

El Jardín De Rodolfo Sobrevive A La Prueba De La Tecnologia

Por William O. Medina

Rodolfo mantenía el jardín del café de nuestra familia. Es un jardincito con muchas plantas, que exige una atención constante. Los setos eran recortados siempre con la precisión de una máquina, pero sin la ayuda de máquinas. Rodolfo, nacido en un rancho de México, prefería herramientas rudimentarias que utilizaran la fuerza humana. El siempre se quejaba de los "norteamericanos" que dependían excesivamente de los artefactos.

Un día Rodolfo sintió un dolor agudo en el abdomen y pensó en ir a ver a un "curandero" de México que era especialista en hierbas. Se dirigió hacia el sur.

En ausencia de Rodolfo, yo atendía al jardín cada semana. A diferencia de él, sin embargo, yo formé una asociación con la tecnología. Claramente, siempre que Rodolfo hablaba de los "norteamericanos" dependientes de los artefactos, los "pochos" como yo estábamos incluidos.

En pocas semanas, yo había reunido un arsenal de máquinas para el jardín y productos químicos.

En una mañana, resucité al sistema de irrigación automática. Rodolfo lo había descartado, eligiendo en vez regar con una manguera. El sistema estaba programado para regar el jardín 10 minutos cada mañana.

Después de pocos días, me alarmé cuando algunas de las plantas tomaron una apariencia parduzca. El sol había secado el suelo, haciendo que se endureciera y resquebrajara. Nada sucedió presionando los botones de la caja de control del sistema que controlaba a las cabezas de los rociadores ocultas en la tierra. Sin la intervención

humana, el jardín estaba condenado a desaparecer.

Cualquier cosa que necesitaba corriente eléctrica para funcionar me confundía, de modo que yo estaba indefenso contra el rociador automático defectuoso. En retirada completa, recurrí a una manguera que Rodolfo guardaba en la caseta de herramientas. Era difícil de manejar y tendía a enroscarse como una serpiente, pero logré dar a cada planta del jardín un baño individual. Ese esfuerzo consumió la mayor parte de la mañana.

Como ocurre con la mayoría de los jardines, las yerbas indeseables brotaban por todas partes. Su exterminio se convirtió en mi pasión.

En vez de la azada del jardín, opté por la guerra química. Contra mi tanquecito y mi rociador, los invasores molestos no tenían probabilidades de sobrevivir. Mezclé el veneno a la fuerza máxima y me aseguré de que cada yerba fuera empapada por el producto químico mortal. Algunas parecían todavía robustas, de modo que las mojé aún más.

En el espacio de varios días, las yerbas más frágiles del jardín se habían vuelto enfermizamente pardas, sucumbiendo evidentemente al producto químico. Pero la mayoría de ellas tenía todavía un pulso fuerte. Espere unos cuantos días más, pero no advertí cambio alguno en las sobrevivientes. Esa mañana, fui otra vez a la caseta donde Rodolfo almacenaba sus herramientas. Al hallar una azada, empecé a cortarlas a paso continuo. Después de pocas horas, todas las yerbas habían sido desalojadas de la tierra.

Reafirmando mi creencia en la tecnología, compré un soplador para limpiar la zona

del jardín y el estacionamiento. La idea de barrer durante horas me atormentaba. Conecté una extensión de 100 pies de largo, conecte el soplador y empecé a soplar los desperdicios del jardín. Entonces sucedió lo inesperado. El viento empezó a soplar y abrumó a mi soplador. La batura que yo había reunido cuidadosamente con el chorro del soplador se hizo al aire sin plan de vuelo.

Cuando se calmó el viento, regresé a la caseta de Rodolfo y saqué una escoba. No era un escobillón grande, sino una típica escoba de cocina que él usaba para limpiar el jardín cada mañana. Golpeé el asfalto incesantemente con ella, sin dejar atrás ninguna batura. Mi arrogancia de "pochito" se debilitaba con cada viaje que hacía a la caseta.

En una cultura donde a la gente le da pánico el sólo pensar en estar sin reloj, es de esperarse que la gente reclute la ayuda de máquinas y artefactos. Todo el poder para la máquina y para la persona que son la extensión de sus máquinas. Esta noción estaba incrustada en mis huesos hasta que empecé a cuidar del jardín.

Rodolfo tenía razón. Los "norteamericanos," incluyendo a los "pochos," dependen excesivamente de los artefactos para terminar una tarea. Estamos a merced de nuestras máquinas, a las que nos aferramos con orgullo. Y aunque algunos artefactos son útiles, no son sustitutos para los brazos y piernas para hacer un buen trabajo.

(William O. Medina de Moreno Valley, Calif. es un escritor por cuenta propia.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1997. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate



Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

Ayudar a nuestros padres como nos lo manda Dios en el Cuarto Mandamiento es: Cuidarlos si son pobres, ancianos o enfermos; hacer que se les administre, a tiempo, los últimos sacramentos; orar y hacer orar por ellos en vida y después de su muerte; y, cumplir fielmente sus últimas voluntades. Estamos obligados principalmente a ayudar a nuestros padres, porque es de toda justicia corresponder a los ciudadanos que, incansables, nos dieron cuando eramos niños y en nuestra juventud, en nuestras enfermedades y demás problemas.

Los padres deben: Criar y mantener a sus hijos, instruirlos o mandarlos instruir en la verdadera religión; educarlos en el amor y en el temor de Dios; darles bien la verdadera religión; educarlos en el amor y en el temor de Dios; darles buen ejemplo; corregir sus defectos, procurarles un estado conveniente; no tener injustas preferencias para con ninguno de los hijos.

¡Dichosas las familias que su hijos son tenidos como un beneficio del cielo, soon criados y cuidados con ternura y caridad! ¡dichosos los hijos a quienes sus padres instruyen y mandan instruir en la religión y educan en el temor de dios, dándoles siempre muy buenos consejos y, sobre todo, buenos y santos ejemplos! Dios bendice a todas esas familias y vela por su prorenir y por su felicidad.

(Efesios 6, 1-3).

Lupe Esparza escribe Morena, inspirado en la gran Selena!

MONTERREY, Nuevo León. - Sin pretender causar polémica, ni nada que se le parezca, Lupe Esparza incluyó en **La Última Huella** un tema inspirado en la desaparecida pero inolvidable Reina del Tex-Mex: Selena.

El vocalista y compositor de todos los temas del último disco en la carrera de Bronco, a pesar de que no quiso abundar más sobre el tema, dejó en entredicho que efectivamente Morena fue escrito pensando en la malograda cantante texana.

"No es una canción dedicada a Selena. Es un tema más de los que escribo, así que yo prefiero que el público lo interprete y lo relacionen como ellos quieren", dijo inicialmente Lupe Esparza.

En la letra nunca se menciona el nombre de la

desaparecida artista texana, pero le cae como anillo al dedo.

Recordó que cuando murió la intérprete de Amor Prohibido y La Carcacha, le cuestionaban si no haría un tema de ella.

Sin embargo no lo hizo porque no quiso verse como un oportunista que se aprovechaba del fatídico final de la Reina del Tex-Mex.

"Es mi sentir y mi pensar al respecto. Quiero aclarar que en ningún momento menciono a Selena", dijo Lupe.

"El tema habla de cosas, tal vez reales y cada quien las puede manejar a su antojo. No lo hice para llamar la atención, solamente tenía ganas de escribir una canción y lo hice", añadió el vocalista de Bronco.

Para evitar malas interpretaciones de gente malintencionada, Lupe decidió donar las regalías que genere Morena a una escuela de educación especial con síndrome down.

La escuela pertenece al municipio de Apodaca,

Nuevo León y se llama Humberto Ramos Lozano.

"Quiero que el público analice la canción, para ver a quién creen que fue dedicada. No quiero que haya malentendidos y quiero que después digan: El (Lupe) también va a hacer negocio. Por eso decidí donar las regalías de esta canción", mencionó.

Continuación, la letra de la canción:

MORENA

Qué pena y melancolía el saber que poquito a poquito se olvidan de ti. Si vieras, morena mía, tus canciones se van apagando casi sin sentir. Es cierto, dolió mucho tu partida; para muchos fue el negocio de su vida, fue mentira que murieron de dolor. Tus recuerdos también son signos de pesos con películas y retratos de tu vida y eso sí que me lastima el corazón. Yo te sigo recordando, para mí, te lo juro, tú no has partido jamás. Algún día, yo no se cuando, cantaremos juntos a Dios por allá. Yo te sigo recordando y desde el cielo, si quieres morena, me puedes mirar que estoy día y noche por tí llorando. Mi alma y mi pecho siguen sangrando, nada me puede a mí consolar, qué pena. Yo te sigo recordando, para mí, te lo juro, tú no has partido jamás. Algún día, yo no se cuando, cantaremos juntos a Dios por allá. Yo te sigo recordando y desde el cielo, si quieres morena, me puedes mirar que estoy día y noche por tí llorando. Mi alma y mi pecho siguen sangrando, nada me puede a mí consolar, qué pena. Yo te sigo recordando...



Lupe Esparza asegura que el tema "Morena" no lo escribió pensando en Selena, pero la letra parece indicar todo lo contrario.

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Send Contreras To Japan

The City of Lubbock is sending 10 students from Lubbock to japan for a great learning experience. Elena Contreras of Lubbock was selected to go on the trip.

She is 15 years old and in order for her to be selected, she had to write an essay and turn it in to her school, Cavazos Jr. High. The school turned it in at City Hall, City Hall interviewed her and she was selected out of several other students. The City of Lubbock

pay for most of the expenses; however Contreras needs to come up with \$800 for the trip.

Elena is asking for the public to send her to Japan, by sending a donation to: Elena Contreras, 3110 3rd St., Lubbock, Tx 79415.

It is an honor to be selected but going would be a reality for Contreras. Donations will be taken until June 27, 1997. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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PROPUESTA NUM. 1 PARA LA BOLETA DE VOTACION

La Resolución Numero 4 de la Cámara de Diputados propone una enmienda constitucional que aumentaría de \$5,000 a \$15,000 el importe de la exención concedida a residencias familiares del impuesto escolar sobre la propiedad. Dicha enmienda también autorizaría a la Legislatura para limitar la exención íntegra o parcial a subdivisiones políticas que sean proveedoras principales de educación primaria y secundaria dentro de sus confines.

Además de lo anterior, la enmienda autorizaría a la Legislatura para permitir la transferencia a otra residencia familiar, del importe íntegro o parcial de la congelación de impuestos concedida a personas de 65 o más años de edad. Concretamente, la Legislatura tendría autorización para disponer que se pueda transferir la restricción actual al aumento del impuesto escolar sobre la propiedad con respecto a residencias familiares de personas de 65 o más años de edad, o de sus cónyuges sobrevivientes con derecho a dicha exención, cuando el interesado establezca una residencia familiar distinta.

La enmienda también permitiría la aplicación de la cantidad adicional de \$10,000 para la exención

regular, a la reducción de la tasa tributaria de quienes se benefician actualmente con la congelación de impuestos concedida a personas de 65 o más años de edad. Concretamente, con respecto a residencias familiares afectadas por esta limitación en 1996 o en algún ejercicio fiscal anterior, la Legislatura deberá disponer que se reduzca el impuesto escolar sobre la propiedad durante el ejercicio fiscal de 1997 y en ejercicios fiscales subsiguientes, por una suma igual a \$10,000 multiplicados por la tasa del impuesto escolar sobre la propiedad correspondiente a 1997.

La enmienda que se propone aparecerá en la boleta de votación en los siguientes términos:

"Enmienda constitucional que dispone desgravación con respecto al impuesto escolar sobre la propiedad mediante el aumento de \$10,000 con respecto a residencias familiares, disponiéndose también la transferencia de la limitación tributaria concedida a personas de 65 o más años de edad a otra residencia familiar calificada, así como una reducción de impuestos sujeta a dicha limitación."

Publicado por Tony Garza
Secretario de Estado de Tejas

News Briefs

percent of poverty, about \$21,000 for a family of four.

State governors are leery of the plan, arguing they cannot afford to put up the additional money that would be required to become eligible for the new Medicaid funds.

Rent-To-Own Stores Target Poor

The "rent-to-own" industry is disputing a report by a consumer group that found such stores fail to disclose average interest rates of 100 percent for appliances and other goods, often targeting poor and minority consumers without credit cards, reports Associated Press.

"Our prices are based on the cost of doing business," said Bill Keese, spokesman for the \$4 billion-a-year industry and president of the Association of Progressive Rental Organizations, which represents some 400 companies calling themselves rental-purchase businesses.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez of Texas, the senior Democrat on the House Banking Committee, said he planned to propose new legislation to require rent-to-own stores to disclose annual interest rates on purchases. Two similar measures that Gonzalez put forward in previous years failed.

The rent-to-own industry "targets low-income and minority consumers by binding them to contracts that result in payment of exorbitant sums," Gonzalez said in a statement. He said the industry is not required to follow federal consumer protection laws such as the Truth in Lending Act and the Consumer Leasing Act.

In its report Thursday, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group found average annual interest rates of 100 percent and as high as 275 percent. The survey found that the rates were not disclosed and that 37 percent of items in the stores were not clearly marked to show whether they were new or used.

Of the 124 rent-to-own stores surveyed, 59 charged annual rates of more than 100 percent - over five times the typical rate on credit cards. The group said low-income people often turn to the stores when they do not qualify for credit cards.

Purchasing appliances, furniture, computers, jewelry or other merchandise from rent-to-own stores costs two to five times as much as department or discount stores, the report said.

The report used the example of a \$739.95 refrigerator, which would cost an additional 20 percent, or \$122.64 in interest, if paid for by credit card over 18 months. For the same refrigerator in a rent-to-own store, a consumer would pay an annual interest rate of 87 percent, or \$610.05, in addition to the refrigerator's price tag, the report found.

Better alternatives, PIRG consumer program director Ed Mierzwinski said, are checking the classified ads for used items, buying merchandise on layaway plans or trying again for a credit card.

Senate Unveils Tax Plan

U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman William Roth has unveiled his version of a five-year tax plan that would result in a net \$85 billion in tax cuts, reports Reuters.

The Delaware Republican's bill included tax initiatives for higher education that cost \$32 billion over five years, a \$500 child tax credit for children under age 17 and a cut in the capital gains tax rate to 20 percent from the current 28 percent maximum. It would not cut the corporate capital gains tax rate as the House version would.

President Clinton has expressed strong opposition to the House plan.

Rudolfo's Garden Survives The Test of Technology

By William O. Medina

The garden at our family's cafe was maintained by Rudolfo. It's a small garden with lots of plants, requiring constant attention. The hedges were always cut with machine precision, but without the aid of power tools. Rudolfo, who was born on a ranch in Mexico, preferred simpler implements. Norteamericanos depend too much on gadgets, he always lamented.

Then one day pain racked Rudolfo's abdomen, compelling him to seek help from a (ital) curandero (unital) in Mexico who specialized in herbs. He headed south to seek care.

In Rudolfo's absence, I groomed the garden each week. Unlike him, however, I formed a partnership with technology. Clearly, whenever Rudolfo spoke of gadget-dependent norteamericanos, (ital) pochos (unital) like me were included.

In a few weeks, I had amassed an arsenal of mechanical garden tools and chemicals.

One morning I resurrected

De La Pagina 1

ellos? Haciendo caso omiso de la verdad, ése es el modo.

Los investigadores hallaron que ningún latino fue identificado como "experto" en las noticias relacionadas con los hispanos. Funcionarios blancos federales y de los gobiernos estatales fueron entrevistados en vez.

La Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos, que tiene 1,600 miembros, ha prometido ayudar a las redes a pintar un cuadro más favorable de los latinos, al publicar un directorio de expertos latinos en los campos desde la "antropología a la zoología." Esta guía, que se espera quede terminada a fines de este año, ayudará a dar una representación más exacta de la comunidad hispana.

Hasta ahora, dicen los autores y los patrocinadores del estudio, las redes televisoras han reaccionado a sus hallazgos con sorpresa y consternación, pero han hecho poco para rectificar el problema. Ellos dicen que la cul-

ture de los cortos de redacción de las cadenas televisoras de la nación necesita cambiar, y que esto sólo ocurrirá cuando las cadenas televisoras recluten a más latinos para trabajar delante y detrás de las cámaras.

Por ahora, desgraciadamente, los líderes, buenos samaritanos, héroes y modelos latinos tienen poca oportunidad de ser presentados por Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw o Peter Jennings.

No nos engañemos a nosotros mismos. Los latinos tenemos una buena cantidad de manzanas podridas que deben ser presentadas por las noticias. Y, hasta cierto punto, las noticias televisivas probablemente representan erróneamente a todos los grupos al hacer énfasis en lo negativo. Pero mientras las redes únicamente hagan noticia de la inmigración, narcóticos y delincuencia, no estaran pintando un retrato exacto de los latino-americanos.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista del "Bergen Record" en Nueva Jersey.)

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lated to Hispanics. White federal and state government officials were interviewed instead.

The 1,600-member National Association of Hispanic Journalists has vowed to help the networks paint a better picture of Latinos by publishing a directory of Latino experts in fields "from anthropology to zoology." This guide, to be completed by the end of the year, would help them give a more accurate portrayal of the Hispanic community.

So far, the study's authors and sponsors say, the networks have reacted to their findings with surprise and dismay, but have done little to correct the problem. They say the culture of the nation's television newsrooms needs to change and that this will happen only when the networks hire more Latinos to work in front of and behind the cameras.

For now, unfortunately, Latino achievers, good Samaritans, heroes and role models have little chance of being introduced by Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw or Peter Jennings.

Let's not kid ourselves. Latinos have a good share of bad apples who should be exposed in the news. And, to some extent, television news probably misrepresents every group by overemphasizing the negative. But as long as the networks concentrate on Latinos only when covering immigration, drug and crime stories, they are not painting an accurate picture of Latino Americans.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with The Bergen Record in New Jersey.) Copyright 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

gan to sprout everywhere. Their extermination became my passion. Instead of a garden hoe, I subscribed to chemical warfare. Against my small tank and sprayer, the annoying invaders didn't stand a chance. I mixed the poison to full strength and made sure each weed was soaked with the lethal chemical. Some still seemed robust, so I drenched them more.

Within several days, the frailer weeds in the garden had turned sickly brown. But most of them still had a strong pulse. I waited a few more days but noticed no change in the survivors. That morning I went back to the shed where Rudolfo stored his tools. Finding a hoe, I began chopping them at a steady pace. After a few hours, every weed had been ripped out of the ground.

Reaffirming my belief in technology, I purchased a blower to clean the garden area and parking lot. The thought of sweeping for hours tormented me. Locating an electrical outlet, I plugged in a 100-foot cord and began blasting debris from the garden and parking area. Then the unexpected happened: The wind began to stir and overpower my blower. Trash I'd carefully herded with the blower's blast became air-

borne without a flight plan.

When the wind became placid, I returned to Rudolfo's shed and retrieved a broom. It wasn't a large push broom, but a typical kitchen broom he used to clean the garden each morning. I swept the asphalt relentlessly, leaving behind no trace of rubbish. My (ital) pocho (unital) arrogance now grew fainter with each trip I made to the shed.

In a culture where people panic at the thought of being without a watch, enlisting the help of gadgets is expected. One must become the master of the moment. Inefficiency is a shortcoming. All power to the machine, and to people who are extensions of their machines. These notions were embedded in my bones until I started caring for the garden.

Rudolfo was right: Norteamericanos, including (ital) pochos(unital), are too dependent upon gadgets to complete a task. We're at the mercy of our gadgets, which we cling to with pride. And though some gadgets are useful, there's no substitute for one's arms and legs to get the job done.

(William O. Medina of Moreno Valley, Calif. is a free-lance writer.) Copyright 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

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From Page One

obvious much more needs to be done," Chiecchi said.

But again, the study's authors said it much more starkly. They warned that continued negative portrayals of Hispanic Americans "may be fueling the public agenda against Latinos."

In one of their most startling findings, researchers at New Media Concepts of Connecticut reported that Latinos appeared on camera as interview subjects in less than half of the stories presented about them.

So how do you prepare a news report about Latinos without even talking to them? With complete disregard for the truth, that's how.

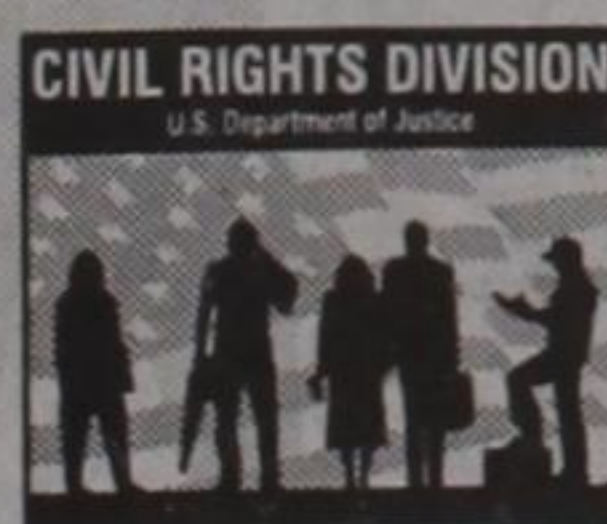
The researchers found that no Latinos appeared as identified "experts" in reports re-

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Boxer Willy Wise Gets A Break

By ED SCHUYLER JR.

NEW YORK - Willy Wise was to get \$1,000 a week as a sparring partner for Pernell Whitaker, who was preparing for an April fight against Oscar De La Hoya.

Wise needed the money badly because of medical bills for his 3-year-old son, Dominique.

"I was at Kennedy Airport ready to go to Houston to help Whitaker get ready for De La Hoya, and I called home and was told my son was having another seizure," Wise said Thursday. "He had four that day."

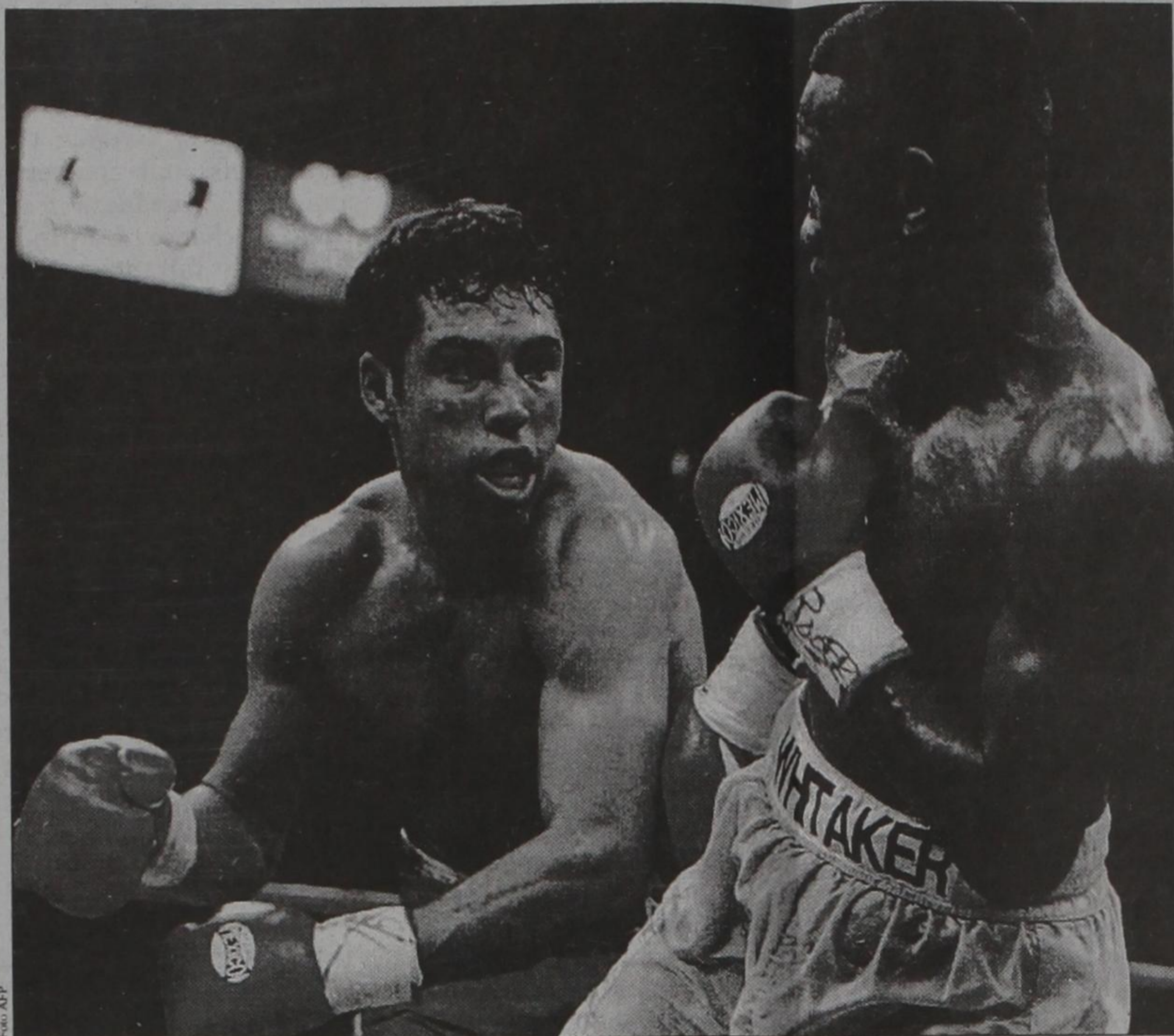
Wise passed on Houston and went home to once again take Dominique to the hospital. This has been going on for about two years because of numerous seizures, the cause of which has yet to be found.

Meanwhile, the medical bills mount for Wise and his wife, Eureka, who works as a receptionist at a church. The couple also has a 6-year-old daughter.

"We've got bills this high," Wise said, holding his hands about a foot apart. "We owe at least \$75,000. I have no medical insurance. I have nothing."

On Aug. 16, Wise will get \$85,000 to box Whitaker on a card that will feature a 10-round heavyweight bout between Andrew Golota and Ray Mercer in the Convention Center at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"After 11 years of fighting, I finally got my break," Wise, 30, of Westbury, New York, said at a news conference in Pennsylvania Station to promote the card.



Aun que Pernell Whiterker perdio a Oscar de la Hoya se espera una revancha. Mientras tanto Whiterke peliara con Willy Wise en Agosto. En la ultima pelea de De La Hoya, logro ganar en la segunda round con un knock out. Se espera que De La Hoya pelée contra Macho Camacho en Septiembre.

A good performance against Whitaker, fighting for the first time since he lost the WBC welterweight title on a disputed decision to De La Hoya on April 12, should lead to a couple of good paydays for Wise (22-3-4, with six knockouts).

In his last fight March 22, Wise scored a 10-round decision over Dingaan Thobela in South Africa for a career-high purse of \$10,000.

"I was on Fox News for an interview on Mother's Day," promoter Dino Duva said. "Part of the show was sort of documentary about Willie. Brian Kilmead (of Fox) said, 'The kid needs a break.' I didn't know anything about it. I said, 'I'd love to help him.'"

Wise's name was put on list with five or six other welterweights as possible opponents for Whitaker by Lou DiBella,

vice president of HBO Sports.

"The fact that right now Willie could use a break tipped it in Willie's favor," DiBella said.

After the news conference, the fighters took a train to Philadelphia for another news conference.

Hopes For Small-Town Boxing

By JOHN KEKIS

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - The photos on the walls of Greg Sorrentino's new gym tell a story of old, when this blue-collar city was in love with boxing.

Look left, and there's Kid Gavilan, gloves high, glaring down. Dance right and Joe Frazier is staring down Muhammad Ali. Willie Pep and Kid Chocolate pose in other black-and-white photos, looking ready to rumble. And there's local hero Carmen Basilio duking it out with arch-rival Tony DeMarco.

"This was a great fight town back in the '50s," said Sorrentino, a former cruiserweight. "They had three or four different venues. They had great fights out at MacArthur Stadium. Jake LaMotta fought there."

Those days are gone now. They are not forgotten. There is a drive afoot to make this a fight city again.

"We're looking to bring these fights back here," said Howard Dolgon, who is promoting a boxing card June 21 entitled "Return to Glory" and has dreams of putting on four cards a year.

"Back in the '50s and through the '60s and into the early '70s, Syracuse was probably as good a fight town as there was in the country,"

said Dolgon, who has made the Syracuse Crunch of the American Hockey League a box-office success. "Few towns epitomized the sport of boxing like this city did."

Basilio, a native of nearby Canastota, home of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, was one of the main pickings apart the best welterweights around. Basilio fought for three world titles here at the Onondaga County War Memorial, knocking out DeMarco and Johnny Saxton, and losing a 15-round decision to Gavilan.

In all, Basilio, now 70, fought 30 times between 1948-61 in Syracuse. Naturally, he would be thrilled if the city again became a boxing mecca. It hasn't played host to a major pro card since 1986.

"It would be wonderful," said Basilio, who also won and lost middleweight title fights with Sugar Ray Robinson. "It's always been a good fight town. But you've got to have local talent fighting. This is what brings the crowds in. Out-of-towners don't draw the crowds."

Dolgon is hoping they will in this case. Former junior lightweight world champion Tracy Patterson, of New Paltz, N.Y., will fight Mexi-

co's Ricardo Vazquez in one of the two main events. Light heavyweights Marek Piotrowski and Alex Umarov will battle for the WBA North American title in the other.

U.S. Olympic gold medalist David Reid, now a junior middleweight, also will be featured on the eight-bout card, to be televised live by Fox. Reid, who will take on St. Louis native John Long in a special six-round bout, scored a dramatic third-round knockout of heavily favored Alfredo Duvergel of Cuba at the Atlanta Olympics last summer to become the only gold medal-winner for the U.S. in boxing.

A couple of locals will get their shots, too, including Amy "Red Dog" Burton, who will make her professional debut against Mona Nelson of Detroit. James Baker, a 1996 U.S. Olympic alternate, also will fight as a pro for the first time, but his opponent has not yet been named.

"It's unbelievable for this town," said Sorrentino, who works with 30-50 boxers. "They ought to come out in piles to see this. This is big case football and basketball and the Crunch, there's not much else going on."

Amazingly, there is in the ring Mike Duffy of Intercontinental Sports Management and long-time Syracuse boxing supporter Ray Rinaldi also are promoting a card, in early July, featuring several local boxers. The aim is to make "Salt City Fight Night" a monthly series of bouts, with some of the proceeds going to a local boxing training facility operated by Rinaldi for kids at risk.

The hope in both camps is that the fights will sell out like they used to before Dec. 3, 1970. Boxing more or less died in Syracuse that night, when Basilio's nephew, Billy Backus, knocked out Jose Napoles for the welterweight title in a stunning upset. The War Memorial was left with thousands of empty seats, promoters were left holding the bag, and Backus was never paid for the biggest victory of his career.

Muleshoe Softball Tournament

It came down to the last game. Two of Muleshoe's finest softball teams had to play back to back games in order to determine the championship of the Second Annual Father's Day Tournament held this weekend at West Park. Muleshoe's "Here Comes Trouble" beaten in the first game by the Muleshoe "Vipers" managed to get their act together to beat the Vipers in the second game by a score of 29 to 12.

The games were part of a 15 teams tournament sponsored by Chicanos Unidos Campesinos that brought in teams from Lubbock, Morton, Earth, Hereford and Clovis. An estimated 700 players, family and friends attended and took part in the Tournament which boosted Muleshoe's economy from the visitors.

Third place was captured by Lubbock's "Smashing Pumpkins" and fourth was taken by Morton's "Living Large". Teams played from 1 pm Saturday until 2 am Sunday with play continuing Sunday at 8 am until 5 pm. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the non-profit service organization Chicanos Unidos Campesinos. Partial funding was made possible by the Muleshoe City Council.



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