

BE FEATURED AT VIVA AZTLAN FESTIVAL

When most people attend the Fiestas held to commemorate holidays such as el Diez y Seis de Septiembre, Mexican Independence Day, Cinco de Mayo or even when people stop to look at the dancing at the Fiesta stage during the 4th of July or the Lubbock Arts Festival, the complements are often heard directed to the young children, some as young as 3 and 4 years old and how "beautiful they look."

They probably don't realize the many hours of work

needed to perfect the intricate steps, hand make the colorful dresses or learn the different styles of dances.

The beautiful dresses and costumes of Mexico will come to Lubbock on March 27th & 28th as Lubbock Centro Aztlan hosts Fourth Annual Viva Aztlan Dance Festival. The festival celebrating Hispanics in the art of folklorico will be held at the Lubbock's beautiful Memorial Civic Center and Lubbock Municipal Auditorium.

The Festival is a celebration of

Mexican Folklorico Dancing and features dance groups from Texas, New Mexico and Colorado in competition for awards for the Best Company, the Best Technique and Form, Best Choreography, Best Costumes, and Best Male and Female Dancers and many more

afternoon with workshops for the dance companies conducted by renown instructors who have studied in Mexico and have years of experience in teaching dance.

Activities will continue with 14 children's groups performing and competing to be judged to decide the best costumes, best technique and overall best children's group.

Adults are scheduled to take the stage on Saturday starting at 9 am

and continuing until the awards presentation scheduled at 10:30 pm.

Tickets for the general public are priced at \$3.00

three dollars per person, per day, \$10 per day reserved. Seating is first come first serve. For ticket information call 806-763-3841. The event is being made possible in a small part by a grant from the Lubbock City Council as recommended by the Lubbock Arts Alliance and through the generosity of various Lubbock businesses.



awards for a

children's division and an A,B or C division adult groups. And an all-star company consisting of a male and female dancer from each company will also be recognized.

A total of 29 groups have been invited to compete coming from Colorado, Amarillo, Abilene, Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, Austin, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Roswell, Hondo and Lubbock.

Activities will begin on Friday

"El Respeto
al Derecho
Ajeno es La
Paz."

"Respect for
the Rights of
Others Is
Peace"
Lic. Benito
Juarez

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Lubbock, Texas

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EL EDITOR

Abstención Del 86% En Texas

• Elecciones primarias registran la más baja votación en 30 años.

El Paso- El estado de Texas registraba anoche una nueva marca de baja participación del electorado, luego de que apenas un millón 470 mil votantes, de los 11 millones de texanos registrados en el padrón, acudieron a las urnas, dejando un abstencionismo del 86.6 por ciento.

El previsible resultado de 13.4 por ciento era el más bajo

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

I attended Jim Gomez' after election party last Tuesday and talked and analyzed the results with many of my friends who gathered to perhaps hope, and some to even pray, that Jim would win.

All of you probably know that Jim lost his campaign to become County Chairman of the Democratic Party.

Or I might ask how many of you really do know? How many of you even bothered to vote?

Looking at statistics, it's very easy to see that very few people really cared about this election. I think 9 people voted at Harwell. Arnett Benson voted some 100. An equal amount voted at Parkway. A total of about 2,500 people voted in the Democratic Primary. Total turnout for Lubbock for both parties was about 15%.

Isn't that kind of sad?

Lubbock chose most of the judges that decide many things that really affect our lives. Or rather 18% of Lubbock chose them. Lubbock chose a representative to the State Board of Education that will decide what type of education our children will have for the next four years, or rather 18% of Lubbock chose them.

Jim asked me after all the results were in -- "What does it take to get our people out to vote? Why do they let just a few people make all the decision that is going to affect their lives?"

I wish I knew Jim.

****Pico de Gallo****

Take a little time to read two interesting letter we got this week on page 2.

en por lo menos tres décadas, y continuó con una tendencia descendente de participación del electorado en la presente década. El 20 por ciento (1.94 millones) en 1996 y el 17.6 por ciento (1.59 millones) en 1994, son los resultados próximos más bajos desde 1970. Datos anteriores no estuvieron disponibles ayer.

Observadores políticos dijeron que la apatía del electorado se puede relacionar con la falta de contiendas realmente importantes. El gobernador George W. Bush se enfrentó a oposición débil en la elección primaria republicana, ganando fácilmente, y Garry Mauro se postuló sin oponentes para obtener la nominación gubernamental demócrata.

El secretario de Estado, Al González, dijo que los resultados en las votaciones anticipadas en los 10 más grandes condados habían sido del 1.15 por ciento para la elección primaria del Partido Demócrata y de 1.17 para el Republicano.

En El Paso, los índices de votación fueron similares. De acuerdo con el último reporte anual de la Oficina de Elecciones de El Paso, con el 67.10 por ciento de las casillas computadas, sólo el 11.9 por ciento de los 318 mil 171 electores había acudido a las urnas.

Esta ciudad continuó con su tendencia demócrata, al registrar 29 mil 320 votos en las primarias de ese partido, contra 8 mil 539 sufragios emitidos en la justa de los republicanos.

Entre una larga lista de candidaturas para cargos públicos que estuvieron en juego, resalta la ventaja alcanzada por el representante estatal, Gilberto Serna. Faltando de computar poco más del 30 por ciento de las casillas, Serna llevaba anoche 2 mil 157 votos contra 1 mil 651 de su más cercano opositor, Manny Nájera.

El representante Serna había sido objeto de señalamientos públicos por supuestas irregularidades en el desempeño de su función.

Al Villa, un vendedor, dijo que la falta de convocatoria que tuvieron estas elecciones es responsabilidad de los candidatos.

"Pienso que existe mucha apatía de los votantes, porque los candidatos no son confiables", dijo Villa al momento de salir de una estación de bomberos, misma que fue acondicionada como casilla. "Todos los candidatos hacen muchas promesas cuando están en campaña y ya cuando son elegidos, ¿que pasa?", señaló.

Solamente un reducido número de personas acudieron a la estación de bomberos No 19, y en otras casillas a lo largo de estado la historia fue la misma. Oficiales estatales esperaban que en estas elecciones primarias acudieran a las urnas un 20 por ciento de los 11 millones de personas registradas para votar.

La oficina de la secretaría de Estado dijo que la votación anticipada que se registró en 10 de los condados más grandes de Texas fue de 1.15 por ciento en las elecciones primarias del partido demócrata para elegir candidato a gobernador, resultando electo por unanimidad Garry Mauro como candidato a la gubernatura.

Por otra parte, el 1.17 por ciento se registró en las elecciones primarias del partido republicano, y dio el triunfo a George W. Bush, quien al principio encontró sólo un poco de oposición en su contra.

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A su vez, Marcie Johnson, residente de Lubbock, Texas desafió los fuertes vientos registrados para ir a emitir su voto por las mis razones mencionadas por Villa.

"Cuando uno vive en una comunidad, es tan importante votar en las elecciones locales como también en las estatales", señaló Johnson, quien formó parte de un puñado

de votantes que acudieron muy temprana hora a votar.

Bajo un marco de pocas campañas entre los precandidatos para gobernador y una baja competencia para diputaciones federales y estatales, se puede afirmar que las más candentes elecciones se dieron en los condados.

Por otra parte, otras personas concentraron su atención en las elecciones locales.

Dick Wegner, simpatizante republicano de 64 años, quien reside en el poblado de Mercedes, Texas al Sur del estado, dijo que tuvo que votar en las elecciones primarias del Partido Demócrata si quería ver un cambio positivo en el gobierno local porque la mayoría de los candidatos a juez para el condado de Hidalgo, Texas eran demócratas.

Wegner dijo que las elecciones primarias para elegir candidato a gobernador, fueron "muy definidas".

"Votaré por Bush", aseguró Wegner.

Los residentes de San Antonio dijeron haber estado interesados mas por la contienda electoral para elegir diputado por el vigésimo distrito, el cual quedó vacante tras retirarse el representante Henry B. González después de 37 años de servicio.

Siete demócratas y dos republicanos están compitiendo por el lugar vacante en la legislatura del vigésimo distrito, incluyendo el hijo de González.

"Estoy preocupado por mi distrito, el vigésimo", dijo el elector, Robert Valdez de 24 años. "Sólo quiero que gane la persona indicada", agregó.

Pese a su abierto desagrado por los políticos, Villa, de 60 años de edad, dijo que había acudido a las urnas, porque cree que todas las personas tienen la responsabilidad de votar.

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"Cuando uno vive en una

News Briefs Court Rejects Affirmative Action Appeal

Florida's Dade County today lost a Supreme Court appeal at reviving its affirmative-action program for awarding construction contracts to black-owned companies.

The court, without comment, turned away the county's argument that discrimination in its local construction industry is severe enough to justify a remedy. The justices have strictly limited such set-aside programs since 1989.

The court also rejected an appeal by a minority contractors' group that sought to reinstate similar programs for companies owned by Hispanics and females.

Dade County adopted affirmative-action programs for black contractors in 1982 and for Hispanic and women contractors in 1994.

The plans set goals for awarding certain shares of county contracts. The goals could be met by setting aside some contracts for bidding solely by minority-owned firms, requiring contractors to give work to minority subcontractors, or by other measures.

The plan to aid black-owned contractors was upheld by a federal appeals court in 1984.

But in 1989, the Supreme Court sharply limited affirmative action in state and local public works projects. The justices said such plans must meet a legal standard of "strict scrutiny," which generally dooms race-conscious government actions.

Six construction trade associations challenged the Dade County plans in 1994, saying they violated the Constitution's equal-protection guarantee.

A federal judge threw out the plans, saying Dade County did not provide enough evidence to support the need for set-asides and other remedies based on race, ethnicity or sex.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, saying statistical evidence offered by the county was too weak. Even if the county showed the need for aid, it improperly used remedies based on race, ethnicity or sex as a "first resort" instead of considering neutral measures such as simpler bidding procedures, the appeals court said.

The county's Supreme Court appeal addressed only the plan for black-owned businesses.

It said black-owned construction companies tend to be smaller and less experienced because of discrimination in the industry -- not for race-neutral reasons.

In a separate appeal, the Allied Minority Contractors Association said the six trade associations should have been allowed to challenge only those parts of the county's programs that directly affected them.

On the federal level, the Senate last week voted to retain a 15-year-old program that helps women and minorities win highway construction contracts.

By 58-37, senators rejected an effort to eliminate the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

The cases are Metropolitan Dade County vs. Engineering Contractors Association of South Florida, 97-1115, and Allied Minority Contractors Association vs. Engineering Contractors Association of South Florida, 97-1160.

Food Illnesses on Rise in U.S.

Despite scientific improvements over the past 50 years, stomach illnesses caused by food are on the rise in the United States, an expert said Monday.

"After all the years we've spent improving our food supply, it appears the problem of stomach illness has increased," Michael Osterholm, a Minnesota epidemiologist, told the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Scientists found an average of one stomach illness per person per year in a study of 86 families done in Cleveland between 1948 and 1957. The same rate held up in a 1965-71 study of 850 families in Tecumseh, Mich.

But in the last two years, studies in five places around the United States have found a rate of 1.4 illnesses per person per year. In Minnesota, the rate is 1.8, said Osterholm, Minnesota's state epidemiologist.

The problem may be even worse, he said, since many foodborne illnesses go unreported.

Paul Blake, chief of epidemiology for the Georgia Department of Human Resources, noted that Washington state -- with about half the population of Georgia -- has more reported outbreaks of food-borne disease. "We feel like we are missing a lot of outbreaks," he said.

As baby boomers grow older, increasing the average age of the U.S. population, their digestive systems become more vulnerable to tainted food.

Another factor is the push to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables year round, which forces the United States to shop for produce in other countries with less stringent cleanliness standards, Osterholm said.

In 1996, more than a third of all cantaloupes, 74 percent of green onions and 79 percent of cucumbers from Mexico were sold in the United States.

"We have seen a whole transformation in the way our food comes to us," said Robert Toaxe, chief of food-borne and diarrheal diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Keeping watch for new outbreaks is essential to gauging the problem of sickening foods, Osterholm warned, adding that a government-initiated surveillance system called FoodNet is being used in only seven areas of the country.

"Unfortunately, it's left us with more questions than answers," Osterholm said. "What we are not detecting is many times larger than what we are currently detecting."

GOP Sens Offer Change to Juvenile Crime Bill

Senate Republicans are changing a controversial bill that would offer federal money to states that make available some juvenile crime records to judges, police and possibly school officials across the country.

Planned changes to the bill--which seeks to get tougher with teen-age criminals--include language that would make it obvious that the bill would apply only to felonies, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama said. The bill would not be retroactive, but states could include records of past juvenile felonies if they wished, he said.

The bill would create a national records system to keep track of serious crimes committed by offenders under 18. States deciding to participate would be eligible to share \$250 million in federal grants over five years to upgrade their record-keeping systems.

Sessions and committee Chairman Orrin Hatch of Utah would have "technical clarifications" in place before the full Senate votes on it this spring.

Latinos Aren't Immune From The Disease of Racism

By Joe Olvera

My heart goes out to President Clinton for his valiant efforts to get our nation to tackle the topic of racism. He's the first president ever to pay the issue more than lip service. While his forays to date haven't produced any miracles, they have helped elevate the subject to our "I" level.

What Clinton is striving to do is to get us to work on the issue on our own home turf. He wants us to tackle the discrimination that exists in our own hometowns -- to look into our own hearts and souls. Simply, what he wants to do is to show us the way.

Now we must follow his lead. We need to look at ourselves, individually and collectively, to see what racist attitudes we harbor against others. We have to fix our own biased hearts first. Only then will we be ready to explore the topic on a larger scale.

We all know it won't be an easy task. How is it possible to end hatreds that have festered for hundreds of years? How can we accept overnight that we have been wrong in the way we think of other peoples?

Only when each of us scrutinizes our own feelings and actions personally can we begin to weed out the harsh, mis-

placed judgments in society as a whole.

I'm not talking just about harboring prejudicial feelings against other races. Sometimes, what we must confront are biases toward our own people.

Speaking for myself as a Chicano, I know I've felt biases against my own people.

Yes, I've had evil thoughts about Mexicans and others like me of Mexican descent, but who were newcomers to our land. Even as I railed against public figures for their contempt for undocumented people, I have been guilty myself of wishing that those *sin papeles* would stay on their own home turf.

Despite my written admonitions that every Mexican immigrant, legal or illegal, deserves an equal opportunity to excel in the United States, I have denigrated their efforts to adjust.

President Clinton is asking us to confront our prejudices against other races. I'm taking it one step further. I'm saying that we must confront our prejudice against our own people. We must admit that racism is not just an issue between whites and blacks.

We must deal with the discrimination that exists within

groups. For instance, how many Chicanos don't look at their own brothers and sisters from the Mexican side with a sense of superiority? How many of us feel embarrassed and ashamed that those from the other side are poorer, can't speak English, and are not as well-educated as we are?

It's not just a black and white issue. We must look at the way we Chicanos have discriminated against Native Americans. Here in El Paso, Texas, that means the Tigua Nation. In years past, the Tigua people were ashamed to admit they were Tiguas. Why? Because Chicanos would put them down as unworthy.

If Chicanos were poor, Tiguas were even more so. If Chicanos were uneducated, Tiguas were even more so. If Chicanos lived in run-down tenements with no running water and outhouses for toilets, Tiguas suffered even more. We Chicanos would lord it over them, just as others have lorded it over us.

It's a sickness, this business of racism. It's the powerful against the weak.

Recently, Univision talk show host Cristina Saralegui interviewed some Latinos who discriminate against

other Latinos simply because they were from different backgrounds.

One guest wore a hood to disguise himself. He admitted his prejudice against most other Hispanics as well as blacks. He aligned himself with the ideologies of the Ku Klux Klan; he wanted to rid the United States of people of color. The man was Cuban American, but, he explained, he was a "white Cuban."

Some guests of Puerto Rican descent confessed their hatred for people from the Dominican Republic who had entered the Island of Puerto Rico illegally.

A Chicana from Detroit said she hated African Americans because they looked down on her as a "wetback."

As my beautiful daughter, Malintzin, said once about a teacher who didn't like her, "I think he doesn't like me because I'm the color brown." Whew!

Where is President Clinton's initiative taking us? Without a doubt, toward a better understanding of ourselves as well as each other.

(Joe Olvera is a columnist with The Frontier Voice in El Paso, Texas.) Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Gentío Participa En Discusion Sobre Puerto Rico

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Washington, D.C. -- De nuevo, el congreso estadounidense discute un tema que por mucho tiempo ha dividido al pueblo de Puerto Rico: el estatus político de la isla. Los 3.8 millones de residentes de la isla tienen tres opciones: mantener el actual estado libre asociado, o votar por la estatutardad, o la independencia.

Historicamente, los puertorriqueños se inclinan por el estadolibertismo, but ninguno de los principales partidos ha podido captar una mayoría abrumadora que decida de una vez por todas cuál será la condición permanente de la isla.

Cada vez que legisladores en Washington deciden discutir el estatus político de la isla,

enormes cantidades de puertorriqueños de la isla y estados aledaños a la capital nacional caen en el Capitolio como un aguacero sin fin. Al igual este mes, cuando la Cámara de Representantes debatió el llamado Proyecto Young, llamado así por su auspiciador, el congresista republicano Don Young de Alaska.

El proyecto de ley requeriría que se lleve a cabo un plebiscito en la isla (y que el congreso federal respete los resultados) tan pronto como este año, el centenario de cuando Estados Unidos tomara posesión de la isla.

El día del debate en el pleno de la cámara, decenas de periodistas de la isla, junto con reporteros de los medios en español de Estados Unidos como Univisión y Telemundo, se amontonaron en la sala de prensa del Capitolio.

Un salón que acomoda quizás 10 personas se llenó rápidamente con al menos el triple. Por todo el Capitolio, la multitud de boricuas se mezclaba con turistas, la policía, funcionarios, cabilderos y legisladores, llenando con gentío y alboroto lo que normalmente son pequeños salones con poca actividad. Como fanáticos en un concierto de rock, empujaban hacia el frente para, entre otras cosas, poder escuchar los por menos del proyecto de ley o ver al congresista demócrata Patrick Kennedy anunciar en español que era estadista y apoyaba la medida. En filas largas esperaban, y a veces sentados encima de mesas o en sillas.

No obstante que el Congreso haya anteriormente discutido proyectos de ley relacionados a un plebiscito en la isla, la polémica en torno a este proyecto de ley se centra en el estado libre asociado. Esa alternativa se ofrecería en el primer plebiscito, pero no sería una de las opciones finales.

Bajo el proyecto Young, si gana el estado libre asociado, otros plebiscitos se llevarían acabo hasta que la estatudad o la independencia obtuviera la mayoría. En el último plebiscito que se llevó a cabo en la isla en el 1993, el estado libre asociado ganó, a pesar de que en ese entonces el partido que abogaba por la estatudad controlaba, y sigue controlando, el gobierno.

El proyecto de ley ahora pasa al Senado, donde ya se encuentran multitudes cabildando tanto a favor como en contra. El líder del Senado, Trent Lott, ha dicho que "duda mucho" que se podrá discutir la medida durante este año legislativo por la "falta de tiempo".

Como el Senado es un lugar mucho más pequeño que la Cámara, lo que el senador Lott debe de decir es "no hay espacio".

(Patricia Guadalupe es la corresponsal en Washington para WKQK Radio Reloj de Puerto Rico y el programa Latino USA de National Public Radio, además de ser columnista para la revista Hispanic Business y Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)

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político", los estadolibristas alegan que el proyecto de ley es injusto. Aún antes de que se comenzara el debate en el pleno de la cámara la mafia del 4 de marzo, cientos de los que apoyan el ELA protestaron afuera en el frío en frente del Capitolio.

Al empezar el debate, solamente se encontraba en el pleno a dos o tres congresistas, pero arriba en el balcón público no cabía un alma. Y cada vez que algún legislador alzaba la voz o hacía alguna declaración controversial, el gentío aplaudía o lo abucheara.

Varias veces el legislador que dirigía el debate, el congresista republicano Lincoln Diaz-Balart amenazó con hechar a la muchedumbre si seguían alborotando. "El es latino. El entiende," dijo uno. "No lo hará." Y efectivamente, así fue. Los legisladores dedicaron gran parte de la discusión a la enmienda ofrecida por el representante republicano Gerald Solomon para oficializar el inglés. Legisladores votaron en contra de una medida que pretendía designar el inglés como idioma oficial de los Estados Unidos y de Puerto Rico si pasa a ser estado. Pero la fue que aprobada es una medida auspiciada por el congresista republicano Dan Burton que requiere de los niños de Puerto Rico habilidad en el inglés a mas tardar los 10 años, sin importar la opción que se escoja en un plebiscito.

Varias enmiendas fueron derrotadas. Una permitiría el llamado "voto ausente" de puertorriqueños viviendo fuera de la isla. Otra hubiera dejado que Puerto Rico mantuviera bajo estadidad su equipo Olímpico y participación en "Miss Universo" y otros concursos. Solamente los legisladores, los demócratas Nydia Velázquez de Nueva York y Luis Gutiérrez de Illinois, ambos puertorriqueños, votaron a favor de esa enmienda.

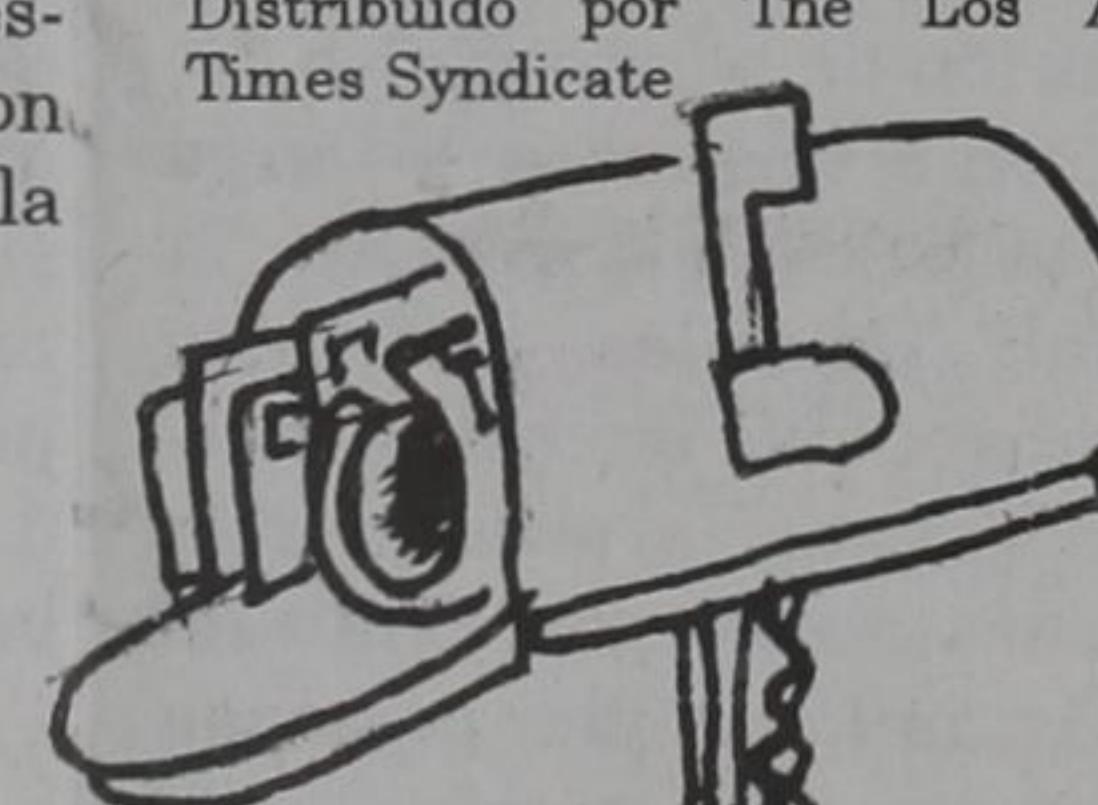
El maratónico debate en la cámara duró 12 horas y apenas se aprobó el proyecto de ley, 209-208. Fue uno de los márgenes más estrechos jamás registrados en el Congreso, y uno de los más alborotos. El legislador que dirigió el debate al final, el congresista republicano Henry Bonilla de Texas, estuvo dando al martillo varios minutos antes de que se calmara el gentío en el balcón.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

After attending a federal court trial March 2 where four county jailers were charged with abusing the civil rights of Mohamed Sheriff Njie, I came away utterly flabbergasted. How could intelligent officials have subjected themselves and their mentally ill prisoner to forceful handing and isolation naked in a padded cell when there was instead the option of taking him to MHMR's local mental health hospital at Sunrise Canyon?

The trained professional staff there could have calmed him and treated him medically. This would have prevented his neck being broken, the jailers being sued and the monetary depletion of the coffers of the county and of the pocketbooks of the taxpayers. Mr. Njie had been both in the county jail and in Sunrise Canyon hospital on several prior occasions. The operators of the jail had to have been well aware of his manic depressive illness and of his patient status at MHMR.

For what earthly reason did these county officials choose to assume the responsibility of caring for him, a chore they were in no way medically trained or competent to undertake? Leonor Murphy, member Llano Estacado Alliance for the Mentally Ill Lubbock, TX.

Dear Editor,

Why aren't Black and Mexican Americans up in arms? I am referring to the present trial of Sheriff Njie at the Federal Court here in Lubbock. In many newscasts, I continually see minority protesting for abuse at the hands of officers of the law. They do it with good cause. We have only to look at the Rodney King case and the recent case in New York where a person from Haiti was sexually abused by police officers. We can remember the many people who have died in West Texas including Nierios here in Lubbock, Lozano in Plainview, the Mexican American (I don't recall his name) in Colorado City.

I have personally experienced the abuse by jailers in Lubbock who treat inmates as animals with no rights. I personally and apparently 50 other persons who were scheduled to testify as to jailer abuse in Lubbock and were denied the opportunity by Judge Cummings have seen and some have felt the abuse that happens every day in the County Jail.

Why aren't Blacks and Mexican Americans protesting in the streets?

Name withheld but on file

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**"ES TU FAMILIA,
ES TU BARRIO."**

Porque se trata de la seguridad y el futuro de tu familia, ya es hora de tomar control y unirte a la lucha contra el crimen.

Llama hoy mismo al 1-800-727-UNITE

Thirty Years Later—Peter, Paul, Mary & Cesar's Union

By Arturo S. Rodriguez

Peter, Paul & Mary performed their first fund-raising concert for Cesar Chavez at Carnegie Hall in 1968 during a crucial time for the United Farm Workers.

It was the third year of a bitter strike against Delano, Calif., grape growers, called

prove the lives of California strawberry workers.

Little has changed in their relationship.

Peter, Paul & Mary are as committed as ever to the belief that music has the power not only to entertain, but also to educate and inspire. This commitment is at the heart of their remarkable 37-year ca-

camp, and will break into song at a rally with berry workers, supporters and UFW organizers. The trio will also sing "Nosotros Venceremos" ("We Shall Overcome").

Another song with a long farm labor tradition that they will perform is "Plane Wreck at Los Gatos" by famed songwriter activist Woody Guthrie.

The Jan. 28, 1948, crash of a twin-engine DC3C in western Fresno County's Los Gatos Canyon killed 32 people, including 28 Mexican workers who were being deported. Eye-witnesses saw at least nine people leap to their deaths; 12 farm workers were never identified.

The press reported that hundreds from "Fresno's Mexican colony" -- the local Latino community -- wept during Catholic services at a mass burial.

Woody Guthrie learned of the disaster on the radio. The announcers said, "It's not such a tragedy since they were just deportees," Guthrie was so angry he wrote a beautiful song:

Farewell to my Juan, farewell Angelina

Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria.

You won't have your names when you ride the big airplane,

All they will call you will be "deportees"....

Also hearing of the tragedy -- and the song -- was a 20-year-old farmworker then picking cotton near Delano. As a teenager, he had met Guthrie when the songwriter visited dusty Central Valley farm labor camps. By 1948, the young man was reading labor history and Papal Encyclicals on the rights of workers. Four years later he began his organizing career with a Latino civil rights group. Fourteen years later he founded what would become the first successful farmworkers union in American history. His name was Cesar Chavez.

(Veteran United Farm Workers organizer Arturo S. Rodriguez became UFW president after Cesar Chavez's death in 1993.)

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to protest miserable pay and working conditions. Chavez had completed a 25-day fast to recommit his union to non-violence. Although a recently launched boycott of California table grapes would bring growers to the bargaining table in 1970, the hungry winter of 1968 was a low point in the farm workers' movement.

Both Chavez and the folk music trio would earn legendary status over the next three decades. Individual members of the group continued appearing at UFW events. But Peter, Paul & Mary would never be closer to the Chavez-founded union than on that New York stage 30 years ago.

That is until this year, when the trio performs March 19 in Santa Cruz, Calif., for the UFW's current drive to im-

**Trio
Performs
March 19
in
Santa Cruz**

And most farmworkers still endure poor pay and many abuses.

The trio is once more rallying to *La Causa*, the farmworkers' cause, at a time when the UFW faces stiff resistance from California's \$650 million-a-year strawberry industry. Berry pickers laboring for growers contracting with Driscoll, the world's largest strawberry corporation, face low pay, pesticide-treated fields and threats or firing for seeking a better life with the UFW.

Before their March 19 Santa Cruz concert, Peter Yarrow, Noel Paul Stookey and Mary Travers are spending part of the day around nearby Watsonville. They will visit strawberry pickers in the fields and a run-down labor



Treinta Años Despues—Peter, Paul, Mary Y El Sindicato De Cesar Chavez

Por Arturo S. Rodriguez

Peter, Paul y Mary ejecutaron su primer concierto a fin de recaudar fondos para César Chávez en el Carnegie Hall en 1968, durante una época crítica para los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos (UFW en inglés).

Era el tercer año de una huelga amarga contra los cultivadores de uvas de Delano, California, declarada para protestar contra las circunstancias miserables de paga y trabajo. Chávez había terminado un ayuno de 25 días para volver a comprometerse a su sindicato con la no violencia. Aunque un boicot lanzado recientemente contra las uvas de mesa de California llevaría a los cultivadores a la mesa de las negociaciones en 1970, el invierno con hambre de 1968 fue un punto bajo del movimiento de los trabajadores agrícolas.

Tanto Chávez como el trío de música popular ganarían una situación de leyenda durante los tres decenios siguientes. Los miembros individuales del grupo continuaron apareciendo en los acontecimientos del UFW. Pero Peter, Paul y Mary nunca estarían más cerca del sindicato fundado por Chávez que en aquel escenario de Nueva York hace 30 años.

Es decir, hasta este año, cuando el trío actúe el 19 de marzo en Santa Cruz, California, a favor de la campaña actual del UFW para mejorar las vidas de los trabajadores de las fresas en California.

Poco ha cambiado en sus relaciones.

Peter, Paul y Mary continúan estando tan dedicados como siempre a la creencia de que la música tiene poder, no sólo para divertir, sino tam-

bien para enseñar e inspirar. Este compromiso se halla en el corazón de su carrera notable de 37 años, que ha abrazado a los movimientos de los derechos civiles, anti-bélico y a favor del ambiente.

El sindicato continuó avanzando después de la muerte de Chávez en 1993. El UFW ya ganado ahora 15 votaciones secretas consecutivas entre los trabajadores agrícolas y ha firmado 17 contratos nuevos con los cultivadores, desde una campaña importante de organización en 1994.

Y la mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas sufren aún de los abusos de la paga insuficiente y de muchos otros.

El trío está uniéndose nuevamente a "La Causa", la causa de los trabajadores agrícolas, en un momento en el que el UFW se enfrenta a una resistencia rígida por parte de la industria de las fresas de California, que tiene un volumen de producción de \$650 millones anuales. Los recogedores de bayas que trabajan para los cultivadores que contratan con Driscoll, la mayor empresa de fresas del mundo, se enfrentan a los campos de baja paga, tratados con insecticidas y a las amenazas de despido por procurar una vida mejor con el UFW.

Antes de su concierto en Santa Cruz el 19 de marzo, Peter Yarrow, Noel Paul Stookey y Mary Travers están pasando una parte del día alrededor de la cercana Watsonville. Ellos visitarán a los recogedores de fresas en los campos y a un campamento de trabajo destrozado, y cantarán en una asamblea con los trabajadores agrícolas, los partidarios y los organizadores del UFW. El trío cantará también la canción titu-

lada "Venceremos".

Otra canción que tiene una larga tradición con los trabajadores agrícolas, y que ellos interpretarán, es "El Desastre del Avión en Los Gatos", escrita por el famoso compositor y activista Woody Guthrie.

El estrellamiento en enero 28 de 1948 de un DC3C de dos motores en el Cañón de Los Gatos, al oeste del Condado de Fresno, mató a 32 personas, incluyendo a 28 trabajadores mexicanos que estaban siendo deportados. Los testigos presenciales vieron por lo menos a nueve personas que se precipitaron hacia sus muertes: 12 trabajadores agrícolas nunca fueron identificados.

La prensa informó que cientos de miembros de la "colonia mexicana de Fresno" -- la comunidad latina local -- lloraron durante los servicios fúnebres en un entierro católico colectivo.

Woody Guthrie se enteró del desastre por radio. Los locutores dijeron: "No es tal tragedia, porque ellos eran sólo deportados". Guthrie se enojó tanto que escribió una bella canción:

"Adiós a mi Juan; adiós a Angelina;

"Adiós mis amigos, Jesús y María;

"Ustedes no llevarán sus nombres

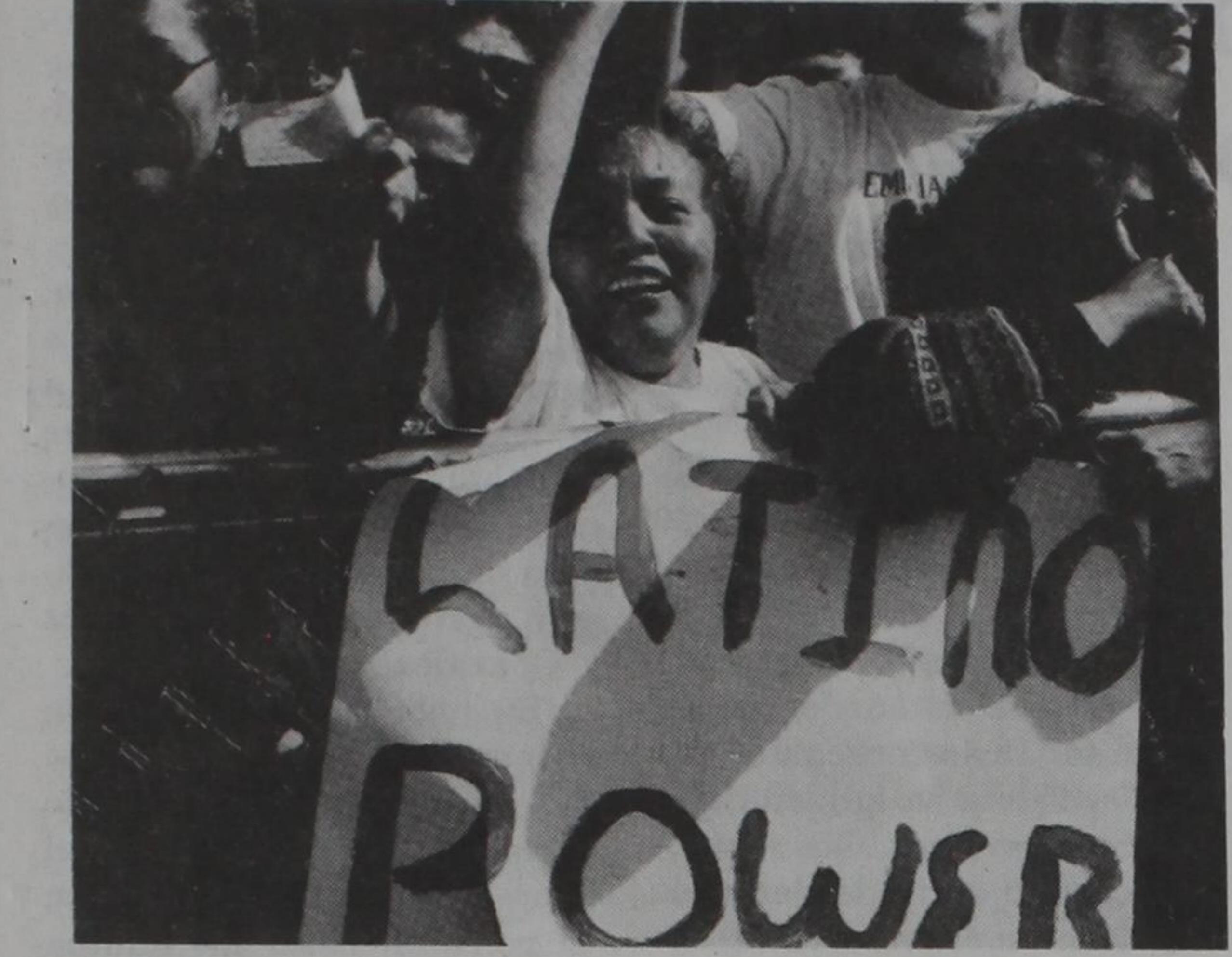
"Cuando viajen en el gran avión,

"Todo lo que ellos les llamarán será "deportados".

También oyó de la tragedia -- y la canción -- un trabajador agrícola de 20 años de edad, que entonces recogía algodón cerca de Delano. Cuando era un adolescente, él había conocido a Guthrie cuando el compositor visitó a los campos polvorintos de los trabajadores agrícolas en el Valle Central. Para 1948, el joven estaba leyendo la historia del sindicalismo y las encíclicas papales sobre los derechos de los trabajadores. Cuatro años después, él empeñó su carrera de organizar con un grupo latino de los derechos civiles. Catorce años más tarde, él fundó lo que se convertiría en el primer sindicato de trabajadores agrícolas con éxito en la historia estadounidense. Su nombre era César Chávez.

(Arturo S. Rodriguez, organizador veterano de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos, llegó a ser presidente del UFW después de la muerte de César Chávez en 1993.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1998. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate



reer that has embraced the civil rights, anti-war and environment movements.

The union continued moving forward following Chavez's death in 1993. The UFW now has won 15 straight secret-ballot votes among farmworkers and signed 17 new contracts with growers since a major organizing campaign in 1994.

And most farmworkers still endure poor pay and many abuses.

The trio is once more rallying to *La Causa*, the farmworkers' cause, at a time when the UFW faces stiff resistance from California's \$650 million-a-year strawberry industry. Berry pickers laboring for growers contracting with Driscoll, the world's largest strawberry corporation, face low pay, pesticide-treated fields and threats or firing for seeking a better life with the UFW.

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NCAA Tournament News

By Randy Harvey

If I could tell you which teams will become sleepers in the NCAA Tournament, they wouldn't be sleepers.

I can tell you that Princeton isn't one. Teams falling for the Tigers' backdoor plays this year should have their SAT scores examined.

But if we had an office pool, and I'm sure we don't considering our anti-gambling stance and commitment to California law, one team I would choose to rise above its seeding is Eastern Michigan. The Eagles are seeded 13th in the East.

Although I accept that Antawn Jamison, Raef LaFrentz, Paul Pierce, Michael Dickerson and Richard Hamilton are the nation's best college players, the one player I'd prefer to see over all the rest is Eastern Michigan's 5-foot-5 point guard Earl Boykins.

The nation's third-leading scorer, he had 29 points, five assists and three steals in Eastern Michigan's 89-83 overtime victory over Michigan in December.

If the Eagles can upset Michigan in Ann Arbor, they can beat Michigan State in the first round in Hartford, Conn.

That probably would set up an Eastern Michigan-Princeton second-round game, one that would be more entertaining than it might sound.

East Regional semifinalists: North Carolina, Eastern Michigan, Xavier, Connecticut. Winner: North Carolina.

Do we know for sure that Dean Smith retired?

I don't start enjoying the tournament until Bob Knight goes out.

That should be the second round, when Indiana meets UConn.

Washington coach Bob

Bender knows the way to the Final Four, even though his Huskies won't get past Xavier in the first round this year. He is the only player to represent two teams in the Final Four, Indiana in 1976 and Duke in '78. He also was an assistant coach for three of Duke's Final Four teams.

West Regional semifinalists: Arizona, Maryland, Arkansas, Cincinnati. Winner: Maryland.

Maryland is the third-best team in its conference, but what a conference.

Arizona, an unpredictable a tournament team as there has ever been, could have trouble in the second round against Illinois State.

Illinois State coach Kevin Stallings liked this Redbird team so much he withdrew his name from consideration at Michigan after Steve Fisher was fired last fall.

South Regional semifinalists: Duke, Syracuse, Michigan, Kentucky. Winner: Kentucky.

As UCLA no doubt would like to forget, Tubby Smith was an accomplished tournament coach even before he had Kentucky's bottomless talent pool. His Tulsa team beat the Bruins in the first round in 1995.

Presuming it survives Miami, Fla., in the first round, UCLA couldn't have drawn a less desirable second-round opponent than Michigan.

If you don't have a legitimate center, the last player you want to face is 6-8, 300-something Robert "Tractor" Taylor.

UCLA deserved better than a sixth seed.

But the Bruins are in good company. Other sixth seeds are Xavier, Arkansas and Clemson.

Midwest Regional semifinalists: Kansas, TCU, Clemson, Purdue. Winner: Kansas.

Unlike JaRon Rush, I like Roy Williams' substitution pattern.

The NCAA decided not to invite Steve Lavin and Mark Gottfried to the same regional. It would have been a perverse pleasure to see UCLA play Murray State in the first round, matching the former UCLA assistants and current enemies. Gottfried split with Lavin over the circumstances surrounding Jim Harrick's firing. So who did Gottfried's team draw in the first round? Harrick and Rhode Island.

At least the hand shake before the game will be legitimate.

Don't be surprised if College of Charleston beats Stanford in the biggest first-round upset.

Florida State, in litigation with USC last fall after losing women's basketball coach Chris Gobrecht to the Trojans, should send a thank-you note for its invitation to the tournament to guess who.

The Seminoles, who lost seven of their last 10 games, probably would have been left out if Arizona State had beaten USC on Saturday.

I'm not sure any Pacific 10 team could have beaten the Trojans in their last two games. Just what did Mike Garrett say to those guys?

While wondering whatever happened to the DePaul Blue Demons, I was thinking: I wouldn't mind seeing North Carolina and Duke play again. I was relieved to learn CBS plans same-day coverage of the games, the women's tournament would be the most competitive ever if Tennessee weren't in it.

Randy Harvey is a sports columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Tyson, Ahora Contra Sus Ex Apoderados

LOS ANGELES, 10 de marzo - Una semana después de radicar una demanda contra Don King, Mike Tyson inició una segunda querella, esta vez contra dos ex apoderados, a los que acusa de haberlo traicionado al designar a King como su promotor exclusivo.

Simultáneamente en Baltimore, dos mujeres que dicen haber sido maltratadas por Mike Tyson en un restaurante demandaron al boxeador por 22 millones de dólares.

Por su parte, Tyson pide 100 millones de dólares en reparación en cada una de las demandas contra sus apoderados y su promotor. El boxeador aduce que perdió millones de dólares porque Rory Holloway y John Horne lo convencieron durante una reunión en una prisión de Indiana, en 1992, de dar a King los derechos exclusivos de sus peleas. Tyson cumplía por entonces una condena por violación.

Según Tyson, el acuerdo concedía a King una parte desproporcionada de las ganancias generadas por sus peleas.

Agregó que en ese momento no se dio cuenta de que King recibiría el 30 por ciento de sus bolsas y que Horne y Hol-

loway se repartirían el 20 por ciento.

La demanda afirma asimismo que Holloway y Horne se quedaron con otros 8,6 millones de dólares que no les correspondía, además del 20 por ciento que estipulaba el contrato.

Horne dijo que demostrará que Tyson firmó "el mejor acuerdo jamás conseguido por un deportista en la historia".

King rechazó las acusaciones y dijo que la demanda "no tiene méritos".

Recibió hasta el último centavo que le correspondía. No le debo un céntimo".

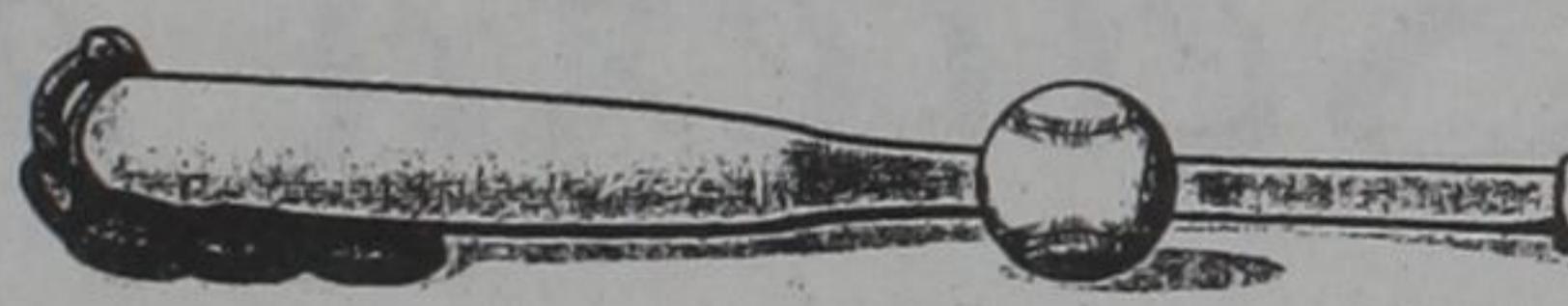
La Asociación Mundial de boxeo clasifica siete boxeadores mexicanos en febrero, en cuyas listas ya aparece el mexicano Enrique Sánchez como campeón de peso supergallo.

El organismo ubica a Julio César Chávez como el tercer superligero del mundo y a Miguel Ángel González como el cuarto. En peso superwelter se ubica en sexto sitio Pedro Ortega, en welter, José Luis López en tercero, en peso supergallo, Gutiérrez Espadas como octavo y en peso gallo, Cuauhtémoc "Famosito" Gómez como cuarto aspirante, mientras Joel Luna Zárate es séptimo supermosca.

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Ni Robo, Ni Fraude'

• Sulaimán acepta errores en la función 'La Guerra', pero que no afectaron el resultado final.

México- "No fue un robo ni un fraude. Fue una gran pelea, y al que no lo crea lo invito a verla otra vez sin distracciones", dijo José Sulaimán, presidente del Consejo Mundial de Boxeo, sobre el combate disputado el sábado pasado entre Julio César Chávez y Miguel Ángel González.

En conferencia de prensa, Sulaimán habló ayer sobre los rumores surgidos respecto a la "extraña" forma en que se contabilizaron los puntos durante la pelea que, por la disputa del vacante cetro superligero, protagonizaron Chávez y González.

"Sí, hubo una confusión en la puntuación, pero no afectó el resultado final. Eduardo Lamazón, representante del Consejo Mundial de Boxeo en la pelea, al pasar las puntuaciones de los jueces, marcó mal un número, que correspondía a la tarjeta del sexto round del juez Chuck Hasset.

"Fue un lapsus del que nos dimos cuenta hora y media después de haber concluido la pelea, pero afortunadamente no afectó en nada el resultado", señaló.

Tras una explicación que confundió aún más a los asistentes, Sulaimán aseguró que "no pudo haber decisión más justa" y que, en realidad, cualquiera de los dos pudo haber ganado.

Agregó: "González llevó la pelea, pero Chávez tuvo ráfagas brillantísimas en todos los rounds. El problema es que para la gente el favorito era Chávez y así lo vio hasta el final de la pelea. La gente no conoce de puntuación. Por eso critica la decisión de los jueces".

"El 75 por ciento de la puntuación se basa en la agresividad efectiva, es decir, en el número, potencia y precisión de los golpes, no en la forma en que un boxeador va hacia adelante tirando golpes sin ton ni son, como piensa la

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Sports Deportes Sports Deportes

de la pagina 4

gente", añadió.

Sobre la pérdida de credibilidad de jueces y dirigentes del box mundial, el presidente de la CMB expresó:

"Entiendo que no le caigo muy bien a la gente y lamento mucho que me liguen a Don King, con quien no tengo mayor relación que la de representante del CMB y promotor de espectáculos. La gente que me conoce sabe que yo no me prestaría para esos chanchullos y tengo los pantalones para demostrarlo. Si por dedicar mi vida al boxeo me atacan, pues que Dios los bendiga", indicó.

Cuestionado sobre la posibilidad de que se lleve a cabo la revancha, comentó que desconocía las intenciones de los dos boxeadores, "aunque después de lo ocurrido, Chávez debería intentarlo para dejar las cosas claras ante su público".

Respecto a la pelea que sostuvieron el mexicano Ricardo López y el nicaragüense Roldo Alvarez, Sulaimán comentó que "los hechos son los que deben hablar", por lo que pidió que se presentara la repetición de la pelea en el lugar de la conferencia.

Tras observar de nuevo el combate, Sulaimán dijo: "Creo que fue una pelea cerrada. Estoy muy orgulloso de Ricardo López por haberse levantado después de recibir ese derechazo infame. Es un ejemplo de la fortaleza de los mexicanos".

Reconoció que los jueces tardaron mucho en deliberar, pero que esto se debió a que los de la AMB tomaron 19 minutos en dar su veredicto, mientras que los del CMB sólo tres.

Son dos verdades en contradicción...

En Nueva York, el estadounidense Oscar de la Hoya, campeón welter del CMB, aplazó su combate titular ante el francés Patrick Charpentier programado para el próximo día 28 en Atlantic City, por una lesión en la muñeca derecha, anunció la agencia Reuters.

En México, el manager Ignacio Beristáin, es de otra opinión.

-La suspendieron porque Oscar no ha vendido nada en pago por ver en Estados Unidos. Es uno de esos extraños casos de un peleadorazo, porque lo es, que a nadie le interesa ver.

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By Kevin Lonnquist

The phrase "next year is here" usually means great things for a franchise. Glorious things. Division titles. Pennants. Championships. For the Rangers in 1997, that phrase rang as true as it did in 1996 -- but in the worst possible way.

Two players at key positions -- shortstop Benji Gil and center fielder Damon Buford -- failed to produce in full-time roles. The club played poor defense, suffered an assortment of injuries and saw the starting rotation collapse. After 80 games, the Rangers were eight games out of first.

By July, it had become apparent to GM Doug Melvin and manager Johnny Oates that they needed to begin retooling for 1998, that the off-season had, in effect, begun. Before the end of the month, the team dealt Dean Palmer to Kansas City for center fielder Tom Goodwin, traded Ken Hill to Anaheim in a deal that landed catcher Jim Leyritz and, after nearly dealing Ivan Rodriguez, re-signed him to a five-year deal.

The reshaping continued once the offseason officially began. Melvin signed Kevin Elster to play shortstop again and traded Gil to the White Sox. He acquired righthander Aaron Sele from Boston (in a deal that included Leyritz) and acquired promising lefthander Matt Perisho from Anaheim (for minor league infielder Mike Bell). Melvin was foiled in his attempts to land a front-line starter such as Darryl Kile and Pedro Martinez, but he added complementary parts to the roster without sacrificing the core of the team (Rodriguez, Juan Gonzalez, Rusty Greer, John Wetteland).

As a result of the moves, this year's team should be faster at the top of the lineup and stronger up the middle, with a solid, balanced starting rotation. If the team can avoid major injuries, a run at the Mariners for the division title is possible. It's more likely the Rangers will have to settle for being a wild-card contender. But considering what happened last season, that would make for a pretty

good year.

Player Outlook

Since his career crested in 1993 when he went 22-7 for San Francisco, veteran righthander John Burkett has struggled to regain his form.

Burkett has not enjoyed a winning season in four years including 1997 as 9-12 frustration complicated by the American League as .307 batting average against him. That didn't help when he



signed a two-year extension.

His 1997 problems were compounded when he went on the disabled list for the first time in his 15-year professional career with a fatigued shoulder. He missed one month.

Now, he is trusting an upper body weight program he stopped but re-started this past August will play a part in a revival.

"It was the most frustrating year, but I don't get bummed out about last year," said Burkett who reported to camp 15 pounds lighter at 215.

"My career has flattened out, and I want to rebound. At 33, I know I don't have many more chances. When you are on a ballclub with a high payroll like ours, you know you have to do something to get back."

There were indications the shoulder problems were coming. Burkett had not been as

consistent with his weight program as once was. And the disparity between his 88 mph fastball and his 78 mph change-up was not as pronounced. Batters could measure his timing. He carried a 6.93 ERA in his last five starts before he wound up going on the disabled list.

"When he is healthy, he's a great control pitcher," manager Johnny Oates said.

"He won't be impressive until the game is over. And when you have never been hurt before, you might have to look at yourself differently."

Burkett isn't convinced if the rest of the weight work made the difference. Early returns indicated otherwise. Burkett went 2-0 with a 2.63 ERA in his final three starts of the 1997 season. Through the first three weeks of spring training, pitching coach Dick Bosman knows it has.

"The strength gives resiliency, recovery and endurance," Bosman said. But the most noticeable part to trait is that John doesn't experience any discomfort the day after he pitches. That as a sign that he is coming back.

Burkett is trying to make up for that by working on holding his change-up differently and dusting off the split-fingered fastball he abandoned after the 1993 season.

In his first spring start March 1 at Sarasota, he used five split-fingered pitches. The shoulder responded as the weight program projected. Now he just hopes the turnaround follows.

"I put all the pressure on me," Burkett said. "I am going to see how handle all the changes. I have never been one to be afraid of trying something different. I am stronger. That as a feeling I didn't have at this time last year."

First baseman Will Clark continues a slow but steady

rehabilitation with his right heel. Clark is coming back from torn plantar fascia tissue which sidelined him for the last month of the 1997 season. Clark could not do any baseball-related activities through the first of the year but started running again when he reported to camp February 13.

Clark is on a gradual program during the exhibition schedule. He said his workload should increase as the spring continues.

"I don't feel any (discomfort). If I did, that would not be a good sign," Clark said. "I'll be ready for the opener (March 31)."

The Rangers were only able to agree to terms with two of their final three unsigned players. Brandenburg agreed to a \$222,500 one-year deal while Helling agreed to a \$216,500 one-year deal. General manager Doug Melvin could come to terms with third baseman Fernando Tatis and renewed Tatis a contract to the 1998 minimum of \$170,000. Tatis is represented by Alan Nero who also represents Bob-Witt.

You look at it, and with the 60-day service time he had last year, we felt like a \$20,000 was fine, Melvin said. Fernando was given the opportunity at the major league level.

Jose Guzman made his first appearance for the Rangers March 1 lasting one inning. He allowed three runs on two hits including Cincinnati catcher Brook Fordyce as wind-aided three-run home run. But he showed some arm strength in his second outing March 4 against Toronto when he threw two scoreless innings.

Guzman has struggled to regain the arm strength he was robbed of because of past shoulder injuries. The club signed him to a minor league contract January 30.

"I felt a little lost out there. It as been so long, said Guzman who last pitched in professional game in 1996. I think I am at a point where people won't have to ask me how my arm is anymore. I just have to get people out."

El Editor, Lubbock

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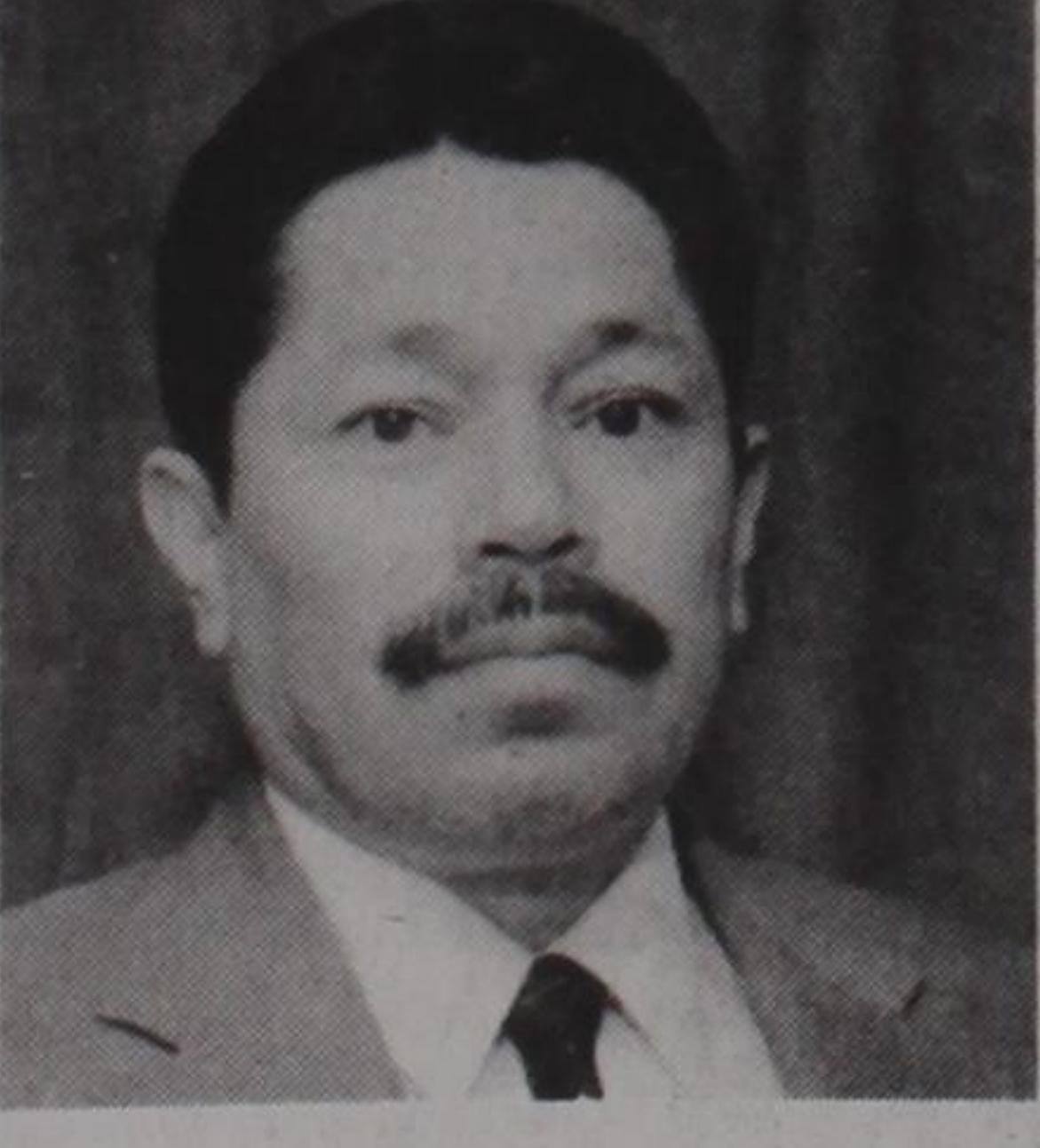
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**Thank You
for
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May God Bless You!
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¡Mil Gracias!
Por Su Voto Y
Su Apoyo!**

Pd. by the Committee to elect Jim Gomez to Democratic County Chair, Jim Gomez, Treas.

Big Crowds Flock To Discussion

By Patricia Guadalupe

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Once again, Congress has taken up an issue that for time immemorial has divided the people of Puerto Rico: the island's political status.

Puerto Rico's 3.8 million residents have three main options: joining the union as the 51st state, maintaining their current commonwealth status, or establishing an independent country.

Historically, islanders have leaned toward commonwealth, but they have never built a convincing majority for any option that would allow the island to settle on a permanent political status.

Whenever Congress decides to discuss *el estatus*, plane-loads of islanders and bus-loads of *boricuas* from New York, New Jersey and other states descend on the nation's capital. This month, when the U.S. House debated and voted on the U.S.-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, was no exception.

At issue was the Young Bill, named after its sponsor, U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). It would mandate a plebiscite on the island as early as this year, which happens to be the 100th anniversary of the United States claiming Puerto Rico as one of the prizes following the Spanish-American War.

Dozens of island reporters joined mainland Spanish-language media such as Univision and Telemundo for the show, cramming into the tiny Capitol Press Gallery. Television and all-news radio crews from Puerto Rico set up to broadcast continuously from the Radio/TV Press Gallery. A room that normally seats 10 uncomfortably was crammed with triple that number.

All over the Capitol, Spanish-speaking crowds mingled with curious tourists and police, stuffing into normally

staid, small committee rooms to hear the minutiae of which amendments would be discussed on the floor. Like rock concert fans, they pushed and shoved to glimpse U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.) proclaim in broken Spanish that he was a stateholder and he supported Young's bill.

He didn't.

Much of the day's heated discussion focused on the so-called English-only amendment sponsored by U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.). Members removed a provision mandating that if Puerto Rico became a state, English would become the official language for all of the United States, including Puerto Rico.

A little-noticed provision in the substitute amendment offered by U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) requires that Puerto Rican children be proficient in English by the age of 10, regardless of what option is chosen in a plebiscite.

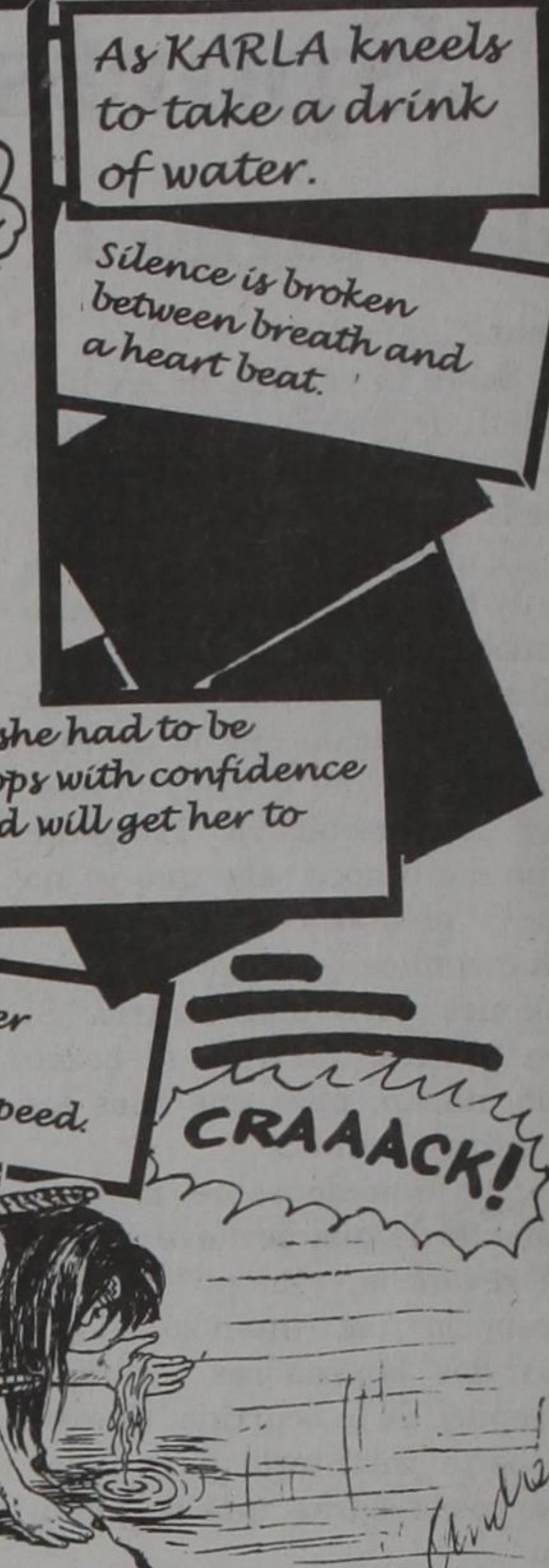
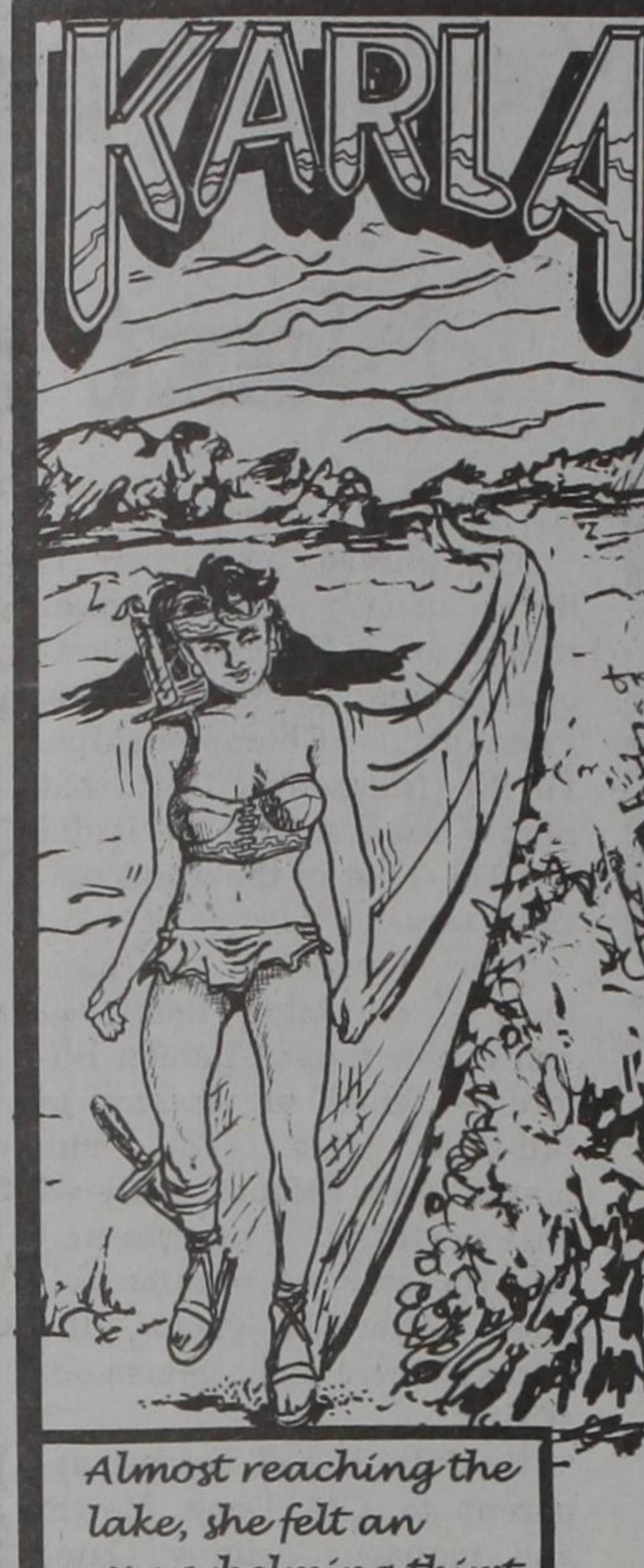
Several amendments were defeated. One would have allowed Puerto Ricans living off the island to vote "absentee." Also defeated was what some jokingly referred to as the "Miss Universe" amendment, which would have allowed Puerto Rico to keep its Olympic team and international beauty queen candidates under statehood. Only two legislators, Reps. Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) and Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) voted for that.

The floor debate lasted a marathon 12 hours and squeaked through, 209-208. It was one of the noisiest as well as closest votes ever. It took many gavel pounds and several minutes for the presiding legislator at the end of the session, U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-Texas), to quiet the hooting and hollering. Three Hispanic Democrats, Reps. Nydia Velazquez (N.Y.), Luis Gutierrez (Ill.) and Robert Menendez (N.J.) voted against the bill.

Now it moves to the Senate, where mobs on all sides of the issue are already lobbying hard. Majority Leader Trent Lott says he doubts his colleagues will discuss the bill this year because there's "no time." Since the U.S. Senate is a much smaller place, what Lott should have said is there's "no room."

(Patricia Guadalupe is the Washington correspondent for WKAG Radio in Puerto Rico and National Public Radio's Latino USA, in addition to being a contributing columnist for Hispanic Business magazine and the Hispanic Link News Service.)

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"Hay una raza de demonios que sólo la oración puede arrojar", dijo Cristo.

¿Cuál es vuestro demonio?

¿Lo habéis encontrado ya? ¿Lo sentís dentro de vosotros mismos?

Vuestro demonio es vuestro carácter impulsivo, violento, agresivo, cerrado, egoísta, avaro. Vuestra manera de ser tan raquítica.

Hay una raza de demonios que sólo la oración puede con ella. Una especie de muerte que sólo se puede experimentar en la oración. Una especie de morir a vosotros mismos que sólo se puede llevar a cabo con la oración. La oración es una participación en la muerte y resurrección de Cristo.

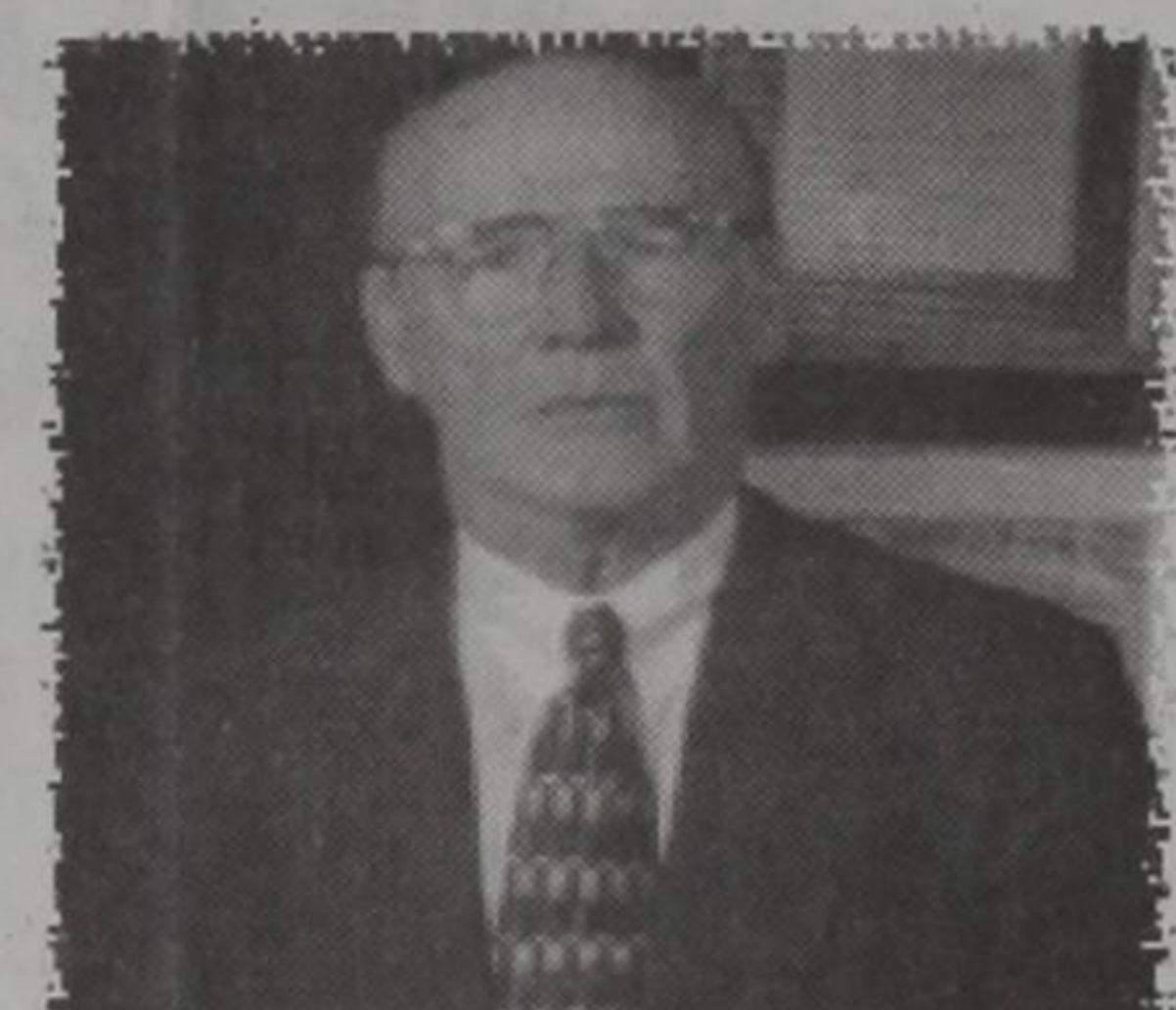
Fiscal Agent for Community Youth Development Grant

The Steering Committee developing the \$700,000 Community Youth Development Grant for the 79415 zip code area is seeking a Fiscal Agent to administer the program funds. The agent must have two months operating costs and meet the requirements as stated in the RFP. The deadline for proposals is March 18, 1998. For more information and a copy of the RFP, call 742-0361, 744-5002, or 793-8961 (ext. 221).



Scientist now say that the 1 mile wide meteor heading toward Earth will not hit.
"An the Lord said, Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."
A Word

It's just not the TEXAS way to leave a CHILD behind.



TOM LANDRY
spokesman for Child Find

Is Your Car Out of Breath?



Then donate it to the American Lung Association!

By donating your used car, truck, or boat to the American Lung Association of Texas you will receive a tax deduction toward your 1997 itemized Income Tax Return. The vehicle can be in any condition and the lung association will pick it up free of charge.

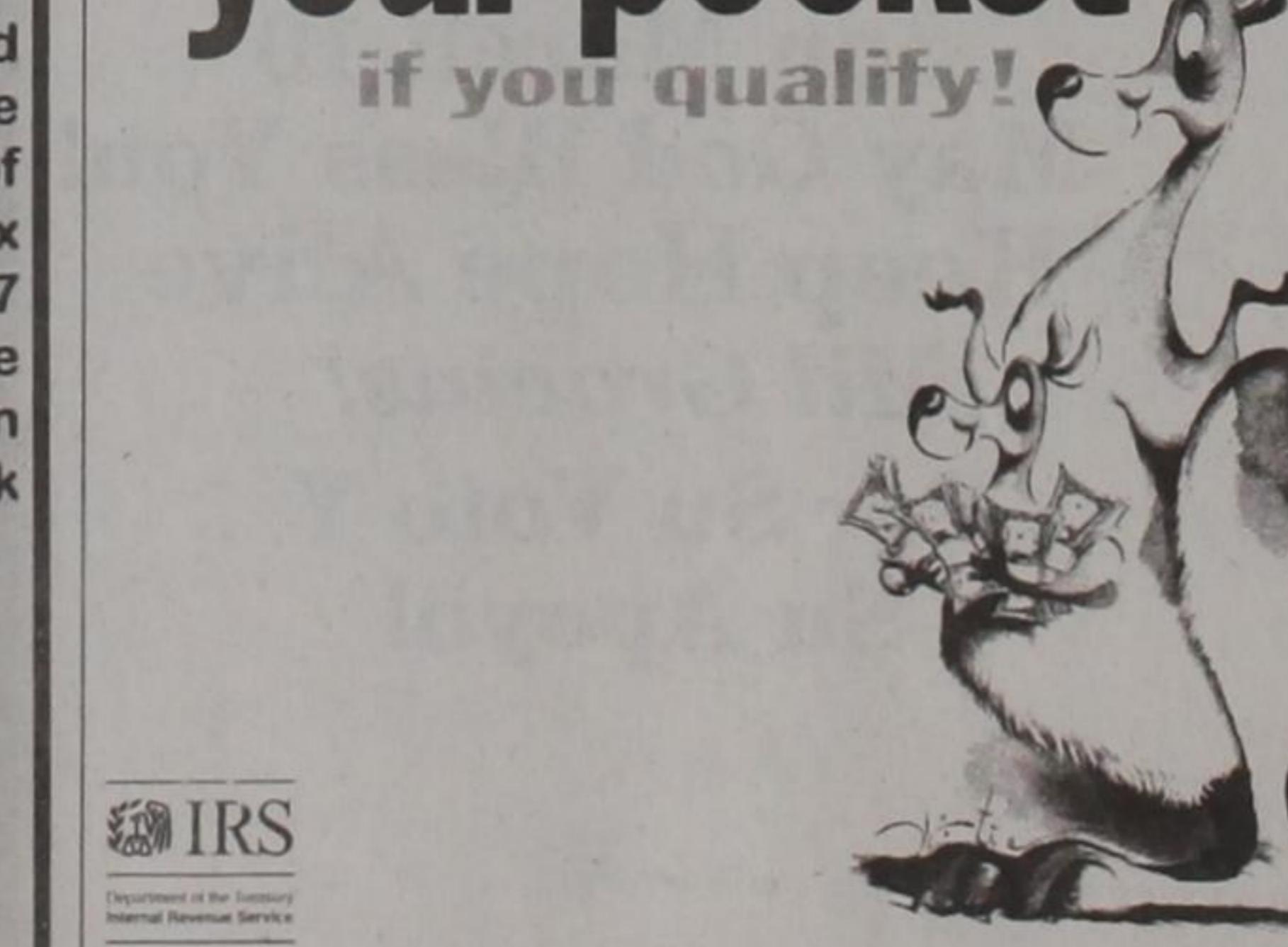
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The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) could mean

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your pocket

if you qualify!



The EITC is based on your earned income and the number of children you have living with you. If you don't have a child, you may still qualify for a limited EITC.

To claim the EITC on your 1997 tax return, you need income of less than:

- \$29,290-and two or more qualifying children,
- \$25,760-and one qualifying child,
- \$9,770-and no qualifying children.

Remember: you, your spouse and your children must have Social Security numbers to get the EITC.

If you expect to qualify for the EITC in 1998, ask your employer about advance EITC payments. You could get part of the credit with your pay now, instead of waiting until after you file your 1998 tax return.

Ask the IRS or your tax professional about the EITC. You can call 1-800-829-3676 to get free IRS Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*, or download IRS forms and publications from the Internet at www.irs.ustreas.gov.

Beware! False EITC claims could prohibit you from getting the credit for up to 10 years.

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• See your Broker

for a list of available homes
to submit your bid to HUD

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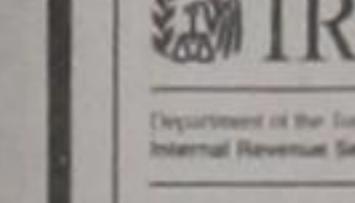
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Then donate it to the American Lung Association! By donating your used car, truck, or boat to the American Lung Association of Texas you will receive a tax deduction toward your 1997 itemized Income Tax Return. The vehicle can be in any condition and the lung association will pick it up free of charge.

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Car can be in any condition
Help a charity you know

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