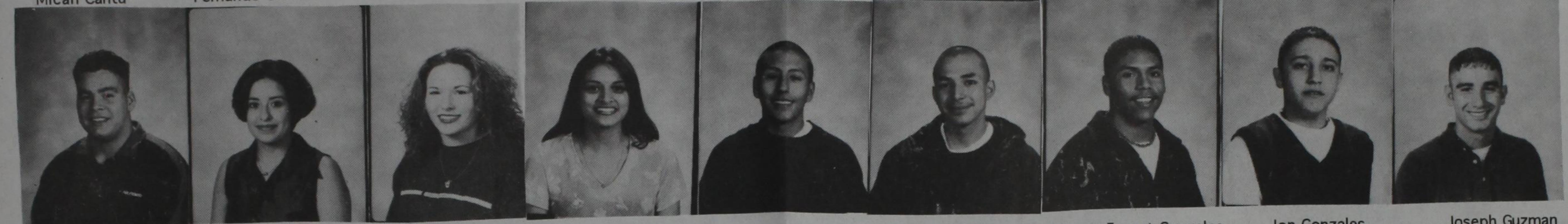
Monterey High



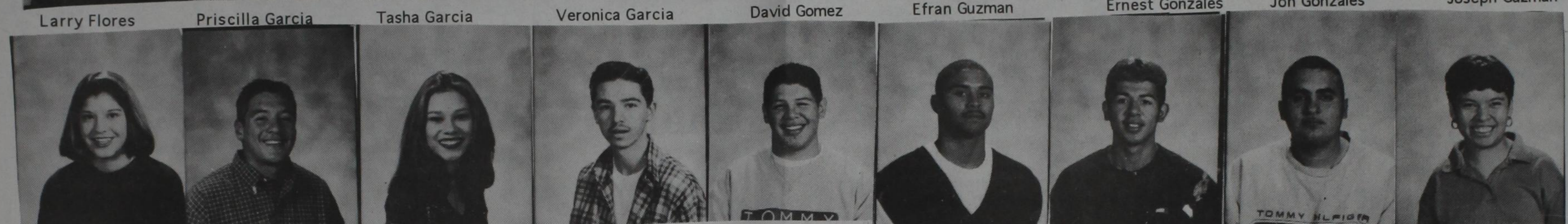
Marisol Adame Cruz Angeles Cris Ariausa Adrienne Arias Mariselds Avalos Elias Balderas Martha Bazaldua Frank Berdija Jerrv Cantu



Micah Cantu Fernando Carrillo Justin Castillo Justin Chapa Tammy Constanco Adrian Cortez Renatta Delello Julie Desai Carlos Diaz



Larry Flores Priscilla Garcia Tasha Garcia Veronica Garcia David Gomez Efran Guzman Ernest Gonzales Jon Gonzales Joseph Guzman



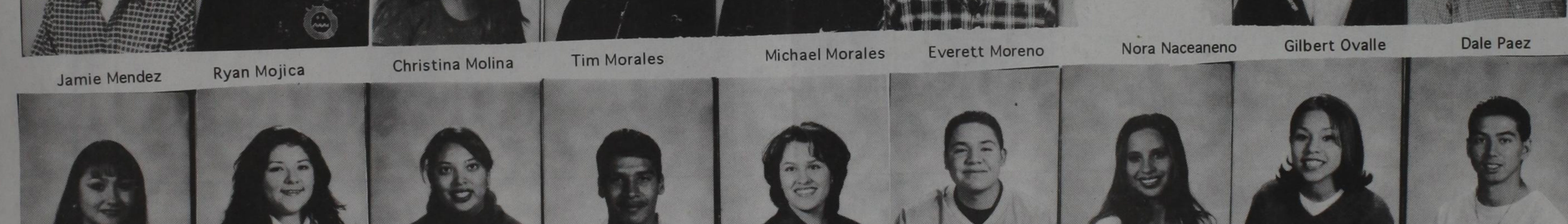
Leslie Hernandez Simon Hernandez Corina Herrera Jesus Jimenez Manuel Lara Eric Luna Aaron Marinez Arron Martinez Josephine Martinez



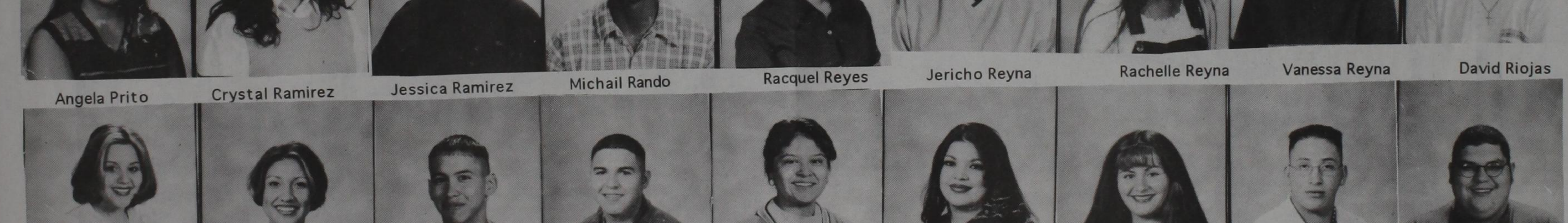
Julie Marinez Manuel Martinez Matthew Martinez Megan Martinez Monika Martinez Nicolaz Martinez Vanessa Martinez Jeremiah Melendez Monica Melendez



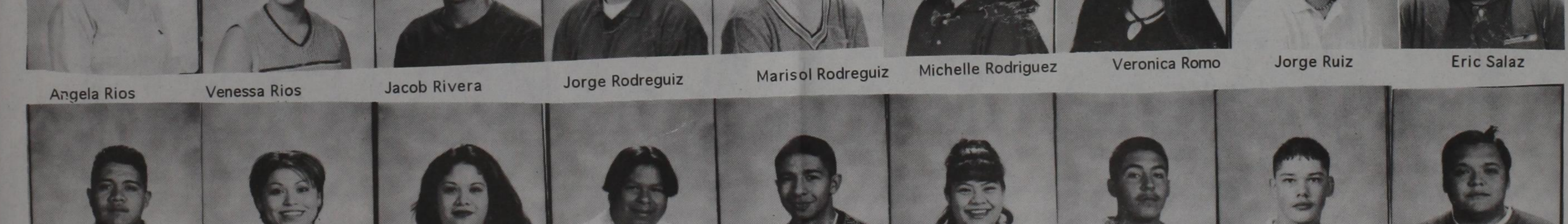
Jamie Mendez Ryan Mojica Christina Molina Tim Morales Michael Morales Everett Moreno Nora Naceaneno Gilbert Ovalle Dale Paez



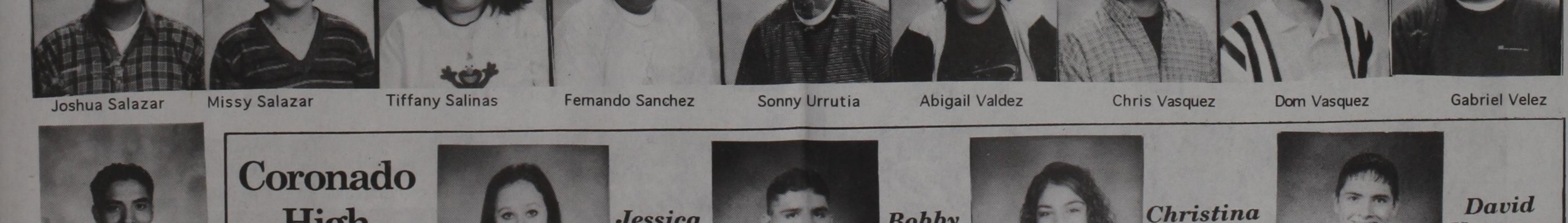
Angela Prito Crystal Ramirez Jessica Ramirez Michail Rando Racquel Reyes Jericho Reyna Rachelle Reyna Vanessa Reyna David Riojas



Angela Rios Venessa Rios Jacob Rivera Jorge Rodreguiz Marisol Rodreguiz Michelle Rodriguez Veronica Romo Jorge Ruiz Eric Salaz



Joshua Salazar Missy Salazar Tiffany Salinas Fernando Sanchez Sonny Urrutia Abigail Valdez Chris Vasquez Dom Vasquez Gabriel Velez

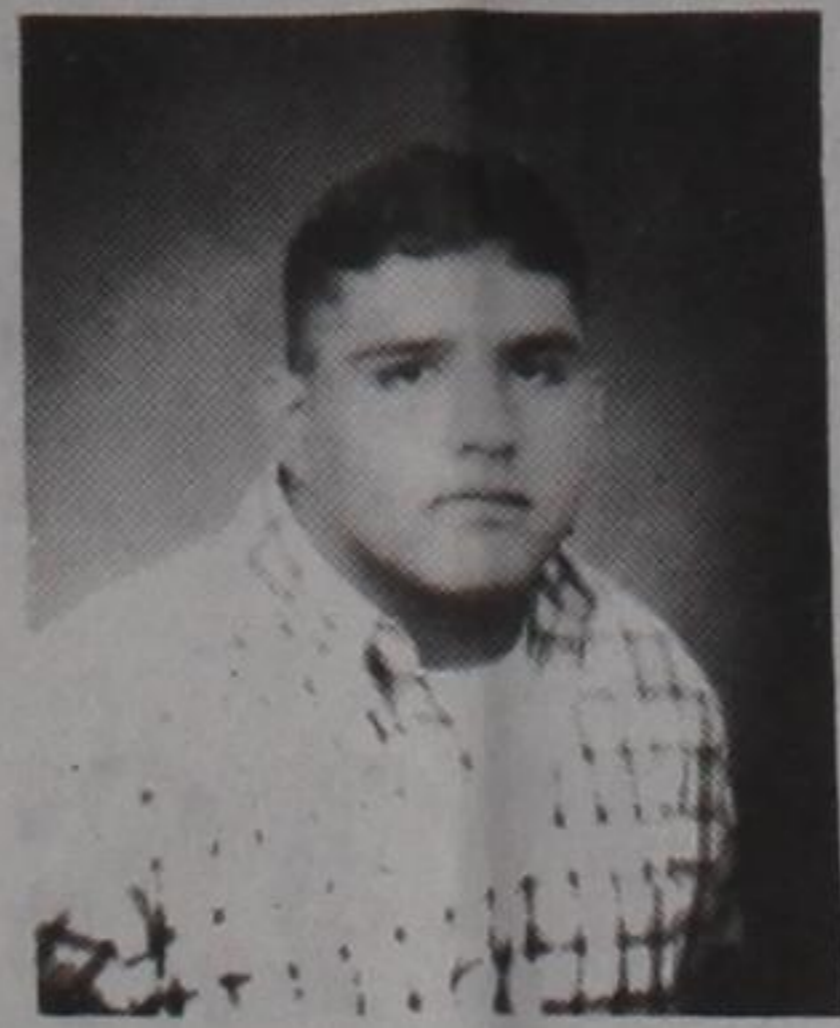


Anthony Zamora

Coronado High School Seniors



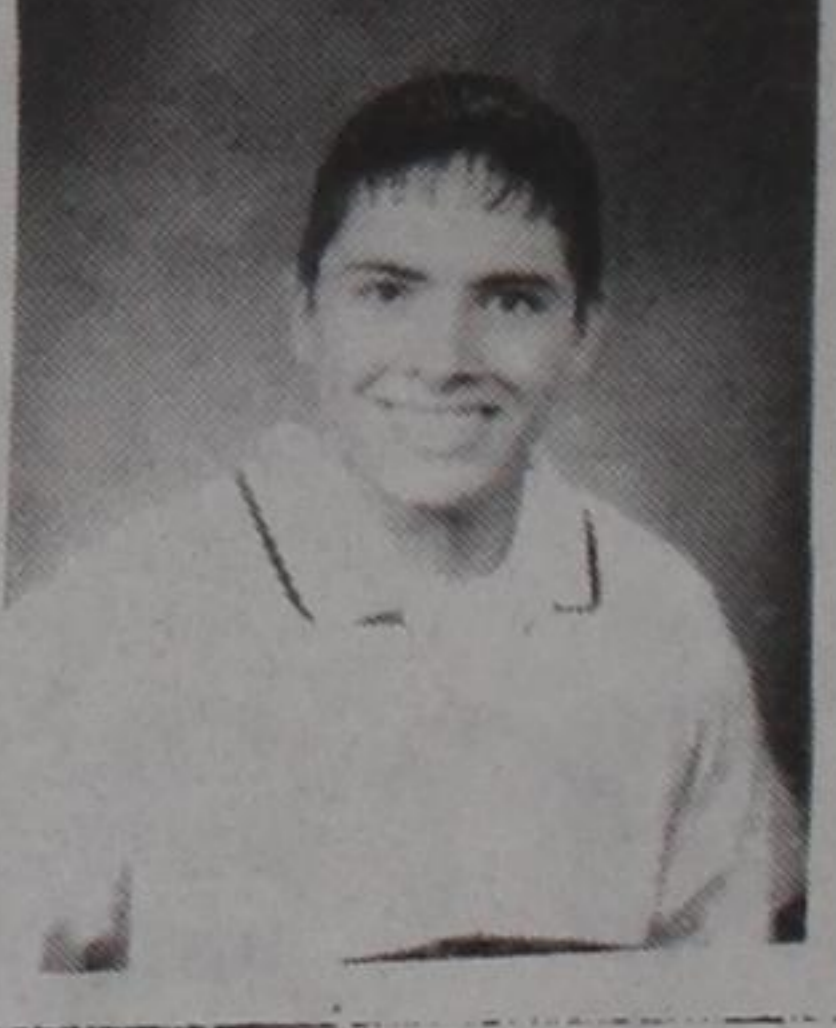
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