

# NCLR Recognizes Hispanic Medal of Honor

RAUL YZAGUIRRE PRESIDENT, NCLR Dear Readers: Hispanics have a long and proud tradition of military service. Moreover, our immense courage and skill on the battlefield has been recognized and rewarded; 37 Hispanic Americans have received this nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

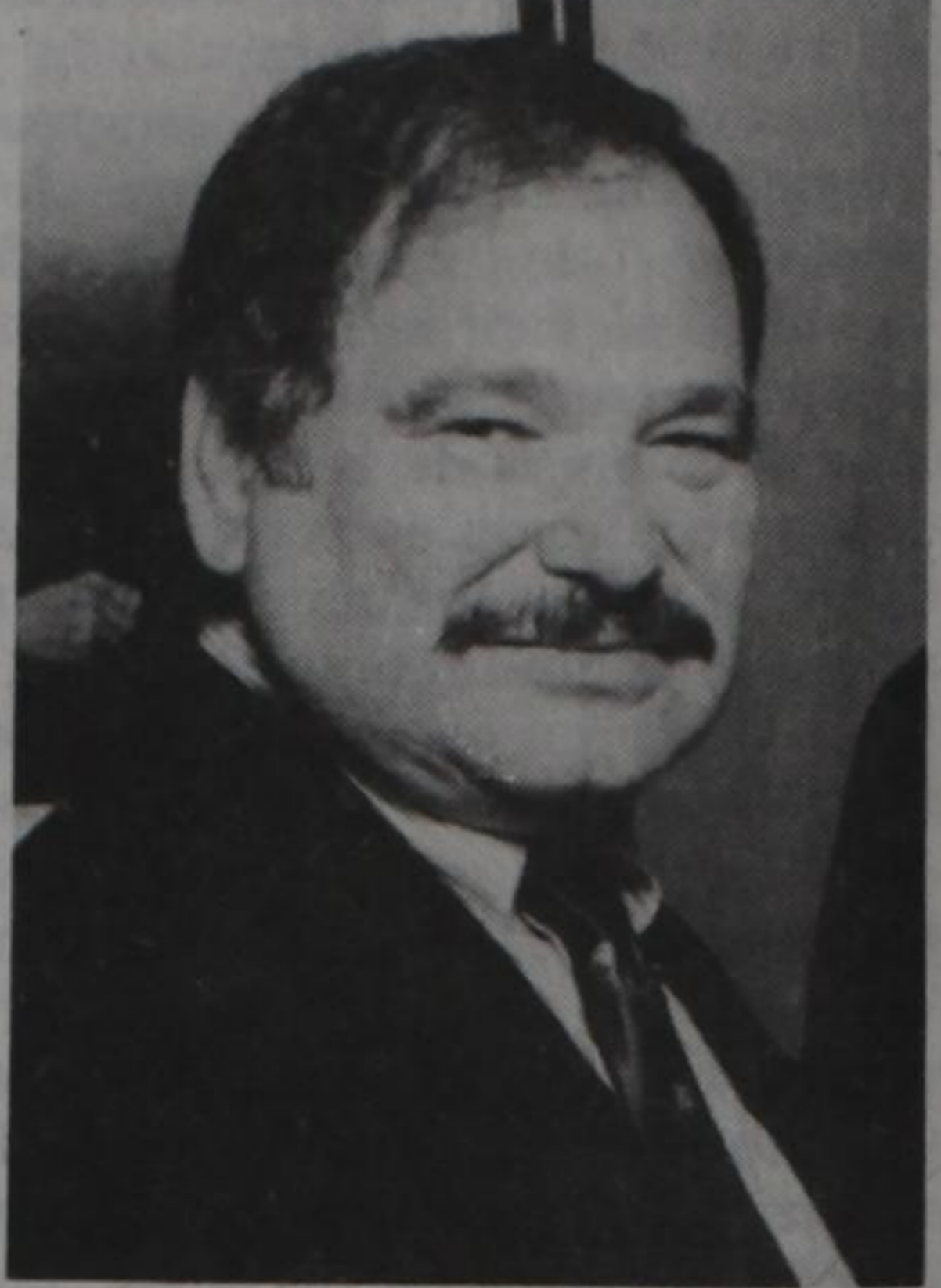
Traditionally, military service has opened doors of opportunities for many Latinos. It is precisely because of the military's historic importance in providing opportunities for upward mobility that every American should be deeply troubled by the findings of NCLR's latest report, A Force Overlooked: Achieving Full Representation of Hispanics in the Department of Defense Workforce.

This issue resonates deeply with me; I am a proud veteran of this country's Armed Forces, having served in the U.S. Air Force. I saw the positive

changes such service fostered in my fellow Latino recruits, in many cases it literally turned their lives around and gave them discipline and direction. And the skills I acquired as a registered medical technologist enabled me to work my way through college. I find it ironic that Latinos are welcomed into the armed forces in times of war, but now are denied the opportunity to serve in peacetime. Is it simply an accident that 25% of front line casualties in Vietnam were Hispanic - when we constituted 5% of the total U.S. population - but only 6% of today's peacetime ranks are Latinos, at a time when we're more than 11% of the population?

Moreover, the polling data collected by the military clearly show that Hispanics have a greater propensity to want to serve in the Armed Forces than other groups. One need not be a conspiracy theorist to suspect there is more happening here

than mere coincidence. This is not just a civil rights issue - although simple justice suggests that any community willing to serve its country in wartime should have an equal opportunity and social cohesion would be well-served if Hispanics, who will constitute the nation's largest ethnic minority early in the next century, were fully afforded the opportunities for the upward mobility associated with peacetime military service. This is also a "readiness" issue. It is simply inconceivable to me that any military commander would wish to degrade the potential quality of the units under his or her command by virtually excluding the skills and talents of the country's fastest growing major population group.



Since its release in January, we have learned that the report has reached the highest echelons of the Pentagon and many of them have found the report's findings disturbing. It is our hope and expectation to report back significant progress on this issue to you sometime in the near future. Sincerely Raul Yzaguirre President

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# News Briefs

## U.S. Investigation Into Alleged Fraud Among Hispanic Radio Stations

Los Angeles - The U.S. Justice Department continues its investigation into allegations of fraud against more than 80 Hispanic radio stations throughout the country accused of receiving kickbacks from record companies in return for promoting their artists. The alarm was sounded two years ago by the Fonovisa record company, which admitted to Justice Department officials that they used unofficial means to promote their singers. Fonovisa, the world's leading independent record company for Spanish-language artists, represents such Latin megastars as Enrique Iglesias, Marco Antonio Solis and Los Tigres del Norte.

The investigation, which has resulted in jail sentences and million-dollar fines for several Fonovisa executives, has expanded to cover other broadcasting stations that may have also accepted bribes, and may also explore whether other record companies may have also offered kickbacks.

The "payola," as the practice of payment for greater exposure of a song on the radio is known, is considered a felony punishable by federal law. Broadcasters are not allowed to accept money in exchange for covert publicity without telling their listeners.

Fonovisa, owned by Mexico's Televisa communications group, has admitted its guilt in distributing more than one million dollars in cash to radio program directors during 1997. During that period of time, Fonovisa artists monopolized the top spots in Hispanic music bestseller lists, a situation that dropped off once the kickbacks stopped.

The investigation is delving into the bank accounts and lifestyles of the suspects in search of irregularities that may be evidence of cash bribes. However, the laxity of punishments applied against Fonovisa has been interpreted as a signal from authorities to encourage cooperation by other involved parties.

## U.S. Proposal To Reform INS Approved By House Subcommittee

Washington - A House subcommittee approved a bill Thursday to reform the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), despite opposition from legislators and advocacy groups. The bill will divide the INS into two bureaus, responsible for immigration enforcement and services, both answering to the Justice Department. The measure was sponsored by Lamar Smith (Rep.-TX), chairman of the House Judiciary immigration subcommittee, Harold Rogers (Rep.-KY), and Silvestre Reyes (Dem.-TX) and endorsed by nearly 90 other lawmakers. Smith said that supervision of the INS would change from the current Commissioner to an Associate Attorney General.

He cautioned that his intention was not to create a "super INS" within the Department of Justice, since the Associate Attorney General would only intervene in issues that involve both of the new bureaus, over which each bureau chief will have authority.

According to Smith, the INS enforcement bureau will handle deportations and keep illegal immigrants and foreign criminals out of U.S. communities, while the services bureau will process requests and provide information more quickly and efficiently.

Jeanne Butterfield, executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, criticized the bill, saying that the Associate Attorney General will not have much say with respect to immigration policies and that the services bureau will not receive the funds necessary for efficient operation. Butterfield also said that the bill would make it more difficult for people wanting to come to this country to be reunited with family members and for companies looking to hire foreign professionals.

Xavier Becerra (Dem.-CA) withdrew his support from the bill, saying it focused more on the INS enforcement function than its services function, which helps immigrants, who are the ones paying for the INS, either through fees or taxes. In a press conference, Becerra said that although he supported the restructuring of the INS, Smith's bill does not allocate enough funds to services, which is what immigrants need.

## Vietnam Brands As Lies U.S. Pow Cuban Torture Charges

Hanoi - The Vietnamese government has branded as lies charges by U.S. prisoners of war that they were tortured by Cuban agents while jailed during the Vietnam War. In a written response to questions submitted by EFE, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials denied recent testimony before the U.S. Congress by two former U.S. POWs that they were tortured by the Cubans.

"Vietnam treated U.S. prisoners of war properly. There was no torture during their captivity," the officials wrote. "The charge that Cubans tortured American prisoners of war in Vietnam is nothing more than an evil fabrication." In televised comments Tuesday, Cuban President Fidel Castro denounced the charges as "a vulgar and cynical lie" and said that it was an attempt by the U.S. government to sabotage the upcoming Ibero-American Summit scheduled for next week in Havana.

In their testimony to a U.S. Congressional foreign relations committee, former POWs Jack Bomar and Raymond Vohden said they were tortured by a Cuban who called himself "Fidel" and who spoke English with an Hispanic accent.

They were interrogated by the Cuban in 1968 while being held in Vietnam and said he was responsible for the death of a fellow prisoner, Earl Cobeil.

The true identity of "Fidel" has yet to be established by U.S. authorities although it is believed he occupied a Cuban ministerial post, according to information from 19 U.S. POWs who were subjected to the so-called "Cuban Program" of torture and interrogation.

An official of the U.S. Defense Department's POW and Missing in Action office said the "Cuban Program" was first reported by former POWs in 1973.

percent. Sixty percent of all Hispanics will live in ten cities: Los Angeles will have 6.9 million; New York City will have 3.8 million; Miami will have 1.5 million; San Francisco and Chicago will each have 1.4 million, and Houston will have 1.3 million. The Hispanic population in San Antonio will reach 1.2 million, while Dallas and McAllen, Texas will each have 900,000. San Diego will have 800,000 Hispanics. The study also found that in 2000, seven U.S. states will have a Hispanic population of over one million inhabitants. In those states, Hispanics will comprise 34 percent of the total population of California; 19.2 percent of the population in Texas; 8.6 percent in New York; in Florida 7.3 percent.

# EL EDITOR

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# Community Unites For César Chávez Paid Holiday

By Ricardo Vazquez  
Californians from all over the state are hoping to start the next millennium with a brand new paid holiday honoring the life of United Farm Workers (UFW) founder César Chávez. "We want to start the new century on a positive light," said Evelina Alarcón, one of the leaders of the Los Angeles UFW Community Committee. It was that organization, staffed entirely by volunteers, that spearheaded the grassroots campaign to make Chávez's birthday on March 31 a holiday commemorating the legacy of the revered civil rights activist. "For me this is really heart warming," said the late leader's son Paul Chávez, "But what's more impressive is that the idea didn't come from the UFW. It was members of the community who felt that a day honoring my father was long overdue that started the campaign. Now, it has taken a life of its own." In fact, the cam-

paign has become a rallying cry for a community that on Saturday will gather for a noon rally in the Latino heart of Los Angeles, La Placita Olvera. Dolores Huerta, UFW secretary-treasurer, will join the rally along with Chávez, who is also president of the UFW's National Farmworker Service Center, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, State Senator Richard Polanco and others. The event no doubt will build momentum for the enactment of the state holiday. "We want our children to have a legacy and a figure they can identify with," said Alarcón. "César Chávez dedicated his life to the struggle for economic and social justice not only for Latinos but for everyone." The campaign is already well underway since Polanco (D-Los Angeles) has already introduced a bill in the Senate that would turn the current memorial holiday into a paid one. "Proper state recognition of César Chávez is long

overdue," said Polanco. "Honoring him in this way will send an important message that California recognizes and values leadership, personal sacrifices and commitment to non-violence that defined [his] life. He's an inspiration and role model for us all." To show the legislature that the bill (SB 984) has overwhelming statewide support, the UFW Community Committee has gathered more than 20,000 signatures, 10,000 more than its original goal. "The response has been tremendous," said Alarcón, who added the idea has been received very positively in the Latino and other communities. "Geraldine Washington, president of the Los Angeles NAACP, gave a very moving testimony about César Chávez's contributions and compared him to Martin Luther King. Also, the head of the Los Angeles county federation of labor had some excellent remarks" said Alarcón. The campaign will probably get

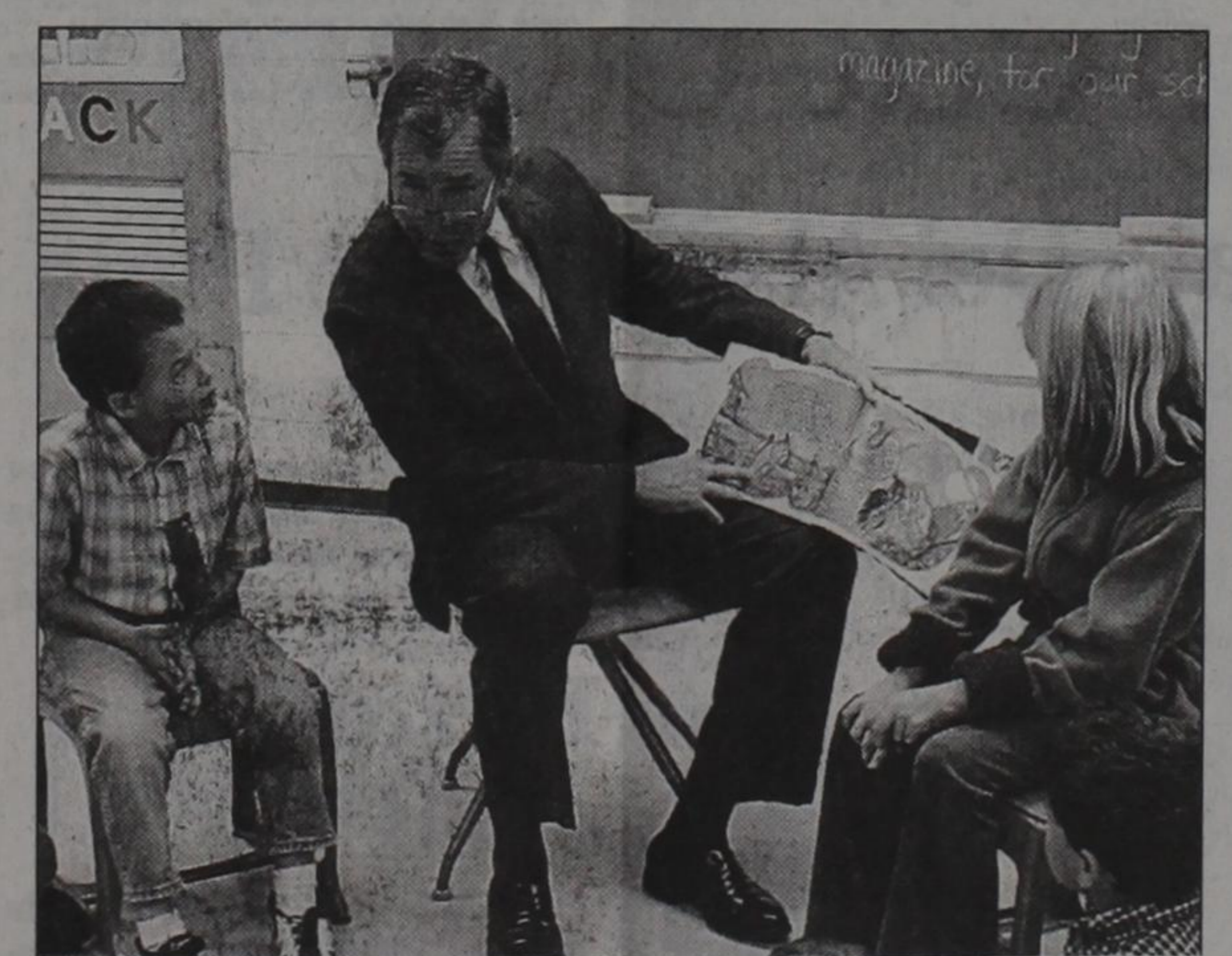
another boost from the Los Angeles City Council, which is expected to approve in the coming week a resolution supporting Senator Polanco's bill. California, said Alarcón, is their first priority, but her organization plans to extend the campaign to other states and eventually go national. Paul Chávez said he expects that commemorating his father's legacy will inspire the next generation of Latino leaders to follow in his footsteps. "It's important we don't lose sight of the fact that a lot of work remains to be done," he said. "If my father were still alive he'd probably scold us for taking time to do this instead of doing the work that needs to be done." But for a generation of Latino youth in search of positive role models, getting a paid holiday honoring César Chávez would be the reminder they need to continue working, as Chávez put it, "until all people of color are treated as first class citizens."

# U.S. Candidato Bush Promueve Retorno De Religion a Escuelas De EEUU

El gobernador de Texas y principal aspirante a la candidatura presidencial por el Partido Republicano, George W. Bush, cree que se debe combatir el "caos moral" de Estados Unidos con la enseñanza religiosa en las escuelas. "Quiero hablar a favor de la educación moral", dijo Bush en un acto político ayer en Gorham, New Hampshire. "La enseñanza es más que la instrucción, y el aprendizaje es más que la alfabetización".

"Hay que enseñarles a nuestros niños a leer y a escribir, pero también hay que enseñarles lo que es bueno y lo que es malo", agregó Bush quien encabeza, con mucha ventaja, las

encuestas de popularidad entre los republicanos. El gobernador dijo que esta a favor de la expresión voluntaria de la religión en las escuelas, e instó a que se enseñen los valores comúnmente aceptados por la sociedad tales como el respeto, los deberes cívicos y el compromiso familiar. Bush agregó que, como presidente, tratará de contrarrestar las políticas del gobierno federal que impiden que los grupos religiosos - como iglesias, sinagogas y mezquitas - participen en programas escolares extra curriculares. Según Bush, los niños deben aprender que el carácter "le da dirección a sus dones y talentos, y dignidad a sus vidas".



# U.S. Future Bright For Increasingly Bilingual Hispanics

By Marcelo Wheelock  
Hispanics in the United States will enjoy more economic opportunities due to their increased bilingualism and the fact they are assimilating more easily into the mainstream culture than other minorities.

"One of the surprises in the report this year is that the Hispanic market is much more bilingual than in previous years," Rick Tobin, president of Strategy Research Corporation (SRC), told EFE. In its study titled "2000 U.S. Hispanic Market Study," SRC found that some 64 percent of Hispanics do not have a strong preference for one or the other language and are

equally proficient in English or Spanish. The study found that 32 percent of Hispanics have no preference as far as the language used for advertisements. However, 14 percent prefer bilingual advertisements and 30 percent want them in Spanish. "The most important facet of the study is that Hispanics now understand English better. Therefore, they will have a better future in this country," Tobin said.

Hispanic purchasing power is expected to grow from 273 billion dollars to about 325 billion, which translates from a current median family income of 32,600 dollars to 34,900

dollars. Due to this, more and more Hispanics are turning to technology. The study found that 30 percent of homes have computers, 19 percent have access to the Internet and 35 percent own and use a cellular telephone. The study, whose results were published Thursday, interviewed 1,600 Hispanics living in the ten main Hispanic markets. By the end of this century, the Hispanic population will have reached 34 million inhabitants to comprise an estimated 12 percent of the total United States population (276 million).

Demographic data is based

on information from the Census Bureau. This means that one of every eight people in the country will be Hispanic by 2000 and by 2015 the total population in the United States is expected to double to 62.7 million. The forecast in the study indicated that persons of Mexican descent will comprise 63.3 percent of the Hispanic population. Those of Central and South American descent will make up 14.8 percent, Puerto Rican descent will make up 10.5 percent, Cuban descent will make up 4.5 percent and descendants from other Latin countries will account for 6.9

# Una Alianza Multicultural Por La Justicia

Por Víctor Páez Torres

A medida que el agente de policía de Riverside, California, René Rodríguez, y su esposa entraban al salón del banquete, 300 partidarios se pusieron de pie al mismo tiempo, vitoreando una bienvenida resonante para su héroe.

Rodríguez fué uno de los buenos agentes de policía de Riverside que sencillamente dijeron la verdad sobre el prejuicio racial, después del trágico ataque a tiros a la adolescente afroamericana Tyisha Miller. Cinco agentes anglosajones fueron despedidos por el departamento de policía.

Sin armas ni placas, la comunidad de Riverside se adelantó para dar a Rodríguez su respaldo muy necesario.

Dos semanas antes, Rodríguez fué presentado en el programa "60 Minutos," que se transmite a todo el país, con Ed Bradley dándole sus 15 minutos de fama. Bradley, altamente respetado, presentó otra vez una tragedia nacional a millones de televidentes, dejándoles para preguntarse a ellos mismos lo que habría de seguir mientras que se desenvolvía la odisea para estos agentes del cumplimiento de la ley que fueron lo suficientemente valerosos como para romper el infame y a menudo rechazado código de silencio de la policía.

En esta noche de octubre en el Restaurant Zacatecas, un comedor del barrio de Riverside, el acontecimiento para recaudar fondos dió nacimiento a

un mosaico multicultural de activismo comunitario. Los pocos segundos de fama del agente Rodríguez lo transformaron a un nuevo papel -- un ídolo de la comunidad.

Rodríguez y su esposa, humildes para la oportunidad, recibieron el aplauso unánime al unísono de sus partidarios, un "staccato" entusiasta y progresivo, que recordaba a la expresión de la época de 1960 de los chicanos de fuerza y propósito. Jóvenes y viejos -- latinos, afroamericanos y blancos -- se pusieron de pie juntos en solidaridad, como cuadraba a un hombre de valor, fuerza y propósito. Un héroe estadounidense.

Sin embargo, para el agente Rodríguez, la adulación y el apoyo estaban a un universo de distancia de aquella mañana fatídica de diciembre, mientras Tyisha Miller yacía sin vida después de una andanada hostil de disparos de armas de fuego de la policía. Desilusionado por la falta de carácter moral y compasión de sus colegas en el cumplimiento de la ley, el agente Rodríguez decidió revelar la injusticia y la intolerancia racial -- hacer lo correcto. Al hacer eso, se situó a sí mismo directamente en el camino del daño.

Después de sus revelaciones, el ostracismo y las represalias por parte de sus colegas agentes llegaron con el tiempo a surtir su efecto. El ambiente de trabajo hostil en el empleo le ocasionó tener que

procurar atención médica. Asombrosamente, la ciudad denegó su solicitud de licencia médica con paga, obligándole a tomar licencia administrativa sin paga. El quedó sin medios de mantener a su familia. Muchos televidentes del programa "60 Minutos" quedaron profundamente conmovidos durante un segmento en el que Rodríguez manifestó angustia y humillación mientras hablaba, con voz suave, de tener que aceptar comida de una iglesia local para mantener a su familia.

Conmovida por el relato asombroso de Rodríguez en la televisión nacional, la comunidad de Riverside reaccionó. Lo que empezó como una gestión comunitaria local para recaudar fondos a fin de ayudarles a él y a su familia, floreció como una misión multicultural unificadora para la justicia social, la habilitación comunitaria y la auto-determinación.

La comunidad de Riverside es un ejemplo punzante de personas que procuran vigorosamente soluciones para una epidemia nacional de abusos por parte de la policía. En una reciente conferencia de la Asociación Nacional de Agentes Latinos de la Paz en Las Vegas, el presidente nacional de la asociación, Adrián García, agente de policía de Houston, Texas, anunció una alianza con el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR en inglés) y otras organizaciones nacionales de los der-

echos civiles, incluyendo a los grupos de agentes de color del cumplimiento de la ley.

La NCLR, en cooperación con la NAACP, la Liga Urbana y la ACLU, está formulando y promoviendo ante el congreso legislación federal sobre los asuntos tales como el "perfil racial," el uso de fuerza mortífera contra personas de color y los problemas de la discriminación en el empleo contra solicitantes y agentes no anglosajón para el cumplimiento de la ley.

Como en otras ciudades de todo el país, los asuntos de la justicia social y la reforma de la policía están convirtiéndose en un asunto principal en Riverside. Este año, el Presidente Clinton reconoció al "perfil racial" como un fenómeno. Sin embargo, durante decenios, las personas de color han sufrido la práctica policiaca diaria de detener a los conductores por "DWB" (conducir siendo negro o hispano). Las prácticas selectivas del cumplimiento de la ley no son nada nuevo. Pero lo que vemos que está sucediendo en Riverside es un reflejo de que las personas de color de la nación están forjando una misión multicultural unificadora de cambio social.

*(Víctor Páez Torres es autor, columnista, conferencista y anteriormente fué agente de patrulla. Su novela, titulada "COPS, el Código de Silencio de la Policía, Detrás de la Línea Azul Fina" (\$21.95) ha sido publicada por Estilo Publishing Company. Es posible comunicarse con Páez Torres por el indicativo de Internet vmp@AT.SIGNpacbell.net. El lugar del libro en la Red es: www.placas.com) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate*

# Un Sepulcro Para Ellos de Honor

Por Rubén Arvizu

Una de las estrofas más emotivas en el marcial Himno Nacional Mexicano es la que dice "Para ti las guirnalda de oliva, un recuerdo para ellos de gloria, un laurel para ti de victoria, un sepulcro para ellos de honor." Sin embargo parece que hasta el momento estos hermosos deseos han sido desoídos para más de 30 restos humanos pertenecientes a soldados y soldaderas mexicanas que cayeron en el campo de batalla de Resaca de la Palma durante la mañana del 9 de mayo de 1846 en el inicio de la injusta guerra México-Americana. Las tropas norteamericanas del general Zachary Taylor sumaban dos mil elementos y llegaron a un lugar donde el camino a Matamoros cruza Resaca de la Palma. Ahí, el general mexicano Mariano Arista se había posesionado con 3000 hombres -- muchos con sus "soldaderas" -- en el denso chaparral que se extendía en las orillas del Río Bravo. En el camino, una batería de cañones cubría el paso hacia el río. Taylor dirigió a sus tropas hacia la batalla. La artillería estadounidense comenzó a disparar. Protegidos por el fuego, la infantería se desplegó en pequeños escuadrones y entró en el chaparral. En cuestión de minutos, los soldados mexicanos y norteamericanos se enlazaron en un fiero combate cuerpo a cuerpo. La combinación de disparos de mosquete, ataques con bayoneta, cargas de caballería y fuego de cañones cobró muchas víctimas en ambos ejércitos.

En Resaca de la Palma murieron 45 estadounidenses y 97 resultaron heridos. Las fuerzas mexicanas tuvieron pérdidas de más de 400 muertos y 228 heridos. Varias unidades del ejército de México, muy especialmente el Batallón Tampico, permanecieron en sus puestos hasta el fin y sólo emprendieron la retirada cuando el fuego de artillería los estaba arrasando. Muchos soldados mexicanos murieron ahogados al ser arrastrados por las poderosas corrientes del Río Bravo. El general Arista intentó una última y desesperada carga de caballería encabezando el ataque pero el superior equipo de artillería norteamericano lo obligó a cruzar el río hacia México.

Los soldados mexicanos que perecieron en este combate dieron su vida defendiendo una causa y con ellos cayeron varias de sus valerosas compañeras que los acompañaban.

Hace 32 años, el 1ero de abril de 1967, durante la construcción de un proyecto habitacional al norte de la ciudad de Brownsville, Texas, los trabajadores de la construcción descubrieron restos humanos. Tres estudiantes graduados en arqueología de la Universidad de Austin llegaron al sitio del hallazgo y permanecieron ahí durante seis días.

Esta era sólo una de las fosas comunes que cubrían el área, se encontraba en lo que había sido el sitio de la batalla de Resaca de la Palma. El contratista decidió ignorar las otras fosas al ver el largo tiempo que tomaban a los arqueólogos hacer sus investigaciones.

Por ello decidió cubrir las demás con materiales de desecho. Muchos residentes locales aprovecharon la confusión para apoderarse de cráneos y otros restos así como botonaduras, restos de armas y otros objetos que yacían junto a las osamentas.

Las osamentas recuperadas fueron llevadas a la Universidad de Austin donde fueron examinadas por expertos en la materia. Los resultados demostraron en forma indudable que se trataba de restos de soldados mexicanos muertos en Resaca de la Palma.

Al continuar con sus investigaciones, los antropólogos texanos pudieron establecer las edades, sexo y posiblemente hasta de qué región de México provenían esos individuos. La edad media es entre 18 a 23 años. El esqueleto de más edad es el de una mujer de posiblemente 50 años. Su composición ósea indica que la mayoría eran personas que vivían en regiones costeras. Es muy posible que estos sean restos del valiente Batallón Tampico. Cuando se contempla estos despojos humanos encontrados en Brownsville, como es el caso del que esto escribe, no podemos dejar de sentir un enorme respeto por ellos, por lo que representan o deberían representar para los mexicanos. Viene este comentario ante el hecho de que desde 1972 se han hecho intentos por regresar estos venerables restos a México para que reciban una digna y cristiana sepultura. Sin embargo, ante la apatía e indiferencia de las autoridades mexicanas, continúan hasta esta fecha esperando su repatriación aguardando que el gobierno en turno les haga la justicia que merecen.

Hay ahora un rayo de esperanza de que esta deshonrosa actitud sea rectificada. La National Association of Hispanic Publications (Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas) de los Estados Unidos ha decidido emprender una campaña con miras a recuperar a esos héroes y llevarlos a México para que reciban el homenaje que merecen y reposen honrosamente en su última morada.

No podemos permitir que pase más tiempo, que entremos a otro siglo y a otro milenio arrastrando impedimentos burocráticos y ceguera política. Un pueblo que niega o ignora su historia es un pueblo sin memoria. Y una nación sin memoria no puede aspirar a aprender del pasado y mejorar en el presente y en el futuro.

Invitamos a los lectores de (NOMBRE DE LA PUBLICACION) para que se comuniquen al consulado mexicano de su localidad y expresen su opinión sobre este triste y penoso tema. Es importante que demostremos que los hispanos que vivimos en los Estados Unidos somos personas conscientes y respetuosas de nuestra historia. Que no cejaremos hasta que esos venerables despojos humanos dejen de estar almacenados en unas cajas en el laboratorio de un centro de estudios y descansen para siempre en la tierra que los vio nacer.

No podemos celebrar en septiembre las fiestas de Independencia sin antes pedir justicia para estos héroes ignorados.

## El Editor Newspapers

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entire face. Her eyes watered after sampling salsa, but if I ate it, she insisted we share, the slow hurt melting her face after my one "no" -- enough to convince me that whatever stomach distress she felt was acceptable if she was happy with me.

I taught her words and colors, and matched animals to their mutterings, mystifying her once with a huge fish tank and its bubbles arising, she thought, from the puckered mouths of the fish inside. I bathed her and wiped her, and once after she was exhausted from an afternoon of swimming and singing and fell asleep in the car seat, I turned on the air conditioner, left the engine running, locked the doors, placed the spare key under the right rear tire, skulked to the lake's edge and nudged a needle into my arm, unable even after being bathed by her smile to put away my perversions.

When they finally brought her to me -- after four years of bluff and pose in maximum security, where I was not allowed contact visits and thus decided to delay seeing her -- I was frantic. That she wouldn't know me; that she would but wouldn't fit into my arms, grown awkward in their emptiness. I practiced. Ashamed of my contortions, I'd turn off the cell lights and bend from the waist, imagining her heft. I'd fall to one knee, unsure of her height, and pull the air to one side or another.

She made my preparations unnecessary, sprinting to me and jumping into my grasp. Later as we sat next to each other, her squirming hand in mine, she looked at me furtively, from the corners of her eyes, and cried, "Daddy, where's your mustache?" I realized this 6-year-old had worried over the meeting just as I had; that not only had she gone to her first class, learned to ride a bicycle, played her first ball game, all without a father, through no fault of her own -- but that my daughter had walked under the razor wire without even a memory of me, with only an outdated photo to guide her.

*(Jorge Antonio Renaud is serving a 60-year sentence as a three-time offender in Texas state prison in Huntsville.) (c) 1999, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate.*

# A Multicultural Covenant for Justice

By Víctor Páez Torres

As Riverside, Calif., police officer René Rodríguez and his wife entered the banquet hall, 300 supporters stood together, cheering a resounding welcome for their hero.

Rodríguez was one of Riverside's good cops who simply told the truth about racial bias following the tragic shooting of African-American teen-ager Tyisha Miller. Five white officers were fired by the department.

With neither gun nor badge, the community of Riverside came forward to provide Rodríguez his much-needed backup.

Two weeks earlier, he was featured on CBS' nationally broadcast "60 Minutes" -- being interviewed by Ed Bradley -- which provided Rodríguez his 15 minutes of fame. The highly respected Bradley once again cast a national tragedy upon millions of viewers, keeping them wondering what was to follow as the saga unfolded for these law-enforcement officers courageous enough to break the infamous and often refuted code of police silence.

This October evening at the Zacatecas restaurant, Riverside's barrio eatery, the fundraising event gave birth to a multicultural mosaic of com-

munity activism. Officer Rodríguez's few seconds of fame transformed him into a new role -- that of community icon.

Rodríguez and his wife, humble to the occasion, received the supporters' unison hand-clap, an enthusiastic and progressive staccato, reminiscent of the '60s Chicano expression of strength and purpose. Young and old -- Latino, African-American and white -- stood together in solidarity, befitting a man of courage, strength and purpose. An American hero.

Yet to Officer Rodríguez, the adulation and support was a universe away on that fateful December morning, as Tyisha Miller lay lifeless from a barrage of hostile police gunfire. Disillusioned by a lack of moral character and compassion from his law-enforcement peers, Officer Rodríguez chose to uncover injustice and racial intolerance -- to do the right thing. In doing that, he placed himself directly in harm's way.

Following his revelations, the ostracism and retaliation by his fellow officers eventually took its toll. The hostile work environment on the job caused him to seek medical attention. Astonishingly, the city denied his request for medical leave with pay, forcing him to take

administrative leave without pay. He was left with no means of support for his family.

Many "60 Minutes" viewers were deeply moved during a segment in which Rodríguez expressed anguish and humiliation as he spoke, ever so softly, of having to accept food from a local church to feed his family.

Moved by the story, the community of Riverside responded. What started out as a local community fund-raising effort to assist him and his family blossomed into a unifying multicultural mission for social justice, community empowerment and self-determination.

The community of Riverside is a poignant example of people of color vigorously seeking solutions to a national epidemic of police abuse. At a recent National Latino Peace Officers Association conference in Las Vegas, the association's national president, Adrian García, a police officer from Houston, Texas, announced an alliance with the National Council of La Raza and other national civil rights organizations, including law-enforcement groups of officers of color.

NCLR, in cooperation with the NAACP, the Urban League

and the American Civil Liberties Union, is formulating and promoting to Congress federal legislation on such issues as racial profiling, deadly use of force against people of color, and problems of employment discrimination against non-white law-enforcement applicants and officers.

As in other cities across the nation, the issues of social justice and police reform are becoming mainstreams in Riverside. This year President Clinton acknowledged racial profiling as a mainstream phenomenon. Yet for decades, people of color have experienced the daily police practice of stopping drivers for "DWB" -- driving while black, or brown.

Selective law-enforcement practices are nothing new. But what we see occurring in Riverside is a reflection of the nation's people of color forging a unifying multicultural mission of social change.

*(Víctor Páez Torres is an author, columnist, lecturer and former street cop. His novel, "COPS, Code of Police Silence, Behind The Thin Blue Line" (\$21.95) is published by Estilo Publishing Company. Torres can be reached at vmp@AT.SIGNpacbell.net. The book Web site is www.placas.com) (c) 1999, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate*

# Ella Llego A Mi Por Debajo Del Alambre De Puas

Por Jorge Antonio Renaud

Estoy esclavizado a una serie de anuncios de revistas, elogios de seguros que destacan a niñas y a sus padres. En uno de ellos, una de 3 o 4 años de edad juega a ser peluquera, bromeando y rizando el cabello de su padre absorto mientras él está sentado leyendo. En otro, una niña que le faltan dientes le sonríe a su padre, ofreciéndole el diente de ella. Un veterano a quien le falta un brazo saluda en un anuncio, con su gancho de hierro en la frente, mientras que su princesa que sólo le llega a la cintura sujeta su brazo bueno y le mira con adoración. Esos anuncios me dejan desconsolado. Hojeo las revistas en busca de otros más. Tiran de mí, estas niñas, y me recuerdan con recuerdos.

Mi hija tiene 10 años de edad. La he visto quizás dos docenas de veces desde que ella tenía 18 meses de edad. Le he escrito dos veces al mes desde entonces, cajas de cartón llenas de cartas y tarjetas dirigidas a mi hija, aún cuando ella podía hacer poco más que mordisquear el sobre. Ella me envía por correo un garabato o un dibujo a veces, y mis álbumes de fotografías están llenos de sus imágenes. Pero nada de eso es suficiente.

Mi hija y yo nos queremos. Tenemos secretos edificadas sobre mala conducta. Yo era padre por primera vez y no podía negarle nada. Al principio, se me aconsejó que le diera solamente leche, agua y jugo de manzana, pero una vez le dejé que probara la sandía.

Su deleite asombrado me convenció de que ella merecía también papaya y mango. Después, cuando la sacaba a pasear, ella gritaba: "¿Jugo?" y yo vaciaba su botella en el tragante, compraba cualquier sabor exótico que yo quisiera y lo compartía con ella. Recorríamos Austin, mi ciudad natal de Texas, con ella sorbiendo y ofreciéndome solemnemente un sorbo. Nos murmurábamos y gruñíamos uno al otro, unidos por la rebelión.

Ella insistió una vez en que quería limón y eso le bañó toda la cara. Sus ojos se humedecieron después de probar la "salsa," pero si yo la comía, ella insistía en que la compartiéramos, con la tristeza lenta derriéndose su cara después de un sólo "no" por mi parte -- lo suficiente como para convencerme de que cualquier dolor de estómago que ella sintiera era aceptable, si ella era feliz conmigo.

Le enseñé palabras y col-

ores, y unía a los animales con sus murmullos, sorprendiéndola una vez con una pecera enorme y sus burbujas, que ella creía que surgían de las bocas abiertas de los peces que había

dentro.

La bañé y la sequé, y una vez, después que ella estaba agotada por una tarde de nadar y cantar, y se quedó dormi-

# Under The Razor Wire She Reached Me

By Jorge Antonio Renaud

I am in thrall to a series of magazine advertisements, insurance blurbs that feature young girls and their fathers. In one, a 3- or 4-year-old plays hairdresser, teasing and curling her bemused papi's hair as he sits reading. In another, a gap-toothed girl grins at her dad, offering him her tooth. A one-armed veteran salutes in one ad, iron hook to his forehead as his thigh-high princess grips his good arm and adoringly looks up at him. They leave me disconsolate. I thumb through magazines in search of more. They pluck at me, these little girls, and flay me with memories.

My daughter is 10. I've seen her perhaps two dozen times since she was 18 months old. I've written twice a month since then, cartons full of letters and cards addressed to mi hija, even when she could do little but

gnaw the envelope. She mails me a scrawl or a drawing on occasion, and my photo albums are full of her images. None of it suffices.

We were in love, mi hija and I. We had secrets, built on misbehavior. I was a first-time father and could deny her nothing. Early on, I was advised to give her only milk, water and apple juice, but once I let her taste watermelon.

Her astounded delight convinced me she was worthy of papaya and mango. Thereafter, when I'd take her on an outing, she'd yell, "Juice?" and I'd empty her bottle in the gutter, buy whatever exotic flavor I wanted and split it with her. We'd tour Austin, my Texas home, she slurping and solemnly offering me a sip. We'd hum and growl at each other, bonded by rebellion.

She once insisted she wanted lemon, and it puckered her

**Los Altares Para Los Muertos:**

**¿Objetos De Arte O Ritual Religioso?**

Por Victor Landa

Aquí en San Antonio, fui invitado por lo menos a una docena de "inauguraciones" de exhibiciones de "arte de altares" para el Día de Muertos este año.

Nunca imaginé que el conmemorar el Día de Muertos en noviembre se convertiría en un acontecimiento artístico, pero aparentemente la tradición se ha convertido bastante en un acontecimiento de elegancia.

Es gracioso cómo un par de velas, un cuadro, algunas comidas y unas chucherías surtidas pueden ser arte para algunos y rituales para otros. Hay que caminar conscientemente a través de estas exhibiciones, o por lo menos dar la impresión de que se "capta" el punto. El punto es una expresión visual, en color, textura y simbolismo, de algo que no tiene ninguna equivalencia objetiva.

Recuerdo el Día de Muertos en Nuevo Laredo. Recuerdo el haber chupado caña de azúcar, el sonido del machete del vendedor cortando tallos largos y verdes en pedazos más manijables y comestibles. Recuerdo a las mujeres sentadas en la acera frente al cementerio, pregonando mientras pasábamos junto a ellas, con sus delantales rebosando de flores silvestres. Recuerdo haber caminado a través de un laberinto de lápidas sepulcrales y mausoleos, temeroso de profanar la tumba de alguien al pisarla accidentalmente.

Recuerdo al hombre cuyo trabajo era limpiar las sepulturas. Esto es lo que más recuerdo. El se ofrecía para hacer el trabajo a base de encargos individuales. El principio de noviembre era como su Navidad, trabajando de sol a sol, aprovechando el último destello de luz en las tardes del otoño que cada día disminuía. En una mano llevaba una cubeta llena de agua, y en la otra un cepillo pesado y gastado.

En la cara llevaba la solemnidad exigida para dicho trabajo y derramaba el agua sobre la tumba, y se inclinaba para limpiar el mármol. Sacaba un cepillo de dientes de su bolsillo trasero. Con él, limpiaba meticulosamente cada una de las letras del nombre del difunto, las fechas de nacimiento y muerte, su situación en la vida -- madre, padre, hija, hijo. Me pregunto lo que pensaría el viejo limpiador de tumbas de la tendencia de considerar a los altares como arte.

Los altares del Día de Muertos que recuerdo eran personales y caprichosos. Parecía haber poca preocupación por el espacio, la simetría, la iluminación o el color. No tenía sentido para ellos el ir más allá de la conexión sagrada entre las almas a través del tiempo. Nadie caminaba alrededor de ellos vistiendo ropas a la moda, con bebidas en las manos, sin-

tiéndose "culturales." Nadie trataba de comprenderlos o de conectarse con ellos. En verdad, los altares tradicionales que recuerdo estaban casi ocultos de la vista -- guardados en los espacios interiores, privados, reclusos.

Lo que parece estar ocurriendo es que El Día de Muertos está siendo transformado lentamente en este país. Lo que debería ser un ritual solemne y sagrado -- algunos dirían que pagano -- se ve como una extensión intelectual del Halloween. No me sorprendería escuchar pronto de una fiesta de disfraces para el Día de Muertos.

Y no es que un Día de Muertos tradicional no sea una celebración. Siempre hubo un aire festivo que rodeaba nuestros viajes al cementerio. Todo el campamento era una explosión de flores y movimiento. Fuera de los muros del cementerio, los vendedores se alineaban a ambos lados de la acera amplia, vendiendo de todo, desde gorditas bien fritas hasta crucifijos rústicos de madera, rosarios y escapularios.

El tránsito era un caos increíble. Autobuses inclinados de un lado, recargados de pasajeros que se sujetaban de las puertas y ventanas, columnas gruesas de humo oscuro que se levantaban del tubo de escape; automóviles y camiones haciendo sonar sus bocinas in-

cesantemente y acelerando sus motores, bicicletas, paleteros y eloteros, así como personas que atravesaban por en medio del tránsito. Pero había un lugar donde todo eso terminaba. Más allá de las puertas del cementerio, el caos quedaba atrás. Lo que ha sucedido es que muchas personas, en nombre de la cultura y del arte, han tomado el ritual y lo han puesto en la acera -- con los globos y las figuritas de plástico duro de "El Santo" y "El Demonio Azul."

Lo que es peor, un ritual del que se supone sea una conexión sentida profundamente con los difuntos y una expresión desprendida de amor, se ha convertido en muchos casos en una mera reflexión de un estado de ánimo, una clase de desafío cultural.

Me pregunto por qué es que hemos llegado a sentir la necesidad de burlarnos de las tradiciones sagradas que de otro modo se mantendrían profundamente privadas.

¿O es burla quizás? Algunos lo calificarían de expresión de identidad cultural sin pedir disculpas.

Yo no sabía que hubiera necesidad para no dar disculpas. (Victor Landa es director de noticias de KVDA-TV60, la afiliada de Telemundo en San Antonio, Texas.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate

**U.S. Anti-Drug Directors Coordinate Efforts**

Washington - Drug abuse is "the principal explanation for crime in the United States," and a problem that has spread throughout the Americas, the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey, said Thursday.

The heads of anti-drug units from 34 Western Hemisphere nations opened a meeting today in Washington to coordinate their strategies, establish new evaluation mechanisms and multilateral controls, despite criticisms by experts and groups that claim the "war" on drugs has been a failure.

"Barely 6 percent of the population of the United States uses illegal drugs," McCaffrey said, "Of those 13 million users, some 4.2 million are chronic users." "However, the problem is that those users have too much money, spending 57 billion dollars per year on illegal drugs," McCaffrey said, adding "Drugs are the root of all of the social ills in the United States and are linked to a third of all industrial accidents and crimes such as sexual assaults." McCaffrey praised what he described as a "new spirit of cooperation" in which all of the nations of the hemisphere are willing participants in repressing the production and distribution of drugs and providing treatment for addicts.

One of the principal aspects being discussed at the conference is the new establishment of a Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) that would be more acceptable to other na-

tions in the Americas instead of the controversial unilateral Certification Process the United States has employed in recent years. "We have put years of pointing an accusatory finger at others behind us," McCaffrey said.

The most publicized moment of the opening session, sponsored by The Organization of American States Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse, was the release of satellite imagery showing the decline of coca plant cultivation in Bolivia. For more than a decade, Bolivia alternated with Peru as the top producer of coca leaf in the world. Cocaine is extracted from the coca leaves then

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**Noticias Breves**

EE.UU. Y Países

**Subdesarrollados Defienden La Muerte**

por Antonio Lafuente

Naciones Unidas - La soberanía, la diferencia de valores, la cultura y la religión son los argumentos que esgrimen con vehemencia un buen número de países subdesarrollados y Estados Unidos para justificar la aplicación de la pena de muerte. La ardiente defensa de la muerte como máximo castigo se produce estos días en la Asamblea General de la ONU, a vez de un proyecto de resolución, introducido por la Unión Europea, que pide una moratoria en la aplicación de la pena capital. El representante de Estados Unidos, Richard Hoolbroke, se limitó a señalar que "es una cuestión interna".

Otros que se revuelven contra la idea de poner en suspenso la pena capital destaca China, país que en 1997 ejecutó 1.876 personas y hasta hace poco hacía pagar a las familias de los ajusticiados la bala con que eran muertos. Coincidiendo con las constantes críticas en muchos países por las violaciones de los derechos humanos en China, Sun Ang, representante de Pekín, declaró que su país "ha cumplido siempre sus obligaciones respecto a los tratados" relacionados con los derechos fundamentales de las personas.

A continuación afirmó que "respeto la elección de algunos países de abolir la pena de muerte", pero expuso que hay argumentos "sociales, históricos y culturales" para "respetar" que otras naciones, como la suya, opten por ese castigo. Por si fueran pocas sus razones, Ang añadió la soberanía nacional para rechazar la petición de la Unión Europea. El representante de Trinidad y Tobago, George Wisnton, se acogió al reconocimiento que de la pena de muerte hacen los tratados internacionales para su justificación. Singapur, por boca de su diplomático Kishore Mahbubani, acusó a la UE de "una tremenda falta de sensibilidad cultural" para comprender "las consideraciones sociales, culturales y religiosas" por las que otros países justifican la pena capital.

El diplomático sirio Mikhail Wehbe apeló al "principio de no injerencia en los asuntos internos" para rechazar las razones de la Unión Europea. Wehbe agregó que "cada país es único" y que, por ello, ninguna otra nación debe "imponer sus puntos de vista". El enviado de El Cairo, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, se alineó con las tesis de las diferencias "culturales y religiosas" y dijo que "hay una diferencia conceptual respecto a la pena capital", que no es comprendida por la UE. Munawar Saeed Bhatti, que habló por Pakistán, país en el que hace unas semanas el Ejército dio un golpe de Estado para derrocar el régimen democráticamente establecido, dijo que "la pena de muerte pertenece a la materia de lucha contra el crimen y la Justicia penal". "Muchas naciones han creado sociedades virtualmente libres del crimen a través de efectivas medidas de prevención", agregó Bhatti, quien no dio uno solo ejemplo de esos países.

Entre los países en desarrollo que se oponen a la pena de muerte está Eslovenia, para cuya representante Eva Tomic, "cualquier iniciativa para restringir su uso es bienvenida". También Colombia, por medio del embajador Alfonso Valdivieso, expresó su opinión de "que la vida humana es un derecho inalienable". Valdivieso explicó que en su país, "a lo largo de los actos de conflicto interno, algunas voces han pedido el restablecimiento de la pena capital, pero destacó que, pese a ello, "la gran mayoría estima que debe continuar abolida". Y entre los países desarrollados, la gran excepción es La resolución de la UE, que será votada probablemente la próxima semana, exhorta a los Estados que todavía mantienen la pena de muerte a que "consideren la posibilidad de suspender las ejecuciones con miras a su abolición completa. La UE considera la pena de muerte como un acto que va en contra de los derechos humanos, argumento al que apenas entraron los países que apoyan ese castigo.

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**Altars For the Dead:**

**Objects of Art or Religious Ritual?**

By Victor Landa

Here in San Antonio, I was invited to at least a dozen "openings" of Día de los Muertos "altar art" shows this year.

I never imagined that November's Day of the Dead observance would become an artistic event, but apparently the tradition has become quite the chic happening.

It's funny how a couple of candles, a picture, some food and assorted knickknacks can be art to some, and ritual to others. One must walk knowingly through these shows, or at least give the impression that you "get" the point. The point being a visual expression, in color and texture and symbolism, of something that has no objective equal.

I remember El Día de los Muertos in Nuevo Laredo. I remember sucking on sugar cane, the sound of the vendor's machete splitting long green stalks into manageable, edible pieces. I remember the women sitting on the sidewalk in front of the cemetery calling out as you walked past, their aprons overflowing with wild flowers. I remember walking through a maze of tombstones and mausoleums, afraid of desecrating someone's grave by accidentally stepping on it.

I remember the man whose job it was to clean the graves. This I remember the most. He hired himself out on a per-job basis. Early November was like his Christmas, working from dawn until dusk, stealing the last glimmer of light from the shrinking autumn evenings. With one hand he carried a bucket spilling over with water, and with his other hand he carried a heavy, worn-out brush.

On his face he carried the required solemnity of such a task as he sloshed the water on the grave, then stooped over to scrub the marble. He took a toothbrush from his back pocket. With it, he meticulously cleaned each letter of the deceased's name, the dates of birth and death, the station in life -- madre, padre, hija, hijo. I

wonder what the old grave cleaner would think of the altars-as-art trend.

The Día de los Muertos altars I remember were personal and haphazard. There seemed to be little care for spacing, symmetry, lighting or color. There was no point to them beyond the sacred connection between souls through time. No one milled around them in trendy clothes, drinks in hand, feeling "cultural." No one tried to understand them or connect with them. In fact, the traditional altars I remember were almost hidden from sight -- kept in the inner spaces, private, secluded.

What seems to be happening is that El Día de los Muertos is slowly being transformed in this country. What should be a solemn, sacred -- some would say "pagano" -- ritual is seen as a high-brow extension of Halloween. It wouldn't surprise me to hear soon of a Day of the Dead costume party.

Not that a traditional Día de los Muertos is not a celebration. There was always a festive air surrounding our trips to the cemetery. The entire campamento was an explosion of flowers and movement. Outside the walls of the cemetery, the vendors lined up on each side of the wide sidewalk, selling everything from deep-fried gorditas to rustic wooden crucifixes, rosaries and scapulars.

The traffic was a hopeless chaos. Buses tilting to one side, laden with riders clinging to doors and windows, thick plumes of dark smoke rising from the exhaust, cars and trucks endlessly honking and revving, bicycles and paleteros and eloteros and people crossing between the traffic. But there was a place where it ended.

Inside the gates of the cemetery, the chaos was left behind.

What's happened is that many people, in the name of culture and art, have taken the ritual and placed it on the sidewalk -- with the balloons and the hard plastic figurines of El Santo and El Blue Demon.

What's worse, a ritual that's supposed to be a deep-felt connection with the departed and a selfless expression of love has become in many cases a mere reflection of a state of mind, a kind of cultural defiance.

I wonder why it is that we've come to feel a need to flaunt the sacred traditions that would otherwise be held deeply private.

Or is it flaunting at all? Some would call it an unapologetic expression of cultural identity.

I didn't know there was a need to not apologize. (Victor Landa is news director of the Telemundo affiliate KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio, Texas.) (c) 1999, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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# Texas Tech Sammy Morris: Leader On & Off the Field

By ANDY PENNEY, Texas Tech Athletic Media Relations

If the life of a student athlete is not already full of enough excitement, Texas Tech full-back Sammy Morris has made sure that his life is. The senior from San Antonio is juggling the life of a student athlete along with being a husband and a newly-crowned father.

Morris and his wife, Leslie, became the proud parents of their first child, Kiera, on Sept. 17. The arrival of their new, fragile baby girl, already sporting a full head of hair, is just another piece in the heart-warming return of Sammy Morris.

Morris' playing days at Tech began in 1996. He played in eight games that season, compiling more than 400 all-purpose yards and scoring five touchdowns. His game-winning, 81-yard touchdown reception against A&M at Kyle Field can still be seen on Raider Vision before every home game.

The touchdown against the Aggies had Morris on top of the world. Unfortunately, it would be the last touchdown Morris would score for a while. Problems in the classroom led to an academic suspension, leaving Morris uncertain of his future.

Two years away from the game of football, Morris had a chance to reflect on what was important to him. In 1997, Morris moved home with his

family in San Antonio. He contemplated between continuing his childhood dream of playing in the National Football League or leaving football behind and joining the Air Force Academy.

"In '96, I was too worried about what Sammy wanted to do, and not what was best for my life," Morris said. "It was a selfish thing and I was not focusing. The stuff I was doing wasn't conducive to my goals of going to the NFL, or family, or anything. I was just wondering aimlessly."

"Those two years away were rough, especially in '97. My family was great while I was in San Antonio, and my parents just kept in on my heart that I still had goals. My brother Brien was in the Air Force, and he told me that wasn't what I wanted to do. He kept telling me, 'You really want to go to the NFL.' They all helped me stick it out in '97."

With the support he received from his family, Morris dedicated his life to Jesus Christ; a decision Morris says has changed his whole perspective on life.

"It was still tough in '98 being away from football, but I had a new peace because of 'W. C.: With Christ,'" Morris said. "As many times in my life that I felt God was tugging at my heart, He finally just took me



Sammy Morris

and grabbed a hold of me. I finally had to rid of the old Sammy Morris and keep moving forward and do what God wanted to do with my life."

After the 1998 season, Morris regained his eligibility and returned to the practice field. His hard work in the classroom earned Morris the football team's Clint Ramsey Academic Effort Award following the season. He was also named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll for the fall semester.

Sammy and Leslie were married in Lubbock on Aug. 22, 1998. Sammy's faith in Christ eventually led Leslie into a strong faith of her own. The relationship between the two portrays their Christian beliefs.

"It's wonderful being married to a wonderful Christian guy that looks up to God and that's his main focus," Leslie said.

The time has past. Morris returned to Jones Stadium for the first time in more than two seasons, competing at the game he has loved since his playing days in the streets of San Antonio.

"I think Sammy has responded great because he has been through a lot," Texas Tech head coach Spike Dykes said. "Life is not always downhill. You've got a bunch of uphill and Sammy has had a good perspective. He never has quit believing in himself. He's done a nice job of preparing for this and it's a great opportunity and I think he's going to make the most of it. But he's really eager to play, he's waited a long time, and it's a big thrill for him, and I think it's obvious in the way he plays."

Many of the 53,513 on hand to witness Texas Tech's 21-19 upset of Texas A&M Oct. 2 had their first chance to see Morris in action. Morris showed no signs of rust, rushing for 170 yards on 33 carries, including his first touchdown of the season. His performance earned him Big 12 Offensive Player of

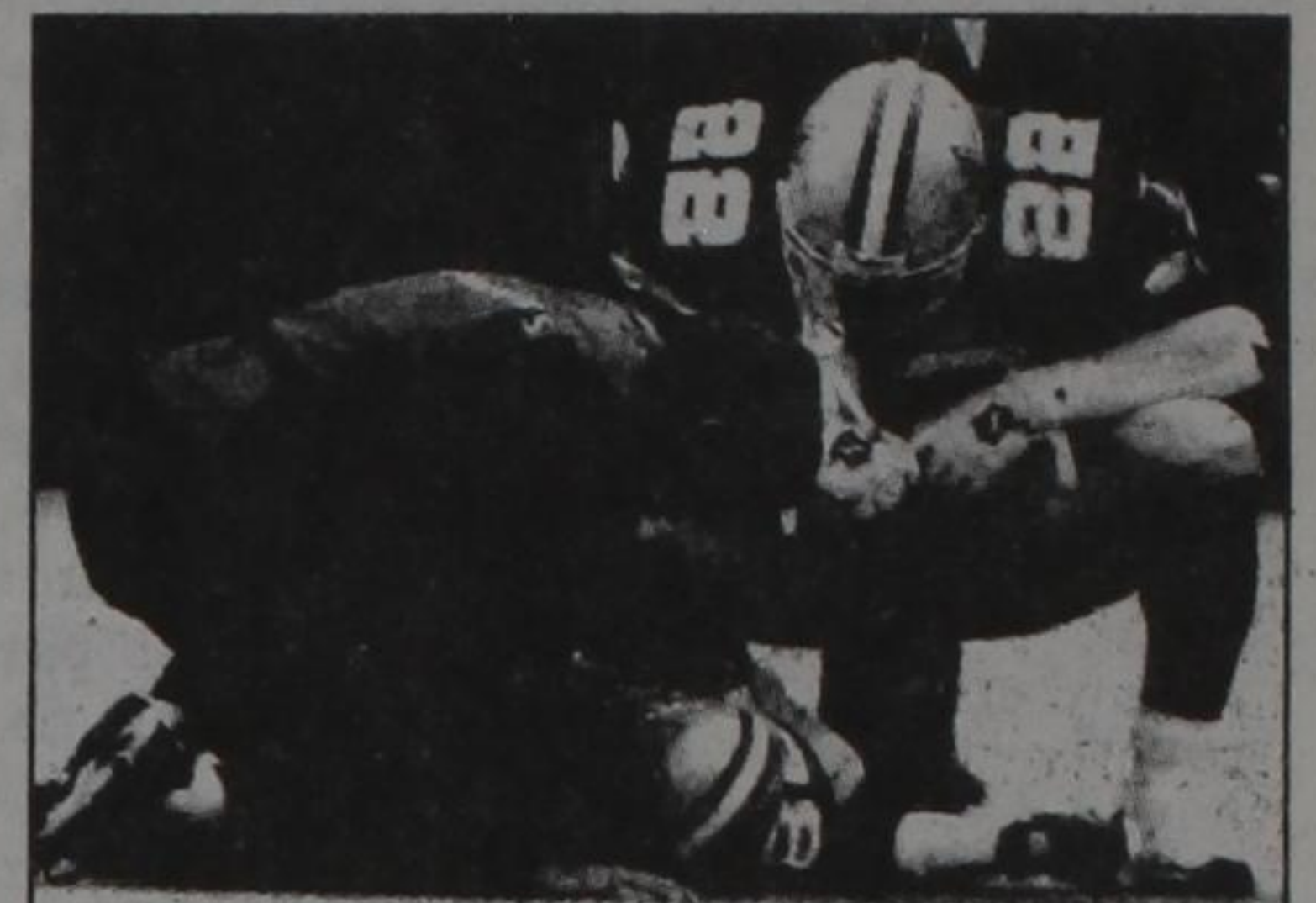
the Week honors. Red Raider fans had numerous reasons to show their emotion. But after all the high-fives, guns up, and goal posts down, Morris had other reasons to celebrate.

"Everyone has been calling it the return of Sammy Morris, and being able to come back and get a great victory against the fifth-ranked team in the nation was just a great feeling. It felt good to go out there on our home turf and bring the goal post down and get a victory," Morris said.

The heroics against the Aggies helped Morris stamp on the final exclamation mark in his climb back from a world full of doubt and denial to a testimony of perseverance. Morris' victory against adversity has helped him make it back to the top of college football. His new character and strength also plays a key role in his life away from the game, including his marriage and fatherhood.

## Cowboys' aging nucleus

The immediate focus is getting healthy for the Cowboys after losing Troy Aikman to a concussion and Emmitt Smith to a hand injury in a 27-17 loss to Minnesota on Monday night. The long-term question for owner Jerry Jones is whether or not the Cowboys' 30-something core players - Aikman, Smith, Michael Irvin and Deion Sanders - are finally wearing out. Aikman and Smith are expected back in a few weeks, but Irvin is out indefinitely with a congenital narrowing of the spine. Sanders has missed all or part of nine games over the past two seasons with a variety of injuries.



Injuries have sidelined the Cowboys' top trio of Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin (above, lying on the field) and Troy Aikman (left).

## In Memory of Our Loved One

### Carlos Esteban Chavez

We would like you, to join us in celebration of a Mass & candle light vigil, on Friday, Nov. 19, 1999. A mass will be held at 5:30 in St. John Neuman's Catholic Church 5802 22nd St., at the corner of 22nd and Frankford Avenue immediately following the mass ceremony. We will have the candle light vigil at Roscoe Wilson Elementary in front of the school grounds which is located at 2807 25th street.

Carlos Chavez 24 years of age was killed by a drunk driver on Nov. 19, 1998. We are asking as many people as possible to help support us, and lets send a message across to all drunk drivers. The person that killed Carlos has not yet been punished. Please join us, and together send a Strong Message to our justice system.

## El Editor Newspaper

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## HUD's Homebuyer Protection Initiative

It's a homebuyer's nightmare. Each year families across America are stuck with thousands of dollars in unexpected home repairs after they move into what they thought were their dream homes. In some cases, families go broke trying to make repairs and lose their homes through foreclosure or bankruptcy.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo believes home appraisers can catch those hidden problems before the sale is completed. Beginning in February 2000, HUD's new Homebuyer Protection Initiative will help the one million homebuyers who buy homes with HUD-insured mortgages avoid unexpected - and expensive - home repairs.

The home appraisal plays an important role in HUD's Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance programs. FHA makes it easier for homebuyers to qualify for mortgage loans by insuring the

loans and guaranteeing repayment to the private lender. But before FHA agrees to insure a mortgage, the lender must get a home appraisal. The appraisal estimates the value of the home, checks that it meets FHA's minimum property standards, and assures that it could be sold by FHA in the event of foreclosure.

Under the Homebuyer Protection Initiative, FHA will only insure homes that have been examined by state-licensed appraisers. As an added protection, the qualifications of the 30,000 appraiser who do FHA appraisals will be re-tested.

The Initiative also insists on full disclosure of appraisal results. If a state-licensed appraiser uncovers defects in the home, the prospective homebuyers must be told of the findings. FHA will refuse to insure the mortgage until defects are repaired.

Finally, the Initiative will sponsor a new education campaign to teach consumers the difference between appraisals and home inspections. Appraisals are part of the lending process. But home inspections - which are more thorough than appraisals - go further. They give buyers greater peace of mind about the property they hope to buy. A home inspection closely evaluates the home and its plumbing, heating and cooling, and electrical systems. It estimates the systems' remaining useful life and identifies items that need to be repaired or replaced. Wouldn't you want to know as much as you can about a property before you sink all your hard-earned cash into it?

To sum up, HUD's Homebuyer Protection Initiative provides a higher level of protection for consumers against appraisals that fail to uncover the need for major repairs in homes up for sale. But it also asks homebuyers to become better informed about the physical conditions of home they want to buy. HUD wants to be sure that Americans have the knowledge they need to make educate decisions about buying a home.

Homeownership is good for America. Homeowners take pride in their property and get involved in neighborhood activities and local schools. It's a great way for families to accumulate wealth, too. HUD wants to make sure that the American Dream of owning a home is within reach of families everywhere.

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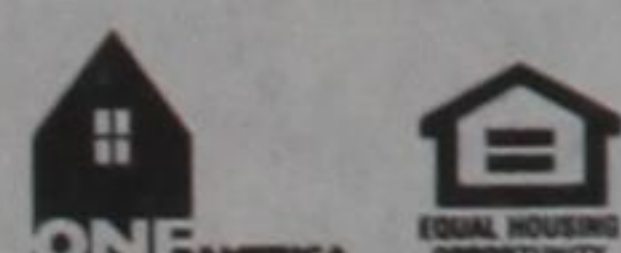
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Por Pastor: Frank García  
Lubbock, Texas



"ESFUERZATE Y SE VALIENTE"  
Josué 1:6.

¿Podrá el hombre cambiar su modo de vivir? ¿Podrá el hombre ser usado por Dios como instrumento de Dios? ¿Podrá ser el hombre como vaso escogido de Dios? Pues la Palabra de Dios da seguridad a esto. Por medio de la sangre de Cristo derramada en la cruz del Calvario. Pues la Biblia dice: "Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dió a su Hijo Unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna." Jn. 3:16. Esto se consigue creyendo en Cristo Jesús. Y arrepentido venid a El. Aceptándole como tu Salvador. Creyendo y guardando su Palabra en nuestros corazones. Dios le dijo a un hombre que El quería usar en el Antiguo Testamento: "Esfuerzate y se valiente" Esto es porque para servir a Dios hay que hacer un esfuerzo, pues esto no viene como el apetito, y casi ni ganas dan. Hay que buscarlo, Dios le dijo a este hombre que se llamaba Josué, "No te apartes de mi ley, ni a derecha ni a izquierda, para que seas prosperado en todo lo que emprendieres." ¿Qué quiere Dios decirnos con estas palabras? ¿Qué hay a la derecha y a la izquierda que no le gusta a Dios? Parece según la Palabra de Dios que en todo asunto hay derecha e izquierda. Por ejemplo: En la política, (aun que yo no soy político) pero me gusta oírlos, y leer sus artículos y oír sus discusiones. Y miro que éstos están como los fariseos en el tiempo de Cristo, que tienen poca verdad envuelta en poca mentira. A lo menos esa es la impresión que dan. Estos tienen dos lados, derecha e izquierda; mientras que la realidad está hacia el centro. Es por ello que los que se guardan hacia la derecha o hacia la izquierda tienen menos pueblo que los que se guardan hacia el centro. Los que se guardan a un lado o a otro lado tienen más partidos que gente. Mientras que los que se guardan hacia el centro tienen más gente que partidos. Porque en el centro está la fuerza. Pues hay más verdad en el centro que en los lados. Es por ello que cuando un candidato a la presidencia quiere salir electo, debe guardarse hacia el centro. Porque en el centro está el pueblo y porque en el centro está América y se compone de dos lados y de todos colores. América (USA) se compone de jóvenes y ancianos, enfermos y sanos, ricos y pobres. Porque esto es el pueblo. Y los oficiales deben ser electos del pueblo, por el pueblo y para el pueblo. Porque la palabra UNITED quiere decir "unidos" sin olvidarnos unos a otros. En el sentido Espiritual, en el centro está Dios, su Hijo y el Espíritu Santo. Toda la pureza.

# Lennox & Holyfield Battle Again

By Robert Cassidy

Naturally, Lennox has been working very hard for this fight. This is the first big, super fight of his career. This fight will determine where he stands in history.

Contrary to what everyone is saying, I don't see that it's a big advantage that I once worked with Evander Holyfield. He's a different fighter now. Evander is a little more physical now, a little more aggressive. He's more of a puncher, rather than trying to wear his opponents out like he used to. Evander has had the advantage of being in many great fights. Everyone knows Evander for that. He's been in exciting, memorable fights so this atmosphere will be nothing new to him. He's shown a lot of heart and courage and he's proven that he's a great warrior. But there is a price to be paid for all of those fights. He's been knocked out by Riddick Bowe and he was cut badly against Larry Holmes and Michael Moorer. On the other hand, Lennox has never been busted up or cut badly in a fight. He hasn't had a lot of wear and tear.

**IF YOU LOOK AT LENNOX AND EVANDER** closely, they are similar in that they can get lackadaisical in some fights. Look at Lennox in his last fight



Lennox Lewis will

against Zeijko Mavrovic and look at Evander in the fights with Bert Cooper, Bobby Czyz and Vaughn Bean. In the big fights, though, they both rise to another level.

Lennox has never been in a super fight like this. But when he's in big fights, he rises to the occasion. Remember his fights against Riddick Bowe in the Olympics or Razor Ruddock, Ray Mercer and Andrew Golota? He came out and fought aggressively in those fights. He does what he has to do. He has to have the same mentality against Evander because Evander will come into the ring with that mentality.

The Ray Mercer fight has been Lennox's most important fight since I've been working with him. It was a hostile atmosphere, with the crowd chanting, "USA, USA." He'd never been in that situation

before. To go out under those conditions and to win those last two rounds against one of the gutsiest heavyweights we've seen in awhile... that was the night that Lennox Lewis grew up.

**THE GOLOTA FIGHT WAS** another example. Everyone had questions about his heart, his toughness, whether he could fight in the trenches and do what had to be done. But he came out and rose to another level and scored a devastating knockout.

To win this fight, Lennox has to come with all his physical strength. He has to be an aggressive, confident and assertive fighter. He has to have

a take-charge mentality for this fight. He has to take charge like any big man would.

The way he has to approach this fight is the way George Foreman fought Joe Frazier and the way Sonny Liston fought Floyd Patterson. They were bigger men who overwhelmed their smaller opponents. Evander hasn't had a lot of success against bigger men. He out-conditioned George Foreman. But he has had problems when he has to punch up with big guys like Riddick Bowe and Larry Holmes. Lennox is a better all-around athlete than Bowe. Bowe was just a big guy who Eddie Futch refined.

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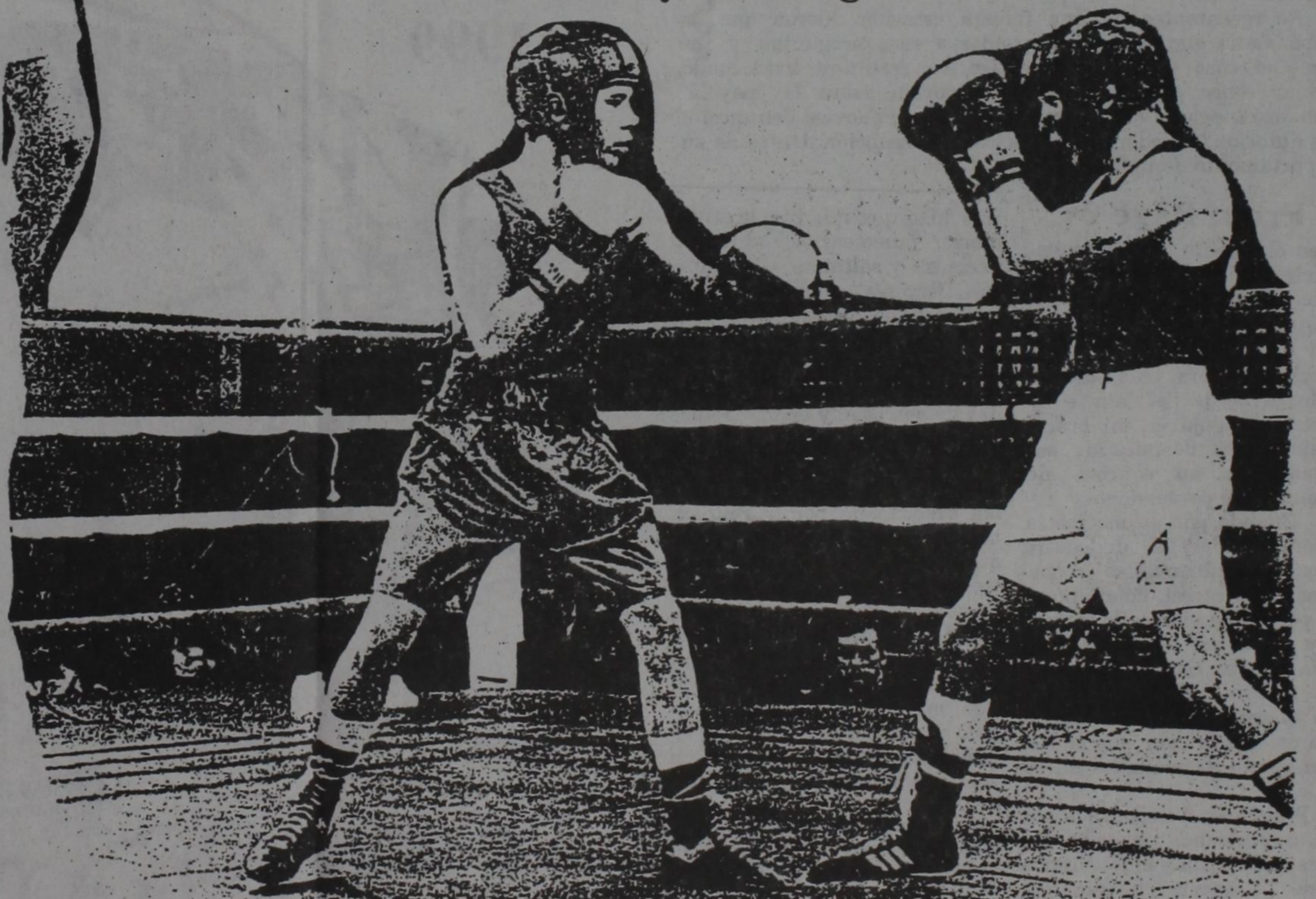
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## United States Investigan A Policia Por Presunto Maltrato

Nashville - Las autoridades federales tomaron hoy a su cargo las pesquisas en torno a presuntos maltratos recibidos por hispanos a manos de una empresa de servicios de seguridad, se informó hoy oficialmente. Un portavoz oficial dijo que la empresa emplea a agentes de la policía de Nashville, en el estado de Tennessee, cuando éstos no están desempeñando sus funciones habituales.

La Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) dijo que decidió intervenir después que una investigación determinó que los presuntos abusos "confirma que es posible que se hayan cometido violaciones de los derechos civiles". Don Aaron, portavoz del FBI, expresó que la investigación de la empresa de servicios de seguridad determinará "si los agentes de la policía local participaron en los abusos o si tuvieron conocimiento de ellos y no quisieron tomar medidas al respecto".

Las investigaciones se iniciaron el mes pasado después que el diario local "Nashville Scene" publicó una serie de artículos en los que denunciaba que los agentes privados de seguridad golpeaban regularmente a los residentes hispanos. La empresa se declaró en bancarota después de la publicación de los artículos y se desconoce el número de hispanos que habrán sido víctimas de los presuntos abusos.

## United States Investigan A Radioemisoras Hispanas Involucradas Actos Corrupcion

Los Angeles - El Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos ha multado con más de un millón de dólares a funcionarios de la empresa Fonovisa y a programadores de unas 80 emisoras de radio en español que aceptaron sobornos para favorecer a ciertos artistas, informó hoy el diario "Los Angeles Times".

Los representantes de Fonovisa -del consorcio televisivo mexicano Televisa, que coopera en las investigaciones- hacen llegar a los encargados de programación dinero en efectivo, regalos, equipo de sonido personal o de estación de radio, a condición de que sus artistas ocuparan la mayoría del tiempo de transmisión, según el diario. Con esa fórmula, Fonovisa lograba que sus cantantes -entre ellos Enrique Iglesias y Los Tigres del Norte- se mantuvieran durante meses a la cabeza de las listas de popularidad entre los artistas latinos en Estados Unidos.

La semana pasada, el jefe de promociones de Fonovisa, Jesus Gilberto Moreno pagó más de 50.000 dólares en multas y recibió dos años de libertad condicional luego de declararse culpable por un delito menor de "payola", como se le llama a los sobornos musicales. Moreno admitió que hizo pagos de más de un millón de dólares a directores de programación de radioemisoras en 1997, pero se le dio una sentencia menor porque, junto con otros funcionarios de Fonovisa, decidió cooperar en la investigación. Al presidente de Fonovisa, Guillermo Santiso, también se le multó con 200.000 dólares y fue condenado a dos años de libertad condicional por evasión de impuestos relacionada a la "payola".

La propia empresa Fonovisa, de la que es dueño el grupo mexicano Televisa, fue multada con 700.000 dólares por dar informes falsos de gastos de promoción. Representantes de radioemisoras hispanas evitaron hacer comentarios sobre la investigación que inició hace dos años el Departamento de Justicia, que planea acusar formalmente a los programadores de radio involucrados en el caso de corrupción. En consultas a tres radioemisoras en español del área de Los Angeles, EFE encontró que invariablemente se evita el tema del acto de corrupción conocido como "payola". Empleados de dos de las estaciones pidieron que ni siquiera fueran mencionadas sus siglas, porque temían despertar sospechas de los investigadores, y respondieron negativamente cuando se les preguntó si conocían a alguien que hubiese recibido dinero o regalos.

Representantes de una tercera estación dijeron que no había nadie que pudiera responder a esas preguntas, y que como el caso está bajo investigación resultará inadecuado opinar sobre el tema. La investigación sobre la "payola" comenzó luego de que la propia empresa Fonovisa denunció a las autoridades federales los casos de corrupción dentro de su departamento de promociones.

### From Page 2

da en el asiento del automóvil, prendí el aire acondicionado, dejé el motor en marcha, cerré las puertas con llave, puse la llave de repuesto bajo la rueda derecha trasera, me deslicé hasta el borde del lago e inserté una aguja en mi brazo, incapaz, aún después de ser bañado por su sonrisa, de eliminar mis perversiones.

Cuando por último me la trajeron -- después de cuatro años de fanfarronadas y posturas en la cárcel, donde no se me permitían visitas de contacto y así decidí el demorar en verla -- ya estaba frenético. Que ella no me conociera; que ella querría estar pero no cabría en mis brazos, que se habían vuelto desmañados en su vacío.

Practiqué. Avergonzado por mis contorsiones, apagaba las luces de la celda y me inclinaba desde la cintura, imaginando su peso. Caía sobre una rodilla, inseguro de su estatura, y tiraba del aire a un lado u otro.

### From Page 3

shipped to other countries for processing into the marketed cocaine.

In less than three years, Bolivian authorities have managed to reduce the territory dedicated to coca harvest from 34,500 hectares (about 133.2 square miles) to 16,200 hectares (about 62.54 square miles). In the Andean nations the cultivation of coca plants is traditional and cultural because the indigenous populations use the coca plant for food and medicinal purposes, and each year the government allows a certain number of hectares of coca plants to be legal-

Ella hizo que mis preparativos fueran innecesarios, corriendo hacia mí y saltando a mi abrazo. Después, cuando estábamos sentados uno junto al otro, con su mano serpenteando dentro de la mía, ella me miró furtivamente, desde las esquinas de sus ojos, y gritó: "Papá, ¿dónde está tu bigote?"

Me dí cuenta de que esta niña de 6 años de edad se había preocupado por la reunión tanto como lo había hecho yo; que ella no sólo había ido a su primer aula de clase, aprendiendo a montar en una bicicleta, jugado su primer partido de pelota, todo sin un padre, y sin que fuera culpa suya -- sino que mi hija había caminado bajo el alambre de púas sin siquiera un recuerdo de mí, con sólo una foto vieja para guiarla.

(Jorge Antonio Renaud está cumpliendo una sentencia de 60 años, en la prisión estatal de Huntsville, Texas.)

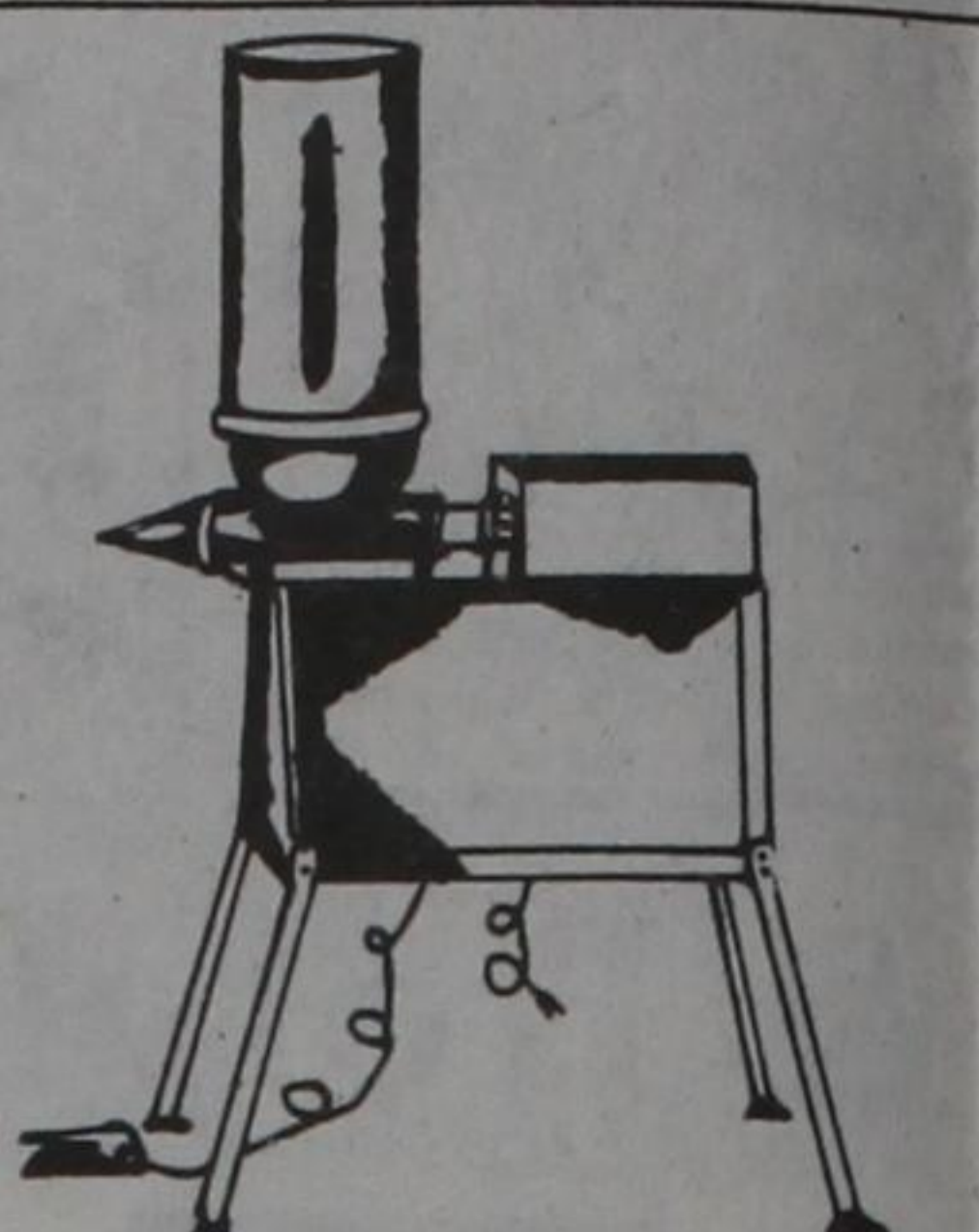
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ly cultivated.

Bolivian Vice President Jorge Quiroga told EFE that his nation is "firmly moving toward the goal of removing itself from the illegal drug circuit soon after the year 2000." However, Quiroga, along with representatives from Colombia and Peru, warned that the aid needed from the United States - primarily in police and military equipment and funds for economic development - is frozen in debates between U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress over the actual dollar amount to be provided.

El Editor

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