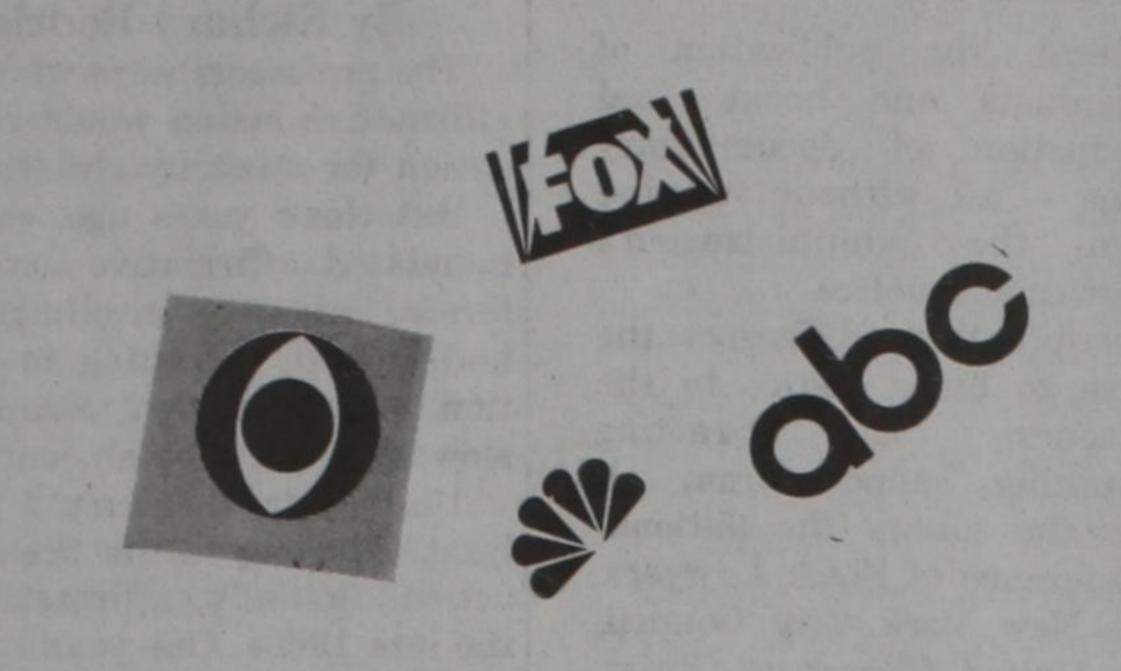
By Miguel Pérez

If you're just a Latino American who works, pays taxes and lives a clean life, you are practically invisible on the network news. But if you're illegal immigrant, a criminal or someone beset with social problems, you may be headed for TV stardom.

Those are the findings of a new study that concludes Latinos are one of the most under-represented and negatively portrayed ethnic groups on the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts.

Although Latinos represent more than 12 percent of the U.S. population, just over 1 percent of the news stories on the three major networks in 1996 were Latino-related. And of those stories that dealt with Hispanic community issues, 80 percent presented Latinos in a negative light.

"If America only gets negative views of our community, is it any wonder why California's Proposition 187 and the welfare and immigration relaws of 1996 are enacted?" asked Irma Flores-



Gonzales, who chairs the board of directors of the National Council of La Raza, a Latino advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. "This is why the media image of Latinos continues to be one of our top civil rights issues."

The report, "Network Brownout 1997: The Portrayal of Latinos in Network Television News," was released in Seattle this month during a news conference hosted by La

Raza and the National Association of Hispanic Journal-

"While Latinos are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States, they are largely ignored or mischaracterized by network news," said the association's president, Dino Chiecchi.

The report says it much more bluntly: "Taken as a whole, the image of the Hispanic American on network news is

one of an illegal immigrant with criminal intent, taking jobs away from citizens of the United States."

The study was conducted by Connecticut research firm that analyzed scripts from 546 hours of network newscasts. Stories about Latinos represented about six hours.

Of the 139 Latino-oriented stories -- out of about 12,000 on evening newscasts in 1996 --55 dealt with immigration issues, 23 addressed affirmauve action, 21 were about crime, 12 about politics and 12 about drugs. Sixteen stories fell into seven other catego-

Of the news reports classified as negative, 39.6 percent were on immigration, 16.5 percent were on affirmative action, 15.1 percent were on crime, and 8.6 percent were on drugs.

The percentage of network newscasts that negatively portrayed Latinos actually decreased: from 85 percent in 1995 to 80 percent in 1996, according to a prior study. "It is

Continued on Page 5



Vol. XX No. 38

Week of June 19 thru 25, 1997

Lubbock, Texas

## Noticias De Red Televisora Aun Presenta A Latinos Como Los "Tipos Malos"

Por Miguel Pérez

americano que trabaja, paga sus impuestos y lleva una vida limpia, usted es prácticamente invisible en las noticias de las redes televisoras. gal o alguien afectado por y NBC. problemas sociales, puede estar en camino al estrellato en televisión.

### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero Lately Lubbock has been besiged by a rash of thunder storms, high winds and

some even say tornados. But Lubbock spanish speaking community wouldn't

know it if all they listened to was our Spanish TV and radios stations. Our community wouldn't know it if their favorate music is Tejano.

All this points to a definite void in our community for a good local news show in spanish or at least one that is bilingual and focuses on the Chicano community.

There are several local TV shows but it seems that playing Tejano videos takes precedent over informing our community about real issues. Of course there are a couple of TV talk shows on the major stations but again it seems most guests appear only to give information about a fundraiser, a special pro-gram, a jamaica and all you wanted to know about a particular agency.

It's not that time is not available. Our local City access station would probably welcome a good news show and there is alway Cox Cable's Access station.

The only thing lacking is "ganas" from some of our local organizations or leaders.

\*\*\*\*Pico de Gallo\*\*\* It was good to see that a total from Lubbock Schools out of at total of 1546. That's almost 30%. Orale!

Esos son los hallazgos de un Si usted es sólo un latino- nuevo estudio, el cual concluye que los latinos son uno de los grupos étnicos más subrepresentados y descritos negativamente en las transmisiones nocturnas de noti-Pero si es un inmigrante ile- cias de las cadenas ABC, CBS

> Aunque los latinos representan más del 12 por ciento de la población de los Estados Unidos, sólo poco más del 1 por ciento de las noticias de 1996 en las tres cadenas principales trataban asuntos direcltamente relacionados con latinos. De estas noticias, un 80 por ciento representaban a los latinos de modo negativo.

"Si los Estados Unidos obtienen unicamente representaciones negativas de nuestra comunidad, ¿es de extrañar el por qué de la Proposición 187 en California, la reforma de la asistencia pública y nuvas leyes de inmigración?" preguntó Irma Flores-Gonzáles, que preside la junta de directores del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, una organización para la defensa de latinos con sede en Washington, D.C. "Esta es la razón por la cual la imagen de latinos en los medios informativos continua siendo nuestra principal precupación en materia de derechos civiles."

El informe, titulado "El Apagón Parcial de las Redes Televisoras en 1997: La Representación de Latinos en las Noticias de las Cadenas Televisoras," fué publicado en Seattle este mes durante la conferencia anual de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos.

"Aunque los latinos son el grupo minoritario de mayor crecimiento en los Estados Unidos, se les pasa por alto o se les caracteriza equivocadamente a gran medida por las noticias de las redes televisoras," dijo el presidente de la Asociación, Dino Chiecchi.

El informe lo dice mucho of 452 Chicanos graduated más contundentemente: Tomada en su conjunto, la imagen del hispano-americano en las noticias de las redes televisoras es la de un inmigrante ilegal con intenciones delictuosas, que le qui-

ta empleos a los ciudadanos Estadunidenses."

El estudio fué dirigido por una firma de investigación de Connecticut que analizó los guiones de 546 horas de transmisión de las redes televis-Las noticias sobre latinos representaban tan sólo seis horas.

De las 139 noticias directamente relacionadas con latinos -- de entre 12,000 en las transmisiones de noticias nocturnas en 1996 -- 55 trataban de asuntos de inmigración, 23 sobre la acción afirmativa, 21 sobre la delincuencia, 12 sobre política y 12 sobre narcóticos. Dieciséis notas caían en otras siete categorías.

De los informes de noticias clasificados como negativos, el 39.6 por ciento trataba sobre inmigración, el 16.5 por ciento sobre acción afirmativa, el 15.1 por ciento fueron sobre la delincuencia, y el 8.6 por ciento sobre narcóticos.

El porcentaje de representa-

ciones negativas en los programas de noticias de las redes televisivas disminuyó de un 85 por ciento en 1995 a un 80 por ciento en 1996, según el estudio. "Es evidente que se necesita hacer mucho más", dijo Chiecchi.

Nuevamente los autores del estudio lo dijeron mucho más rigurosamente. Ellos advirtieron que las continuas representaciones negativas de hispano-americanos "pueden estar alimentando la agenda pública contra lati-

En uno de sus hallazgos más asombrosos, los investigadores de New Media Concepts, de Connecticut, informaron que los latinos aparecían en cámara como protagonistas de entrevistas en menos de la mitad de los relatos presentados acerca de el-

¿Cómo se prepara un informe de noticias sobre los latinos, sin siquiera hablar con

continua en la pagina 5

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION 1997 **NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION JUNE 18-22, 1997** MAE SIMMONS COMMUNITY CENTER AND PARK AREA GENERAL THEME:

"OUR KEY TO THE 21ST CENTURY" UNIFICATION • PREPARATION • DETERMINATION

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES:

Wednesday, June 18th, 6:30p.m. JUNETEENTH WALK FOR HEALTH - "WALK WITH YOUR DOC" Mae Simmons Community Center Billie J. Russell - Chairlady

"MARCH ON DRUGS AND GANGS" - City Councilman T.J. Patterson "TALENT SEARCH FOR STARS" (YOUTH) - 6:40

Thursday, June 19th, 6:00p.m.

"DISCUSSION ON THEME" -Harold M. Chatman - Retired Educator & Past Juneteenth President, Inc. 8:00p.m.

Friday, June 20th - 7:00p.m. MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR" - Mae Simmons Community Center Sponsored by lubbock Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Saturday, June 21st - 19th Annual Parade 10:00a.m. Assemble East Parking Lot of Civic Center -9:00a.m.

OFFICIAL OPENING - 12 Noon -

Report of Star Search by Judges Introduction of Youth Star

Winners & Talents

Stage Show Time: Dorsita price -Chairlady City Councilman T.J.

Patterson & Parks & Recreation Department Sunday, June 22nd - 4:30p.m.

"GOSPEL HOUR WITH LOCAL TALENTS" Juneteenth Park -Pavilion Area Dorsita Price Tate -Chairlady FOR MORE INFORMATION,

PLEASE CALL JOAN Y. ERVIN - 763-0853 or MAE SIMMONS COMMUNITY CENTER - 767-2700

DON'T FORGET! IT HAS BEEN ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO YEARS SINCE OUR WERE ANCESTORS "THEIR INFORMED FREEDOM"

SO LET'S COVER THE ENTIRE PARK AREA FOR THIS GREAT CELEBRATION!!

## News Briefs

LUBDOK TEXAS 79409

### Clinton Backs Kids' Health Initiative

President Clinton today announced his support for a proposal being considered in the Senate that would deliver health care to up to half the nation's uninsured children, reports Reut-

The compromise plan is sponsored by Rhode Island Republican John Chafee and West Virginia Democrat Jay Rockefeller. It involves a \$16 billion expansion of the Medicaid health care program for the poor.

Clinton said the proposal would be the biggest investment in children's health care since Medicaid passed in 1965. But a competing Republican plan would provide broad grants to states to design their own health programs.

### Clinton Mulls National Apology for Slavery

President Clinton suggested in an interview broadcast yesterday that he is open to the idea of issuing a national apology to African Americans whose ancestors were sold into slavery, rpeorts The Washington Post.

The proposal emerged last week in legislation introduced by a dozen white members of Congress who argued that a formal statement of regret would help bind the wounds that still sting 134 years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Confederate South.

"An apology, under the right circumstances, those things can be quite important," Clinton said on CNN's "Late Edition." "Surely every American knows that slavery was wrong and that we paid a terrible price for it and that we had to keep repairing that....And just to say that it's wrong and that we're sorry about it is not a bad thing. That doesn't weaken

Clinton stopped short of committing to the notion, saying he wanted to think it through. He has used such symbolism in the past, apologizing in 1995 to victims of Cold War radiation experiments and just last month to black Alabamans left untreated for syphilis in the Tuskegee experiment.

Clinton has said that rolling back affirmative action -- as California's Proposition 209 will do if it passes court muster -already has had "devastating" impact on minority enrollment in graduate schools. His increasingly tough attacks on such measures contrast with a year ago when liberals complained that he soft-pedaled his opposition to Proposition 209 out of fear Republicans were on the popular side of a winning election-year issue.

Yet Clinton's hesitancy to embrace the slavery apology outright and the quick criticism from some conservatives of both that proposal and the president's strategy indicated just how rancorous his new national conversation may turn out to be.

The apology legislation, with six sponsors from each party, states that "the Congress apologizes to African Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865," when the 13th Amendment formally abolished slavery.

The idea probably will be debated soon among Clinton's advisers. Asked about it this weekend, the head of the president's panel studying race relations said he could not say whether an

apology would be proposed.

But historian John Hope Franklin added, "Every person in the United States ought to recognize the fact that this was a despicable, terrible act on the part of our founding fathers and all the people who came before us." Another board member, Nissan Motor Corp. President Robert Thomas, said an apology "certainly is something that we would consider as an advisory board.

### Albright to Back Aid to Disabled

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says the government's foreign assistance programs will soon emphasize helping people with disabilities, reports Reuters.

A document being prepared by the Agency for International Development will express the agency's commitment to "place this issue prominently on our development agenda with governments that receive our aid," she said.

Albright addressed a gathering of the International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities.

"The new policy will be based on a recognition that people with disabilities have the same need for food, health care, shelter, education and training as others but are often denied access to programs that meet these needs," she said.

Albright said there is no reason why a child with disabilities should not be able to sit in the same classroom, learn the same skills and dream the same dreams as her or his fellow stud-

She said there are more than 300 million women with disabilities in the world.

### Lawmakers Agree on Kid's Health Plan

A bipartisan group of senators Monday reached agreement on a compromise plan that would deliver health care to up to half the nation's uninsured children through a major expansion of the Medicaid program, reports Reuters. The \$16 billion proposal appears to have the votes to pass the

key Senate Finance Committee possibly as early as Tuesday, congressional aides said.

It is opposed, however, by committee chairman William Roth of Delaware and Republican leaders who instead want to provide broad grants to states to design their own health pro-

grams. Even if the compromise, sponsored by Rhode Island Republican John Chafee and West Virginia Democrat Jay Rockefeller, were approved, it would almost certainly face a battle when it reached the full Senate.

The competing health bills are designed to implement a five-year budget deal between Congress and the White House setting aside \$16 billion to insure poor children.

Democrats and some moderate Republicans want to work through the Medicaid program for the poor, elderly and disabled. Medicaid already insures 25 percent of U.S. children under age 18. The White House prefers the Chafee approach.

The Chafee plan, supported by at least three Republicans on Finance, would allocate \$12 billion to expand Medicaid and \$4 billion in new grants to states.

The program would be voluntary. To receive new Medicaid funds, states would have to expand the program to all poor children under 18 and keep many kids on the rolls a year at a time, rather than cutting them off if income increased.

The \$12 billion could be used to expand Medicaid to children up to 150 percent of poverty, about \$24,000 for a family of four.

To be eligible for the block grant, states would have to provide one-year of continuous coverage for poor children up to 133 Continuned on Page 5

## Freedom Demands For Jailed "Independentistas" Compound Issue of Puerto Rico Self-Determination

By Raquel Guerricagoitia

Congressional legislation could finally resolve the political status of Puerto Rico by bringing about a federally sponsored referendum to be held on the island no later than December 31, 1998.

The House Committee on Resources has just approved the measure, introduced in February. The full House is expected to make its decision this summer.

Despite these quickened efforts to shape the island's political future, the process could be seriously compromised as long as 15 Puerto Rican independentistas remain incarcerated in U.S. prisons.

Throughout the spring hearings on the U.S.-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, a number of witnesses mentioned the prisoners' plight, emphasizing that their release is critical for a true democratic process to take place on the island.

These nationalists, locked up for as many as 17 years now, have insisted that they are political prisoners, rather than common criminals. For years, their supporters have called for their release, intensifying such demands in recent months in anticipation of next year's referendum. After nearly 100 years of U.S. rule, Puerto Ricans across the political spectrum are welcoming the opportunity to exercise the long-denied right to

self-determination.

Puerto Rican nationalists were targeted by Washington throughout the Cold War, when advocates of political autonomy throughout Latin America were viewed as subversives. In 1960, then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover acknowledged that the goal of the Counter Intelligence Pro-(COINTELPRO) in Puerto Rico was "not to only curtail, but to disrupt pro-independence activism."

Underhanded methods, such as the maintenance of as many as 16,500 dossiers on those suspected of being affiliated with the island's independence movement -- along with unjustified and illegal arrests, harassment and surveillance of suspected dissidents -- were routinely employed to repress nationalists.

The Puerto Rican activists were sentenced in the early 1980s and are serving prison terms ranging from 40 to 90 years. Their arrests were part of a series of setzures that took place between 1980 and 1985 of those suspected of being members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). They had been found guilty of seditious conspiracy and pos-

session of illegal weapons. Given that their activities had involved no injury to humans or damage to property and that none of them possessed prior criminal records, the draconian sen-

times longer than the average most casual notice. sentences for rape and arms violations, which in the period of 1966 to 1985 were 12.5 and 12 years, respectively -- give weight to the charge that the Puerto Rican activists were punished primarily for their political views.

The prisoners have been exposed to deplorable living conditions, including prolonged periods of solitary confinement, sexual harassment and the prohibition of visits by immediate family members. While the 10 men and 5 women found guilty had no previous records, all had spent many years fighting for social justice through their involvement in churches. unions, and civic and Hispa-

nic student groups. Initially, the campaign to free the 15 was limited to supporters of the island's nationalist movement. But in recent years, the ideological range of sympathizers has widened significantly, encompassing those of markedly differing political persuasions.

Throughout the years, activist organizations such as Pro-Libertad and Ofensiva '92 have engaged in demonstrations, phone-ins to the White House, petitions and letters to the president and attorney

tences have been widely seen general, the publication of as extraordinarily dispropor- pamphlets and books, and tionate to the magnitude of production of documentary their crimes. The unusually films -- all without winning lengthy terms -- three to four even the administration's

Despite this indifference, the drive to bring justice to the prisoners attracting is mounting support from all over the nation. The National Conference of Black Lawyers, the New York City Council, the United Church of Christ, key members of Congress and important religious figures are among these voices.

House Democrats Nydia Velázquez and José Serrano of New York and Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois have called for the prisoners' release and announced their intention to seek a meeting with President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno to press their

The Clinton administration will be slighting justice by continuing to ignore the imprisoned Puerto Rican nationalists. After 17 years in jail and with the referendum approaching, they should be given the opportunity to participate in the political process as free men and women.

(Raquel Guerricagoitia is a research associate at the Washington, D.C.based Council on Hemisphere Affairs, or COHA.)

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# Demandas De Libertad Para "Independentistas" Encarcelados

Complican El Asunto De La **Auto-Determinacion De Puerto Rico** 

Por Raquel Guerricagoitia

Legislación congresional podría resolver finalmente la situación política de Puerto Rico al efectuar un referendo patrocinado por el gobierno federal, a realizarse en la isla a más tardar el 31 de diciembre de 1998.

El Comité sobre Recursos de la Cámara de Representantes acaba de aprobar la medida, presentada en febrero. Se espera que el pleno de la Cámara llegue a una decisión este verano.

A pesar de estas apresuradas gestiones para dar forma al futuro político de la isla, el trámite podría estar comprometido gravemente mientras que 15 independentistas puertorriqueños continúen encarcelados en prisiones Estadunidenses. Durante las audiencias en la primavera sobre la Ley de la Situación Política entre los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, algunos testigos mencionaron las dificultades de los prisioneros, haciendo énfasis en que su libertad es crítica para un trámite verdaderamente democrático en la isla.

Estos nacionalistas, algunos encerrados por casi 17 años, han insistido que ellos son presos políticos y no delincuentes comunes.

Durante años, sus partidarios han pedido que se les ponga en libertad, intensificando dichas demandas en los últimos meses en anticipación al referendo del año próximo. Después de cerca de 100 años de gobierno Estadounidense, los puertorriqueños de todo el espectro político están dando la bienvenida a la oportunidad de ejercer el derecho a la auto-determinación que se les ha sido negado por mucho tiempo.

Los nacionalistas puertorriqueños fueron señalados por Washington durante la Guerra Fría, cuando se le consideraba a todo partidario de la autonomía política en toda América Latina como subversivo. En 1960, el entonces Director de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), J. Edgar Hoover, reconoció que el objetivo del Programa de Contra-Inteligencia (COINTELPRO) en Puerto Rico "no era sólo frenar, sino desorganizar a grupos independentistas."

Métodos clandestinos tales como el mantenimiento de casi 16,500 expedientes sobre presuntos afiliados al movimiento de independencia de la isla, junto con los arrestos injustificados e ilegales y el hostigamiento y vigilancia de sospechosos se volvieron

prácticas comunes para repri-

mir a los nacionalistas. Los activistas puertorriqueños fueron sentenciados a principios de los ochentas y están cumpliendo términos de prisión que fluctúan entre 40 y parte de una serie de operativos entre 1980 y 1985, contra presuntos miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN).

culpables de conspiración sediciosa y posesión de armas ilegales. Dado que sus actividades no involucraban lesiones a personas ni daños a la propiedad, y que ninguno de ellos tenía un historial delicuente, las sentencias draconianas han sido ampliamante consideradas extraordinariamente desproporcionales a la importancia de de que los activistas puertor- todo sin obtener siquiera la

primordialmente por su ori- del gobierno. entación política.

Además de sus sentencias la campaña excesivas, los prisioneros han estado expuestos a condiciones de vida deplorables en las prisiones, incluyendo periodos prolongados en confinamiento solitario; acoso sexual y la prohibición de visitias, incluso por miembros de sus familias inmediatas. Aunque los 10 hombres y 5 mujeres declarados culpables no tenían historiales delincuentes, todos habían pasado justicia social a través de iglesias, sindicatos y grupos estudiantiles hispanos.

Inicialmente, la campaña para liberar a los 15 se limitó Los presos fueron declarados a los partidarios del movimiento nacionalista de la isla. Pero en los últimos años, la gama ideológica de los simpatizadores se ha ensanchado considerablemente hasta llegar a comprender a los de persuasiones políticas notablemente distintas.

Durante los años, las organactivistas izaciones "Pro-Libertad" y "Ofensiva D92" se han dedicado a manisus delitos. Las sentencias festaciones, llamadas telefóinusitadamente largas -- tres nicas a la Casa Blanca, petia cuatro veces más largas que ciones y cartas al presidente y la sentencia sentencia pro- a la Secretaria de Justicia. medio (12 años) por posesión publicación de panfletos y liilegal de armas durante 1966- bros, así como la producción 1985 -- dan peso a la acusación de películas documentales -riqueños fueron castigados atención más casual por parte

A pesar de esta indiferencia, humanitaria para hacer justicia a los priestá atrayendo sioneros mayor apoyo en toda la nación. La Conferencia Nacional de Abogados Negros, el Consejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Nueva York, la Iglesia Unida de Cristo, miembros principales del Congreso y figuras religiosas importantes se hallan entre estas

Los Representantes demó-90 años. Sus arrestos fueron muchos años luchando por la cratas Nydia Velásquez y José Serrano, de Nueva York, y Luis Gutiérrez, de Illinois, han pedido por la liberatad de los prisioneros y han anunciado sus intenciones de procurar una reunión con el Presidente Clinton y la Secretaria de Justicia Janet Reno para apremiar sus casos.

El gobierno de Clinton está menospreciando a la justicia al continuar ignorando a los nacionalistas puertorriqueños encarcelados. Después de 17 años en la cárcel, y con el referendo en el futuro cercano, debería dárseles la oportunidad de participar en el trámite político como hombres y mujeres libres.

(Raquel Guericagoitia es asociada para investigación en el Consejo sobre Asuntos Hemisféricos, COHA, con sede en Washington, D.C.)

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

# An Immigrant Family's Story

By Jorge Luis Romeu

My wife and I recently celebrated our 27th anniversary and a milestone of another nature. It has been 17 years since we left our seaside town in Cuba to move to Syracuse, N.Y., where we changed our language and saw snow for the first time.

Seventeen years out of 51 -- a third of my life.

the midst of the Mariel boat- and other necessities we take lift. We had officially re- for granted in the United quested an exit permit and States. It is because of the asbeen fired from our jobs for phyxiating political climate, having done so. We obtained where being a Marxist, a govvalid passports and U.S. resi- ernment supporter, means dent visas, but the Cuban gov- everything -- and not being ernment refused to let us emi- one means you and your famgrate. If my sister, a faculty ily are marked for life. member of LeMoyne College

in Syracuse, hadn't sailed to Mariel on a shrimp trawler to rescue us, we'd probably be on the island still.

Cubans were never particularly noted for their emigration habits -- at least not before Fidel Castro seized control in 1959. Despite being only 90 miles away, the United States lured few of us off our island.

No more. This is not because We left Cuba in May 1980 in of the lack of food, clothing

In Cuba, I was labeled a po-

litical enemy and arrested for writing a book and publishing it abroad. A little book praised for its literary merits, it told stories about the infamous UMAP forced labor camps of the mid-1960s, a subject still forbidden three decades later.

More than a million Cubans, 10 percent of our population, have left the country since 1960. We broke up our families and left behind our and our childhood friends. Each of us had our own reasons.

I had three. I did it for myself, for my family and for my country.

I have always been politically incorrect. I came from a family that had actively sup-

Continued on Page 3

"Blame Affirm Action for Minority Enrollment Drop"

By Richard Rodriguez, Pacific News Service The professors were wrong. For years, they assured us that affirmative action would change America - make college an

option for minority children.

But three years ago, even before recent court-and-votermandated affirmative action cutbacks in Texas and California, minority enrollment in American higher education had slowed, according to the American Council on Education. ACE President Stanley Ikenbury warns now that the slowdown could be an "early warning of what lies ahead."

Unlike Mr. Ikenbury, I turn my thoughts to what lies behind. I belong to the first student generation of affirmative action. Actually, affirmative action found me in college in the late 1960s. One year I had a scholarship for being bright; the next I had a scholarship for being brown.

Why? I remember asking my professors. (I was, in those years, more innocently liberal and the thought that I might be rewarded for having brown skin was as troubling as the prospect of being penalized my complexion.)

My professors said not to worry. They said I would become a "role model." My success would make it easier for generations following. Or they waived their sad little "Diversity" flag. Or my professors insisted they were certain that upon graduation I would return to "my community."

Who knows from where my professors gathered a sense of my community? Perhaps "West Side Story." I didn't have the nerve to tell them, in those years, that my "barrio" was a white, middle-class neighborhood and that my "homeboys" were kids with freckled faces who wore braces on their teeth.

In that dawning era of affirmative action, many thoughtless, well-meaning, sloppy words floated around the campus. "Minority" was the worst. To this day, American higher education cannot easily distinguish between the cultural minority and the numerical minority. The distinction, alas, is crucial.

There are some people in this country (the kids in the street gang, for example) who are alienated from public life. They are cultural minorities - and they come in all colors. The only things they have in common are their poverty and lack of educational options.

Numerical minorities, on the other hand, are groups of people who - as groups - are under-represented in public life. At the blonde university, clearly, I was a numerical minority. But, less obviously to my professors, I was not a cultural minority.

In truth, most of us who have benefited from affirmative action over the last 25 years have been middle-class Americans, not cultural minorities. But because we come from numerical minority groups, we have been able to advance. We advanced on the backs of those less fortunate. The exclusion of others of our race or ethnic group from college made our presence within the institution important. To put the matter more plainly: because many Hispanics were absent from college, I was able to be rewarded.

The odd thing is that affirmative action, during all of these years, has been advanced as a program of the political left. In fact, affirmative action encouraged a kind of parody Marxism - the revolutionary creation of a bourgeoisie.

In California last year, a majority voted to undo affirmative action in state agencies, including the University of California. For many years now, middle-class Americans have been uneasy with affirmative action, because it is unfair to their children. Let it be noted that affirmative action is more unfair to the children of poverty.

None of this could one have said in the romantic '60s, those years on campus when professors were terrified that some bored undergraduate might deem their courses "irrelevant." No one in those years bothered to question the leftist jargon regarding racism, to distinguish, for example, between strategies for combating legalized segregation and de facto segregation

In the segregationist south, one black child entering Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, could change the condition of her entire race. In the north, the dynamics of racism were different. One hundred or five hundred black students could be admitted to Harvard, but their admission did not change their entire race. Just look at America's inner cities if you want proof.

I remember, some years ago, talking with a group of teenagers - kids any sociologist would describe as children "at risk." They came from homes of poverty, many from violent streets. I asked what they thought of affirmative action. They stared at me. In a room of 14 children, only one had heard of the term.

The fact is that after 25 years no one holds the educational innovations of the 1960s responsible for producing results. After a full generation of bilingual education, for example, the Hispanic dropout rate from high school continues unabated. After a generation of affirmative action, most children of poverty do not imagine themselves in college.

President Clinton has, meanwhile, reassured members of the black bourgeoisie that he intends to support affirmative action. If I were President Clinton, instead of worrying about how many black undergraduates make it to Stanford, I would work to reform the primary school education of poor children in America so that they might grow up able to compete against Chelsea Clinton for a place at Stanford.

As it is now, many black and brown children in America cannot compete. And the professors cannot tell us why. Indeed, the very failure of affirmative action to produce results becomes their argument for its continuance.

Thus did we hear from the dean of the law school at the University of California last week. At Berkeley the number of black students admitted to next year's entering class has fallen by 81 percent. The number of Hispanic students has fallen by 50 percent. And what does the dean say?

Not for a moment does he wonder why, after 25 years of affirmative action, black and Hispanic undergraduates cannot make it into his law school. No. The dean sighs. The decline in black and Hispanic enrollments is "precisely what we feared would result from the elimination of affirmative action.

Poor professors! Poor America! [PNS editor Richard Rodriguez is an essayist for the News Hour with Jim Lehrer and writes regularly for the Los Angeles Times.]

### EL EDITOR Celebrating 20 Years of Continuous Publishing

1977 to 1997

# From Page 2

## La Historia De Una Familia De Inmigrantes

Por Jorge Luis Romeu

Mi esposa y yo celebramos hace poco nuestro vigésimoséptimo aniversario y un hito de otra naturaleza. Han pasado 17 años desde que salimos de nuestro pueblo natal a la orilla del mar en Cuba, para mudarnos a Syracuse, Nueva York, donde cambiamos nuestro idioma y vimos nieve por primera vez.

Diecisiete años de entre 51 -un tercio de mi vida.

Salimos de Cuba en mayo de 1980, en medio del "puente marítimo" del Mariel. Habíamos solicitado oficialmente un permiso de salida y habían despedido de nuestros empleos por haberlo hecho. Obtuvimos pasaportes válidos y visas de residentes estadunidenses, pero el gobierno cubano se negaba a dejarnos emigrar. Si mi hermana, que era miembro del profesorado de LeMoyne College, en Syracuse, no hubiera navegado hasta El Mariel en una embarcación camaronera para rescatarnos, probablemente estaríamos en la isla todavía.

Los cubanos no se hacen notar especialmente por sus hábitos de emigración -- por lo menos no antes de que Fidel Castro se apoderara de la isla en 1959. A pesar de estar a sólo 90 millas de distancia, los Estados Unidos atraían a pocos de nosotros para salir de nuestra isla.

Pero esto ha cambiado. Esto no se debe a la carencia de alimentos, ropas y otras necesidades que damos por sentadas en los Estados Unidos. Se debe al clima político asfixiante, donde el ser marxista y partidario del gobierno significa todo -- y el no serlo quiere decir que uno y su familia están señalados para todas sus vidas.

En Cuba se me catalogó como enemigo político y se me arpublicarlo en el extranjero. Un librito elogiado por sus méritos literarios, que relataba historias sobre los campamentos de trabajos forzados de la UMAP a mediados del decenio de 1960, que es un asunto todavía prohibido tres decenios más tarde.

Más de un millón de cuba- | will." nos, el 10 por ciento de nuestra población, se han ido del país desde 1960. Rompimos nuestras familias y dejamos atrás a nuestros muertos y amigos de la niñez.

Cada uno de nosotros tenía sus propias razones.

mi país.

"políticamente incorrecto". Vine de una familia que harevolución. Pero cuando Cas- would do that too." tro se volvió comunista, comierno.

dría lograr si tuviera las ma- are the most invisible of all. nos libres. Tuve experiencia sufrían en Cuba. No quería year here. que ninguno de mis hijos atravesara esa situación.

trabajando para lo que creo país natal.

bors importantes y hemos nine months. continuado siéndolo desde bajo. Pero nunca hemos salimos un segundo hogar para their labor rights. nosotros.

universidad. creemos que un escenario de not go on," she says. escuela pública es la mejor una democracia. Ellos hicieron buen uso de él, y hoy to-

dos son graduados universitarios y les va bien. De modo que el objetivo número uno quedó plenamente cumplido.

Tuve suerte de ganar, primero una plaza de asistente para la enseñanza en la Universidad de Syracuse y, varios años después, una beca de la Universidad Estatal de Nueva York y de UUP, lo cual me permitió terminar un doctorado. Con eso, pude enseñar en la universidad, algo que uno que no fuera marxista ni mo objetivo. siquiera podría soñar en

mis investigaciones y he ga- y nado una beca Fulbright. Mi esposa ha terminado sus estudios de maestría y es maestra de escuela secundaria. No está mal para el objetivo número dos.

Durante todos estos años, he tenido el privilegio de escribir para nuestro periódico local -y para muchas otras publicaciones estadounidenses y extranjeras -- sobre Cuba y la política de la América Lati-

He podido informar a amigos y vecinos sobre lo que creo que son los defectos del régi-

men que controla a mi país de origen. Y he podido producir un programa semanal por radio de onda corta para mis compatriotas que están dentro de la isla.

Como un soldado en guerra y un exiliado político, he hecho de los medios de información mi trinchera. El trabajar por lo que creo que es verdadero y sagrado ha sido mi recompensa mayor y ha cumplido enteramente mi tercer y últi-

También hemos atravesado épocas difíciles, trabajando He publicado extensamente en dos o tres empleos cada uno haciendo maromas para cumplir nuestras obligaciones. El haber dejado atrás a nuestros queridos muertos y habernos enterado de que otros han muerto solos, ha sido nuestra mayor tristeza. Ahora tenemos a nuestros propios muertos, enterrados aquí en Syracuse -- lo cual hace de nosotros verdaderos residentes de esta ciudad.

Echamos de menos a nuestra familia extendida, esparcida" por todos los Estados Unidos y otros países. Viajamos a menudo para verles.

Hemos hallado cómo algu-

# la Universidad de Syracuse.)

electronically for federal student aid.



nas veces, aún en los círculos políticamente correctos, un mspano tiene que trabajar doblemente para que se le considere la mitad de bueno -- y todavía continúa siendo un extraño. El hecho, que nos han explicado algunos de nuestros amigos, de que varios otros grupos de recién llegados - - italianos, polacos, irlandeses, etc. -- hayan atravesado la misma odisea y hayan salido airosos, no hace

que sea mucho más fácil. En conjunto, nuestra experiencia de emigración, aunque muy dura, ha probado valer la pena. Hemos preferido no convertirnos en exiliados políticos. Debemos esto a la dictadura de Castro. Pero ya que ha tenido que ser, tenemos que decir que los Estados Unidos y, de todos los lugares, por cierto Syracuse ha sido el mejor para nosotros.

(Jorge Luis Romeu es catedrático de

when Castro turned communist, we just as actively fought his government. I wanted to find out how much I could achieve if given a free rein. I'd had firsthand experience about the difficulties politically incorrect students go through in Cuba. I didn't want any of my children to suffer

Finally, I wanted to continue working for what I believe is the best future of my native country. We settled in Syracuse, found a nourishing parish and became active in both city and church. We've re-

ported the revolution. But

the best preparation for life in a democracy. They made good use of it, and today they are all college graduates and doing well. So goal No. 1 was met in full.

home for ourselves.

I was fortunate to earn a teaching assistantship from Syracuse University and, several years later, scholarships that allowed me to complete a doctorate. With the a non-Marxist would never dream of in Cuba.

I've published my research extensively and have won a Fulbright grant. My wife has completed her master's and is a high school teacher. Not bad for goal No. 2.

Throughout all these years, I have had the privilege of writing for our local newspaper --

Page 3 publications -- about Cuba and Latin American politics. I have been able to inform friends and neighbors about what I believe to be the flaws of the regime that controls my native country. And I've been able to produce a weekly shortwave radio program to Cubans inside the island. As a soldier at war and a political exile, I have made the media my trench. Working for what I believe is true and sacred has been my greatest reward and has fulfilled completely my third and final goal.

We've also had hard times, each of us working two or three jobs and juggling to make ends meet. Leaving behind our beloved dead, and mained so ever since. We've finding out that others have moved several times as we passed away alone, has been have improved our lot through our main grief. We now have hard work. But we have never our own dead, buried here in left the neighborhood or the Syracuse -- which makes us parish where we found good real Syracusans. We miss friends and made a second our extended family, spread all across the United States Our children went to public and other countries. We travhigh school, where they pre- el to see them. We have pared well for college. We learned that sometimes, even still believe public school is in politically correct circles, a Hispanic has to work twice as much to be considered half as good -- and then will still remain an outsider. The fact, explained to us by friends, that several other newcomer groups -- Italians, Polish, Irish etc. -- have gone through the same ordeal and come through doesn't make it much earlier.

All in all, our emigration graduate degree, I was able to experience, though very hard, teach in college -- something has proved worthwhile. We would have preferred not to become political exiles, and we owe our circumstances to Castro's dictatorship. But since it had to be, we must say that the United States and, certainly Syracuse, N.Y., have been the best for us.

> (Jorge Luis Romeu is a professor at the Syracuse University.)

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### A Bittersweet Victory for an Immigant Worker

EDITOR'S NOTE: In an era of multi-million-dollar lawsuits, an award of \$47,000 may seem insignificant, but this one marks a breakthrough for the most invisible sector of the workforce. The case is a victory for a law office dedicated to defending immigrant workers - an office which has just been put out of business by funding cuts. PNS associate editor David Bacon writes widely on immigration and labor issues.

BY David Bacon, Pacific News Service

LOS ANGELES - Lost in the jubilation over an unprecedented \$47,000 back pay judgment for a domestic worker held in semi-slavery for three years is a darker reality: the case of Yuni Mulyono will be the last brought to court in defense of the rights of low-wage immigrant workers by the Labor Defense Network, once a division of this city's Legal Aid Society. The OPE/express.html Network, which handled Mulyono's case, fell victim last year to Federal budget cuts for legal aid to the poor.

For years, L.A.'s low-wage workers found their way to the Network office in a nondescript building on Crenshaw Avenue. Bitter stories poured across the desk of attorney Michelle restó por redactar un libro y Yu of unpaid labor, work without overtime pay, wages below the minimum, and of the wholesale denial of conditions most peo-

ple take for granted.

Not only did the Federal cuts close the Network office; what little government funding is left for legal aid programs now contains another killer provision. It prohibits aid to undocumented workers. Yu estimates that the undocumented made up a large percentage of her cases. "That's who low-wage workers in Los Angeles are," she says. "And that's especially those who wind up being cheated, and even held to work against their

In the future, Yu points out, workers like Mulyono are unlikely to find legal advocates. "We'll have a law," Yu says, "but no one will be there to fight the cases needed to enforce it."

Mulyono was the last of Yu's clients. She was recruited in Indonesia by a wealthy fellow countrywoman and her American husband and brought to Los Angeles to do housework. "I began working when I got up in the morning," she says, "and I worked until it was time to go to bed at night. I prepared the Yo tenía tres. Lo hice por mí family's breakfast and lunch, cleaned the kitchen and living mismo, por mi familia y por room...I had to wake up their daughter, get her dressed and ready for school. After they left the house I had to clean up the He sido siempre back yard. I had to feed and clean up after their two dogs. Every day I did laundry and washed the bathroom. I fixed the dinner and served it and washed the dishes. Sometimes the wife bía apoyado activamente a la | would ask me to give her a massage in the evening, and I

For this Mulyono was paid \$100 a month - and that only after batimos activamente a su gob- she complained. Her situation was made possible because she was invisible to the outside world, like thousands of other low-Yo quería saber cuánto po- wage workers in and around Los Angeles. Domestic workers

After almost three years, Mulyono, a slender woman who de primera mano sobre las di- looks younger than her 27 years, was helped out of her bondage ficultades que los estudiantes by Marco Rodriguez, a Salvadoran she met at the weekly Eng-'políticamente incorrectos" lish language class she was allowed to attend after her first

In court, the family that employed Mulyono denied paying her at all. Rather, Lina Nilam and her husband Reginald Por último, quería continuar | Hall testified, Mulyono was simply a guest in their home.

To disprove this scenario, attorney Yu called in experts who que es el mejor futuro para mi testified that powerful class and caste attitudes in Indonesia made it extremely unlikely that a wealthy family like Ni-Nos asentamos en Syracuse lam's would have forged an intimate friendship with someone y encontramos una parroquia from an impoverished background as Mulyono - let alone activa, llegamos a ser miem- bring her to the United States for a visit lasting two years and

In the end, Judge Jack W. Morgan rejected the claim that entonces. Nos hemos mudado | Mulyono had been a houseguest on an extended stay and varias veces, a medida que awarded her wages calculated at the legal minimum of \$4.25 hemos mejorado nuestra an hour for an average of 65 hours a week (including oversuerte mediante el árduo tra- time) for two years and nine months.

Yu and Mulyono both believe her situation is quite common. do de la vecindad ni de la par- Mulyono, who is now studying cosmetology, her life-long roquia donde volvemos a en- dream, has become active in the Domestic Workers Associacontrar buenos amigos e hici- tion which seeks to organize and inform domestic workers of

Christina Riegos, of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Nuestros hijos fueron a la Rights in Los Angeles, says the \$47,000 award is the largest escuela secundaria pública, ever granted in such a case in southern California. "We hope donde se prepararon bien para this will encourage other domestic workers in the same situa-Todavía tion and serve as a warning to employers that this abuse can-

But without any formal channels to publicize the case, let preparación para la vida en alone lawyers to serve as advocates, Riegos is pessimistic the case will mark a real breakthrough for the rights of domestic (workers here or anywhere else in the country.

631997 Texas Lottery

# El Jardin De Rodolfo Sobrevive A La Prueba De La Tecnologia

Por William O. Medina

Rodolofo mantenía el jardín del cafe 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 dependian excesivamente de los artefactos.

Un día Rodolfo sintio un mañana. dolor agudo en el abdomen y pensó en ir a ver a un "curandero" de México que dirijio hacia el sur.

incluídos.

reunido un arsenal de má- más. quinas para el jardín y productos químicos.

tos cada mañana.

había secado el suelo, hacien- una azada, empecé a cortarlas squebrajara. Nada sucedió pocas horas, todas las yerbas presionaba los botones de la habían sido desalojadas de la caja de control del sistema tierra. que controlaba a las cabezas de los rociadores ocultas en la en la tecnología, compré un tierra. Sin la intervención soplador para limpiar la zona

humana, el jardín estaba condenado a desaparecer.

Cualquier cosa que nececite corriente eléctrica para funcionar me confunde, 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 dificil 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

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

En ausencia de Rodolfo, yo En vez de la azada del jaratendía al jardín cada sema- dín, opté por la guerra químina. A diferencia de él, sin ca. Contra mi tanquecito y mi embargo, yo formé una aso- rociador, los invasores mociación con la tecnología. lestos no tenían probabi-Claramente, siempre que Ro- lidades de sobrevivir. Mezclé dolfo hablaba de los el veneno a la fuerza máxima "norteamericanos" depend- y me aseguré de que cada yerientes de los artefactos, los ba fuera empapada por el pro-"pochos" como yo estábamos ducto químico mortal. Algunas parecían todavía robus-En pocas semanas, yo había tas, de modo que las mojé aún

En el espacio de varios días, las yerbas más frágiles del En una mañana, resucité al jardín se habían vuelto enfersistema de irrigación auto- mizamente pardas, sucummática. Rodolfo lo había des- biendo evidentemente al procartado, eligiendo en vez re- ducto químico. Pero la gar con una manguera. El mayoría de ellas tenía todasistema estaba programado vía un pulso fuerte. Espere para regar el jardín 10 minu- unos cuantos días más, pero no advertí cambio alguno en Después de pocos días, me las sobrevivientes. Esa mañalarmé cuando algunas de ana, fuí otra vez a la caseta las plantas tomaron una donde Rodolfo almacenaba apariencia parduzca. El sol sus herramientas. Al hallar do que se endureciera y re- a paso continuo. Después de

Reafirmando mi creencia

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 basura que yo había reunido cuidadosamente con el chorro

plan de vuelo. Cuando se calmó el viento, regresé a la caseta de Rodolfo escobillón grande, sino una plir fielmente sus últimas de Bronco, a pesar de que no quiso abundar más sotípica escoba de cocina que él voluntades. Estamos obliga- bre el tema, dejó en entreusaba para limpiar el jardín cada mañana. Golpeé el asfalto incesantemente con ella. sin dejar atrás ninguna basura. Mi arrogancia de "pocho" se debilitaba con cada viaje que hacía a la caseta.

del soplador se hizo al aire sin

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. Uno debe llegar a ser el dueño del momento. La ineficiencia es una desventaja.

Todo el poder para la máquina y para la persona que son la extension de sus máquina. Esta nocion estaba incrustada en mis huesos hasta que empecé a cuidar del jardín.

Rodolfo tenía razón. Los "norteamericanos," cluyendo 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 substitutos 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. Distribuído 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: Cui- se le parezca, Lupe Espardaarlos si son pobres, ancia- za incluyó en La Ultima nos o enfermos; hacer que se les administre, a tiempo, los inolvidable Reina del Texultimos sacramentos; orar y Mex: Selena. hacer orar por ellos en vida y tor de todos los temas del y saqué una escoba. No era un después de su muerte; y, cum- último disco en la carrera dos principalmente a ayudar dicho que efectivamente a nuestros padres, porque es de toda justicia corresponder cantante texana. a los ciudados que, incansables, nos dieron cuando eramos niños y en nuestra ju- bo, así que yo prefiero que ventud, en nuestras enfermedades y demás problemas.

Los padres deben: Criar y Esparza. mantener a sus hijos, instruirlos o mandarlos instruir en la verdadera religión; educarlos en el amor y en el temor de Dios; darles buen 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 porenir y por su felicidad.

(Efesios 6, 1-3).

# Le dedica canción a la Reina del Tex-Mex!

Lupe Esparza escribe Morena, inspirado en la gran Selena!

MONTERREY, Nuevo León.- Sin pretender causar polémica, ni nada que Huella un tema inspirado en la desaparecida pero

El vocalista y composi-Morena fue escrito pensando en la malograda

"No es una canción dedicada a Selena. Es un tema más de los que escriel público lo interprete y lo relacionen como ellos quieran", dijo inicialmente Lupe

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 Prohibidoy 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 respeto. Quiero aclarar que en ningún momento menciono a Selena", dijo

"El tema habla de cosas, tal vez reales y cada quien las puede manejar a su antojo. No lo hice para llamar la aterición, 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,



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

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 ha-

cer negocio. Por eso de-

cidí donar las regalías de

Qué pena y melancolía

a poquito se olvidan de tí.

el saber que poquito

Si vieras, morena mía,

esta canción", mencionó. Acontinuación, la letra de la canción:

#### MORENA

tus canciones

casi sin sentir.

se van apagando

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 juntitos 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 juntitos 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...

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### AVISO PUBLICO

Breve Declaración Explicativa De La

ENMIENDA CONSTITUCIONAL PROPUESTA ELECCION ESPECIAL

9 DE AGOSTO DE 1997

#### 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 familar, 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 correspondi-

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

ente a 1997.

"Enmienda constitucional que dispone desgravación con respecto al ímpuesto 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

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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 pub-

lic 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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### News Briefs

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

State govenors 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 anew 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

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.

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# Rudolfo's Garden Survives

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 a patrociandores 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-

### 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-

the automatic irrigation system. Rudolfo had ignored it, choosing to water with a hose. The system was timed to give the garden 10 minutes of water each morning. After a few days, I began to grow alarmed: Some of the plants appeared brown. The sun had parched the soil, making it hard and cracked.

Nothing happened when I moved the dials in the system's control box, which commands the sprinkler heads that lie concealed in the ground. Without human intervention, the garden was doomed.

Anything that derives sustenance from electricity baffles me, so I was helpless against the faulty automatic sprinkler. In full retreat, I resorted to the water hose Rudolfo kept in the toolshed. It was awkward to manage and tended to curl like a snake, but I succeeded in giving each plant an individual shower. The effort consumed most of the morning.

As happens with most other gardens, unwanted weeds be-

tura de los curtos 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 unicamente 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.)

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

.ated 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 cam-

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.

The Test of Technology 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 airborne 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 de- . pendent 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

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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."

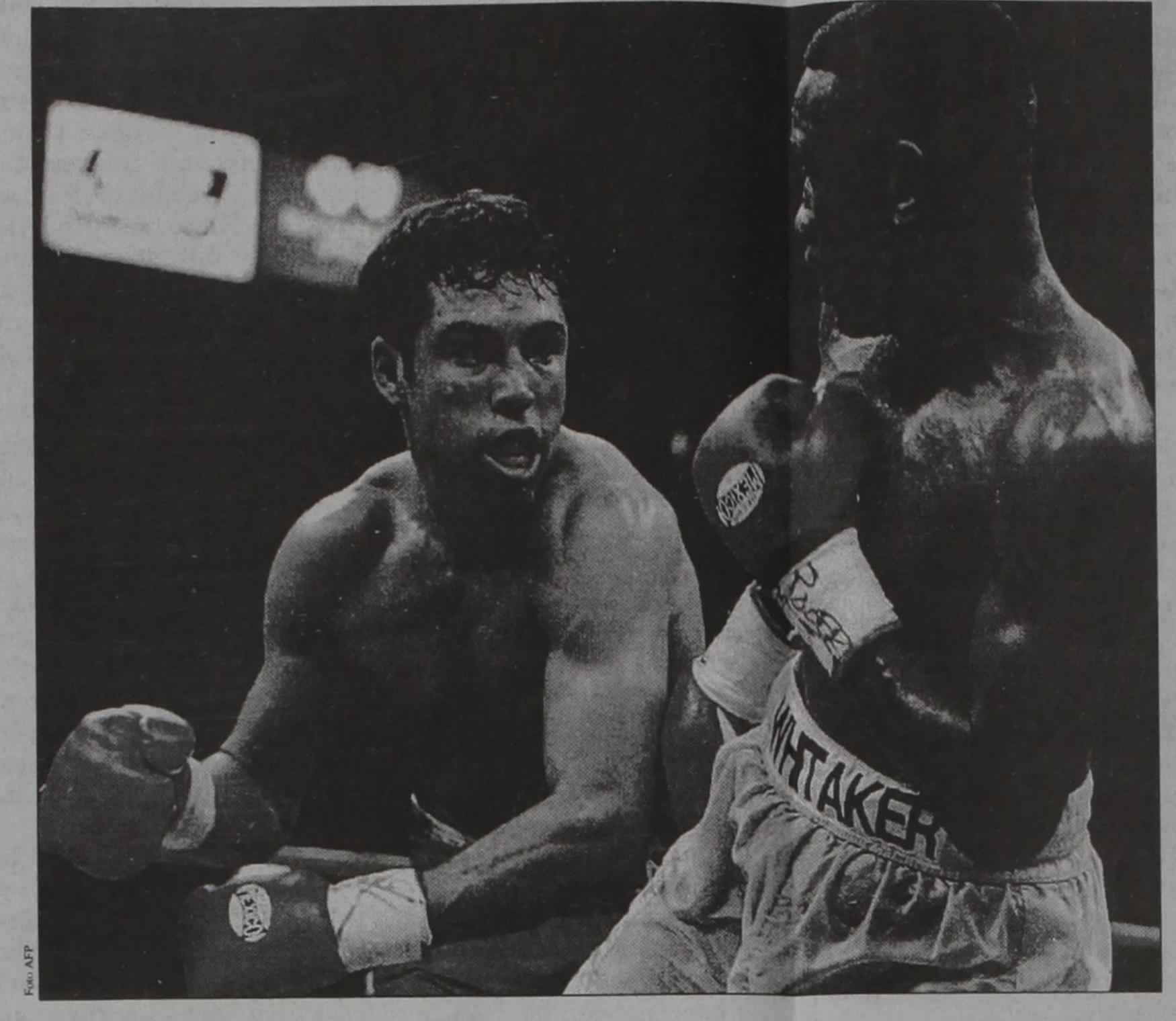
Wise passed on Houston and went home to once again take Dominique to the hospital. This has been going on for about two years because of numerous seizures, the cause of which has yet to be found.

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 10round 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 promote the card.



Aun que Pernell Whiterker perdio a Oscar de la Hoya se espera una revancha. Mientras tantos 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 Septembre.

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. Willie could use a break "Part of the show was sort of tipped it in Willie's favor," documentary about Willie. DiBella said. 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

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

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### 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.



Here Comes Trouble



Muleshoe Vipers



Smashing Pumpkins

# 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 archrival 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 Mac-Arthur 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 this case. Former junior 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 picking apart the best welterweights around. 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 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 thirdround 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 cuse 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.



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