

Special Events at Lake Set for Summer

Summer is here and activities are abound at Lubbock's Buffalo Springs Lake.

This weekend the Lake will see two special events taking place.

Guests from all over the nation will come to the Lake this weekend to participate in the Llano Estacado Native American 3rd Annual Traditional Gathering. Special guests include Johnny Reed as head singer/southern drum, Anita Hitchcock, head woman dance, and Itziptco Oka, northern drum.

The gathering will feature Native American dancers, singers, drum-

mers, arts and crafts and food. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed.

Also taking place at the Lake this week will be the West Texas Road Riders Caprock Run starting May 19 and continuing until May 21. Included in the Run will be bike games,

field events for both adults and children, a parade and light show, a bike show, and a poker run. Events will start on Friday at 5 pm with the parade and light show starting at 9 pm.

Memorial day will feature a full week-end of events including the Slaton Chamber of Commerce Battle of the Band and the 3rd Annual Buffalo Lake Campout Softball Tournament for Class E and Co-Ed teams.

The 3 and 4th of June will feature Lubbock Centro Aztlan "Charriada Mexicana" which a Mexican style rodeo. Over 100 Charros are expected to participate in the event and will match the number of Charros expected to compete at State tournaments. The event will bring in teams from El Paso, Juarez, New Mexico, Dallas, Plainview and Midland.

For more information on any of these activities call Olga Riojas-Aguero at 747-3353.



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derecho ajeno
es la paz"

Lic. Benito Juarez



EL EDITOR

West Texas' Oldest Weekly Bilingual Newspaper

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From Giant Publishing Companies

NAHP Battles Unfair Competition

The National Association of Hispanic Publications, which is comprised of about 100 Spanish language or bilingual publications throughout the U.S., is stepping up its efforts to battle unfair competition from corporate media giants.

The NAHP's 12-member board of directors, meeting in Dallas adopted a resolution warning large publishing interests that they will scrutinize the efforts of large corporations which enter the Spanish-language newspaper market and pursue legal remedies if necessary to battle antitrust

violations such as selling advertising space at below-cost rates.

The NAHP board also asked its legal counsel, Albuquerque attorney Phillip Martinez, to advise both the association and individual member publications as to ways to spot and prove anti-competitive behavior and steps that could be taken to stem the disturbing trend.

Minority-owned publications currently face competition from large media corporations in Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Midland and other cities with large Hispanic populations. In almost every case, the minority-owned publication or publications has published more than five years and developed interest in the market.

In Midland, El Editor's Permian Basin edition has been faced with having to compete with a newspaper published by the Hearst Corporation, one of the nation's largest publishing chains.

"It has been hard to compete with a multi-million dollar corporation who can afford full color pictures in their publication without even blinking an eye," said Manuel Orona, publisher of El Editor and member of the National Board.

Orona said that he has lost many ads that used to advertise with his publication sometimes because the companies are under the impression that the newspaper is minority owned.

The large corporations, which ignored the potential Spanish-reading market for many years, have invested heavily in developing competing publications since 1990. In most cases, these publishing giants such as the Los An-

geles Times, Chicago Tribune, New York Times, McClatchy Newspapers and the Hearst Corporation enter with larger staffs, slick-looking publications and higher costs than their minority owned counterparts yet with lower advertising rates.

"I have heard that advertising in my competitor in Midland has been offered for a minimal rate and as a bonus for advertising in the Midland Express News," said Orona.

The resolution reads in part: "These publications often employ anti-competitive measures, most often the print advertising equivalent of 'dumping' or selling advertising space at a loss, in order to take away a competitor's market share, thereby severe-



ly impacting a publication's ability to survive... (While) the NAHP and its member publications recognize your right to compete in any market you choose - do so judiciously, because we will carefully scrutinize your every move and pursue every legal recourse available should you make it necessary for us to do so."

The NAHP board also denounced the recent passage of the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 by California voters and adopted a stance opposing the California civil Rights In-

itiative, a proposed November 1996 ballot measure which would eliminate Affirmative Action programs.

"The NAHP and its member publications are committed to employing all of our resources to their fullest to actively oppose any and all measures which would set back the civil rights victories achieved by minorities throughout the past 40 years and/or inhibit our Hispanic communities' ability to realistically pursue the American dream," said NAHP President Luis Rossi. "The playing field is still uneven."

NAHP Critica Grandes Corporaciones

La Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispanas (NAHP, siglas en inglés) que agrupa a unas 100 publicaciones en español o bilingües en Estados Unidos, está redoblando sus esfuerzos para combatir la competencia desleal de las gigantes corporaciones de los medios de comunicación.

Los 12 miembros del directorio nacional de la NAHP, en su reunión de 21-22 de abril en Dallas, Texas, adoptaron una resolución advirtiendo a los grandes intereses editoriales que seguirán de cerca los intentos de las grandes corporaciones de incorporarse en el mercado periodístico de habla hispana, que buscarán remedio legal, de ser necesario, para combatir las violaciones antitrust, tales como vender publicidad a mezas bajo costo.

La Mesa de la NAHP también pidió asesoría legal a Phillip Martinez; de Albuquerque, Nuevo México, para la asociación y para publicaciones integrantes de la misma sobre cómo detectar y probar la competencia desleal, y los pasos que se deberán tomar para detener esta agresiva tendencia.

Las publicaciones de propiedad de minorías enfrentan actualmente competencia por parte de las grandes corpora-

ciones en Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Midland y otras ciudades con alto nivel de población hispana. En casi cada caso, las publicaciones minoritarias han estado publicando desde hace más de cinco años y han desarrollado un interés en ese mercado.

En Midland El Editor del Permian Basin tiene competencia con la Corporación Hearst, una de las más grandes corporaciones en los Estados Unidos.

"Es bastante difícil competir con una compañía multimillonaria que puede poner fotos a todo color sin tan siquiera parpariar," dijo Manuel Orona, publicador de El Editor y miembro de la Mesa Directiva del NAHP.

Las grandes corporaciones, que ignoraron el potencial del mercado en español durante años, invirtieron mucho en crear publicaciones competitivas desde 1990. En la mayoría de los casos, estos gigantes editoriales arrancan con personal más numeroso, publicaciones más vistosas y costos más altos que las publicaciones de propiedad de minorías, pero con precios más bajos en la publicidad.

News Briefs

Minority MDs More Likely to Help Poor

The Associated Press reports that a study by the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore found that minority doctors bear the heaviest burden of caring for the poor, and are penalized for it by low pay from Medicaid programs and the lack of universal health insurance coverage.

The nationwide study found that 29 percent of Medicaid patients got care from nonwhite doctors as did 19 percent of other low-income people and 19 percent of the uninsured.

Thirteen percent of more affluent people got medical care from minority doctors, said the study's authors, Drs. Ernest Moy and Barbara A. Bartman.

The findings were based on data collected in 1987, the latest year available from the federal government. The study will be in Wednesdays issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study also examined racial patterns and found that minority patients were more than four times likely to receive care from nonwhite physicians than were white patients.

"The system's unfairness to minority doctors is likely to get worse in the future," Moy said. "That's because increasingly popular managed care systems, such as health maintenance organizations, favor doctors with patients whose care is cheaper. Indigent patients cost more to treat because they are often in worse health," he said.

Dr. Herbert Nickens, vice president for minority health, education and prevention at the Association of American Medical said that of about 16,000 first-year medical students in 1994, 2,014 were from under represented minorities; blacks, American Indians, Mexican-Americans and mainland Puerto Ricans compared with 1,584 from those groups in 1991, Nickens said.

Mexico Warns of Extremism Against Migrants

Reuters reports that Mexico's foreign minister urged the U.S. government to educate Americans to combat prejudice against Mexican immigrants.

Jose Angel Gurria said, "Migration cannot be dealt with through short-term policies; most certainly it cannot be suppressed with violence and it will not disappear with repression. The leadership of the United States government to educate public opinion in some regions and sectors of this country, to denounce and to reverse these trends, is of vital importance."

Gurria's remarks appeared targeted at legislation such as California's Proposition 187, which would deny welfare benefits to undocumented immigrants. The courts have blocked the law, but similar moves have begun in other states.

The minister said his government was trying to ensure jobs for Mexicans in their own country but he said migration was an "undeniable reality" rooted in history and "accentuated by the asymmetry in the levels of income between both nations."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, applauded Mexico's efforts to improve social conditions and steps to end what he called the inhuman traffic in illegal migrants. "We will do all we can to curb illegal immigration, and at the same time, we are committed to facilitate the legal movement of people and goods across our border," he said.

Foundation Studies Farm Subsidies

The Associated Press reports that the Progressive Foundation released a report Monday that called current U.S. farm policies "anachronistic, inefficient, intrusive and unfair," saying it benefits wealthy farmers, rewards low productivity and hinders overseas sales.

The report, "Ending Agricultural Entitlements: How to Fix Farm Policy" said that they should replace crop subsidies with revenue insurance, only the most environmentally sensitive land should be idled, and credit rather than subsidies should be used to promote export sales.

The foundation is affiliated with the Democratic Leadership Council, the moderate Democratic group headed by Bill Clinton before he became president. The document was written by former Rep. Tim Penny, D-Minn.; consultant John A. Schnitker, an Agriculture Department official under presidents Kennedy and Johnson; and C. Ford Runge, professor at the University of Minnesota's Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy.

They intend the report to provide an alternative to the administration's recommendation to preserve basic farm programs and make \$1.5 billion in unspecified cuts over five years. The report recommends ending subsidies gradually, a \$5 billion spending cap in the first year, about one-half of current average spending.

The recommendations would make farmers eligible for up to \$20,000 in insurance against drastic drops in their revenue, with the opportunity to buy more coverage. That kind of safety net would protect more growers than the current programs, which direct two-thirds of the payments to the wealthiest 16.4 percent of farms, the group said.

The study also calls for ending U.S. quotas on sugar and peanut imports, as a move toward opening world markets and recommends abolition of the Export Enhancement Program, which provided \$968 million to subsidize wheat and flour exports in 1994.

Congress is deliberating cuts of \$5 billion to \$15 billion over five years.

House Discontinues Education Panel

The Associated Press reports that the House voted yesterday to discontinue the presidentially appointed National Commission on Education Standards.

On Wednesday the House begins debate on the budget resolution that includes abolishing the Education Department and many other federal education programs, including special help for non-English speaking and homeless children.

Conservatives, who want education left under state and local control, feared that the National Education Standards and Improvement Council would become a national school

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero

I must have been about 4 or 5 years old when my Mom would shout at me and say

"open the door for the lechero (milkman)

. That lechero was Jose Ramirez who delivered

milk to our house in what was known then as "el barrio nuevo".

I can remember Jose as a kind hearted man who would always be good to us and talk to us.

As time went by Jose developed a name by establishing a Restaurant first on Ave. H close to Brooks and then moving to 50th and Ave. H.

Jose was elected to the School Board early in the years when Chicanos were just beginning to ask for rights that they were entitled to. He served for 12 years and did a good job in helping to get more Chicano teachers hired and changes in how our people were treated. We must also remember that he was a pioneer in trying to make people realize that we as a people are part of this community and can contribute much to it.

We must remember Jose Ramirez as a pioneer toward many changes that needed to happen in our community.

Jose Ramirez died this past week. In writing about him, we must say.....

"Muchas Gracias".

Pico de Gallo

Nuestras felicidades a el Sr. Sam Medina por haber ser nombrado juez de condado.

Sera interesante que pasa en el futuro.

Hanging Poses Threaten Us All

By Miguel Pérez

If it's not California Proposition 187, it's the movement to do away with affirmative action or efforts to legalize assault weapons. If it's not flame-throwing conservative talk-radio jocks, it's the Republican Contract With America.

It's really all of the above.

There's no doubt they are inviting right-wing extremists to crawl out of the gutter.

No single politician, radio show or piece of legislation can be blamed for the negative, racist and xenophobic mood of the country. But collectively their hate-mongering fueled the bomb that exploded in Oklahoma City.

When President Clinton condemned a profusion of hate speech and suggested there is link between "purveyors of hatred and division" and violent acts, I remembered a letter I received shortly after the Feb. 21 fatal shooting of 16-year-old African-American Lawrence Meyers by a white Paterson, N.J., housing police officer.

Meyers, who was unarmed, was shot during a drug bust. Police say the shooting, which is being investigated by a grand jury, was accidental.

The letter in my mailbox illustrates the hatred nurtured by those who, according to Clinton, "keep some people as paranoid as possible" and "leave the impression that, by their very words, violence is acceptable."

Those who follow them are among us. "Go back to where you came from," the letter said. "God bless Rush Limbaugh, Bob Grant, Newt (Gingrich) and of course the rookie cop (who shot Meyers) in Paterson."

The letter was signed by "The Right." It was obviously written by someone whose warped mentality has been somehow vindicated by his professed heroes.

This is the danger this country faces as its political pendulum swings too far to the right. People who hear extremist public figures openly discussing legislation to institutionalized discrimina-

tion could be seeing a green light to join a group of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, or a militia. They could be led to believe they have been given a license to act out their most extreme fantasies.

Bitter words can have grave consequences. Those who spew them may have the First Amendment rights to say them, but they should be held accountable for inciting violence.

After the Oklahoma massacre, many U.S. citizens were willing to join a hanging posse, even if they hung innocent people. Our pain distorted our thinking.

In the xenophobic climate created by those who bash immigrants, especially after the World Trade Center bombing, some took their anger out on Muslims. "If it was up to me," I overheard one woman say, "I would go to every 7 Eleven and shoot them all." She was referring to Arabs, of course, before we had reason to believe the bombing suspects were home-grown.

The pendulum has swung too

wide. The conservative hate rhetoric is a result of the Republican landslide in November, which was due to the Clinton Administration's swing to the left with a socialist health-care plan last year.

The cyclical rise and fall of hate groups are responses to the political climate of the country. If the pendulum swings too far in one direction, then it will swing too wide in the other.

Throughout the world, when leftists assume power, it's usually in reaction to a right-wing dictatorship.

The letter-writer, who disagrees with me on a language issue, calls me a Communist. But as one who fled Cuban communism, I see him and his idols swinging so far to the right they could be creating the conditions for communism.

God save us from both extremes.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist and editorial board member of the Bergen Record in New Jersey.)

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La Cuadrillas de Aborcamiento No Amenasan a Todos

Por Miguel Pérez

Si no es la Proposición 187 de California, es el movimiento para acabar con la acción afirmativa, o las gestiones para legalizar las armas de asalto. Si no son los moderadores conservadores con lanza-llamas de los programas de charlas, es el Contrato Republicano con los Estados Unidos.

Realmente es todo lo anterior. No hay duda de que están invitando a los extremistas de derecha para que salgan de las zanjas.

No se puede culpar a ningún político, programa de radio o proyecto de legislación singular por el estado de ánimo negativo, racista y xenofóbico del país. Pero colectivamente, su incitación al odio alimentó a la bomba que explotó en Oklahoma City.

Cuando el Presidente Clinton censuró a la profusión de discursos de odio y sugirió que hay un nexo entre los "proveedores de odio y división" con los actos violentos, recordé una carta que recibí poco después del tiroteo fatal del afroamericano Lawrence Meyers, de 16 años de edad, por parte de un agente blanco de la policía de viviendas de Paterson, Nueva Jersey.

Meyers, que no estaba armado, fué muerto por disparos de arma de fuego durante un arresto por tráfico de narcóticos. La policía dice que el tiroteo, que está siendo investigado por un gran jurado, fué accidental.

La carta que llegó a mi buzón ilustra al odio alimentado por aquéllos que, según Clinton, "mantienen a la gente tan paranoicos como sea posible" y "dejan la impresión de que, según sus propias palabras, la violencia es aceptable."

Sus seguidores se hallan entre nosotros. "Regresa al lugar de donde viniste," decía la carta. "Dios bendiga a Rush Limbaugh, Bob Grant, Newt (Gingrich) y desde luego al agente novato (que mató a Meyers) en Paterson."

La carta estaba firmada por "La Derecha." Fué escrita evidentemente por alguien cuya mentalidad torcida ha sido vindicada de algún modo por sus héroes profesos.

Este es el peligro a que se enfrenta este país, a medida que su péndulo político oscila demasiado a la derecha. Las personas que escuchan a las figuras públicas extremistas tratar abiertamente de la legislación para institucionalizar a la discriminación podrían estar viendo un semáforo en verde para unirse a un grupo de supremacistas blancos, neo-nazis, el

Ku Klux Klan o una milicia.

Podrían ser llevados a creer que se les ha dado una licencia para poner en práctica sus fantasías más extremadas.

Las palabras agrias pueden tener consecuencias graves. Los que las profieren pueden tener el derecho que les da la Primera Enmienda a decir las, pero debería hacerse responsables por incitar a la violencia.

Después de la masacre de Oklahoma, muchos ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos estaban dispuestos a unirse a una cuadrilla de aborcamiento, aún cuando colgaran a personas inocentes. Nuestro dolor trastornó a nuestros pensamientos.

En el clima xenofóbico creado por los que atacan a los inmigrantes, especialmente después del atentado terrorista contra el Centro Mundial de Comercio, algunos dejaron escapar su ira en contra de los musulmanes.

"Si fuera por mí," escuché decir a una mujer, "iría a todos los 7 Eleven y los mataría a tiros a todos." Ella estaba refiriéndose a los árabes, desde luego, antes de que tuviéramos razón para creer que los sospechosos del atentado fueran nacidos en este país.

El péndulo ha oscilado demasiado. La retórica conservadora de odio es resultado de la avalancha republicana de noviembre último, que se debió a la vuelta hacia la izquierda del gobierno de Clinton el año pasado con un plan de atención sanitaria socialista.

El ascenso y la caída cíclicos de los grupos de odio es una reacción al clima político del país. Si el péndulo oscila demasiado lejos en una dirección, entonces oscilará demasiado lejos en la opuesta.

En todo el mundo, cuando los izquierdistas asumen el poder, de costumbre es en reacción a una dictadura de derecha.

El autor de la carta, que discorda conmigo sobre un asunto de lenguaje, me llama comunista. Pero como alguien que huyó del comunismo en Cuba, los veo a él y a sus ídolos inclinándose tanto hacia la derecha que ellos podrían estar creando las circunstancias para el comunismo.

Dios nos salve de ambos extremos.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista y miembro de la junta editorial del "Bergen Record," de Nueva Jersey.)

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Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

Part Two: Class, Race, and National Origin

By Ira Cutler

Last week, we looked at the prospect for a national break up along geopolitical lines, with the growing strength of states and the weakening of the federal government. But states versus the federal government is only one of several fault lines along which break up may be plausible.

The United States is in fact more broken up by races, religions and language than by state and regional lines. The aspiration to be a "melting pot" -- a country where race, religion and ethnic differences would fade into insignificance -- is about gone in the face of dramatic increases in racial and ethnic tensions. The dream when I was growing up was that all the different groups we come from would fade far into the background as we became this new thing called Americans. No hyphens necessary. Today, we doubt that such a dream is achievable and many doubt its desirability.

It is clear now that real commitment to the melting pot idea was lacking, that the idea was always kind of naive, that it was really only about European immigrants -- never really meant to include people with African or Asian or Latin American roots. But as a young child I believed it, just as I believed all of our historical and cultural myths. Later on, for at least a little while, we believed that integration and laws outlawing segregation and discrimination would solve our racial problems and we know now that that was naive, too.

Beyond the melting pot, the approach now in vogue is to be highly conscious of one's group identity and to take pride in being descended from people who contributed whatever your particular group contributed to the history and culture of mankind. Somehow, in ways that I frankly cannot understand, if I am descended from people who came from Greece I get to feel especially good about Plato. But mustn't what we have pride about serve inevitably to separate us from others as well? If I like myself more because my relatives came from a certain part of the world, don't I have to like you less if yours did not? If I feel a kinship to people of a certain race doesn't that mean that I feel not-kin, a stranger, to those not of my race?

Personally, I do not believe that you can feel good about yourself for being part of a group without feeling at least a little bad about the people that do not. I do not believe we can have race pride without increasing the risk of race prejudice.

The upside of group identification is that you get the support of being a part of something larger than yourself. You get to enjoy the wonderful richness of a culture -- the foods, the art, the history, the language. One downside is that if I tie myself to the good parts of my people (assuming I have any real clue about who "my" people are at this stage in the history of the world) don't I tie myself as well to all the rest?

Here are two true stories:

Last week my business partner sat in Houston watching the Rockets lose a game they should have won. Worse, her evening was ruined by the loud, obnoxious, and boorish people sitting nearby. Still worse, she could not just think of them as stupid people -- she had to think of them as stupid Black people. Because she is Black she felt that in some way their behavior reflected on her -- she felt a tie, a responsibility, and she wanted to do something about their behavior.

The same week I sat in a train station and heard a Black man speak about the role that Jews played in slavery. I moved away because the conversation made me angry and uncomfortable as a Jew. I felt some responsibility for, some tie to, people who died hundreds of years ago. And even as I write this I am sitting here feeling that I have to tell you that my forebears were in eastern Europe at the time, being something like serfs, and certainly not getting rich off slavery.

Don't we want a world in which we can freely associate with, and be associated with, the people we choose to be close to, based on the content of their character rather than the color of their skin or the accident of their birth? Don't we want, as a part of inventing who we are as individuals, to create new support and identification groups that reflect our individual tastes and values as we experience them in our own lives? When we form an exclusive bond with a particular group of people aren't we shutting out more than we huddle to protect?

It is tempting right now to focus attention on the lunatic fringe -- the guys in the woods playing army and believing that the Jews are arming the Blacks for a massive race war, the Blacks who think that AIDS is a CIA plot, and the people who worry that further immigration will force their grandchildren to one day speak Spanish. But the lunatic fringe is just a fringe and it is more important to think about the group in the middle that is made up of decent people trying to understand things that are complex and frightening.

Only the group in the middle has the chance to change the culture and to make the country whole. And as one of the in the middle muddling around people my sense is that we have very little chance of being a healthy society if we do not let go of these tired old groupings.

While we pay attention to fake differences -- the color of your skin or where your relatives got on the boat -- the real differences in our society are obscured. Republicans accuse Democrats of fostering "class warfare" over issues like taxation, but nobody seems to argue that we are a classless society. I do not even hear it said that we should be classless. It is considered, apparently, bad manners and divisive to point out that some people are starving while others are living in luxury. I even heard a politician accuse another of fostering envy. God help us if envy is fostered!

The gap between the haves and have-nots is widening and the opportunity to move up in class has never been more limited, and that in my mind is the real story. We will not get to that story if we do not clear the other stuff away.

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks.

LOS GRUPOS LATINOS PRESSIONAN AL DEPARTAMENTO DE INMIGRACION Y PARA ACELERAR EL PROCESO DE NATURALIZACION

Por Margarita Contín

Al proyectarse que las solicitudes de ciudadanía aproximarán 1.7 millón a acercarse las elecciones presidenciales de noviembre de 1996, las organizaciones latinas vienen exhortando al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS en inglés) para que acelere sus procedimientos complicados de naturalización.

Arturo Vargas, presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos (NALEO en inglés), lo explica así: "No es tanto para hacer el trámite más fácil, sino menos burocrático."

NALEO y docenas de otros grupos a través del país están ayudando a los inmigrantes elegibles a prepararse para la naturalización. Mientras tanto, el INS, a fin de prepararse para el proyecto aumento de solicitudes de ciudadanía, pidió al Congreso el año pasado, por primera vez en la historia, fondos designados para la naturalización. Anteriormente, los fondos para la naturalización provenían de las cuotas de los exámenes. Este año, el Congreso asignó al INS \$7 millones de su petición de \$30 millones para la naturalización.

Vargas dice que NALEO tramitó a tantas solicitudes en los tres primeros meses de 1995 como las que tramitó en todo 1994. A nivel nacional, según el INS, la cantidad de solicitudes presentadas este febrero sobrepasó a la del mes anterior por cerca de 9,000, para llegar a una cifra sin precedentes de casi 75,000. El INS espera recibir 760,000 solicitudes en este año fiscal (Oct. 1994-Sept. 1995) y 925,000 para el año fiscal 1996. En 1994, dicha agencia recibió 555,094 solicitudes.

SOLICITUDES DE CIUDADANIA POR MES Y AÑO FISCAL
 Febrero de 1995 74,675 1995(1) 307,120 ; Febrero de 1994 29,804 1994 555,094
 Febrero de 1993 39,287 1993 522,298; Febrero de 1992 24,120 1992 342,252
 Febrero de 1991 17,364 1991 206,668 ; Febrero de 1990 18,127 1990 233,843
 Febrero de 1989 17,911 1989 227,692

Juan José Gutiérrez, director de la agencia "One Stop Immigration," de Los Angeles, culpa al ambiente anti-inmigrante por el creciente interés en la naturalización. "Lo que estamos viendo es el comienzo de un movimiento latino por los derechos civiles," dice él. "No tiene sentido alguno el estar pagando impuestos, no tener voz y seguir siendo víctimas."

Víctor Morisete, director de la Asociación Comunitaria de Dominicanos Progresistas, en la ciudad de Nueva York, ha reorganizado a su personal de 25 para aumentar sus gestiones de naturalización. Aunque la asociación acostumbraba efectuar esas campañas mensualmente, cambió para llevarlas a cabo semanalmente en enero. "El año pasado estábamos tramitando 100 solicitudes al mes. Ahora hay de 100 a 120 a la semana ... y esto es sólo en Washington Heights."

En febrero, NALEO presentó a la Comisionada del INS Doris Meissner, varias recomendaciones a fin de facilitar la naturalización.

Entre ellas están:

- Simplificar las solicitudes;
- Reasignar al personal a los distritos con los mayores retrasos;
- Fomentar un Día Nacional de la Ciudadanía el 17 de septiembre; y
- Permitir alternativas para cumplir los requisitos del examen de cívica e inglés.

"Ellos necesitan hallar un modo de eximir a aquellos solicitantes que tengan diplomas de secundaria o títulos universitarios, porque obviamente tienen que hablar inglés y tener conocimiento de la historia y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos," agregó Saeed Ali, director de la Red de Acción para la Ciudadanía Estadounidense, de Los Angeles (U.S. Citizen Action Network, en inglés).

El INS ha creado un equipo para evaluar todos los pasos de la ciudadanía, desde antes de la presentación de solicitud hasta la ceremonia final de la naturalización. Se espera que sus recomendaciones se den a conocer para fines de este mes.

"Estamos modernizando el sistema para acelerar el trámite de aquéllos que son riesgos menores ... tal vez las personas que hayan estado aquí por 30, 40 o 50 años," dice el portavoz Robert Steve, del INS.

Ali recomienda utilizar las escuelas y organizaciones comunitarias para llevar a cabo los exámenes y permitir que las solicitudes presenten su información por computadora.

Juan Andrade, director ejecutivo del Proyecto de Registro de Electores del Medio Oeste y Nordeste, con sede en Chicago

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News Briefs

board, mandating curriculum.

The commission was authorized under the Goals 2000 Educate America Act to certify national standards. Goals 2000 began as a Republican initiative under former President Bush, but conservatives say the legislation is part of President Clinton's plan to restructure American education and they want the entire law repealed.

The House voted to cut \$174 million in funds for Goals 2000 programs, including parenting classes and drug and violence prevention in the schools. The Senate plan would cut \$7 million in funds.

Impact of EITC Proposed Cuts

AP reports a new Treasury Department study says enactment of the GOP proposal to cut the Earned Income Tax Credit would hurt 12.2 million credit recipients, costing them an average \$235 in 1996 and \$1,542 over the next seven years.

Started in 1975 under President Ford, for 1994 the program offered a maximum credit of \$2,528 for working families with two or more children. Recipients are eligible even if they pay no federal income tax. In 1986, President Reagan called it "the best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job-creation measure to come out of the Congress."

Now Senate Republicans are targeting it as an out-of-control welfare program and seeking to scale back its 1993 expansion by Congress and the Clinton administration.

Democrats portray the GOP cut as a tax increase. And they've singled it out as a key attack point in a GOP budget that would reduce taxes, primarily for middle- and upper-class taxpayers, by \$170 billion over seven years. Adding insult to injury, according to Democrats, the cut comes at a time when poor people are being squeezed off the welfare rolls and told to work.

Before the change, the program provided 15.3 million families with children with \$15.7 billion. A year later, for the 1994 tax year, it funneled \$20.8 billion to 19.5 million families and - for the first time - individuals without children. Without changes, according to the Treasury Department, it will cost \$36.5 billion in 2002.

In some states - Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas - more than one in five tax returns claim the credit.

The idea is to offset some of the expenses poor families face in moving from welfare to work, such as the 7.65 percent Social Security payroll tax and the loss of food stamps and subsidized housing and health care. Recipients can apply for the credit when they file their tax returns. With their employers' cooperation, they can receive the credit as a supplement to their paychecks. About 10 percent of the total cost of the program is actually a refund of income taxes paid by the working poor. The remainder is payments to families whose incomes are so low that they owe no tax.

A spot check by the General Accounting Office early last year found that 29 percent of returns claiming the credit claimed too much. Of those, 12 percent were classified as "intentional error." Meantime, 14 percent to 25 percent of eligible families don't bother to apply, the GAO said.

Line-Item Veto Bill Stalled

The Associated Press reports that House Rules Committee Chairperson Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., says the line-item veto legislation stalled in Congress because House leaders reject the Senate version as "unworkable."

The two bills have major differences. The Senate, trying to avoid constitutional questions over the veto power, devised a system called "separate enrollment" which divides each appropriation bill into hundreds of smaller bills, each covering individual spending items and each subject to a veto.

Solomon said he saw no reason to appoint a House and Senate conference to work out a compromise when the two sides are so far apart. He said that he plans to introduce a legislative procedure in the House to replace the Senate bill with the House language and send it back to the Senate for reconsideration.

President Clinton supports the legislation that gives the president the authority to eliminate specific spending programs in a larger spending bill. The line-item veto bill passed both houses by sizable majorities in February and March.

Cantemos Todos La Canción De Selena los Niños

Por Jo Ann Zúñiga

Como reportera que informo de la tragedia de Selena y su muerte violenta, no pude por menos que sentirme afectada por la pena profunda de la comunidad hispana, el dolor que todos tenemos.

Los niños, especialmente, están sufriendo.

Tuve el privilegio de ver varias funciones en vivo de la energética y vivaz estrella de 23 años. Como soy una "tejana" nativa, he tratado de explicar al público en general por qué la comunidad hispana se siente abrumada por haberla perdido.

Estábamos unidos a Selena por nuestra identidad cultural. La amamos todavía por ejemplificar todo lo mejor que hay en nosotros.

A medida que los hispanos se asimilan, nos damos cuenta de cuán difícil resulta el mantener a nuestros hijos próximos a la cultura y el idioma hispanos. Nosotros mismos nos hemos enfrentado a las presiones para que actuemos de acuerdo con la corriente principal, para que pronunciemos nuestros nombres de modo anglicanizado -- o bien, de otros modos sutiles, para que neguemos nuestras diferencias.

Selena enseñó a nuestros hijos de modo natural a que se amaran a ellos mismos -- con su piel bronceada, su cabello oscuro y todo. La morenita, con una bella sonrisa y una personalidad alegre y juguetona, era una trabajadora energética que tuvo éxito con su talento, su aspecto y su carisma.

Al ser entrevistada como artista infantil, Selena preguntó una vez a un animador de televisión si ella podría hacer la entrevista en inglés, que era su idioma principal. Como la mayoría de los mexicanoamericanos, ella hablaba el inglés mejor que el español.

Pero temprano en su carrera, se le dijo que el mercado de habla inglesa no aceptaría muy bien a una hispana que cantara en inglés. Ella tuvo una oportunidad mejor con el mercado hispano. De modo que practicó el español e interpretaba sus canciones con toda la pasión y el drama que aman la mayoría de las personas, especialmente los hispanos.

En este punto descansa una de las tristezas verdaderas de su muerte. Lloramos a Selena. Pero aún más lloramos de indignación porque la televisión, el cine, las empresas disqueras y prácticamente todos los estratos de la sociedad estadounidense hacen callar



todavía a los ejemplos hispanos.

Quizás si el establecimiento en idioma inglés crea que somos bien servidos por los medios de comunicación en español. Pero no es así.

Aún los medios de comunicación en español afirman al modelo rubio, de ojos azules de la herencia española como sus prototipos. Rara vez se ve a los mestizos; se les muestra primordialmente como sirvientes de la clase baja. Dichos medios de comunicación impulsan a los estereotipos de mujeres escasamente vestidas, perseguidas por hombres machos.

Selena usaba ropas reveladoras y atractivas, en el escenario, pero sus valores se hallaban grabados interiormente. Aunque su situación financiera cada vez mejor era evidente -- ella conducía un Porsche rojo convertible y había abierto su propia "boutique" -- ella permanecía en el barrio, sus tres casas de ladrillo alineadas en fila. Albergaban a Selena y su esposo, sus padres y otros familiares.

Lo que me golpeó a medida que cubría esta noticia fue el modo de que todos querían decir cómo ella había tocado sus vidas -- no tanto para salir en el periódico o por televisión, sino para decirle "muchísimas gracias" de algún modo.

Un hombre contó que a su hermana, moribunda de cáncer, se le permitió estar en el escenario durante un concierto de Selena. Carente de cabello por la quimioterapia, la hermana abrazó a Selena, quien cubrió alegremente la cabeza de la joven con su cabello largo, como si fuera una peluca. La paciente brilló con una sonrisa. Durante un momento breve y luminoso, todos se convirtieron en parte de la leyenda, y la multitud aplaudió en señal de aprobación.

Una joven afroamericana habló de cómo Selena le había dado \$250 para que pudiera aparecer en un concurso de canto televisado.

En un concierto gratis para el Cinco de Mayo en Houston, el año pasado, en la Plaza Guadalupe, donde los funcionarios municipales se han dado por vencidos para revitalizar el "Mercado del Sol," Selena trajo sus canciones. Los niños de la multitud se alborotaron, llorando y gritando su nombre, cantando la letra de las canciones junto con ella y manteniéndose tranquilos durante las baladas tristes.

Aún su canción popular, "Bidi, Bidi, Bom, Bom," que imitaba el golpeteo suave y continuo de su corazón cuando su amado pasaba junto a ella -- suena con inocencia infantil.

Como Selena, debemos ser ejemplos visibles y disponibles para ellos en su juventud adolorida. Debemos comprender su diversidad y sus fortalezas individuales.

Como Selena, debemos cantarles a ellos y escuchar atentamente a medida que ellos respondan.

No podemos salvar a Selena, pero es posible que podamos salvar a algunos de sus fanáticos jóvenes -- y salvarnos a nosotros mismos a largo plazo.

(Jo Ann Zúñiga es reportera del "Houston Chronicle," de Houston, Texas.)

do algunos de los anuncios que normalmente salían en su periódico por lo que el pensaba era una evocación de las compañías que piensan que su competencia era propiedad minoritaria.

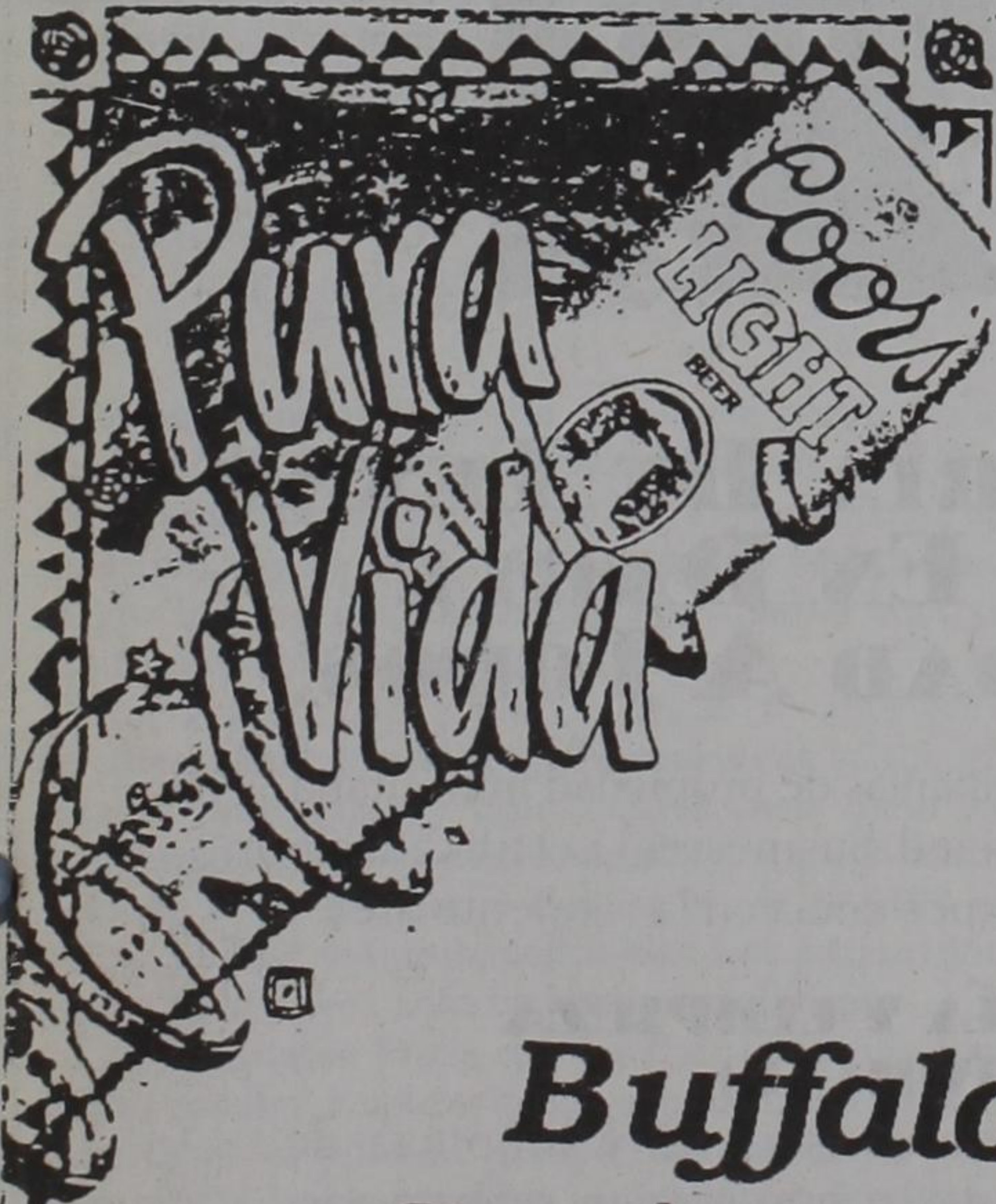
La resolución dice en una de sus partes "estas publicaciones habitualmente utilizan medidas anti-competitivas, principalmente en el caso de la publicidad impresa equivalente a un 'dumpin', o vendiendo publicidad a precio 'de pérdida', a fin de quitarle a la competencia una parte de su mercado, lo que produce un fuerte impacto en la posibilidad de sobrevivir por parte de la publicación... (Mientras) la NAHP y sus miembros reconocen sus derechos (de las grandes corporaciones) de competir en cualquier mercado que quieran... háganlo en forma juiciosa, porque nosotros seguiremos atentamente cada uno de sus pasos y buscaremos todos vía legal disponible que ustedes nos obliguen a tomar".

La mesa de la NAHP también denunció la reciente aprobación de la medida anti-inmigrante, la Proposición 187, por parte de los votantes californianos, y adoptó una resolución oponiéndose a la Initiative de Derechos Civiles de California, propuesta a los votantes para las elecciones de noviembre de 1986, y que eliminaría los programas de Acción Afirmativa.

"La NAHP y sus publicaciones miembros están comprometidos en emplear todos nuestros recursos a su máxima capacidad por oponerse activamente a cada una y todas las medidas que hagan retroceder las victorias logradas en los derechos civiles por parte de las minorías a lo largo de los últimos 40 años, y/o inhibir a nuestra comunidad hispana de la habilidad de buscar realísticamente el sueño americano", dijo el presidente de la NAHP, Luis Rossi. "El campo de juego todavía no está balanceado".

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 - Los Centenarios de Sunland Park, N.M.



LET'S ALL SING SELENA'S SONG TO THE CHILDREN

By Jo Ann Zúñiga

As a reporter who covered the tragedy of Selena and her violent death, I could not help but be affected by the deep sorrow of the Hispanic community, el dolor que todos tenemos.

for exemplifying all that is best about us. The children, especially, are suffering.

As Hispanics assimilate, we realize how difficult it is to keep our children close to the culture and the Spanish language. We have all faced pressure to act "mainstream," to pronounce our names in an Anglicized manner, to deny our differences.

Selena taught our kids to love themselves -- tan skin, dark hair and all. Morenita -- with brown complexion -- herself, with a beautiful smile and a joking, playful personality, she was a hard worker who succeeded with her talent, looks and charisma.

When interviewed as a child performer, Selena once asked a television host if she could do the interview in English, her primary language. Like most Mexican Americans, she spoke English better than Spanish.

But early in her career, she was told the English-speaking market would not be as accepting of a His-

panic singing English lyrics. She had more of a chance with the Hispanic market. So she practiced Spanish and belted out her songs with all the passion and drama that most people, especially Hispanics, love.

In this point lies one of the true sorrows of her death. We mourn Selena. But even more so we cry in outrage over how television, the cinema, record companies and practically every strata of U.S. society still shuts

stereotypes of scantily clad women pursued by macho men.

Selena wore revealing, eye-catching clothes on stage, but her values were etched internally. While her growing financial status was obvious -- she drove a red Porsche convertible and had opened her own boutique -- she remained in the barrio, her three brick homes lined up in a row. They housed Selena and her husband, her parents and other relatives.

What hit me as I covered this story was the way everyone wanted to say how she touched their lives -- not so much to get in the newspaper or on television -- but to say, "thank you, muchísimas gracias" to her somehow.

One man related how his sister, dying of cancer, was allowed on stage during a Selena

concert. Bald from her chemotherapy, the sister hugged Selena, who teasingly draped her long hair over the girl's head like a wig. The patient beamed a smile. For one brief, shining moment, everyone became part of the legend, and the crowd applauded its approval.

A young, African-American girl talked of how Selena handed over

\$250 so the child could appear in a televised singing contest.

In a free Cinco de Mayo concert in Houston last year at Guadalupe Plaza, where city officials have given up revitalizing the Mercado del Sol, Selena brought her songs. The children in the crowd went wild, crying and screaming her name, singing the lyrics along with her and spell-bound-quiet during the sad ballads.

Even her pop song "Bidi, Bidi, Bom, Bom" -- mimicking the pitter-patter of her heart when the one she loves walks by -- rings with childlike innocence.

Although her fans have said she can never be replaced, I hope others, whatever their field or occupation, will carry on Selena's enthusiastic commitment to help all children.

We can't shut them away in ghettos, barrios or Appalachian mountains -- filling them with violence and bitterness -- and expect them to grow into law-abiding, voting, ever-loving citizens.

Like Selena, we must be visible, available role models for them in their painful youth. We must comprehend their diversity and individual struggles.

Like Selena, we must sing to them and listen intently as they respond.

We can't save Selena, but maybe we can save some of her young fans -- and save ourselves in the long run.

(Jo Ann Zúñiga is a reporter with the Houston Chronicle in Houston, Texas.)
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I was privileged to see several live performances by the energetic and vivacious 23-year-old star. As a native tejana myself, I have tried to explain to the broader public why the Hispanic community is crushed to lose her.

We were joined to Selena by our cultural identity. We love her still



panic singing English lyrics. She had more of a chance with the Hispanic market. So she practiced Spanish and belted out her songs with all the passion and drama that most people, especially Hispanics, love.

In this point lies one of the true sorrows of her death. We mourn Selena. But even more so we cry in outrage over how television, the cinema, record companies and practically every strata of U.S. society still shuts

Los Grupos Latinos Presionan al Departamento de Inmigración

Por Margarita Contín

Al proyectarse que las solicitudes de ciudadanía aproximarán 1.7 millón al acercarse las elecciones presidenciales de noviembre de 1996, las organizaciones latinas vienen exhortando al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS en inglés) para que acelere sus procedimientos complicados de naturalización.

Arturo Vargas, presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos (NALEO en inglés), lo explica así: "No es tanto para hac-

er el trámite más fácil, sino menos burocrático."

NALEO y docenas de otros grupos a través del país están ayudando a los inmigrantes elegibles a prepararse para la naturalización. Mientras tanto, el INS, a fin de prepararse para el proyecto aumento de solicitudes de ciudadanía, pidió al Congreso el año pasado, por primera vez en la historia, fondos designados para la naturalización. Anteriormente, los fondos para la naturalización provenían de las cuotas de los exámenes. Este año, el Con-

greso asignó al INS \$7 millones de su petición de \$30 millones para la naturalización.

Vargas dice que NALEO tramitó a tantas solicitudes en los tres primeros meses de 1995 como las que tramitó en todo 1994. A nivel nacional, según el INS, la cantidad de solicitudes presentadas este febrero sobrepasó a la del mes anterior por cerca de 9,000, para llegar a una cifra sin precedentes de casi 75,000. El INS espera recibir 760,000 solicitudes en este año fiscal (Oct. 1994-Sept. 1995) y 925,000 para el año fiscal 1996. En 1994, dicha agencia recibió 555,094 solicitudes.

SOLICITUDES DE CIUDADANÍA POR MES Y AÑO FISCAL
Febrero de 1995 74,675 1995(0) 307,120
Febrero de 1994 29,804 1994 555,094
Febrero de 1993 39,287 1993 522,298
Febrero de 1992 24,120 1992 342,252
Febrero de 1991 17,364 1991 206,668
Febrero de 1990 18,127 1990 233,843
Febrero de 1989 17,911 1989 227,692

Fuente: Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS).

() Total para el período desde Octubre de 1994 a Febrero de 1995.

Juan José Gutiérrez, director de la agencia "One Stop Immigration," de Los Angeles, culpa al ambiente anti-inmigrante por el creciente interés en la naturalización. "Lo que estamos viendo es el comienzo de un movimiento latino por los derechos civiles," dice él. "No tiene sentido alguno el estar pagando impuestos, no tener voz y seguir siendo víctimas."

Víctor Morisete, director de la Asociación Comunitaria de Dominicanos Progresistas, en la ciudad de Nueva York, ha reorganizado a su personal de 25 para aumentar sus gestiones de naturalización. Aunque la asociación acostumbraba efectuar esas campañas mensualmente, cambió para llevarlas a cabo semanalmente en enero. "El año pasado estábamos tramitando 100 solicitudes al mes. Ahora hay de 100 a 120 a la semana ... y esto es sólo en Washington Heights."

En febrero, NALEO presentó a la Comisionada del INS Doris Meissner, varias recomendaciones a fin de facilitar la naturalización.

Entre ellas están:
-- Simplificar las solicitudes;
-- Reasignar al personal a los distritos con los mayores retrasos;
-- Fomentar un Día Nacional de la Ciudadanía el 17 de septiembre; y
-- Permitir alternativas

para cumplir los requisitos del examen de cívica e inglés.

"Ellos necesitan hallar un modo de eximir a aquellos solicitantes que tengan diplomas de secundaria o títulos universitarios, porque obviamente tienen que hablar inglés y tener conocimiento de la historia y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos," agregó Saeed Ali, director de la Red de Acción para la Ciudadanía Estadounidense, de Los Angeles (U.S. Citizen Action Network, en inglés).

El INS ha creado un equipo para evaluar todos los pasos de la ciudadanía, desde antes de la presentación de solicitud hasta la ceremonia final de la naturalización. Se espera que

sus recomendaciones se den a conocer para fines de este mes.

"Estamos modernizando el sistema para acelerar el trámite de aquellos que son riesgos menores ... tal vez las personas que hayan estado aquí por 30, 40 o 50 años," dice el portavoz Robert Steve, del INS.

Ali recomienda utilizar las escuelas y organizaciones comunitarias para llevar a cabo los exámenes y permitir que las solicitudes presenten su información por computadora.

Juan Andrade, director ejecutivo del Proyecto de Registro de Electores del Medio Oeste y Nordeste, con sede en Chicago (Midwest Northeast Voter

Registration Project, en inglés), aboga por el uso de un orden ejecutivo presidencial para conceder la ciudadanía a los residentes que han vivido en este país por mucho tiempo. "Ellos han demostra-

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News Briefs

Negotiators OK Spending Cuts

The Associated Press reports that the House and Senate negotiators agreed today to cut \$16.4 billion from the current federal budget, slicing education, housing and federal construction projects.

The net reduction to the deficit from the package will be about \$9.2 billion because the legislation also contains \$6.7 billion to help California and other states rebound from recent natural disasters. The bill also includes \$275 million in debt relief for Jordan and \$240 million for counterterrorism activities and rebuilding the bombed-out federal building in Oklahoma City and \$300 million in new money for law enforcement authorities.

The Senate and House must now approve the bill, and it is not clear whether President Clinton will sign it because of cuts in job training and other programs promoted by the administration.

The lawmakers agreed to cut \$98 million from adult job training, \$272 million from youth job training, \$871 million from summer youth employment in 1996 and \$92 million from Goals 2000 education reform.

Half the spending cuts in the compromise plan are \$6 billion from public housing and rental assistance, and \$2 billion from airport and airway improvements.

Other cuts include \$25 million from aid for the former Soviet states, \$92 million from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, \$580 million for new federal buildings and \$210 million for Clinton's national service program.

The cuts are the largest in history from a current-year budget. The Reagan administration approved \$14.3 billion in cuts in 1981.

The House-Senate conference concluded after the negotiators worked out language on enforcement of emissions standards under the Clean Air Act, with the Environmental Protection Agency agreeing to review data concerning alternative plans for emissions controls.

Senate Plan Turns Welfare Over to States

The Washington Post reports that the chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), is proposing a welfare reform plan that would turn about \$17 billion over to the states every year.

Packwood has been working on the plan with Michigan Gov. John Engler, Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, and Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld, who are all Republicans.

He said, groups that advocate for the poor have consulted with his staff, and that the problem with their advice was that they were suggesting incremental changes that promised more of the same.

Packwood said the Finance Committee would deal only with programs under his committee's jurisdiction, primarily the AFDC program and child protection laws. Other committees will handle nutrition and child care programs. They will deal with Medicaid in the summer as part of the budget plan.

Packwood has not decided what to do about the child protection services such as foster care and adoption assistance that are now federal guarantees to eligible families.

Reuters reports that the proposal would not include a provision barring aid to unwed teenagers, or deny benefits to women who have additional children on welfare. However, Packwood said states would have authority to impose these requirements.

The proposal would set work requirements that they would mandate that states follow and impose a limit on benefits, probably five years.

Packwood said he wanted to bar legal aliens from receiving federal disability payments, but did not want to deny them Medicaid and other benefits. He plans to leave that to the discretion of the states.

The House plan would deny benefits to unwed teenagers under 18, cap aids to women on welfare who have more children, limit benefits to five years, require work after two years and cut funding for child care and nutrition programs.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., who will introduce his own welfare plan this week, said the current proposals were, "punishing, punitive, and if you think there can't be anything worse than the present system, watch."

The Finance Committee will vote on the proposal May 24.

Study: Grocery Store Gap Hurts the Poor

Reuters reports that the consumer group Public Voice for Food and Health Policy released a study, "No Place to Shop, the Urban Grocery Store Gap," that found poor, urban Americans literally have "no place to shop," because supermarkets in low-income neighborhoods are smaller and scarcer than in affluent communities.

"The grocery store gap is triple trouble for low-income families," said Mark Epstein, president of the group. "It increases their grocery bills, causes their diets to suffer and can threaten the economic viability of their communities."

Public Voice estimated that as much as \$500 million to \$1 billion in food stamp benefits was lost nationwide because of higher food prices paid by low-income people.

The Associated Press reports that the study found, families in the poorest neighborhoods are also less likely to own cars than those in affluent areas. This means that unless extensive public transportation is available, families may not be able to leave their neighborhoods to shop for bargains at larger stores.

Reuters reports that researchers from the University of Connecticut's Food Marketing Policy Center looked at 5,973 stores in 21 metropolitan areas for the study. They found that, per capita, there were 30 percent fewer supermarkets in the poorest neighborhoods compared with upper income areas. Stores were 60 percent smaller in the poor areas, which means a smaller selection.

Included in the study were New York City; Los Angeles; Chicago; Philadelphia; Detroit; Washington, D.C.; Houston; Boston; Atlanta; St. Louis; Minneapolis; Cleveland; Oakland; New Orleans; San Antonio; Hartford, Memphis, Dayton-Springfield, Ohio; Bridgeport and New Haven, Conn. and Wichita.

"If Congress adopts proposals to constrain funding for food-aid programs, the situation could worsen," Epstein said.

Sports-Deportes

Boxer Still Clinging to Life

LAS VEGAS - Boxer Jimmy Garcia, still clinging to life 11 days after being critically injured in a fight, showed no improvement in the last 24 hours, doctors reported Wednesday.

Garcia was still in critical condition from a brain injury suffered in his May 6 fight with WBC super featherweight champion Gabriel Ruelas.

Garcia had shown slight improvement Tuesday, but doctors said it didn't continue on Wednesday.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said a medical advisory board meeting scheduled for June would look into the issue of how weight loss affects fighters.

Ratner said the meeting, which was scheduled before Garcia's injury, will help get some medical insight into the problem.

Garcia had to lose 30 pounds in two months to make the 130-pound limit for his fight. His promoter, Bob Arum, said he believes the weight loss may have contributed to his injury.

Brussels Seeks Bid for 2004 Olympic Games

BRUSSELS, May 16 (Reuters) - The Belgian capital of Brussels is likely to join the list of candidates to host the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, organizers said on Tuesday.

"I'm proud of the work that has been accomplished. What we lack now is a bit of political courage," organizer Philippe Housiaux told a news conference.

Consultancy firm Price Waterhouse said in a study it believed in the feasibility of Brussels' bid, which also won support and praise from Belgium's governmental planning bureau, most political parties and the Belgian employers' federation.

Belgian Prince Alexandre de Merode, deputy chairman of the International Olympic

Evander Holyfield

I'm Ready to Fight

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - Evander Holyfield, who retired briefly from boxing after being diagnosed with a heart ailment, says he's healthy, in shape and confident heading into his first fight in more than a year.

Holyfield (30-2, 22 knockouts) faces Ray Mercer in a 10-round tuneup Saturday. He said Wednesday his sights are set on joining Muhammad Ali as a three-time heavyweight champion.

"If you thought I was good back then, I'm even better now," Holyfield said Wednesday.

Holyfield, 32, lost the heavyweight title to Michael Moorer in April 1994 and was later diagnosed with a non-compliant left ventricle, or a "stiff heart."

He has since been cleared to fight by doctors at the Mayo Clinic.

Holyfield said he wasn't afraid of a relapse, like the one that killed Boston Celtics basketball player Reggie Lewis.

"Reggie Lewis was fainting every time he was going down the basketball court. You see, I never had shortness of breath. I felt that if I had, I just wouldn't want to blank out again," he said.

But he's not worried, in any event.

"We all have to die one day."

He clearly doesn't expect too big a challenge from Mercer. "I'm going to box the first three rounds. If he survives the boxing lesson, then I'll put on a little bit more heat," he said.

Mercer (23-2-1, 16 KOs) won the WBO title from Italian Francesco Damiani in January 1991, but lost it to Larry Holmes a year later.

He hasn't fought since July 28, when he fought Marion Wilson to a draw. He is unbeaten in four fights since being cleared of charges of trying to bribe Jesse Ferguson during their February 1993 bout in New York.

Mercer, 33, looked lean during a pre-fight news conference Wednesday and said he had been dreaming of knocking out Holyfield. It's not the first premonition he has had. Before the Holmes fight, he

dreamed he would lose, and did.

"I dreamed I hit him with a right hand, his jaw cracked and he went down and the bell rang. Then I woke up. I am going to crack him with that right hand. That dream's going to come true," he said.

The handlers of the fighters went at it before the news conference.

Dino Duva, brother of promoter Dan Duva, grabbed Mercer trainer Tommy Parks by the chest and threw him against a wall in a tiff that started over a veiled insult.

Parks accused the Duvas of purposely leaving him off the dais. Dan Duva said he didn't think about Parks and didn't do it on purpose.

"You don't have the brain to think about it," said Parks, alluding to Dan Duva's recent brain surgery.

With that, Dino Duva, 36, charged Parks, 67. The two had to be separated.

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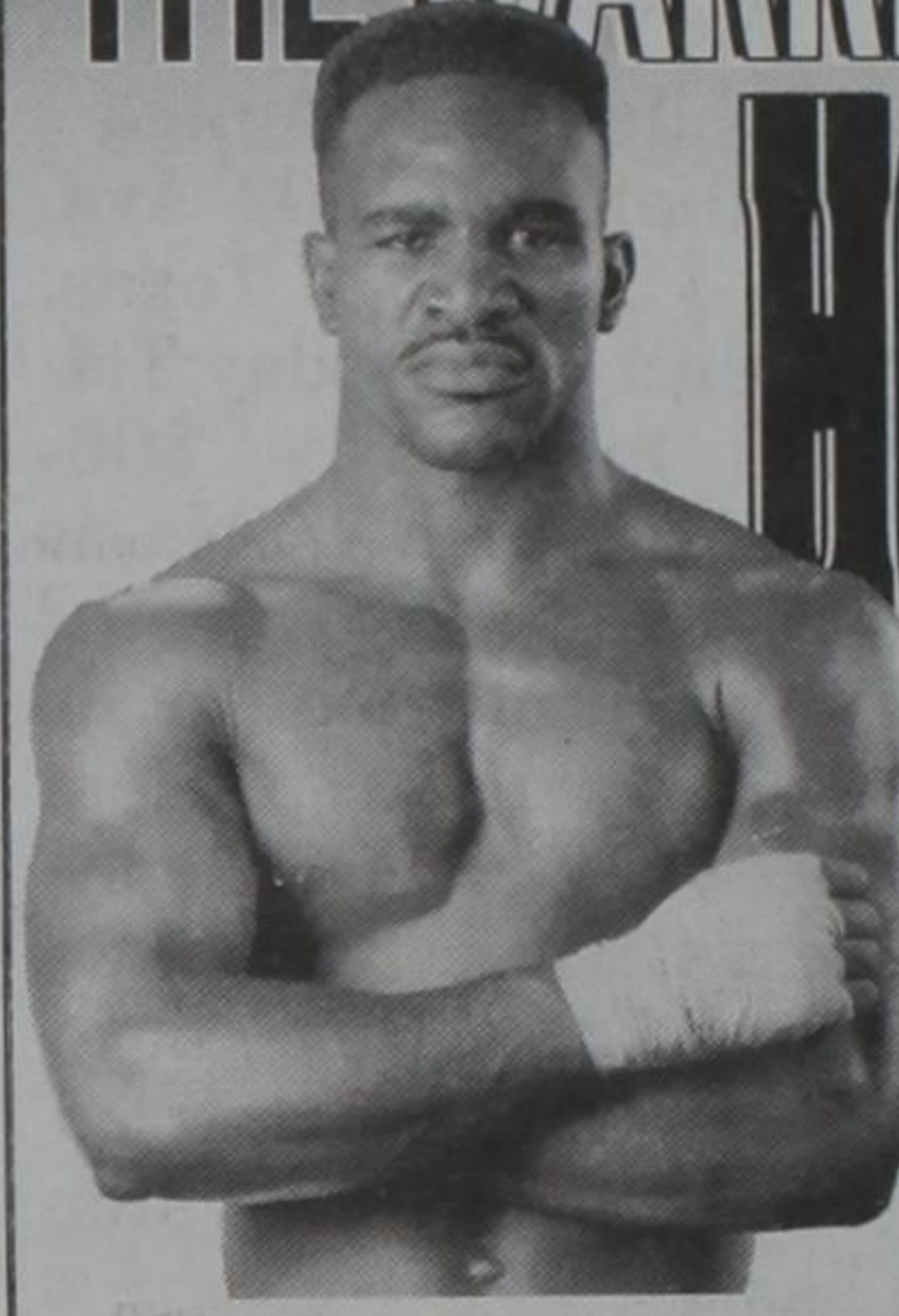
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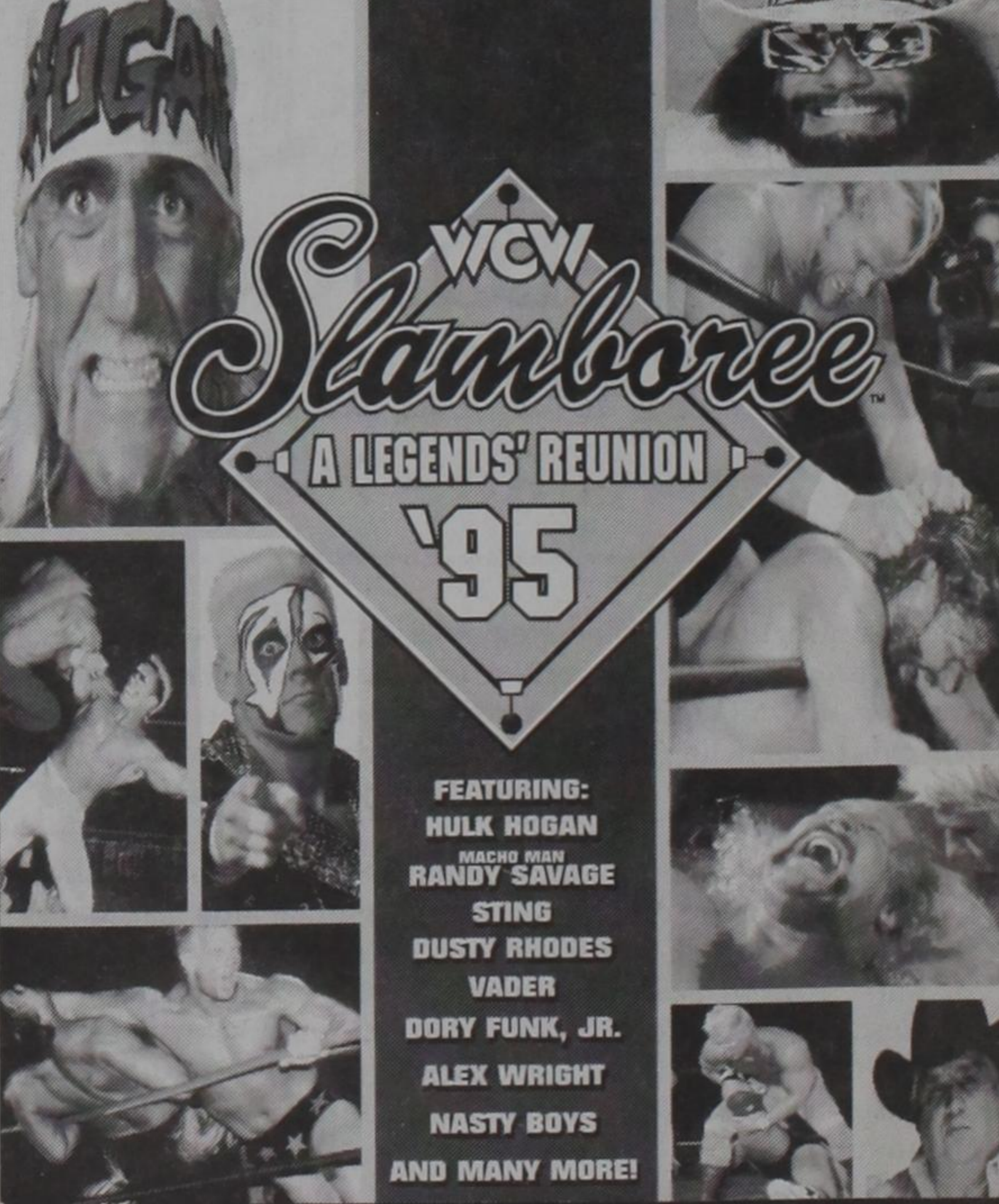
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Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Para nosotros los Cristianos Catolicos, Dios es un Dios Personal, infinitamente amoroso, sabio y justo, que desea tener una relación personal con cada uno de nosotros. Dios es tambien creador de todo lo que existe, y sostiene todas las cosas con el poder de Su Palabra. (Hebreos 1,3). Dios ha de ser reconocido como Dios y nosotros somos Sus criaturas...o nada estara en el orden debido. "Yo soy Dios; no existe otro". (Isaias 45,22).

Jesucristo es plenamente Dios y plenamente hombre. Por Su encarnación unica podemos decir que Jesus es Dios, y lo confesamos como el apostol Tomas: "Señor mio y Dios mio". (Juan 20, 28). Esto no se lo podemos decir a nadie mas, por mas santo que es. Solamente Dios es "Señor y Dios nuestro". Jesucristo es el unico Salvador de toda persona, El es el "unico mediador entre Dios y nosotros". (Tim. 2,5).

Un mal comun de nuestro tiempo es tener una idea muy pobre de nuestra propia imagen. Pensamos negativamente de nosotros, nos rebajamos y pensamos que valemos muy poco. Dios responde a nuestro sentimiento de inferioridad revelandonos que El nos creo a Su imagen y semejanza. (Genesis 1.26). Todavia tenemos que descubrir nuestra semejanza a la imagen de Dios, que esta siendo formada en nosotros a traves de Jesucristo y del espiritu Santo. Hasta que veamos a Dios cara a cara tendremos la completa revelación. (I Juan 3, 1-2).

La salvación consiste en una union amorosa con Dios, que conseguiremos al quitar el pecado, que nos estorba para conseguir esa union. A traves de la muerte de Jesus en la cruz Dios nos concede el perdon de nuestros pecados, cuando nos acercamos a confe-

sar surpentidos y con el firme proposito de no volver a pecar. Todavia mas, Dios nos llena con el Espiritu Santo, por quien llegamos a conocer a Dios con nuestro propio "abba", o "papa". el fiel conocimiento de Dios es el que salva. La Vida Eterna consiste en conocer al Unico Dios Verdadero, y a Su enviado, Jesucristo" (Jn. 17,3).

Los Cristianos Catolicos afirmamos la existencia del mundo espiritual (un mundo tan real como el material, pero invisible para nosotros). Ese mundo incluye a Dios, y a los angeles, y las almas de los que han muerto y el lugar de los justos que se llama "Cielo". Pero tambien incluye a los espíritus malignos y su lugar que es llamado "infierno". Asi como los angeles son enviados de Dios para ayudarnos a vivir en la luz (Hebreos 1,14), tambien existen espíritus malos que nos tientan para que hagamos la mala para que nos alejemos de Dios. (I Pedro 5,8). A esos espíritus malos... no debemos de obedecerlos. Dios nos ama de verdad, nos dio la mas grande prueba de Su amor: "Tanto amo Dios al mundo que le dio Su Unico Hijo para que todos los que crean en El no mueran, sino que tengan Vida Eterna". (Juan 3,16).

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from Page 2

(Midwest Northeast Voter Registration Project, en inglés), aboga por el uso de una orden ejecutiva presidencial para conceder la ciudadanía a los residentes que han vivido en este país por mucho tiempo. "Ellos han demostrado ya que no son ningún peligro o amenaza para los Estados Unidos," dijo.

Pedro Avilés, director del Comité Latino de los Derechos Civiles, de Washington, D.C., que organizó una campaña de naturalización el 6 de mayo con la Asociación de Abogados Latinos de Virginia como parte de su tercer congreso latino, desea que los prestadores de servicios ofrezcan sistemas de apoyo continuo, tales como clases de inglés e historia, para asegurar que un alto porcentaje de los que soliciten la ciudadanía tengan éxito.

Ese ha sido el enfoque del Proyecto de Inmigración del condado de Santa Cruz, en Watsonville, California, desde Marzo cuando empezó un programa llamado "Ciudadanía Ahora." El programa ayuda a otras agencias no lucrativas en preparar a los inmigrantes elegibles para la ciudadanía, más allá del examen del INS, empleando tutores particulares. "Necesitamos que las personas aprovechen plenamente la oportunidad de llegar a ser ciudadanos," enfatiza la directora ejecutiva, Jane Yokoyama. "Eso incluye el ir a los ayuntamientos, escribir cartas a los funcionarios locales y determinar los requisitos para prestar servicios en las juntas escolares o los consejos municipales."

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