¡Se Aventó Tech!



Leaders back Summit And March On Washington for Hispanics

of December 28 thru January 3, 1996

By Fernando Trulin IV

Vol. XIX No. 14

Problems spawned by a national revival of open nativism and prejudice and a continuing lack of educational and economic opportunities are likely to make the year 1996 a hazardous and volatile one for U.S. Hispanics, concede more than two-thirds of 52 Hispanic organizational and political leaders surveyed by Hispanic Link News Service.

Many of them, however, express hope that they can, to some degree, help their communities move forward.

Asked in a mid-December survey to look ahead to 1996, the leaders projected that conditions for Hispanics would likely:

Improve considerably.....4% Improve somewhat......26% Worsen considerably.....20% Worsen somewhat......28% Remain the same......22%

Juan Figueroa, president of the New York-based Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, defined the Latino situation: "We have be-

that we are collectively under

Several leaders pointed out sentiments, anti-Hispanic coupled with government budget cuts and other actions affecting social programs and rights enforcement, have sent Latinos a giant "wake-up" call.

"There is a conservative force in control that is tough to break through. It's hindering local Latino organizations," said respondent Manuel Romero, chief executive officer of the Centro de la Familia de Utah. "We need to work hard to educate those who are naive about our needs."

The 52 activists, one-third of them women, included leaders from the community level to the national level. They were one voice short of unanimous in support of staging a national Hispanic summit conference in 1996.

Ironically, just two years ago, representatives of the

come aware as a community Coca-Cola Company met with leaders of half a dozen national Hispanic membership organizations to explore the that current anti-immigrant, possibility of underwriting a Latino unity summit. While some enthusiasm was generated, there wasn't enough to move the concept beyond the

talking stage. Hispanic Link survey respondents also favored, by better than a five-to-one margin, organizing a Latino march on the nation's capital next year. Their reaction:

For.....66% Against.....12% No opinion...22%

A West Coast group called "Coordinadora '96 -- Campaign '96" has been moving forward for two years with plans to conduct such a major event in the nation's capital next Oct. 12, the internationally celebrated Día de la Raza commemorating the fusion of Spanish and indigenous peoples in the New World.

Campaign '96 efforts, while picking up momentum, have

received little visibility to date. Some survey respondents said they feared it would be seen as a pale copy of last African-American fall's Million Man March, and not be taken seriously by national policymakers.

Lubbock, Texas

Juan Andrade, president of the Midwest/Northeast Voter Registration Education Project, was the lone respondent to oppose a Latino summit. "...a bunch of people going through the motions of drafting a document that has no shelf life," he described it.

He was more enthusiastic about a march on Washington. "We owe it to the Latino youth," he said. "The older generation of Hispanic activists had César Chávez and the boycotts to shape their ideals. Our youth need involvement in something historic."

"The youth are becoming more educated and expressing their opinions in a constructive manner," added Continua Pagina 2

Dirigentes Respaldan Cumbre Y Marcha Sobre Washington por los Hispanos

Por Fernando Trulin IV

Los problemas surgidos por un renacimiento nacional del nacionalismo abierto y el prejuicio, y una falta continua de oportunidades de enseñanza y económicas, tienen probabilidades de hacer que el año 1996 sea peligroso y volátil para los hispanos, según reconocen más de los dos tercios de los 52 dirigentes hispanos de organizaciones dirigentes políticos entrevistados por Hispanic Link News Service.

Muchos de ellos, no obstante, manifiestan esperanza de que puedan, en alguna medida, ayudar a sus comunidades a moverse hacia delante.

Al pedírseles en una encues-

hispanos tendrían probabilidades de ser: Considerablemente mejores.

Algo mejores 26% Considerablemente peores....

Algo peores. 28% Lo mismo que ahora 22%

Juan Figueroa, presidente Fondo Puertorriqueño para la Defensa Legal y la Ensenanza (PRLDEF en inglés), con sede en Nueva York, definió así a la situación de los latinos: "Nos hemos dado cuenta de que, como una comunidad, estamos colectivamente bajo el fuego".

Varios dirigentes senalaron que los sentimientos actuales contra los inmigrantes y ta a mediados de diciembre anti-hispanos, junto con las que miraran hacia 1996, los rebajas presupuestarias para dirigentes proyectaron que los programas y el cumplilas circunstancias para los miento de los derechos civ-

iles, han enviado a los latinos una gigantesca llamada "a despertar".

"Hay una fuerza conservadora al control que es dificil de atravesar. Está perjudicando a las organizaciones latinas locales", dijo el respondente Manuel Romero, funcionario ejecutivo principal del Centro de la Familia de Utah. "Necesitamos trabajar árduamente para enseñar a aquéllos que desconocen nuestras necesidades".

Los 52 activistas, de los cuales un tercio eran mujeres, incluyeron a dirigentes desde el nivel comunitario hasta el nivel nacional. Estuvieron acordes, menos uno, en la unanimidad para apoyar la preparación de una conferencia cumbre nacional hispana en 1996.

Irónicamente, hace sola-

mente dos años, los representantes de la Companía Coca Cola se reunieron con los dirigentes de una media docena de organizaciones nacionales de membresía hispanas para explorar la posibilidad de financiar una cumbre de unidad latina. Aunque se produjo algún entusiasmo, no hubo el suficiente como para llevar al concepto más allá de la fase de hablar.

Los respondentes a la encuesta de Hispanic Link favorecieron también, por un margen de más de cinco contra uno, la organización de una marcha latina en la capital el año próximo. La votación fué así:

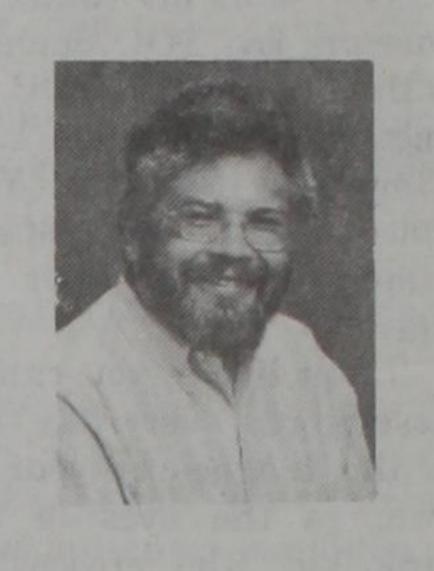
A favor..... 66% En contra..... 12% Sin opinión... 22%

> Un grupo de la Costa Occi-Continua Page 5

Comentarios de Bidal A Look Back at 1995

As we look back at 1995 via issues of El Editor, who can ever forget that the pride of being a Red Raider that is present

today was almost non-existant last New Year's Day when the Raiders suffered at defeat at the hands of the University of Southern California. It's kind of ironic that as I write this column the Raiders are handily defeating the Air Force Sparrows at the Copper Bowl. Reports of the Raiders going to the Cotton Bowl and the Raiders getting beat at the Cotton Bowl dominated our first and second edition of El Editor in

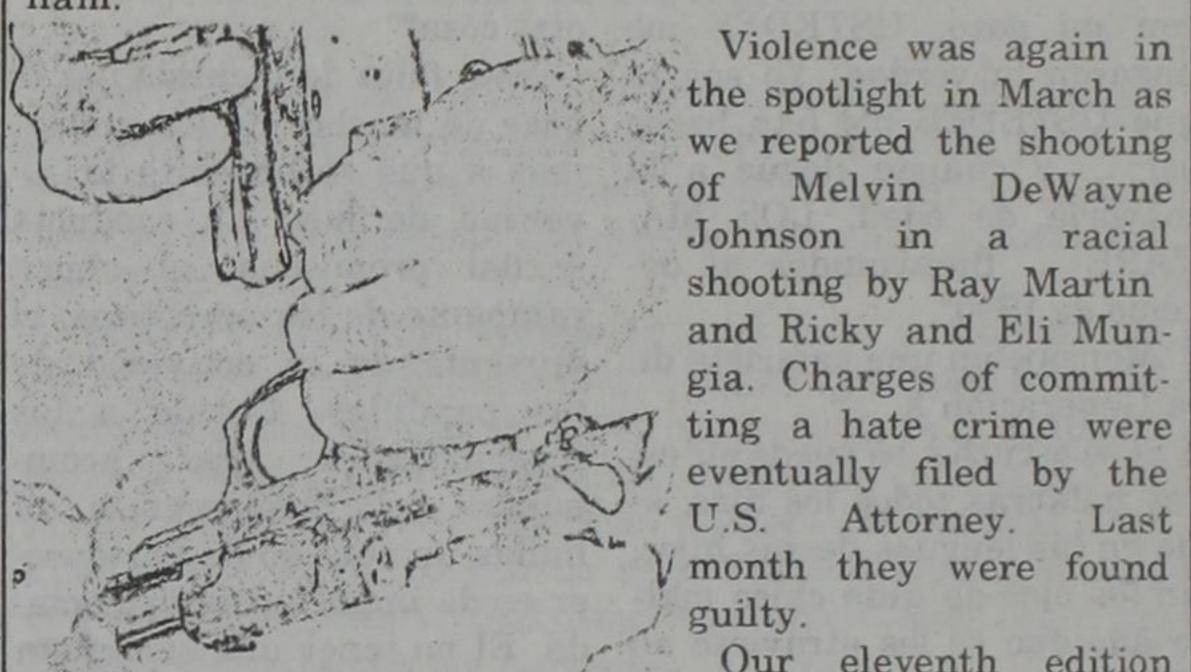


The third week banner of El Editor read Hispanic Killed By Police As He Attacks With Pocket Knife. Ramiro Machado was accused of attacking four police officers with his pocket knife after police responded to a domestic fight between Machado and his wife. Machado's wife said that her daughter had called the police so that here husband would not hurt himself. Police official promised a full investigation which would take approximately one month. A month later we reported that the grand jury had found that the killing of Machado was justified.

The fourth week of publication featured campaigns for Buffalo Lake Board of Directors, and a proposed bond election for the City and Schools. Most of us know the outcome of this election in that the City lost in their bid to build a new arena. School improvements were approved by they voters.

Our fifth edition featured the upcoming Super Bowl between the 49ers and the Chargers. Of course the 49ers didn't have any problems winning and many are expecting a repeat this year since the Cowgirls aren't doing to good. Rumors have it that Jerry Jones is asking Deion which playoff game they are going to lose "The first game or the second game?"

February editions of El Editor were fairly dull except for coverage of O.J. and the war in Chiapas. Our last edition for February featured an article comparing Chiapas to Vietanam.



the spotlight in March as we reported the shooting Melvin DeWayne Johnson in a racial shooting by Ray Martin and Ricky and Eli Mungia. Charges of committing a hate crime were eventually filed by the U.S. Attorney. Last month they were found guilty.

Our eleventh edition featur

ed the Henry Cisneros soap opera about his allegedly lied to the FBI about his payments to Linda Medlar from Lubbock. Recently a settlement was reached between the parties.

The Republican's Contract with America was in the news for the new two weeks and their efforts to do away with

Affirmative Action. Their efforts still continue with Dole and Gramm making a big issue about it as they continue to get their Party's nomination for president. The last week in March was our now known as "Our Orange Issue" when we used orange and brown all over our front page and was Comentarios was featured in a green and told about an article in the Texas Observer and how the railroad that runs along the proposed John Montford Freeway was to get \$16 million while it was only worth \$1 million. The Freeway and the money to go to the railroad has already been approved.

Our newspaper in April promoted the upcoming Charreada that was originally scheduled for 5 de Mayo but had to be postponed until June because of technical difficulties.

What would probably be compared to the tragedy that hap-



pened to Buddy Holly occurred the first week in april as reports hit the airwaves of Selena's murder at the hands of the president of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar. News continued stories the throughout month. The story was recently recognized as the number one story of the year

in Texas. Saldivar lost her appeal for a new trial yesterday. Our May and June editions feature stories of 5 de Mayo, the Charreada, Graduation and reports on the Texas Legislature. The last week in June featured the premier of the film "A Good Old Fashion Cabrito Cooking, West Texas Baptism".

Lubbock was notified in July that Reese Air Force Base would definitely close and attention was brought to the front by our commentary that no chicanos were named to the task force that would oversee it's revamping for civilian use. We never heard of anyone else complaining.

Big news in August included local members of the Hispan-

ic Chamber of Commerce traveling to Dallas for the State Convention of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Local members Irasema Veslasquez and Marciano Morales were honored at the Convention.



El Editor reported the last week in August of Judge Samuel Kizer in Amarillo mandating that a Hispanic mother speak Continued Page 2

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Sittin' Here

Thinkin'

Hispanic Generation X's Search for Hope

"YOU stole my youth, YOU no, stole my joy, YOU denied me American, or truth. I am what YOU have else?" made me... and when I come sage.>

"X." The lost generation. The or intention. product of the rebellion of the subculture. The hope or the identity. To know why you doom of the future. The issue are the way you are, to underthat faces this group is survi- stand why you exist, to have val: understanding its identi- direction -- this is what it ty, finding its purpose, attain- means to have a purpose. But ing hope.

"I don't know what to call have that.

By Miguel Romero myself. Am I Hispanic, Lati-Chicano, Mexicansomething

This lack of identity is the of age I WILL KILL YOU... basis of many of the problems Welcome to the '90s." - facing today's youth: promis-Generation X T-shirt mes- cuous sexual behavior, rampant drug abuse, the rise in If you listen, you can hear gang activity. Because of the these words every day, if not insecurities that accompany on the tongues of your chil- adolescence, finding a sense dren, in the eyes of every of belonging is of paramount punk kid who crosses your importance. Not having a path. Death, hate, pure rage, sense of belonging causes a tear stains mingled with feeling of isolation, which hope. blood stains. This is the reali- leads to a longing for accepty of today's Hispanic youth. tance. The identity of youth Today's Hispanic youth are should not be tied to a group or part of a generation called a person, but rather a purpose

Finding their purpose is 1960s. A complete, integrated their key to unlocking their Hispanic youth today don't

No one questions a bird when it sings, but when a young man or woman wants to paint, sculpt or dance, that is looked upon as unnatural. Just as it is natural for the bird to sing. it is natural for the human spirit to want to express itself, dream and soar. Purpose is found in the heart's passion. Your direction is found in

what you love. In the jungle of life, the parents of Generation X forgot to impart the seed of passion:

Hope is what Hispanic youth today need. All around them their world is collapsing. There is no solid ground. Government won't provide. Society won't protect the weak. The pessimism of the previous generation is crushing their idealism.

Suffering and death are imminent, unless hope is found. The most profound issue facing Hispanic youth today is not a social issue. not "who

didn't do what" or confusion of identity, but where hope can be found. Hope is not in mankind. Hope is not in society. Hope is not religion. The only hope is God. Not religion, but faith.

The youth of today must rage at the dying of the light, the dying of their hope. Because without hope they can have no passion; without passion, no purpose; without purpose, they have no identity; and without an identity the generation is lost to passing emotions and flaming impulses.

Generation X wants to kill its forerunners. The only hope is hope itself.

(Miguel Romero, 18, is a high school senior in Fort Collins, Colo. The son of Denver Post columnist Tomás Romero, he wrote this column for a student publication. He is a member of the National Honor Society and active in volunteer work for "The Mission" in Ft. Collins. He plans to become a

minister.) Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

La "Generación X" Hispana Busca La Esperanza

Por Miguel Romero

juventud, USTEDES me roba- chicano, méxicoamericano u ron mi gozo, USTEDES me otra cosa?" negaron la verdad. Yo soy lo Esta falta de identidad es la igual modo que el cantar es está en la sociedad. La espeque USTEDES me han hecho base de muchos de los probleser ... y cuando llegue a la mas a que se enfrenta la jumayoría de edad, LOS MA- ventud de hoy: La conducta TARE ... Bienvenidos al de- sexual promiscua, el abuso cenio de 1990".

Mensaje en una camiseta de la Generación X.

Si se escucha, se puede oir estas palabras todos los días, si no en las lenguas de sus hijos, en los ojos de cada chico malcriado que se les atraviese en el camino.

Muerte, odio, pura cólera, manchas de lágrimas mezcladas con manchas de sangre. Esta es la realidad de la juventud hispana de hoy.

Los jóvenes hispanos de hoy llamada "X". La generación perdida. El producto de la rebelión del decenio de 1960. Una sub-cultura completa e propósito, lograr la esperan- tiene eso. za.

"No sé qué llamarme a mi "USTEDES me robaron mi mismo. ¿Soy hispano, latino,

> rampante de los narcóticos, el aumento de la actividad de las pandillas. Debido a las inseguridades que acompanan a la adolescencia, el hallar un sentido de pertenecer es de importancia extremada. El no tener una sensación de pertenecer ocasiona un sentimiento de aislamiento, que lleva a un ansia de aceptación.

La identidad de la juventud no debe estar enlazada con un grupo o una persona, sino son parte de una generación antes bien con un propósito o una intención.

El hallar el propósito es la clave para descifrar la identidad. El saber por que uno es integrada. La esperanza o la como es, el comprender por ruina del futuro. El asunto a qué se existe, el tener direcque se enfrenta este grupo es ción -- esto es lo que significa la supervivencia: Comprend- el tener un propósito. Pero la er su identidad, hallar su juventud hispana de hoy no

Nadie cuestiona a un pájaro

cuando canta, pero cuando un joven o una joven quieren pintar, esculpir o bailar, eso se mira como anormal. De natural para el pájaro, es natural para el espíritu humano el querer expresarse a sí mismo, sonar y elevarse. El propósito se halla en la pasión del corazón. La dirección propia se halla en lo que uno(a)

En la selva de la vida, los padres y las madres de la generación X olvidaron impartir la semilla de la pasión: La esperanza.

La esperanza es lo que necesita la juventud hispana de hoy. Su mundo está derrumbándose a todo su derredor. No hay terreno firme. El gobierno no da nada. La sociedad no protege a los débiles. El pesimismo de la generación anterior está estrujando a su idealismo.

El sufrimiento y la muerte son inminentes, a menos que se halle la esperanza.

El asunto más profundo a que se enfrenta hoy la juventud hispana no es un asunto social, no "quién no hizo qué cosa" o la confusión de la

identidad, sino dónde se puede hallar la esperanza.

La esperanza no está en la humanidad. La esperanza no ranza no es religión. La única esperanza es Dios. No la religión, sino la fe.

La juventud de hoy debe enfurecerse a la muerte de la luz, la muerte de su esperanza. Porque sin esperanza ellos no pueden tener pasión; sin pasión, no pueden tener propósito; sin propósito, no tienen identidad; y sin una identidad, la generación está perdida en las emociones pasajeras y los impulsos llameantes.

La generación X quiere matar a sus antecesores. La única esperanza es la esperanza misma.

(Miguel Romero, de 18 años de edad, es alumno de último año de secundaria en Fort Collins, Colorado. Es hijo del columnista Tomás Romero, del "Denver Post", y redactó esta columna para una publicación estudiantil. Es miembro de la Sociedad Nacional de Honor y está activo en el trabajo voluntario para "La Misión" en Fort Collins. El se propone llegar a ser un ministro religioso.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1996. Distribuído por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Closing The Government By Ira Cutler

David Letterman looked out of the screen and, with mockseriousness on his goofy face, he announced that the government had been shut down again. Then he did the pause that earns him millions and in a close-up he produced a huge yawn that sent the audience into hysterics. Millions of people watch him because he has a keen sense of what people are thinking and feeling, and Letterman, Leno, and everyone else knows that at the end of 1995 most people in America consider the national government and politics to be a joke.

EVYL I PECCHIDGE IYVS

A majority of Americans hold to the belief that politics, at least at the national level, is entirely phony. They believe that politicians are all liars and crooks, that the few honest ones get run out, that it does not matter anyway and that there is nothing we can do about it. So they drop out. Most people in this democracy do not bother to vote, many do not even register, and a great many who do vote pull the lever for

the candidate that they hate least.

I find myself agreeing with that view more and more and it is an awakening for me. I have always been fairly interested in politics, both as a spectator sport and as a serious matter with tremendous impact on the field in which I work. I have read a lot, watched TV interview shows, speculated on the strategy of getting legislation passed or a candidate elected. Like a lot of my friends I talked politics as if it were an immediate thing that was intimately connected to me. I watched Watergate hearings, and Supreme Court appointments, and got all caught up in these events as though they mattered to me personally. Politics was something that was relevant to my life in the same way that my health, the weather, my job, my family and my relationships were relevant -- it was part of the environment in which I lived.

That is not to say that I was ever a true political junkie - my day to day happiness has never been dependent on what Newt said on Meet The Press, or Hillary's new hair, or who controls Bill Clinton's soul this week. That kind of inside the Beltway identification with politics and with politicians has always struck me as being strange. I can no more relate to political over-identification than I can to watching soap operas or attending and believing in professional wrestling matches. The people whose mood and outlook are dependent on these things are, in my experience, rarely as involved and knowledgeable as they pretend to be. More often they are exaggerating their insider knowledge and connections in order to feel a part of big things that are go-

And now the government is shut down, for the second time, and I find myself closer to the point of view of those who say it is all bull and who cares. It seems clear to me that the great budget debate of 1995 is not about the budget at all but is all about the election of 1996. We see these guys posturing, pandering and pretending. It is obvious that the one thing that they all believe is that we are pretty stupid. They accuse each other of raping Medicare while they know that they are both guilty of that crime. They pretend to argue about the federal deficit while they actually agree on the central (and erroneous) premise that the deficit comes as a result of over-spending rather than under-taxation. They argue about ten years or seven years until Clinton caves in and then they argue about something else. They create a debate at the margins because the Administration long ago gave up everything else but the margins.

This is politics, not policy. Policy is about ideas while politics is about images. The truth is that these are all right-centrists - they agree on most ideas and low and middle income people will be screwed, relatively speaking, no matter who wins. But they fight like dogs over the images -- the Lyndon Johnson veto pen, The Contract for America, our children's debt and all that foolishness. They are put-

ting on a show for idiots.

In 1992 Ross Perot got a group of people together who were so disaffected that they would follow Ross Perot. We have since found out, however, that being thoroughly fed up is not enough of a point of view to build a movement on. By an overwhelming majority Americans believe that the status quo is lousy, but the coalition breaks down right after that when you try to reach agreement on what would be better. Most people are not fed up enough to replace something known with an unknown and so the status quo remains the status

My new thought is that the non-voters and the politically disaffected have maybe got it right. For most of us it is an entirely irrelevant game. Not watching politics this week is like not getting to the movies or missing a football game. If we ignore politics it just goes on anyway without us and our blood pressure is lower and our time not wasted. I find that stance tempting and would I think enjoy just not paying attention.

Only one thing ultimately keeps me feeling that I ought to be interested and, in fact, more involved that I have ever been before. It seems clear that the vacuum which was created when sensible people stopped being politically aware and involved is increasingly being filled by what used to be called the lunatic fringe. The religious nuts who believe they have a direct pipeline to truth and righteousness are now taken very seriously. They have not dropped out by a long shot. They are working hard and raising money and calling some very scary shots. There have been times in history when ignoring people like them has proven not only unwise but fatal.

So my political resolution for 1996 is this: I am going to pass up the daily and purely political theater unless some really good and juicy story comes along. Instead, I am going to explore ways to counter some of the growing influence of the right thinkers. Maybe this will take me towards investing some time on Bill of Rights type issues but I just do not know yet. I figure we can survive Medicare "reform" and block grants and things like that so long as they do not control our thoughts, do not prescribe our personal behavior, and let us say what we want to say. These are what are usually called fundamental freedoms and I fear that we may be taking them too lightly.

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverant, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, selfimportant company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

Walking Backwards Over Christmas

By Tomás Romero

"Christmastime is a period when we all walk backward, searching for treasured memories and nostalgic snippets to carry us through growingly difficult holiday seasons," a good friend told me over the holidays.

"Walking backward" is fairly routine in his circle, remarked this friend, who ad- compliment Mama's beauty. mits to devoting a significant fine about their investment gunnysack. portfolio.

In the early autumn of his Mama asked him. days, my amigo prefers to turn his face toward the sun.

Most of us, he observed, tend cloak," he replied. to mark the epochs of our lives more by Christmas recollections than birthdays.

My birthday falls on Christmas Eve, so I don't have such conflicts, I pointed out. I've been -- depending on mood or "those too ashamed to stand in moment -- twice blessed or twice wounded.

I get one sock on one day, another on the next -- and hope they match, I like to joke.

When I was a Colorado farm boy, Christmas was valued. I recall our annual play at tiny Wattenburg School, and watching my mother Nora press white dress shirts. Somehow knowing just when to switch from one to another, she'd skillfully rotate three

heavy hand (nonelectric, of course) atop the blazing-hot wood stove.

The kitchen was filled with melded aromas of fresh tamales, empanadas, and biscochito cookies. "Time to go now," Mama

would finally say. How excited I was, knowing I'd hear Mrs. Ewing, our teacher, My older brother Wilfred,

part of his life to keeping Jack who died shortly after Christ-Daniel's and Johnny Walker mas two years ago, rushed to stockholders feeling really the barn and grabbed a large

"Where are you going?"

"I don't need a coat. I am a shepherd, and this is my

Before his death, Wilfred ritually waited for hours at Dependable Cleaners to receive several free coats, which he took to a South Platte River bridge underpass and gave to

My father Erasto spent his last Christmas with me and my wife Deborah. It was marvelous, seeing him smiling, enjoying her pleasure in stringing popcorn, cranberries and dried red chiles pods on the tree.

treats at Brighton's Rex Theater -- free movies and brown bags full of nuts and fruit. "Mexican kids" would enjoy

a once-a-year occasion of not having to sit in segregated balcony seats.

I relive a harsh stint in the Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam, and Ray Ludwig pulling on his gear, saying "I traded duty with Vassuer" when I asked why he incurred needless risk by joining me on a dangerous, rainy Christmas Eve night patrol. Ray, my best friend, didn't want me to be alone. Inducted together, Ludwig and Romero were an inseparable pair for two years. Wherever you are now, Ray, let me borrow this from a Budweiser commercial: I loved you, man. You were "Semper Fi" -- always faithful.

I remember being arrogant and full of my own importance. And I recall when I've been utterly humbled and felt myself a failure.

A poet once wrote this: "Without the cold and desolation of winter, we would not know the breath and freshness of spring." Today, I usually follow my amigo's advice. I gaze ahead.

On a week including a birthday and a holiday, I feel centered, in harmony. Family cares for me. Sons leave "I-I reminisce about the holiday love-you-Dad" messages on answering machines.

Christmas, I asked my Den-

ver Post readers to assist a

On a Wednesday before

group called Servicios de La Raza make a Christmas party a reality for 700 low-income children. Servicios had \$50 in the coffers at the time. By the following Saturday, they had received scores of gifts and cash pledges in the amount of \$10,959.

How truly kind people can be, making others' difficult times bearable and the impossible survivable. They are kind, also, to say my integrity as a writer made the request worthy.

Last Christmas, a friend told me I reminded him of a "kind, pre-war Tom." Less combative, less warrior-like. I am fortunate.

As Jesse Jackson pronounced in 1984, "I am a public servant, not a perfect servant -- doing the best I can against the odds, and God isn't done with me yet."

I grow grayer and still I don't even know if I have faith. But I am engaged to living in hope. No longer am I permanently wired to the anger button. The sun warms my face.

I hope you had a Feliz Navidad and we can share in a Prospero Año Nuevo.

(Tomás Romero, active in educational and political affairs in Denver, writes a weekly column for the Denver Post.)

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Comentarios



English to her daughter. Statewide efforts were made to make the Judge resign. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, LULAC, the American G.I. Forum, Mexican American Democrats and countless others joined in the movement. Judge Kizer is still a Judge. Other than the 16th of

September, in looking at issue during September, nothing happened. Irma Rubio was elected Señorita at the Fiestas.

October and November issues of El Editor featured countless of articles of things happening nationally but very little happening locally in the Hispanic community. Perhaps this is good in that maybe nothing bad was happening that would affect our community or perhaps we can even blame ourselves for not going out to hustle good news stories.

Whatever the case may be, El Editor was published for 52 weeks in 1995 as it has been for the past 19 years.

May all of you have a very happy and prosperous 1996. Next week we'll make our resolution.

Maggie's Pledge for 1996

By Margarita Contin

Another year has gone by, another set of resolutions unrealized: lose 20 pounds by May, start using that expensive exercise equipment, quit smoking.

The ritual resurfaces every year despite the nagging knowledge that few will be fulfilled. With her resolve, 20-year-old Maggie, a petite Puerto Rican whose face belies her age, is starting 1996 bucking those and greater odds.

She has resolved to get her three babies back before the fourth is born next summer.

My path crossed Maggie's as we shivered in a Syracuse snowstorm waiting for our Greyhound driver to open the door, let us on, and take us south for the holidays. As two caribenas -- my roots are in the Dominican Republic -- accustomed to warmer climates, we felt an instant bond.

We shared a 10-hour ride on Interstate 81, including one trek down the side of the highway to another bus when ours broke down, sealing us together like the magic of Krazy Glue. Yet all we had in common were language and gender.

Gloria Estefan sings that Spanish is enough to break all the barriers among Latinos from countries as far apart as Argentina and Guatemala, Chile and the Dominican Republic. Some feminists might

Por Margarita Contin

Otro año se ha ido y otro

conjunto de resoluciones ha

20 libras para mayo, empezar

a usar ese equipo de ejercicios

costoso, dejar de fumar... El

a pesar del conocimiento in-

Con su resolución, Maggie,

suave desmiente su

de 20 años de edad, una puer-

oponiéndose tenazmente

to en el verano próximo.

dos caribeñas -- mis raíces

icana -- acostumbradas a los

climas más cálidos, sentimos

diez horas en autobús por la

cluyendo un trecho por el co-

stado de la carretera a otro au-

tobús cuando el nuestro se

como la magia de "Krazy

Empero, todo lo que teníamos

Glue".

un vinculo instantáneo.

a cumplirse.

mayores.

also argue that as women we belong to a sisterhood that has no partitions.

Nevertheless, the lifestyle differences that separated us haunted me for many more hours after we separated in Washington, D.C. My boyfriend was waiting for me with a rose and dinner reservations. Maggie, her diminutive figure crowned by thick, black hair, headed for the terminal's Roy Rogers for a quick burger before transferring to another bus headed for Miami -- and an abusive part-

We gave each other a hug and kiss, as if we were old friends, then waved goodbye she dragged her overstuffed suitcase through the holiday crowd.

When Maggie was 14 and still living with her parents in Puerto Rico, Eduardo, a striking 23-year-old Dominican who was working in her hometown, took a fancy to her. He swept her off her feet. Soon after, they moved to Miami near his parents. He got a job and she quickly learned how to cook traditional Dominican food under the tutelage of her mother-in-law.

When I was 14, my friends and I were worrying whether we'd get a date for the Christmas formal, what dress we'd wear if we did, and how we could avoid having our parents chaperon the dance.

By the time Maggie was 16,

Promesa de Maggie Para 1996

she was a mother to Erica, and Lesli was already on the way. Michael would come two years later.

At 16, I had just come back from an exchange program in Italy and was sorting through college applications and scholarship essay questions. I swore never to get married, much less have children. That would get in the way of a planned career as a journalist or teacher.

Now Maggie's 20 and pregnant again. She had shown me a photograph of her and Erica, taken earlier this year before the problems at home erupted beyond the point of control.

Eduardo began calling her unflattering names in front of friends and family; he stayed out late on weekend nights at discotecas. Drinking and dancing, Maggie imagines, because she wasn't allowed to ask questions or leave the house.

After the beatings began, restraining orders didn't keep him away from her. And when she threatened to leave him, to go back to Puerto Rico with the children, Eduardo came home late one night and sneaked them off to his parents' house.

Maggie says he told her she'd be arrested if she tried to come after them. So she left for Syracuse to take refuge in her brother's house and seek advice. But she could only stay away for so long; five

weeks will tug on any young mother's heartstrings.

Maggie is counting on the support of a Miami women's shelter her newfound boricua friends in Syracuse recommended to her.

"I hope someone there can tell me what to do so I can have all my babies with me," Maggie told me as we were sharing a small bag of chips and reading a section of Isabel Allende's latest book, "Paula."

She also shared a plan she had worked out: she'd have counselors from the child welfare agency drop by to visit Eduardo and the kids on a Friday night. When they found out he was away from home partying with friends, they'd deem him unfit to care for the children and give her custody.

"Do you think I'll have to go to court with a lawyer?" she asked me. "I don't know any lawyers. Do you?"

For once in my life, I wished I did. But all I could offer were a patient set of ears and occasional encouraging smiles. And a heart filled with hope that this young woman's New Year's resolution would stand out from the rest, to become a reality before we drink a toast to 1997.

(Margarita Contín is a graduate journalism student at Syracuse University in New York. The names of Maggie and her family were changed to protect their identity.)

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News Briefs GOP: Let Kids Pay For Elderly

States could require grown children to help pay their parents' nursing home bills under one of the most emotionally charged provisions in the Republican plan to overhaul Medicaid, reports Associated Press.

The Republican "family responsibility" provision would allow - but not require - states to seek help with Medicaid bills from grown children who earn the state's median income or above for a family their size. Nationally, the median household income is \$32,264. Nursing home bills average \$36,000 per year.

Medicaid, financed jointly by the states and the federal government, pays for half of all nursing home care in the United States. Current Medicaid law prohibits states from making children pay for their parents' nursing home bills.

Ethnic Scholarships Reported Restricted

The Colorado attorney general sent a secret memo to officials at the state's universities and colleges telling them they no longer can award scholarships based on ethnicity or race, the Rocky Mountain News reports.

The December 13 memo said the information was "privileged attorney-client: communication not to be distributed to the public.

Attorney General Gale Norton's opinion says schools cannot participate in selecting recipients for privately funded scholarships. While not commenting specifically on the memo, Norton said Friday that recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have restricted the government's ability to treat people differently because of ethnicity or race.

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a sweeping ruling that a University of Maryland scholarship program restricted to African American students was a form of unconstitutional reverse discrimination.

AFL-CIO President Eyes French Model

John Sweeney, the AFL-CIO's new president, speaks with awe and envy about recent events in France, where workers shut down the railroads, subways, buses and mails to protest planned cuts in pensions and health insurance, reports The New York Times.

Unlike France, U.S. workers do not have a tradition of general strikes and mass unrest, a legacy that runs from the storming of the Bastille in 1789. Neither can they count on much public support. In France, the working class is taught to resent the rich, while American workers are told that, with a little luck, they too can be rich. But the betting among many labor experts is that American unions will begin using aggressive tactics not seen since the 1930s.

"There are so many potential hot spots in the U.S. economy that when you strike the match, which Sweeney and some other people are about to do, there are going to be some explosions," said Steven Fraser, a writer and labor historian.

Some labor leaders see one overarching reason why American workers may be ripe for mass protest: their wages have not kept up with inflation.

If Washington ignores labor's concerns about stagnant wages while congressional Republicans cut new holes in the safety net, some union leaders say, labor's minions might be spurred to action. In that way, the Republicans could provoke labor militancy as the French government unwittingly did when it moved to cut labor's privileges.

GAO Report: \$112 Billion Needed to Rebuild Schools

In three reports, the most recent released last month, the General Accounting Office this year cited \$112 billion in pressing construction needs in the nation's existing schools and found that states last year spent less than \$3.5 billion on addressing them, reports The New York Times.

The problem is compounded by demographic factors, primarily the entry of the children of baby boomers into the school-age population, which has brought record numbers of students into the nation's schools. In such areas as the southern parts of Florida, Texas and California, increases in immigration are also putting enormous new pressures on schools.

Nationwide, the number of elementary and secondary students next year is expected to surpass the 1971 peak of 51 million, and is projected to grow to 56 million in 2004, from 47 million in 1991.

A glance at some school districts around the country illustrates the scope of the problem. In Chicago, there is insufficient electric power and outlets for computers, which sit, unused, in their packing boxes. And in suburban Philadelphia, some schools are so crowded that students are not allowed to carry backpacks because there is no room in the halls and lunch starts at 9:22 a.m. so all students get a chance to eat.

While the responsibility for maintaining and building schools has been borne up to now almost entirely by local communities through school taxes and bond issues, there is growing recognition that local money will be insufficient for all the needs.

Whether more state or federal dollars are likely, given the prevailing anti-tax, anti-spending currents, is another question. Some \$100 million appropriated by Congress for upgrading school buildings in the previous session of Congress was eliminated in budget cuts this year, and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, the main proponent of the spending in the Senate, concedes chances of getting similar spending through the current Congress are almost nil.

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Bidal Aguero Editor Publisher

en común era el idioma y el género.

Gloria Estefan canta que el quedado incumplido: Perder español es suficiente para romper todas las barreras entre los latinos de países tan separados como la Argentina

ritual sale a relucir cada año Guatemala, Chile y la República Dominicana. Alsistente de que pocas llegarán gunas feministas podrían argumentar igualmente que, como mujeres, pertenecemos a una cofradía femenina que torriquena pequenita cuya no tiene divisiones.

Sin embargo, las diferenedad, está comenzando el 1996 cias en nuestros estilos de vida que nos separaban, me esas probabilidades y a otras persiguieron durante muchas horas más después que nos Ella ha decidido conseguir separamos en Washington, que le devuelvan sus tres hi-DC. Mi novio me estaba espejos antes de que nazca el cuarrando con una rosa y reservaciones para cenar. Maggie, Mi camino se cruzó con el de con su figura diminuta coro-Maggie mientras nos connada por un cabello grueso y gelábamos en una tormenta negro, se encaminó al Roy de nieve en Syracusa espe-Rogers de la terminal para rando que nuestro conductor comprar una hamburguesa del autobús Greyhound abrierápida antes de trasladarse a ra la puerta, nos dejara entrar otro autobús que se dirigiría a y nos transportara al sur para Miami -- y a un compañero pasar los días festivos. Como abusivo.

Nos dimos mutuamente un están en la República Dominabrazo y un beso, como si fuéramos antiguas amigas, y dedijimos adiós spués nos mientras ella arrastraba su Compartimos un viaje de maleta sobrecargada a través de la multitud de los días fescarretera inter-estatal 81, in-

Cuando Maggie tenía 14 años y todavía vivía con sus padres en Puerto Rico, Eduarrompió, sellándonos juntas do, un dominicano impresionante de 23 años de edad que estaba trabajando en su pueblo, se enamoró de ella. El la

levantó en peso de sus pies. Poco después, se mudaron a Miami cerca de los padres de él. El consiguió un empleo y ella aprendió rápidamente a cocinar la comida dominicana tradicional bajo la tutela de su suegra.

Cuando yo tenía 14 años, mis amigas y yo estábamos preocupándonos de si consecompañero guiríamos un para el baile formal de Navidad, qué vestido llevaríamos si fuéramos al baile y cómo podríamos evitar el que nuestros padres sirvieran de chaperones en el baile. Por la época en que Maggie tenía 16 años, ya era la madre de Erica, y Lesli ya estaba en camino. Michael vendría dos años después.

A los 16 años de edad, yo acababa de regresar de un programa de intercambio en Italia y estaba revisando las solicitudes para las universidades y las preguntas para el ensayo de las becas. Juré no casarme nunca, mucho menos tener hijos. Eso se interpondría en el camino de una carrera planeada, como periodista o maestra.

Ahora Maggie tiene 20 años de edad y está encinta nuevamente. Ella me había mostrado una fotografía de ella con Erica, tomada a principios de este año, antes de que los problemas en su casa hicieran erupción hasta llegar a estar fuera de control.

Eduardo empezó a llamarle calificativos tales como puta delante de los amigos y familiares; él se quedaba fuera hasta tarde en las noches de los fines de semana en las discotecas. Bebiendo y bailando, se imagina Maggie, porque a ella no se le permitía hacer preguntas ni salir de la casa.

Después que empezaron las golpizas, las órdenes inhibitorias judiciales no lo mantuvieron a él alejado de ella. Y cuando ella amenazó con dejarlo, con regresar a Puerto Rico con los niños, Eduardo regresó a la casa tarde una noche y se los llevó a escondidas a la casa de sus padres.

Maggie dice que él le dijo a ella que sería arrestada si tratara de seguirlos. De modo que ella se fué a Syracuse a refugiarse en la casa de su hermano y procurar consejo. Pero ella sólo pudo quedarse durante cierto tiempo; cinco

semanas son suficientes para tirar de las cuerdas del corazón de cualquier madre joven.

Maggie está contando con el apoyo de un albergue para mujeres de Miami que sus recién hallados amigos boricuas de Syracuse le recomendaron. "Espero que alguien de allá

pueda decirme lo que debo hacer para poder tener a todos mis hijos conmigo", me dijo Maggie mientras compartíamos una bolsita de papas fritas y leíamos una sección del libro más reciente de Isabel Allende, "Paula".

Ella compartió también un plan que ella había elaborado: Ella haría que los consejeros de la dependencia para el bienestar infantil fueran a visitar a Eduardo y los niños un viernes por la noche. Cuando hallaran que él estaba lejos de su casa, haciendo fiesta con los amigos, lo considerarían inadecuado para cuidar a los niños y le darían la custodia a ella.

¿Crees tú que tendré que ir a los tribunales con un abogado?" me preguntó ella. "No conozco a ningún abogado, ¿y

Por una vez en mi vida, deseé que así fuera. Pero todo lo que podía ofrecerle eran unos oídos pacientes y sonrisas ocasionales de aliento. Y un corazón lleno de esperanza, de que la resolución de Año Nuevo de esta jovencita se destacara del resto, para llegar a ser una realidad antes de que hiciéramos un brindis a 1997.

DAVID MARTINEZ Attorney at Law

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TUCSON, Ariz. - Byron yards and four touchdowns Air and Zebbie Lethridge threw upstaged Hanspard Force's wishbone with 260 for 245 yards Wednesday



CHAMPIONSHIP

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FEATURING NATIONALLY RANKED BOXERS

Koko Palace - 5101 Avenue Q Friday, Jan. 5, 1996, 7:30 pm Saturday, Jan. 6, 1996, 7:30 pm

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night, powering Texas Tech to a 55-41 victory in the Copper Bowl.

Air Force (8-5) made a game of it early in the third quarter. taking advantage of a series of mistakes by the Red Raiders to close a 31-13 halftime deficit to 31-28 in the first sev-

en minutes of the period. But Hanspard, a sophomore who led the Southwest Conference in rushing in its last year of existence, got his third TD with 5:06 left in the period, then ran 63 yards to set up another Tech score and a 45-28

Air Force, which was No. 3 in the NCAA in rushing offense and No. 105 in passing offense, wasn't able to play catch-up.

The teams shattered most of the offensive records in the 7year-old bowl, which is sponsored by Weiser Lock.

Hanspard, who carried 24 times, scored on runs of 2, 11, 2 and 29 yards.

Lethridge, who also ran for 82 yards, threw a 38-yard scoring pass to Stacy Mitchell and scored on 1- and 3-yard runs. Tony Rogers kicked field goals of 24 and 31 yards for Tech (9-3).

Air Force's Danta Johnson scored on 71- and 60-yard runs. Nakia Addison ran for scores of 2 and 7 yards. Jake Campbell ran for a 7-yard TD and Beau Morgan scored on a 1-yard run.

The Raiders opened a 28-7 lead by marching 80, 75, 74 and 80 yards to TDs on their first four possessions.

Lethridge had big plays in three of the four drives - a 42yard run before his pass to Mitchell for the first score, a 46-yard pass to Donnie Hart to set up Hanspard's first TD, and a 25-yard run and 26yard pass to Field Scovell before he produced the 21-point lead with his keeper.

But the biggest play of the third drive was a penalty after the Falcons had stopped Tech.

Cade, incurring a 15-yard run. got 13 yards on back-to-back time.

Air Force's Sam Ransom plays - a keeper and a pass to slid into Tech punter Brad Scovell - before Hanspard's

penalty that kept the drive go- Johnson cut the lead to 28-13 ing. Hanspard broke loose for with the longest run in Copper 12 yards to the Raiders 47- Bowl history, but the Raiders yard line on the next snap, responded with Roger's 24and Lethridge minutes later yard field goal before half-

Page 4 Campbell's TD early in the third quarter and a two-point conversion run by Addison following Mickey Dalton's 32-yard interception return to the Tech 20 tightened the score to 31-21, and Johnson's 60yard gallop put the Falcons within three points with 8:00 left in the period.

Charlie Waters Return to Dallas

DALLAS - Charlie Waters came home this week.

Back to Dallas, where he'd been one of the most popular players on some of the greatest Cowboy teams. Back to Texas, where he'd buried his oldest son just a few weeks ago.

The emotions came on in a flood as Waters, Oregon's defensive coordinator, flew into town with the rest of the Ducks' coaching staff.

"Just landing at Love Field, just flying over the city," he said. "Cody wanted so dearly to come to the Cotton Bowl. He was going to go to school at the University of Texas. He was born here. He loved it here. He was Texas through and through."

Cody Waters died in his sleep Dec. 3 at the family's home in Eugene, just 13 days short of his 18th birthday. An autopsy failed to reveal the cause of death.

"It's a medical mystery," Lane County deputy medical examiner Frank Ratti said.

By everyone's account, Cody was as perfect as a son could get. Tall, strong, ruggedly handsome like his father, he was an all-league selection in soccer and as a punter and kicker in football at Marist High School.

He would leave his dad notes saying he loved him and recommending a Bible scripture to help soften some

The Cotton Bowl was to be the Waters' family's triumphant return to Dallas. Cody was to carry his dad's headset cord on the sidelines, just as he had when Waters was defensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos. Now his 14-year-old son Andrew will handle that chore.

While Waters came to Dallas with his team, his wife Rosie went to Tyler, 93 miles to the east, where Cody was buried. She planned to join her husband in Dallas later in the

Ducks practiced Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Practicing at Texas Stadium and playing in the Cotton Bowl, it's a great mix," he said. "I feel real good right here right now. I just feel at home and at ease. I've got a lot of dear friends and I've had a lot of people get in touch with me recently, which we've needed and we've used."

The Cowboys went to the Super Bowl five times when Waters was a player. He joked that his name was missing from the "ring of honor" at Texas Stadium.

"Maybe we should just paste it up there so I could get some credibility with my players," he said. "They just know if I'm on the Nintendo game. If I'm on John Madden's '77 Cowboys, they'll listen to me."

The Oregon players decided to wear Cody Waters' initials on their helmets in Monday's game against Colorado. They marvel at the way their coach was able to return to his job so soon after the tragedy.

"I have so much respect for him," defensive back Alex Molden said. "I was thinking maybe the coach was going to take a week or two off to just be with his family. But he came

back. He's a strong individual and he's going to get through this. I pray every night for him and his family to have the strength. We would love to win this game for Cody."

Waters said he came back so soon because it's his job. In In his first two seasons, the his first season at Oregon, the Cowboys played in the Cotton Ducks' "Gang Green" de-Bowl. Then they moved to fense ranks 12th nationally Texas Stadium, where the in overall defense. But this comeback has been the most severe test of the selfdiscipline he learned as a football player.

"But because of the football aspect and the job I've got to do, I have to control that, which I'm pretty disciplined at doing. I can't say that I don't flash on things when I'm out working on football, but I'm able to bring it back."

Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel brought his 3-year-old son to a news conference Wednesday. He held him in his arms as the little boy rattled off the starting quarterbacks for 10 or so NFL teams.

Later, as he looked down at his boy, he said he couldn't imagine the pain that Waters and his family must be experiencing.

"We certainly share in the grief and we just hope that the game will be played in the spirit that Charlie Waters and Cody Waters played," Neuheisel said. "I'm going to tell my players we can play for him, too. All he stood for was sportsmanship and clean living and all that is good about college and amateur athlet-

"We can carry his flag as *** 11 "

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Crowded Jails Spur New Look at Punishment

Even as politicians ratchet up the emotions in their speeches about building more prisons and imposing stricter penalties for crime, an unusual grouping - including wardens, correctional officials, academics, and even some lawmakers and victims of crime -is advocating new ways of handling criminals, reports The New York Times.

Faced with decreasing state budgets and a surge in new inmates, many jailed on drug offenses, in already crowded jails, officials are showing a willingness to change the system.

Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, the conservative Republican of Wisconsin who cut spending and taxes, and overhauled his state's welfare programs, has gone so far as to say he will build no more prisons. He has appointed Walter Dickey, a former commissioner of corrections in the state, to study alterna- ual notion that a crime affects tives to confinement. And more than just a criminal in Dickey has been in touch with the justice system. many of these groups.

halt prison construction is driven less by charity than by pragmatism.

successfully helped about some of the most experimental changes in the prisons to be found in this country.

In 1991, Aaron Johnson, the

director of the state's correction's system, invited Colson and his organization to look at the system. The Colson group came up with 36 recommendations. Half were since adopted by the state legislature, including a prison-work program and an end to the practice of allowing offenders to chose between jail and alternative sentencing.

Studies had shown that seven out of 10 offenders chose prison because it was easier than alternative community sentencing plans.

In the 1992 campaign, Gov. James Hunt Jr. promised he would put inmates to work if elected. He has been as good as his word. Of the 27,000 inmates in North Carolina, more than 17,000 are working or participating in a worktraining program.

The thrust of the efforts is centered on something called "restorative justice," a spirit-

The response to crime must This growing sentiment to include the victim, society and the community as well. But the return of the village stockade and chain gang is In North Carolina, the loose not exactly what the groups alliance between grass-roots are calling for, but they do groups and legislators has want a public accounting by the offender that has as strong an impact on both the offender and on the community as those earlier methods of punishment.

---vocates for change are counting on the sheer numbers of potential prisoners, and the cost to the public, being enough of an eye-opener to change the public's dialogue, if not its sympathies. In Pennsylvania, for example, the prison population surpassed earlier estimates and will need an additional 10,000 prison beds over 20 years, at a cost of \$8 billion to \$10 billion.

Martin Horn, Secretary of Corrections for Pennsylvania, said this explosion was the result of tougher sentencing for nonviolent criminals. "In 1980, 41 percent of the inmates came in because they committed violent offenses, but in 1994, that was only 33 percent," Horn said. He noted that this year, 4,000 more inmates entered the prison sys-

"The increase comes from the fact that in the same period there was a 1,000 percent increase in commitments for violations," he narcotics said.

The anticipated surge in the number of inmates would require the equivalent of opening a new prison every 60 to 90 days. Nationwide, the prisons are filling up faster than ever. The Justice Department reported that the nation's federal and state prison population is at its high. The Bureau of Justice Statistics counted 1.5 million people in state and federal prisons in June, up from 1.4 million in 1994.

De La Pagina 1

llamado dental, "Coordinadora D96 -- Campaña D96", ha estado adelantando durante dos años los planes para realizar un acontecimiento de tal envergadura en la capital de la nación el 12 de octubre próximo, el Día de la Raza celebrado internacionalmente, que conmemora la fusión de los españoles con los pueblos indígenas en el Nuevo Mundo.

Las gestiones de "Campaña D96", aunque comenzando a cobrar impulso, han recibido poca visibilidad hasta la fe-

encuesta dijeron que ellos temían que se le viera como una copia pálida de la Marcha del Millón de Hombres Afroamericanos del otoño último, y que los elaboradores nacionales de cursos de acción no la tomarían en serio.

Juan Andrade, presidente del Proyecto del Medio Oeste y Nordeste para la Inscripción y Enseñanza de Electores, fué el único respondente que se opuso a una cumbre latina. El la describió como "... un montón de personas realizando los movimientos para redactar un documento que no tiene vida en los anaqueles".

El fué más entusiasta acerca de una marcha sobre Washington. "Se lo debemos a la juventud hispana", dijo él. "La generación mayor de activistas hispanos tuvo a César Chávez y los boicots para dar forma a sus ideales. Nuestra juventud necesita de la involucración en algo histórico".

"Los jóvenes están llegando a ser más instruídos y a manifestar sus opiniones de manconstructiva", agregó Guillermo Rodríguez, director ejecutivo del Foro de Asuntos Latinos, con sede en San Francisco. En muchas comunidades de costa a costa, los jóvenes latinos están organizando a los estudiantes de las escuelas secundarias y superiores alrededor de los asuntos que les afectan a ellos y a sus familias.

Directa o indirectamente, la mayoría de los respondentes apuntó al activismo político como la única esperanza verdadera para mejorar las circunstancias de los 30.7 millones de latinos del país.

"Conforme aumenta la pob-

lación latina, y nos involucramos más, la gente nos prestará mayor atención," dijo Teresa Soto, directora de la oficina de ministerio hispano de la diócesis de Raleigh, Carolina del Norte Ella anade que ahora requieren que los nuevos sacerdotes y seminaristas tomen clases de español, y la diócesis está agresivemente reclutando curas latinos.

Al tratar de los peligros que se avecinan, Figueroa, del PRLDEF, hizo notar que en Nueva York varios hospitales públicos que prestan servicios médicos a los latinos y otras personas de color están cer-Algunos respondentes a la rando debido a la falta de fondos. "¿A dónde van a ir los latinos que no tengan beneficios de salud? Los latinos no tienen casi ningún poder en estas instituciones. Los gobernadores y legisladores cuidarán de los suyos, pero no de sus electores (hispanos)".

> Romero, de Utah, observó que a nivel nacional: "Vimos los resultados de no participar en 1994. Desde entonces aprendimos a llevar nuestras voces al mercado con mayor eficacia". El señaló que en Salt Lake City, donde los latinos forman el 10% de la población, fueron electos hispanos como jefe de policía y superintendente escolar. Los latinos aportaron también un margen pequeño pero crítico para Dee Dee Corradini, que fué electa alcaldesa en 1994 en una contienda muy apretada. saw the results of not partici-"Una vez que nos involucramos, continuamos involucrados", dijo Romero.

¿Cómo se sentirá la influencia latina en la política nacional en este año? Por cerca de 2 contra 1, los respondentes el voto hispano podría ser decisivo en la campaña del presidente Clinton para la reelección.

Próximamente: Los dirigentes latinos manifiestan sus preferencias para los cargos nacionales y brindan algunos pronósticos sobre quién controlará el Senado y la Cámara de los Estados Unidos después de las elecciones de noviembre próximo.

(Fernando Trulin IV es reportero del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC. Su colega Joseph Torres aportó igualmente a este informe.)

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From Page 1 Guillermo Rodríguez, executive director of the San Francisco-based Latino Issues Forum. In many communities from coast to coast, young Latinos are organizing high school and college students around issues that affect them and their families. Directly or indirectly, most

> hope to improve conditions for the nation's 30.7-million Lat-"As we increase in numbers and get more involved, people will take notice," said Teresa Soto, director of the office of Hispanic ministry for the diocese of Raleigh, N.C. The diocese, she added, now requires seminarians and new priests to take Spanish classes and is aggressively recruiting Lati-

respondents pointed to politi-

cal activism as the only real

no priests. Discussing the hazards ahead, PRLDEF's Figueroa noted that in New York several public hospitals which provide medical services to Latinos and other people of color are closing because of a lack of funds: "Where are Latinos without health benefits going to go? Latinos have almost no power in these institutions. Governors and legislators will take care of their own but not their (Hispanic) constitu-

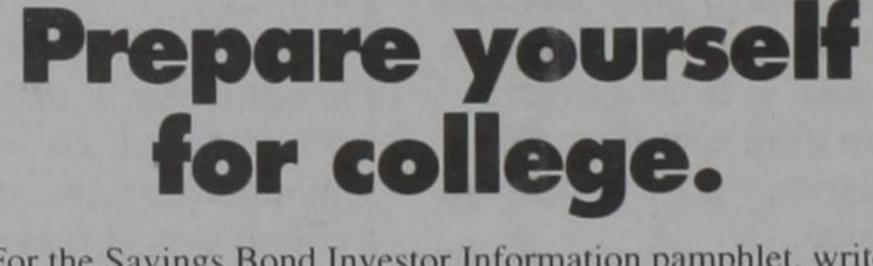
Utah-based Romero observed that on a national level, "We pating in 1994. Since then we learned to market our voices more effectively." He pointed out that in Salt Lake City, where Latinos comprise 10% of the population, Hispanics were elected as police chief estuvieron de acuerdo en que and school superintendent. Latinos also contributed a small but critical margin for Dee Dee Corradini, who was elected mayor in 1994 in a very close race. "Once we get involved, we stay involved," Romero said.

> How will the Latino influence be felt in national politics this year? By nearly 2-1, respondents agreed that the Hispanic vote could be pivotal in President Clinton's reelection bid.

Next: Latino leaders express their preferences for national office and offer some predictions on who will control the U.S. Senate and House following November's elections. (Fernando Trulin IV is a reporter with the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. Fellow reporter Joseph Torres also contributed to this report.)

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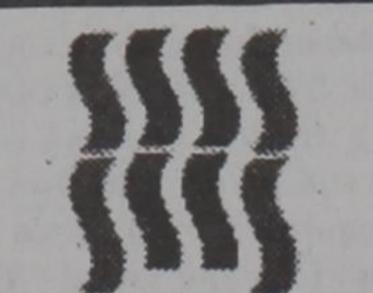


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Un Rayito De Luz by Sofia Martinez

El perdón de nuestros pecados se consigue mediante el arrepentimiento. El arrepentimiento se mani- dos. festaba en el Antiguo Testamento sacrificando aniera el bautismo de Juan en el Rio Jordán.

Los profetas insistieron en que el arrepentimiento no fuera un simple rito exmuy adentro del corazon; no era cuestión de ponerse un traje brillante de fiesta, o de cubrirse la cabeza de ceniza; sino que, era cuestión de un cambio de vida, un transplante de corazón, sí, tener un corazón en vez de una piedra. (Ezequiel 19, 36).

El Salmo 50(o 51) abarca casi todos esos aspectos. Son palabras que pronunció David, hace tres mil años, arrepentido de un doble pecado: adulterio y asesinato. Leé el triste espisodio que está escrito en

Salmos 11 y 12. Hace dosmil años vino El, Jesús. anunció perdón como una oferta de parte de Dios. Ante el asombro de los judíos, Jesús no sólo declaró perdonadlos a algunos pecadores, sino que El mismo los perdonó; con ésto, Jesús actruó como Dios: y comprobó a veces dramáticamente como en el caso del paralítico (Mat. 9). Es que con los pecados ofendemos a Dios; naturalmente que debe de ser Dios quién nos perdone, y Jesús no dice: "que Dios te perdone", sino: "Yo te perdono"; así demuestra, por lo tanto, que es Dios. Además del paralítico, Jesús perdonó a la pecadora (Luc. 7, 36-49), a la adultera (Juan 8); al ladrón crucificado (Luc. 23, 39-43). En la última cena Jesús explicó que íba a derramar Su sangre para lavar a la humanidad de sus pecados, que el iba a derramar Su sangre para lavar a la humanidad de sus pecados, que El que iba a pagar por todos, en lugar de todos. (Is. 53). Así, cuando Jesús resucitado les dijo a los apóstoles: "Quedarán perdonados los pecados a quienes ustedes perdonen, y retenidos a quienes ustedes se los retengan (Jn 20, 23), los discípulos entendieron perfectamente que de allí en adelante debían de seguir haciendo, ellos, eso mismo que había hecho Jesús, hacerlo en lugar de Jesús, ellos y Sus sucesores. Y, es exactamente lo que la Igle-

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o "Reconciliación".

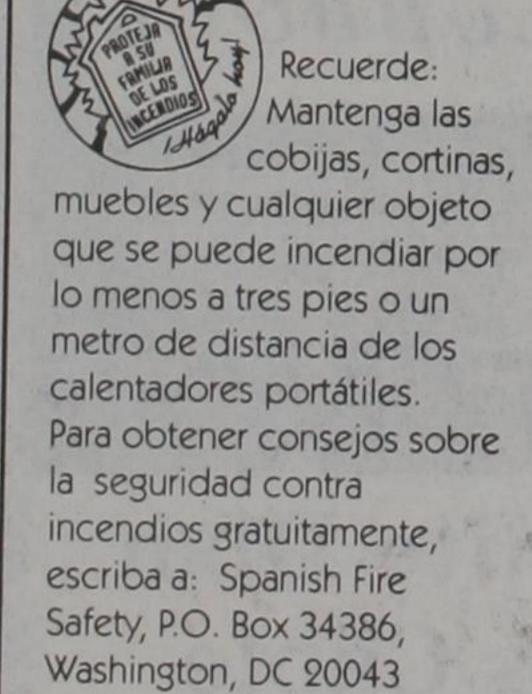
sacramento

sia Católica sigue hacien-

do, sobre todo mediante el

"penitencia", "Confesión"

llamado





Caminando Hacia Atras Por el Feriado de Navudad

Por Tomás Romero

"La temporada de Navidad es una época en que todos caminamos hacia atrás, buscando recuerdos atesorados y pedazitos nostálgicos que nos ayuden a atravesar las temporadas de días festivos cada vez más difíciles", me dijo un buen amigo durante los feria-

"Caminar hacia atrás" es bastante rutinario en su males a Dios, ofreciendo círculo, observó este amigo, oraciones, abluciones o sea que reconoce el dedicar una lavatorios; hace dosmil parte considerable de su vida años una de las abluciones a mantener a los accionistas de Jack Daniels y Johnny Walker sintiéndose completamente bien acerca de sus carteras de inversiones.

En el otoño temprano de sus terior, sino... que fuera de días, mi amigo prefiere volver la cara hacia el sol.

> La mayoría de nosotros, advirtió él, tendemos a señalar las épocas de nuestras vidas en mayor medida por los recuerdos de la Navidad que por los cumpleaños.

> Mi cumpleaños cae en Nochebuena, de modo que no tengo esos conflictos, le señalé. He sido -- dependiendo del estado de ánimo o del momento -bendecido dos veces o herido dos veces.

Me dan un calcetín en uno de los días y el otro calcetín al siguiente -- y espero que sean iguales, me gusta decir en

Cuando yo era un chico en una granja agrícola de Colorado, se valoraba a la Navidad. Recuerdo nuestra representación anual en minúscula Escuela de Wattenburg, y observar a mi madre Nora planchar las camisas blancas de vestir. Por saber de algún modo cuándo debía cambiar de una a la otra, ella rotaba hábilmente tres planchas de hierro (no eléctricas, por supuesto) encima de la estufa de madera que reventaba de calor.

La cocina estaba llena de olores mezclados de tamales, empanadas y galletitas de bizcochitos frescos.

"Es hora de irnos ahora", decía mamá por último. Cuán emocionado estaba yo, sabiendo que escucharía a la Sra. Ewing, nuestra maestra, elogiar la belleza de mamá.

Mi hermano mayor Wilfred, que murió poco después de Navidad hace dos años, se apresuraba a ir al granero y tomar un gran saco de yute.

"¿A dónde vas?", le preguntaba mamá.

"No necesito una chaqueta. Soy un pastor, y éste es mi manto", contestaba él.

Antes de su muerte, Wilfred esperaba ritualmente durante horas en "Dependable Cleaners" para recibir varias chaquetas gratis, que él llevaba al paso inferior de un puente sobre el Río South Platte y las daba a los que "eran demasiado penosos para ponerse en fila".

Mi padre Erasto pasó su última Navidad con mi esposa Deborah y conmigo. Fué maravilloso el verlo sonreir y disfrutar del gozo de ella haciendo un ensarte de rositas de maíz, bayas de arándano y chiles rojos secos para el árbol.

Me acuerdo de los regalos de día de fiesta en el Teatro Rex de Brighton -- películas gratis y bolsas de papel llenas de nueces y frutas. Los "chicos mexicanos" disfrutaban de una oportunidad, una vez al año, de no tener que sentarse en asientos de balcón segregados.

Vuelvo a vivir mi período en la Infantería de Marina, donde presté servicios en Vietnam, y a Ray Ludwig halando su equipo y diciendo: "Cambié el turno con Vassuer" cuando le pregunté por qué corría un riesgo innecesario al unirseme en una patrulla nocturna peligrosa en Nochebuena. Ray, mi mejor amigo, no quería que yo estuviera solo. Reclutados juntos, Ludwig y Romero fueron una pareja inseparable durante dos años. Donde quiera que estés ahora, Ray, permíteme

tomar esto prestado de un anuncio de Budweiser:

"Yo te quería, hombre. Tú eras "Semper Fi -- siempre fiel".

Recuerdo haber sido arrogante y lleno de mi propia importancia. Y recuerdo cuando he sido humillado completamente y me he sentido a mí mismo como un fracaso.

Un poeta escribió esto una vez: "Sin el frío y la desolación del invierno, no conoceríamos el aliento y la frescura de la primavera".

Hoy acostumbro seguir el

consejo de mi amigo. Miro cantidad de \$10,959. hacia adelante.

contestadoras.

Un miércoles antes de Navidad, pedí a mis lectores del "Denver Post" que ayudaran a un grupo llamado "Servicios de La Raza" para hacer realidad una fiesta de Navidad para 700 niños de familias con bajos ingresos. "Servicios" tenía \$50 en caja en aquel momento. Para el sábado siguiente, habían recibido veintenas de regalos y promesas de efectivo por la

¡Cuán verdaderamente bon-En una semana que com- dadosas pueden ser las persoprende mi cumpleaños y un nas, al hacer que las épocas día festivo, me siento centra- difíciles de otros sean tolerado, en armonía. La familia bles y que lo imposible pueda me cuida. Los hijos dejan sobrevivir! También son bonmensajes que dicen "te quie dadosos al decir que mi integro, papá", en las máquinas ridad como escritor hizo que la solicitud fuera digna de atención.

> En la Navidad última, un amigo me dijo que yo le recordaba a un "Tom bondadoso de antes de la guerra". Menos combativo, menos belicoso. Soy afortunado.

Como pronunció Jesse Jackson en 1984: "Soy un servidor público, no un servidor perfecto -- hago lo mejor que puedo contra las probabilidades, y Dios no ha terminado conmigo aún".

Me pongo más canoso y todavía ni siquiera sé si tengo fe. Pero estoy dedicado a vivir en esperanza. Ya no estoy conectado permanentemente al botón del enojo. El sol me calienta la cara.

Espero que hayan tenido una Feliz Navidad y que podamos compartir un Próspero Año Nuevo.

(Tomás Romero, activo en los asuntos de enseñanza y políticos en Denver, Colorado, redacta una columna semanal para el "Denver Post".)

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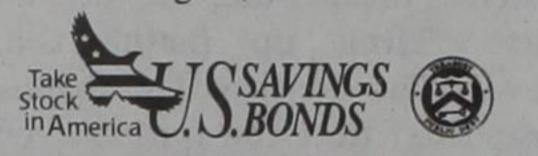
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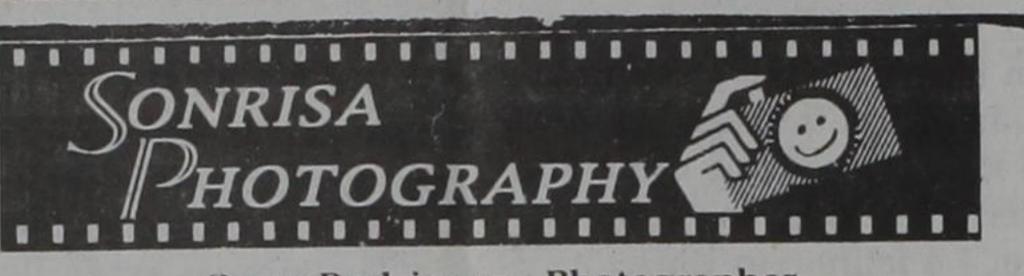
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Latinos en el estado de Tejas han sufrido, en creciente, hostilidades e intimidación por sus empleadores por el uso del Español en el trbajo. Muchos negocios tambien han adoptado reglas que prohiben a los empleados hablar en Español en el trabajo.

El Titulo VII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 protege a las personas contra la discriminación en el empleo por razon de hablen Ingles exclusivamente durante horas de trabajo puede violar el Titulo VII, menos que el empleador demuestre que es necesario para el buen funcionamiento de su negocio. Segun las reglas de la Comision Federal de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo (EEOC), para mostrar una necesidad de negocio, un empleador debe establecer que la regla es necesaria para un seguro y eficiente cumplimiento del trabajo.

El Fondo Mexicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y La Educación (MALDEF, siglas en Ingles) y el Proyecto de Derechos para Inmigrantes Regugiados del Comite de Abogados paa los Derechos Civiles son organizaciones que promueven y protegen los derechos civiles de los latinos que viven en los Estados Unidos.

Si usted siente que sus derechos estan siendo negados por las reglas de "solamente-ingles" en el trabajoo, en violaicon del Titulo VII de al ley de Derchos Civiles de 1964, por favor llame al (210) 224-5476 o 1-800-646-1237. MALDEF y el comite de Abogados para los Derechos Civiles quieren su asistencia para identificar estos violadores.

NOTICE

Latinos in the state of Texas are increasingly experiencing hostilities and intimidation from their employers because of their use of Spanish in the workplace. Many businesses have also implemented policies prohibiting employees from speaking Spanish on the job.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of national origin. Rules requiring employees to speak only English at all times on the job may violate Title VII, unless an employer shows it is necessary for conducting business. According to Equal Employment Opportunity commission (EEOC) guidelines, in order for business necessity to be established, an employer must establish that the practice is necessary to safe and efficient job performance or to the safe and efficient operation of the business.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Texas, Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project are non-profit, public interest law firms that promote and protect the civil rights of Latinos in the United States.

If you feel that your rights are being denied by Englishonly rules and policies, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, please contact (210) 224-5476 or 1-80-646-1237. MALDEF and the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights would like your assistance in identifying these violators.

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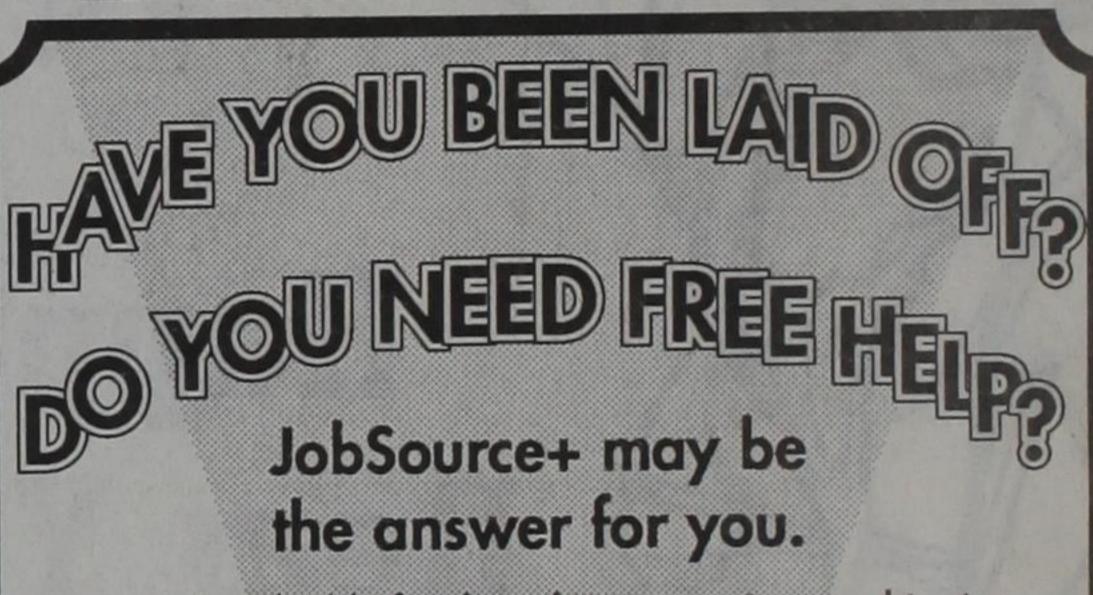
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