

State / National

Henry Cisneros is likely choice for next SA mayor

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Urban affairs professor and City Councilman Henry Cisneros admits targeting his life for the past six years to become mayor of San Antonio.
But realizing his ambition in Saturday's city election will be more than a personal achievement — Cisneros will become the first Mexican-American mayor of a major U.S. city.
Cisneros, 33-year-old protégé of former cabinet secretary Elliot Richardson, has consistently held the lead in an eight-year mayoral contest and now appears the favorite to win Saturday.
San Antonio has had a stereotype as a small, sleepy town near the U.S.-Mexico border that held the Alamo for tourists and well-kept golf courses for retired military officers. But the last 20 years of soaring economic growth and booming popu-

lation have shattered the sleepy image. More than 250 years after the establishment of the city, San Antonio has become the nation's ninth largest in population with an expanding economic base in electronics, medical research and energy.
Cisneros' closest competitor for the city's chief executive post, businessman and city council member John Steen, says his pre-election polls show he has been rapidly gaining ground on the Harvard-educated Cisneros, but still lags behind.
"I've told them this is not an ethnic election," Steen said. "At least the candidates and the people aren't aware of it, if it is."
More than half the city's 800,000 people are Hispanic, but neither candidate has made ethnic backgrounds a campaign issue. Mexican-American political power in San Antonio peaked in 1977 with a city council majority of Hispanics.

Cisneros' personal charm and eloquence apparently have allowed much of the polarization between Hispanics and Anglos to be forgotten during the mayoral campaign. Slogans for both major candidates include "unity" as a theme.
"Sure, I like Cisneros. A lot of the Anglos do," said an elderly white man who was interviewed in a downtown shopping area.
A record number of people are expected to vote. Absentee balloting already has doubled the record set in 1977.
Steen's campaign is being run by an advertising agency — Baily, Deardourff & Associates — which has been associated with winning campaigns across the nation. Another stumbling block for Cisneros is Dr. Jose San Martin, son of a prominent Mexican-American citizen, who is capable of taking a large

portion of Cisneros' Hispanic vote.
Both major San Antonio newspapers have endorsed Cisneros, the San Antonio Light doing so with a front-page, banner headline endorsement on Wednesday.
"Councilman Cisneros exemplifies the young, bright, aggressive energy which will help bring the greatness destined for this city," stated the newspaper's endorsement. "He is a man of the times with a program for the times."
"I am not content to sit back and let others do what I believe the mayor should be doing," Cisneros said. "My administration will not be passive, but rather aggressive, creative — all to keep in step with the growing challenge of the 80s."

Arson experts probe latest Vegas fire

United Press International
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Arson experts sealed the gutted remains of a suite Room 584 at Caesars Palace Thursday, pending completion of an investigation into the fourth Vegas hotel-casino blaze in five months.
Flames erupted Wednesday in the fifth-floor room of the hotel's 14-story central tower, injuring 16 people and forcing hundreds to flee smoke-filled halls. Downstairs, however, gamblers continued to play blackjack, roll dice and play slot machines in the casino.
Arson investigators searched the suite late Wednesday through the five-room suite where the fire started, but officials refused to speculate whether the blaze was deliberately set.

Although the room had been rented, nobody was believed to be in Room 584 when the fire broke out, a hotel spokesman said.
Caesars Palace is located diagonally from the MGM Hotel where 84 people died in a fire last November. Another blaze, started by an arsonist, killed eight people at the Las Vegas Hilton Feb. 10. The Silverbird Hotel was evacuated March 2 in an arson-caused fire, but there were no deaths and no injuries.
The central tower of Caesars Palace, where Wednesday's fire started, is an older section of the multimillion-dollar resort and is not equipped with sprinklers.
Plans are under way, however, to install sprinklers throughout the 1,734-room resort, according to a report recently submitted to

the Clark County Commission. There are sprinklers in the hotel's casino areas, convention halls, shopping arcade and new tower.
Ironically, many of the guests evacuated because of the fire were attending the National Burglary and Fire Alarms convention in the hotel.
Both the 14-story Central Tower, which opened Caesars Palace in 1966, and the adjoining new Fantasy Tower were evacuated.
Firemen, maids and hotel security guards ran through smoky corridors and pounded on doors, alerting guests — especially those on the fifth and sixth floors where the smoke was heaviest — to get out. Smoke alarms shrieked in some of the rooms.
"I woke up to the sound of sirens," said Jerry Davis of De-

ver, who was honeymooning at the resort. "A maid came, knocked on the door and was so shaky and scared all she could do was point to the fire stairway outside our door."
Some frightened guests smashed windows in a frantic effort to get fresh air, sending shattered glass down onto other escaping guests.
Despite the frightened guests and hotel employees fleeing through the casino, gaming never halted. "Everyone kept playing," said a blackjack dealer. "I thought it was a joke."
Fire Department Capt. Ralph

Dinsman said the flames, confined to the single suite, were extinguished within 30 minutes by 55 firemen. He said firemen had trouble locating the fire at first because smoke was so heavy.
The most seriously injured person was Fire Capt. Donald Warren, who suffered second-degree burns on the upper part of his body. He was in satisfactory condition at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital's burn center.
Fifteen other people — five firefighters and 10 guests — were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation. Ten were hospitalized.

Man added to victim total

United Press International
ATLANTA — The bodies of a young black man with "the mind of a child" and the latest known victim of Atlanta's child killers may have entered the Chattahoochee River at the same site, authorities say.
Eddie Lamar "Bubba" Duncan, 21, was pulled from the river Tuesday night about two miles from the spot where Timothy Hill, 13, was found one day earlier.
Duncan became the 24th case added to the special police task force probing the slayings and disappearances of the children. He is the only adult on the list of 22 dead and two missing victims.
Douglas County Sheriff Earl Lee, investigating Duncan's

death, said both Duncan's and Hill's bodies could have entered the river at the same site, possibly from one of two upstream bridges.
Eddie Duncan Sr. said he saw his son about two weeks ago at a restaurant near the Techwood

housing project, where Eddie and Hill both lived.
"I told him to be careful and he said he knew to be careful because his friend was missing," the father said. "His friend's name was Timothy Hill."

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