

Effects of Bilingual Ballots Not Yet Determined

By Carolyn Pearce
Staff Writer

Spanish instructions were installed this year inside Carrboro voting booths, making voting for non-English speaking Hispanics easier.

But Orange County Board of Elections Director Carolyn Thomas said the board does not know how the bilingual ballot instructions affected voter turnout in Nov. 6's election because it does not calculate the numbers of Hispanics who vote.

"We won't start keeping those numbers until 2002," Thomas said.

Thomas added that the mayoral and

Carrboro Board of Aldermen ballots were not in Spanish. Instead, there were Spanish instructions posted inside the booth, telling people how to vote.

"The entire bond ballot was in Spanish, though," she said. "We have never done this before."

Alderman-elect John Herrera said he thinks the bilingual ballot made a big difference in his election.

Herrera's election marks the first time a first-generation Latino immigrant has held a position in municipal government in North Carolina in recent memory.

Each voter received three different ballots when voting — one for the municipal government, one for school board

and one for the \$75 million bond.

"It can be confusing when you get three colors of paper, you don't know," Herrera said. "It did help get me elected."

Herrera added that it is important for minorities to have a good experience at the voting booths. "People take a lot of time to go vote," he said. "It is frustrating to not know what you are doing when you go to the voting booths."

But other members of the Hispanic community questioned the effectiveness of the bilingual ballot.

Jacques Menache, owner of El Chilango restaurant in Carrboro, said he thinks the majority of Hispanic voters already speak fluent English.

"I don't know anyone who voted who didn't speak perfect English," Menache said. "It is useful to have bilingual translation, since you never know who will go vote, but people who don't speak English don't tend to exercise that right."

But Herrera still contends that many Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Hispanic populations did vote, playing

a big role in his being elected. "It is very encouraging that folks will participate when they know what they are doing," Herrera said.

Both Herrera and Menache said they think bilingual ballots should be at every level of U.S. government. "It is a basic service that we should provide for those citizens," Herrera said. "It encourages all

minorities to get involved in government." Menache agreed that Spanish voting instructions are helpful but also said they are not a long-term solution. "Once you are an American citizen, and you have the right to vote, you should vote in English."

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THE Daily Crossword

By Eugene R. Puffenberger

ACROSS

- Word after liberal or fine
- Currently occupied
- Policeman's route
- Apple center
- Seventh Hebrew month
- Gymnast Korbut
- Horn honk
- Pass master?
- Farm enclosure
- Org. founded in 1858
- Winter apple
- Actress Anouk
- Telephone
- Inflationary shape
- Chute
- Water trail
- Compare
- Act boldly
- Doctrine
- Gym padding
- River inlet
- Genuine
- Evaluated
- Annoying child
- Missing people?
- Female beast
- Little Acre
- Tidy up
- Blame

DOWN

- Deeds
- Tuber
- Pass master?
- Hardened
- Old-time desk feature
- Brother's daughter
- Annapolis sch.
- Nordic jets' letters
- Get on Amtrak
- Olympics vehicle
- Building wings
- "A Death in the Family" author
- Piquant
- Lang Syne
- Singer Sumac
- Anger
- Boyer of the Yankees
- Eddy

53 Mural site

54 "___ Robinson"

57 Pass master?

59 Pound or Frost

60 English composer

61 Chan's portrayal

62 U2 singer

63 Charlie Brown's expletive

64 Crystal-ball gazer

65 Bamboozle

27 Procession of matadors

28 Emulate Nancy Kerrigan

29 Pass master?

30 Opera songs

31 Irish poet

34 Muslim holy men

40 Beans, e.g.

41 Gnawing mam-

42 Bucks

43 Bikini top

45 Middling

47 Solidify

49 Chair maker

50 Not quite closed

51 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"

52 Smallest coin

53 Corduroy feature

55 Second city of Nevada

56 Hold in the hold

58 Shoe's tip

59 Network of "Nature"

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Student Health Service Update on Bioterrorism

These days, it's hard to turn on the radio, flip on the television, or pick up the DTH without hearing about bioterrorism and its effects on society. This issue of HEALTH NEWS explores some fundamental questions about bioterrorism and Student Health Services response to this campus-wide concern.

Where does anthrax derive its name?
Bacillus anthracis, the organism that causes anthrax, derives its name from the Greek word for coal, anthracis, because of its ability to cause black, coal-like skin lesions.

What are the symptoms of anthrax?
Symptoms usually appear within 1-10 days after exposure. Common symptoms of anthrax include: fever, flu-like symptoms, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or a sore, especially on the face, arms, or hands.

What is the difference between exposure and infection?
Exposure to anthrax may occur if a person has been in contact with or in the presence of anthrax spores, depending on how the anthrax was released, where it was released, and where they were relative to the release site. Being exposed does not necessarily mean that a person will become infected. People may be exposed without actually being infected.

Is anthrax contagious to others?
Inhalation anthrax (caused by breathing in spores) and gastrointestinal anthrax (caused by ingesting spores or bacteria) are NOT spread from person to person. Even if you develop symptoms of inhalation or gastrointestinal anthrax, you are NOT contagious to other persons, regardless of whether you are taking antibiotics or not. Cutaneous (skin) anthrax does NOT usually develop into a serious infection if it is treated with antibiotics. Discharge from skin spores caused by cutaneous anthrax can contain anthrax spores that can be controlled by proper bandaging.

Has there ever been an epidemic of anthrax in the past?
During April 1979, an accidental aerosolized release of anthrax spores occurred among people who lived or worked within a short distance from a Soviet military microbiology facility in Sverdlovsk. At least 79 cases and 68 deaths occurred, constituting the largest documented epidemic of inhalation anthrax in history.

Are there any examples of bioterrorism on U.S. soil?
In September 1984, the intentional contamination of salad bars in Oregon restaurants with the organism that causes salmonella food poisoning by members of a religious commune (the Rajneesh cult) resulted in 751 cases of clinical illness and 45 hospitalizations. Although the group was suspected, the origin of the epidemic as a deliberate biological attack was not confirmed until a cult member admitted to the attack in 1985.

Can I get a smallpox/anthrax vaccine at the SHS or can you write me a prescription for antibiotics just in case there is a local bioterrorism event?
Vaccines for these agents are not available to health care personnel or the general public. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has an emergency supply of smallpox vaccine that can be used in the event of an outbreak as the vaccine can lessen the severity of or even prevent illness if given within four days of exposure. Routine vaccination against smallpox ended in 1972. The level of immunity in those vaccinated before 1972 is uncertain, therefore, these persons are assumed to be susceptible. The course of action for preventing anthrax after exposure in the civilian population would be with antibiotics. Currently, the CDC has enough antibiotics to treat two million persons exposed to anthrax. If there is a local outbreak, the CDC has emergency supplies available that can be airlifted to the site in a matter of hours. The indiscriminate use of antibiotics may cause increased resistance to currently available antibiotics, and thus, should be avoided.

What credible sources can I use for information?
The CDC is a credible source. You can access the CDC website by going to the SHS webpage. Under the spotlight section, there is a link to the CDC which can be accessed by clicking on Public Health Preparedness for Biological and Chemical Terrorism.

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