

Latino Prison Population Rises

By Vanessa Colon
The number of Latinos in local, state and federal prisons has grown since 1990, as has the group's rate of incarceration, according to a survey released this month by the U.S. Department of Justice.

But, when weighed against Hispanic population growth and its low median age of 26 -- the highest rates of incarceration at the state and federal level are found among persons in the 25-34 age range -- the figures belie the media image of Hispanics as rampant drug dealers and gang-bangers.

Hispanics make up 11 percent of the nation's population. The Justice Department study found that as of 1996 they comprised 15.8 percent of the federal and state prison population, up from 13.3 percent in 1990.

Overall, the nation's prison population grew by nearly half a million -- from 1,148,702 in 1990 to 1,646,020 in 1996. Whites made up less than half -- 48 percent -- of the nation's 1996 total prison population, it found.

In the latter year, Hispanics comprised 18.5 percent of the 518,500 inmates in local prisons.

Noting high Latino immigration rates during the '80s and '90s, Iowa State University professor Ed Muñoz, who is conducting research

on Latino prison statistics, explained the increase, in part: "Latino immigrants come to this country to work hard. Families want to obey the rules to get ahead."

But, he added, studies show children of immigrants are more prone to drug and alcohol abuse and antisocial behavior as they acculturate.

Figures by the Bureau of Justice Statistics show that, as of 1997, only 9.2 percent of the nation's inmates on death row were Hispanic.

In the '90s, the incarceration rate has grown for all groups, with the rate for Hispanics remaining more than triple that of whites, but less than half that of blacks. Rates per 100,000:

Race/Ethnicity	1990	1996
Whites	139	193
Hispanics	548	688
Blacks	1,067	1,571

Diana Carmenap, president of the San Antonio-based Hispanic Police Officer Association, is critical of the media for creating the impression that Hispanics commit a high proportion of the nation's crimes. "Many television shows always put Hispanics in a bad light," she says.

Albert Robles, president of the Hispanic

Advisory Council to the Los Angeles Police Commission, adds, "It is very important to have a cultural staff to identify, relate and communicate with the (prison) population." He contends a proportionate number of Hispanic correctional officers is especially vital during tough situations, such as overcrowding, when conflicts may arise.

According to the American Correctional Association, the number of Hispanics working as correctional officers at the state level remains disproportionately low. A good sign is that it increased from 5.2 percent to 7.3 percent between 1990 and 1997 -- 8,422 to 15,248.

Robles says that a lack of outreach and recruitment contributes to the low number of Hispanic correctional officers, but also points out, "The stigma of correctional officers as a less desirable position by the Hispanic community is also a factor."

The Justice Department survey also revealed that California had the greatest number of Hispanics -- 53,580 -- in federal and state prisons, followed by Texas -- 37,137. Yet, Bureau of Justice Statistics figures for 1997 show that Texas had more Hispanics on death row -- 88 -- than California, with 79.

(Vanessa Colon is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

News Briefs

Tougher Penalties for Employers Who Discriminate

Washington, - Employers who discriminate against legal U.S. immigrants will be subject to tougher penalties, according to a new U.S. Justice Department regulation.

The new fines will range from 275 dollars to 11,000 dollars, on a case-by-case basis, the Justice Department reported on Thursday.

The new administrative order, which went into effect on Monday and is provisional, authorizes the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) for Immigration-Related Unfair Practices to determine the severity of the fine.

OSC, a branch of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, defends those who have work permits against employers who reject an applicant on the basis of nationality and ethnic origin.

"It is very important that employers become aware of the unfair practices while hiring personnel, as well as the consequences to which they are subject when there is job discrimination," special counsel designate John Trasviña said.

"Most of the company owners know they have to verify the legitimacy of the applicant's papers," Trasviña said, stressing that it is required by law.

The increase in penalties is similar to the increase in fines against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

However, "sometimes they discriminate against people who look and sound foreign," which, according to the special counsel, "is illegal."

The law requires that every company must verify documents by means of an I-9 Form from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. However, the law forbids employers from requesting specific papers or planning to revise INS-issued papers.

Controversy Over School of Americas Rages On

Kansas City, - For some, the School of the Americas (SOA) is a training camp for the worst human rights violators in Latin America, while for others, it is the school where one learns to combat drug trafficking and to defend democracy.

According to Carol Richardson, co-chairman of the Washington-based School of the Americas Watch organization, the number of people who support the closure of the SOA continues on the rise.

Richardson is in Kansas City to promote a campaign against SOA, because, she said, that city "is a microcosm of greater awareness against the school."

In 1997, six residents from the Kansas City area participated in a demonstration against the school, while last year, 60 joined a 7,000-strong march against the school.

For Richardson, the SOA is "on the high wire," despite the fact that last year, a draft law aimed at having it closed down was defeated in Congress by a mere 11 votes.

But this year's version (of the draft law), Richardson said, is supported by 80 Republican and Democratic legislators in the House of Representatives. The military school includes Spanish lessons and last year, its budget totaled some four million dollars.

Many human rights groups claim to have linked the SOA with atrocities perpetrated in El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia and other Latin American countries.

"Every time a report (on human rights violations) is made public, SOA graduates appear prominently in it," Richardson said.

SOA officials came out to defend the school, arguing that cases of human rights violations -- such as those that occurred during the civil war in Guatemala -- have been sporadic and that the value of training some 50,000 officers cannot be underestimated.

"Most of them served their countries honorably," said Maj. Dennis Fiemeyer, training instructor and SOA spokesman.

Fiemeyer also denied accusations that one out of every 100 school graduates were linked to human rights violations.

He insisted that the school does not promote or teach torture, illegal civilian arrests or reprisals against union or religious leaders, as Richardson's group maintains.

"Actually, such accusations are not aimed at the SOA, but against some of the policies of the United States," Fiemeyer said, "but of course, we are an easy target for them."

The school, set up as a result of the Cold War, started operating in Panama in 1946, and was transferred to Georgia in 1984.

This year, School of the Americas Watch will focus on Mexico which, since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, is sending ever increasing numbers of officers to the school, coinciding -- according to Richardson -- with the onset of rebellion among the country's Indian groups.

Immigrants Do Not Go to the Doctor for Fear of Deportation

Los Angeles, - The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) warned on Tuesday in Los Angeles about the persistent fear among legal residents to ask for U.S. health care benefits because they believe that it may affect their naturalization process.

INS Regional Director Rosemary Melville said in a news conference that many parents do not request health care services for fear that authorities will turn down their citizenship applications.

Melville insisted that people who by law have a right to request state or federal health care benefits can do so without any fear.

However, the district director said that those immigrants who receive medical services from a private agency and do not honor payment commitments could harm their immigration process.

She said that those unemployed parents who live off welfare could also be affected using a program that should only benefit needy minors.

Melville's remarks only confirmed a recent study made by the Latin Affairs Forum of San Francisco, which revealed that a large portion of immigrant workers in California do not register their children in health care programs for fear of losing their citizenship or being deported.

According to the study, there are approximately 600,000 children eligible for health care assistance in California, but they do not take advantage of it. About 70 percent of them belonged to families where at least one of the parents is an immigrant.

There are many illegal immigrants who are afraid of requesting health insurance for their children even when they are U.S. citizens.

The explanation, according to the author of the research, is the lack of information on the rights of immigrants. Most of the Hispanic immigrants who have just arrived in California do not request free health care for their children because they are afraid of being called a "public burden."

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace."
Lic. Benito Juárez

EL EDITOR

Vol XXII No. 26

Week of March 25 thru March 31, 1999

Lubbock, Texas

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Ballet Folklorico Aztlan de Lubbock



Back of the Yards Council-Chicago, Ill.



Las Adelitas de Ralls

Viva Aztlan Festival Big Success

Lubbock's Ballet Folklorico Aztlan and Ralls' Adelitas worked to win a good amount of trophies this past week at the Viva Aztlan Festival.

The event attracted 22 ballet companies coming from as far as Chicago and Tijuana Mexico.

Lubbock's Ballet Folklorico Aztlan won top honors as the outstanding troupe in the Contemporary Division and won a total of 4 other awards.

Las Adelitas from Ralls as won several awards for their presentations in the Children's category.

Best of Festival in the Children's category was awarded to Houston's Ambassadors International.

Best of Festival was won by Chicago's Back of the Yard Council Ballet Folklorico. Among the top award winners were Tijuana's Ticuan Ballet Folklorico and Viva Mexico from Corpus Christi.

Over 3000 persons attended the two day event held at the Municipal Auditorium and funded by the Lubbock City Council, Southwestern Bell and other Lubbock businesses.

At a reception sponsored by Texas Tech University, Chancellor John Montford addressed the participants of the Festival saying that the University was very proud to be part of the event. He invited all the students present to consider Tech in their future educational plans. The reception held at the UMC McIntruff Center was attended by over 500 students and parents.

Gracias A Todos Por Asistir al Festival

Aumenta La Poblacion Latina En Las Prisiones

Por Vanessa Colon

La cantidad de latinos encarcelados en las prisiones locales, estatales y federales ha aumentado desde 1990, así como la tasa de encarcelación de ese grupo, según dice un estudio publicado este mes por el Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos.

Pero, cuando se le compara con el aumento de la población hispana y con su edad mediana baja de 26 años -- las tasas más altas de encarcelamiento a los niveles estatal y federal se hallan entre personas en el grupo de edades de 25 a 34 años -- las cifras desmientan la imagen de los hispanos que proyectan los medios de información como traficantes de narcóticos rampantes y violadores en cuadrilla.

Los hispanos forman el 11 por ciento de la población nacional. El estudio del Departamento de Justicia halló que, en 1996, ellos formaban el 15.8 por ciento de la población de las prisiones federales y estatales, habiendo aumentado desde el 13.3 por ciento en 1990.

En conjunto, la población penal de la nación aumentó casi en medio millón de reclusos -- desde 1,148,702 en 1990 hasta 1,646,020 en 1996. Los blancos son menos de la mitad -- el 48 por ciento -- de la población penal total de la nación, dijo el estudio.

En el último año, los hispanos formaban el 18.5 por ciento de los 518,500 reclusos de las prisiones locales.

Haciendo notar las tasas elevadas de inmigración de los latinos durante los decenios de 1980 y 1990, el Profesor Ed Muñoz, de la Universidad Estatal de Iowa, quien está efectuando investigaciones sobre las estadísticas

penales latinas, explicó el aumento en parte así: "Los inmigrantes latinos vienen a este país para trabajar arduamente. Las familias quieren obedecer los reglamentos a fin de salir adelante".

Pero, agregó, los estudios muestran que los hijos de los inmigrantes tienen mayores probabilidades de abusar de los narcóticos y el alcohol, así como de observar una conducta anti-social, a medida que se inculturaron.

Las cifras de la Oficina de Estadísticas Judiciales muestran que, hasta 1997, sólo el 9.2 por ciento de los reclusos con pena de muerte eran hispanos.

En el decenio de 1990, la tasa de encarcelamiento ha aumentado para todos los grupos, y la tasa para los hispanos ha continuado siendo más del triple que la de los anglosajones, pero menos de la mitad que la de los afroamericanos. A continuación se muestran las tasas por cada 100,000 reclusos:

Raza/Etnicidad	1990	1996
Anglosajones	139	193
Hispanos	548	688
Afroamericanos	1,067	1,571

Diana Carmenap, presidente de la Asociación de Agentes Hispánicos de Policía, con sede en San Antonio, critica a los medios de información por crear la impresión de que los hispanos cometen una proporción elevada de los delitos de la nación. "Muchos programas de televisión siempre dan una mala impresión sobre los hispanos", dice ella.

Albert Robles, presidente del Consejo Asesor Hispano de la Comisión de Policía de Los Angeles, agrega: "Es muy impor-

tante el tener un personal cultural que se identifique, se relacione y se comunique con la población penalDD. El argumenta que una cantidad proporcionada de agentes correccionales hispanos resulta especialmente vital durante las situaciones difíciles, tales como la concentración excesiva de reclusos, en que pueden surgir conflictos.

Según la Asociación Correccional Estadounidense, la cantidad de hispanos que trabajan como agentes correccionales al nivel estatal continúa siendo desproporcionadamente baja. Una buena señal es que la misma aumentó desde el 5.2 por ciento hasta el 7.3 por ciento entre 1990 y 1997 -- de 8,422 a 15,248.

Robles dice que la falta de conocimiento y de gestiones de reclutamiento contribuyen a que haya una cantidad baja de agentes correccionales hispanos, pero señala también: "El estigma de los agentes correccionales como plazas menos deseables por parte de la comunidad hispana es también un factorDD.

El estudio del Departamento de Justicia reveló también que California tenía la cantidad mayor de hispanos -- 53,580 -- en las prisiones federales y estatales, seguida por Texas -- 37,137. Sin embargo, las cifras de la Oficina de Estadísticas Judiciales para 1997 muestran que Texas tenía más hispanos con pena de muerte -- 88 -- que California, que tenía 79.

(Vanessa Colon es reportera de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC.)

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Easter Egg Hunt
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Meet the Easter Bunny & Try to
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A Simple Plan To Save Our Schools

By Victor Landa

Such a simple plan. First, end social promotion in public schools, then offer vouchers for the lowest of the low-performing students. If all goes as planned, the students with the most need will go to private schools where educators will compete for the privilege of saving their disadvantaged minds.

Finally, pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

That seems easy enough. But it becomes even easier and all the more cynical. When you consider that, according to a recent study by the San Antonio-based Intercultural Development Research Association, almost all the children who are retained in a grade level eventually drop out of school, the problem takes care of itself.

You flunk them, then you lead them with a carrot on a stick to a place they'll never be able to reach. Which is just as well, because most private schools aren't equipped to serve the needs of the lowest of the low-performing students.

Funding private schools with public money can be tricky. The special education needs of the lowest performing students are expensive and required by the state of Texas if the school ac-

cepts public vouchers. Add to that the burden of monitored school performance and the certification of teachers.

In the long run, if it's going to cost more money, if the government is going to meddle in school business and ask the school to accept low-performing students and then hold the school accountable for the low grades, I wouldn't blame them if they said, "No thanks! Would you?"

We must keep in mind that school choice is also school's choice, and unlike public schools, private schools will be under no obligation to accept any given student.

The simple plan scenario continues: the lowest performing students will remain low performing, they will abandon their education by the eighth grade, and the proponents of the vouchers will throw their hands up in exasperation, TV cameras conveniently rolling.

The problem, they will conclude, are the teachers, the administrators, the parents, the lawyers, the media, the liberals, the low morals, the drugs, the gangs, the non-success oriented culture, the lack of discipline, the want of family values and the incessant spending in education.

The country, they will pronounce, is going to hell in a hand-basket and the only way to stop it is to return to fundamental values where each community is responsible for the education of its own children, funded and overseen by the members of that community. Everyone else can butt out!

The scenario ends in a few short school years, when everything will be as it was before Edgewood v. Kirby, before the idea of equality of opportunity in education, before the striving for a level playing field that has yet to be achieved.

Consider this. Since the inception of the \$50 million C.E.O. voucher plan in San Antonio's Edgewood School District, there has been a proliferation of fly-by-night schools across this Texas city. Some are established in strip malls and one even opened its doors in a converted bar, with an enrollment of four to 10 students, where the vouchers are readily cashed and the curriculum is based on whatever the Lord says it should be today. No accountability beyond the parents' choice.

And whose children are going to these store-front schools? Certainly not the offspring of the

proponents of the vouchers.

Don't misunderstand me. I was practically raised in private schools and I greatly value my private school education. But I know that the moment private schools are subjected to the same burdens, obligations and senseless politics as are the public schools, their performance will drop.

I also know that in order to avoid such headaches, private schools will carefully screen and choose who they will and will not accept.

I'm very skeptical of the idea of school choice because I know that the choice will not be universal. And I can't help but wonder at how deep this new school reform knife, that began with Hopwood and continues with vouchers, will wound the future of our children.

There's a buzz-phrase circulating in political and educational circles these days. It says simply that "the best way to strengthen public schools is to strengthen public schools." Such a simple plan.

(Victor Landa is news director of the Telemundo network's KVDA-TV in San Antonio, Texas.)

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"A las puertas del milenio"

38,000 millones no pueden estar equivocados

Por Roberto Blum

La dolarización en México es ya un hecho. 38,000 millones de dólares depositados en bancos de los Estados Unidos son propiedad de mexicanos que han votado inequívocamente por la dolarización de sus ahorros. La dolarización es un hecho real. No es posible interpretar de ninguna otra manera esas cientos de miles de decisiones individuales. Millones y millones de veces que algún mexicano o mexicana, cambió sus "pesitos" devaluados por dólares estadounidenses. Para ellos, y para millones mas, el dólar es la moneda de curso legal preferida.

38,000 millones no pueden estar equivocados. Esos millones son resultado de tristes experiencias repetidas durante los últimos 25 años. Toda una generación de mexicanos no sabe sino de crisis económica y devaluaciones.

De promesas de bienestar, repetidamente incumplidas. Para ellos, jóvenes de menos de 25 años, la inmensa mayoría de la población actual, México ha vivido de crisis en crisis y de devaluación en devaluación. Para esa mayoría de ciudadanos mexicanos, los gobiernos que hemos tenido no ha sabido cumplir, ya no las promesas, sino ni siquiera las obligaciones básicas de cualquier buen gobierno. No han sido capaces de proteger la propiedad de cada mexicano. Es más, esos malos gobiernos han sido los verdaderos ladrones que despojaron a toda una generación de sus bienes y, lo que es peor, de sus sueños y de su esperanza.

La dolarización es sólo una parte del terrible fenómeno que han producido los malos gobiernos que México ha padecido. La otra parte es la pérdida de la esperanza y la destrucción de la solidaridad básica entre los mexicanos. Si no, ¿cómo explicar los 20 millones de mexicanos que han dejado la "suave patria" para exiliarse en los Estados Unidos? Si no, ¿cómo explicar la guerra civil de baja intensidad que hoy vive el país? ¿Acaso la impunidad y la violencia, la corrupción generalizada y la inseguridad pública no son una forma de guerra civil? ¿Acaso los millones de mexicanos exiliados allende el río Bravo no son una especie de refugiados, víctimas de las políticas equivocadas del gobierno que destruyeron irremediablemente la economía mexicana?

La dolarización es ya un hecho innegable. Sólo la decisión culpable de los malos gobiernos impide que la dolarización fáctica sea una realidad formal.

No es la soberanía nacional lo que estos gobiernos corruptos y egoístas defienden "a capa y espada." Es la posibilidad de seguir despojando a los mexicanos de su patrimonio. Es la posibilidad de seguir ordeñando a diario el trabajo, y el futuro, de casi cien millones de mexicanos convertidos en siervos de la gleba. La inflación - a cualquier tasa - es la forma más injusta de despojo social. El 13 porciento que promete falazmente el Banco de México para 1999 es demasiado. La inflación nunca es aceptable. Daña mas a los más desprotegidos. Vulnera los derechos básicos de la población.

Impide el ahorro social. Produce desconfianza. Es una droga insidiosa que vuelve dependientes a los mas "pintados." Es un flagelo que los gobiernos mexicanos desataron y no saben ni quieren detener.

Claro que la dolarización tiene costos. Eso lo saben quienes han pagado y siguen pagando un "premio" cada vez que transfieren sus "pesitos" no deseados en dólares. Los 20 o 30 centavos que cuesta pasar de diez pesos a un dólar y de dólares a pesos por diez es parte del costo de la dolarización. El tiempo invertido para efectuar esa transformación de la desesperanza a la esperanza es otro costo encubierto. Quizás el costo más grande es la humillación personal que se siente cuando uno ve su trabajo deshacerse, desmoronarse, nulificarse al estar amarrado a la moneda nacional. Las humillaciones que sufren miles y miles de nuestros emigrantes en los Estados Unidos es el resultado de la decisión antidemocrática de los burócratas de no dolarizar formalmente nuestra economía. De mantener al país como rehén de sus veleidades y caprichos.

38,000 millones no pueden estar equivocados. La dolarización es posible y es deseable. La dolarización es ya un hecho. Así lo prueban 38,000 millones de dólares de mexicanos en el extranjero y los 20 millones de exiliados mexicanos en los Estados Unidos. Con la dolarización formal, sólo los malos gobiernos y sus tecnoburócratas verían afectados sus intereses. Se les acabaría la "minita de oro" que explotan hace 25 años.

El país entero, la nación, ganaría con la dolarización.

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Un Plan Sencillo Para Salvar A Nuestras Escuelas

Por Victor Landa

Es un plan muy sencillo. Primero, poner fin a la promoción social en las escuelas públicas; después, ofrecer vales para los estudiantes más necesitados. Si todo marcha como se planea, los estudiantes más necesitados irán a las escuelas privadas, donde los maestros competirán por el privilegio de salvar sus mentes desventajadas.

Por último, dñese ustedes mismos una palmada en la espalda por un trabajo bien hecho.

Eso parece lo suficientemente fácil.

Pero llega a ser aún más fácil y todavía más cínico cuando se considera que, según dice un reciente estudio de la Asociación Internacional para Desarrollo Intercultural, con sede en San Antonio, casi todos los estudiantes que son retenidos en un nivel de grado, con el tiempo abandonan los estudios, el problema se resuelve a sí mismo.

Se les desaprueba, después se les guía hacia un lugar que nunca podrán alcanzar. Lo cual es igualmente bueno, porque la mayoría de las escuelas privadas no están equipadas para atender

las necesidades de los estudiantes que más atención necesitan.

El financiar a las escuelas privadas con dinero público puede ser engañoso. Las necesidades de educar a los estudiantes que necesitan atención especial son costosas, y el estado de Texas lo exige si la escuela acepta vales públicos. Añádase a eso la carga del desempeño escolar regular y la certificación de los maestros.

A largo plazo, si va a costar más dinero, si el gobierno va a inmiscuirse en los asuntos de las escuelas y pedirles que acepten a estudiantes de bajo desempeño y después responsabilizar a la escuela por las calificaciones bajas, yo no las culparía si dijeran: "¡No, gracias!" No harían ustedes lo mismo?

Debemos tener en cuenta que la selección escolar es también la selección por parte de la escuela, y a diferencia de las escuelas públicas, las escuelas privadas no estarán obligadas a aceptar a ningún estudiante dado.

El escenario del plan sencillo continúa: Los estudiantes con desempeño bajo permanecerán en iguales circunstancias; abando-

narán sus estudios en el octavo grado y los proponentes de los vales levantarán sus brazos exasperados, mientras las cámaras de televisión lo captan todo.

Según concluyen los proponentes de vales escolares, el problema son los maestros, los administradores, los padres y las madres, los abogados, los medios de información, los liberales, el nivel de moral bajo, los narcóticos, las pandillas, la cultura no orientada hacia el éxito, la falta de disciplina, la carencia de valores familiares y los gastos incesantes en la educación.

El país, según pronunciarán ellos, va de cabeza al infierno y el único modo de detenerlo es regresar a los valores fundamentales, donde cada comunidad sea responsable por la educación de sus propios niños, financiada y supervisada por los miembros de esa comunidad. ¡Todos los demás pueden irse a paseo!

El escenario termina en unos pocos cursos escolares, cuando todo será como era antes de la decisión en el caso de Edgewood vs. Kirby, antes de la idea de la igualdad en las oportunidades de educación, antes del esfuerzo en busca de un campo de juego nivelado que está por lograrse aún.

Considérese esto. Desde el comienzo del plan de vales C.E.O., por valor de \$50 millones, en el Distrito Escolar de Edgewood, en San Antonio, ha habido una proliferación de escuelas que desaparecen súbitamente en toda esta ciudad de Texas. Algunas se establecen en galerías pornográficas y una hasta abrió sus puertas en una vieja cantina, con una matrícula de cuatro a diez estudiantes, donde los comprobantes son canjeados por efectivo fácilmente y el plan

de estudios se basa sobre "cualquier cosa que el Señor diga que deba ser hoy". No hay responsabilidad más allá de la selección de los padres y las madres.

Y, ¿de quiénes son los niños que van a asistir a estas escuelas improvisadas? Ciertamente no serán los de los proponentes de los vales.

No me mal entiendan. Yo fui educado mayormente en escuelas privadas y valoro en gran medida mi enseñanza de escuela privada. Pero sé que cuando las escuelas privadas estén sujetas a las mismas cargas, obligaciones y política insensata que las escuelas públicas, su desempeño desmejorará.

También sé que, a fin de evitar esos dolores de cabeza, las escuelas privadas examinarán y seleccionarán cuidadosamente a quienes aceptarán y a quiénes no.

Me siento muy escéptico sobre la idea de la selección escolar porque sé que la selección no será universal. Y no puedo menos que preguntarme cuán profundamente este nuevo cuchillo de la reforma escolar, que empezé por Hopwood y continúa por los comprobantes, lastimará el futuro de nuestros hijos.

Hay una frase que últimamente se escucha en los círculos políticos y de educación. Dice sencillamente que "el mejor modo de fortalecer a las escuelas públicas es fortalecer a las escuelas públicas".

Es un plan muy sencillo.

(Victor Landa es director de noticias de KVDA-TV, afiliada a la red de Telemundo en San Antonio, Texas.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Señor Gore: Habla Usted Español?

By DOUGLAS MACKINNON

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ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 23, 1999 -- A friend of Vice President Al Gore told me of growing concerns about the Democratic candidate's campaign in California for the presidential election next year.



His worry manifests itself in two ways. First: "The Republicans, for the first time in history, may make a real attempt to bring minorities into their party."

And second, and more importantly: "Those Bush brothers!" As a Republican long disgusted with the lip service my party pays to minorities, I discussed with the vice president's friend (and a friend of mine) the power of the Latino vote in California. He was not shy. It is his hope to "Pete Wilsonize" every Republican presidential candidate who visits the Golden State.

That is, paint every GOP candidate as one who is out of touch with Latinos, their needs and their growing power.

What keeps him awake at night now, he said, is the specter of Texas Gov. George W. Bush and his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, crisscrossing the state speaking fluent Spanish to Hispanic television and radio stations and to Latino audiences.

As my friend made clear, "Vice President Gore knows about 15 words of Spanish and is really going to come up short against a governor (Jeb Bush) who speaks perfect Spanish and whose wife is from Mexico."

This is a deep concern for the Democratic Party because, according to conventional wisdom, the Republican candidate can lose in California and still win the election, while the Democratic candidate has almost no chance should he lose in the Golden State.

As each successive Republican candidate has announced his or her intentions for the upcoming campaign, I have been heartened to hear most of them speak of the need to reach out to blacks, Hispanics and minorities in a substantive way. Like the wife of Jeb Bush, my wife is Hispanic (she is from Venezuela). One day we hope to have children, and I want those children to have every opportunity in the United States.

There was a time when dinosaurs walked the Earth, and there was a time when dinosaurs ruled the GOP.

There are still a few kicking around in the Republican Party. And those dinosaurs have told me that reaching out to minorities will "alienate our base."

To that I have always said, "If those kinds of people represent our base, then we have to drive them from the party as quickly as possible."

We are starting to do that, and my Democratic friend now has a right to be worried about California.

I believe that the new generation of Republican leaders now rising to the top look at the people of the United States in a much more diverse and inclusive way. Many of them not only want minorities in the GOP, they believe we need minorities in the party.

Six months ago, I would have bet against the Republican candidate winning California. As of now, my optimism grows with each word of Spanish we speak.

A New Bracero Program

Domenico Maceri, PhD
With an estimated 2 million undocumented workers in the US, do we need more foreign workers? Yes, say some growers, backed up by Republican legislators. No, say the Democrats, there are no labor shortages in agriculture.

Several years ago both parties agreed that there may be shortages and passed H2A, a bill that allows growers to legally bring in seasonal workers during harvest time. However, growers complained that it's too cumbersome and too bureaucratic. In response to these concerns, the US Senate approved a modification of the H-2A program, which according to Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, would have satisfied growers. Critics said the proposed law would enable growers to bring as many workers as they want and would put the onus on the federal government to prove that Americans were not available or willing to do the job. Growers would not have to provide housing or even pay minimum wages to each worker as long as a group of workers were paid on average the minimum wage.

Thanks to lobbying from Hispanic groups and the efforts of Deputy White House Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, who grew up in a migrant family, the bill was eventually defeated. Democrats did not support it claiming that there is no shortage of workers. If there really were a shortage, they insisted, wages in agriculture would be rising.

A victory for undocumented workers? Maybe. Millions of undocumented workers toil in American farms under miserable conditions without benefits, always fearful that immigration officers will catch them and deport them. Clearly they would all be better off if they were allowed to work legally in the United States.

However, every time an attempt is made to bring agricultural workers legally into the US, people who care about immigrant workers remember the bracero program. By all accounts, including Wyden's and Smith's, the program was a failure. The nearly five million Mexican workers who took part in the program between 1942 and 1964 were little more than indentured servants. Workers rights were not protected in spite of the agreements prepared by Mexican and American officials. Workers could not leave an employer without risking deportation. Mexican authorities even refused to allow their workers to be recruited into Texas because of rampant discrimination there.

But the fact that the bracero program was a failure does not mean that a new program could not work well. Unfortunately, while Republicans organize these government programs, Democrats keep insisting that they are unnecessary. Thus several million of undocumented workers toil in agricultural, garment, meat-packing, poultry, and hotel-motel industries at the mercy of employers who can treat them pretty

Upward Bound Alumni Group Makes History

(Madrid, Spain) Upward Bound Union (UBU), a Texas Tech student organization comprised primarily of former Upward Bound participants, made history recently by becoming the first Upward Bound alumni group in the nation to participate in an International Learning Adventure. As part of the International Learning Adventure, members of the Upward Bound Union participated in discussions on the Multi-

cultural Texas Experience with students enrolled in the Contemporary Cultural Anthropology of the Americas class at the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain.

Prior to leaving for Spain, UBU members compiled a "cultural capsule," filled with expressions of multicultural Texas heritage. The capsule included such items as copies of El Editor, cowboy boots and hats, Jet and Ebony Magazines, Native American medicine bags and dream catchers, thirty minute recordings from Lubbock radio and TV stations, miniature cotton bails, Llano Estacado products, ethnic CDs, Tech paraphernalia and much more. More than 60 different items were included in the capsule, which was presented to the Spanish students prior to the discussion.

The discussions included a wide range of issues, such as stereotypes, racism, Juneteenth, college culture, the Spanish language of Mexican-Americans, cowboy culture, as well as avenues to building bridges of cultural understanding.

Upward Bound Union students also continued their observation of Spanish culture by visiting museums, landmarks and other sites of cultural significance throughout Madrid and Valencia. One of the highlights of these cultural observations was a visit to the internationally acclaimed Fallas celebration in Valencia. During the Fallas, hundreds of giant paper and wood sculptures, some often taking more than a year to construct, are burned, much to the delight of hundreds of thousands of revelers, during a week-long celebration culminating on the night of the Feast of San Jose.

The International Learning Adventure proved to be a big success, with discussions regarding a reciprocal visit from students in Spain underway.

El Editor

806-763-3841

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx, March 25, 1999

Controversia Sobre Idiomas, Al Tono De Ron Unz, Llega A Arizona

Por Jorge A. Bañales
Washington. - La población estadounidense está lejos de verse inmersa en una marea de inmigración, pero el millonario Ron Unz, progenitor de una veda de la educación bilingüe en California, está resuelto a sembrarla también en Arizona.

Hace treinta años brotó en la ciudad arizoniana de Tucson, rodeada de desiertos, lo que llegaría a ser un movimiento de alcance nacional que ha ofrecido una educación bilingüe a millones de inmigrantes.

Ahora, después que los votantes de California respaldaron en plebiscito su propuesta 227, titulada "English for the Children", Unz lleva su cruzada de pureza idiomática al vecino estado de Arizona, donde la controversia no se ha hecho esperar.

Los adversarios de la educación bilingüe argumentan que ella demora la absorción de los niños inmigrantes en la cultura estadounidense, y que gasta recursos -financieros y de personal y materiales- que podrían contribuir a un avance más rápido de todos los alumnos una vez que usen un idioma común.

Los partidarios de la enseñanza bilingüe sostienen que son recursos bien gastados los que suavizan el choque idiomático, dan un aliento a los niños que de otra manera quedarían marginalizados, y enriquecen a Estados Unidos con un crisol de culturas.

El debate es tan apasionado por parte y parte que podría creerse que la cultura estadounidense -predominantemente en inglés- sufre un asalto demoleedor, y que los inmigrantes irrumpen en el país en hordas.

De hecho, el Congreso federal

Un Soplo Cardíaco No Siempre Es Fatal

Un soplo o murmuración cardíaca podría ser una indicación del cuerpo mismo de que algo no está bien, pero a veces el perro que ladra no muerde, dice un cardiólogo del Baylor College of Medicine en Houston.

"La mayoría de los soplos cardíacos no son fatales", dice el Dr. Miguel Quiñones, profesor de medicina del The DeBakey Heart Center de Baylor y The Methodist Hospital en Houston.

"Muchas de las personas que experimentan murmuraciones del corazón tienen corazones perfectamente saludables".

Una murmuración cardíaca se escucha junto con las palpitaciones del corazón a través del estetoscopio. Dicha murmuración es ocasionada por la rápida corriente de sangre y usualmente indica que existe un desorden con la válvula del corazón.

Quiñones dice que existen dos tipos de murmuraciones cardíacas: las funcionales y las patológicas. Un soplo funcional es causado por una corriente de sangre turbulenta en una válvula normal. Un soplo patológico indica que la sangre está corriendo por una válvula defectuosa o una lesión.

"Más de la mitad de todos los pacientes diagnosticados con un soplo cardíaco tiene el tipo funcional que no requiere tratamiento", dice Quiñones, quien también es director del laboratorio de ecocardiografía del hospital Methodist.

Por otra parte, si las personas han sido diagnosticadas con un soplo patológico, Quiñones recomienda que consulten a un cardiólogo, quien determinará si necesitan tratamiento.

Los cardiólogos usan ecocardiografía, un examen de ultrasonido que toma una "foto" de los movimientos y los sonidos del corazón, para ver si existe algún defecto de éste causando el soplo.

Los soplos cardíacos pueden ocurrir de varias maneras: 1) cuando la sangre pasa por encima de una válvula muy estrecha, como en el caso de la cardiopatía reumática, 2) por un defecto de la pared del corazón y 3) si existe una válvula defectuosa.

En la mayoría de los casos estos problemas se pueden corregir quirúrgicamente. Aunque de acuerdo a Quiñones, la cirugía no siempre es necesaria. Muchos pacientes pueden llevar una vida normal sin tratamiento médico.

"Así que no se asuste si su médico le dice que tiene un soplo cardíaco", dice Quiñones. "Porque es muy probable que pueda seguir disfrutando de las actividades que más le gustan, como los ejercicios y los deportes".

El DeBakey Heart Center es un programa del Baylor College of Medicine y The Methodist Hospital que apoya los estudios cardiovasculares, su tratamiento y su educación.

(italiano, francés, castellano y portugués), se escuchaban en apenas 17 por ciento de los hogares de extranjeros y de ellos más de la mitad eran italianos.

Ochenta años más tarde, en 1990, los idiomas romances se hablaban en 44 por ciento de los hogares de extranjeros, y de estos el 83 por ciento hacían del castellano su idioma cotidiano.

También se ha diversificado mucho más el origen de las corrientes inmigratorias hacia Estados Unidos, y aparte del castellano que tanto preocupa a los defensores del inglés en el sur y el oeste del país, en cientos de miles de hogares se habla chino, tagalog, ilocano, polaco, ruso, hindi, coreano, japonés, húngaro, vietnamita, árabe y decenas de otros idiomas.

Gracias al ímpetu de Unz, los arizonianos quizá tengan en 2000 la oportunidad de debatir en profundidad la diversidad de idiomas, que en su estado es, predominantemente entre el inglés y el castellano, y podrán votar sobre el asunto.

Un editorial de la revista National Review sostuvo que "la educación bilingüe en realidad impide que los niños aprendan inglés, que es el idioma del futuro, y perjudica su éxito en la sociedad estadounidense".

El Departamento de Educación del estado de Arizona, en un estudio reciente, determinó que sólo 4 por ciento de los estudiantes que reciben educación bilingüe pasa cada año a las aulas donde sólo se enseña en inglés.

Los idiomas romances

Covenant Gana Honor

Los servicios intervecionales de cardiología de Covenant Health System fue nombrado a un grupo de hospitales de los mejores en un nuevo estudio llamado los 100 Hospitales Mejores: Hospitales Cardiovasculares de parte de un compañía de informaciones de Baltimore. El Hospital



Covenant (CHS) fue el único hospital en 62 condados circunvecinos y uno de solamente tres hospitales en Texas reconocido en esta categoría.

El reporte fue basado fue formalizado en un análisis de 12 millones casos dentro de 700 hospitales.

"Este reconocimiento es un verdadero tributo a el calibre de capacidad y expertisio de los cardiólogos, doctores especialistas, enfermeras y trabajadores técnicos en el Hospital Covenant. Nosotros siempre hemos sido dedicados a proveer los mejores servicios de estas region y este tipo de reconocimiento nacional es un testamento a nuestro éxito." dijo el Doctor Robert J. Salem jefe de servicios medicos.



Para recibir este conocimiento se revisaron

- La estancia por media de pacientes
- El redito de riesgo y complicaciones
- El riesgo de muertes
- Los costos de servicios y ajustamiento de severidad
- La proposcion de procedimientos de sobre pasos que resultado en trachestomias y
- La frecuencia de pacientes que reciben angioplastia.

CHS tiene una larga historia de cuidado cardiaco desde abrio la primera unidad para cuidado cardiaco en 1965 de todo Texas. El programa cardiaco cuenta con unidades mobiles para servir la region y programas para la rehabilitacion y prevencion en el Centro LifeStyle Centre.



CYD Program

The Community Youth Development Grant for 79415 Zip Code area has received \$500,000 for FY 2000. Proposals are NEW. Programs are being requested. Deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, April 30. Call Fred Ortiz at 791-0077

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Covenant Heart Center has just been named to an elite list of the best heart hospitals in the United States. An independent study released this week named the Top 100 Hospitals in America for Cardiac Intervention, and Covenant Heart Center was one of only three Texas hospitals to earn a place on the coveted list (*and the only one in our West Texas/Eastern New Mexico service area*).

We're proud, yes. But what makes our hearts really swell are our employees who, along with the cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons on staff, earned this honor. We knew they were a blue ribbon team a long time ago.

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Holyfield, Lewis agree to rematch

Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis have agreed on terms to fight again for the undisputed heavyweight championship. Now promoter Don King must find a date and a site willing to pay millions for a tarnished rematch.

King said Sunday that both fighters want the bout in September, and that both would be guaranteed \$15 million for the rematch. Possible sites include New York, Las Vegas, London and South Africa.

The fight is far from a done deal, however. Among the issues remaining are terms of a pay-per-view deal with HBO, and whether the network and promoters for Lewis will agree to a fight in which King retains a major role.

Additionally, HBO has already

reserved a September pay-per-view date for its other star fighter, Oscar De La Hoya.

"We have no deal struck for a rematch," said HBO senior vice president Lou DiBella, whose network has a long-term contract with Lewis. "We haven't sat down yet and spoken to Lewis and his people."

THE PAYDAYS WOULD REPRESENT a \$5 million cut for Holyfield and a \$5 million increase for Lewis from their March 13 fight that ended in a controversial draw.

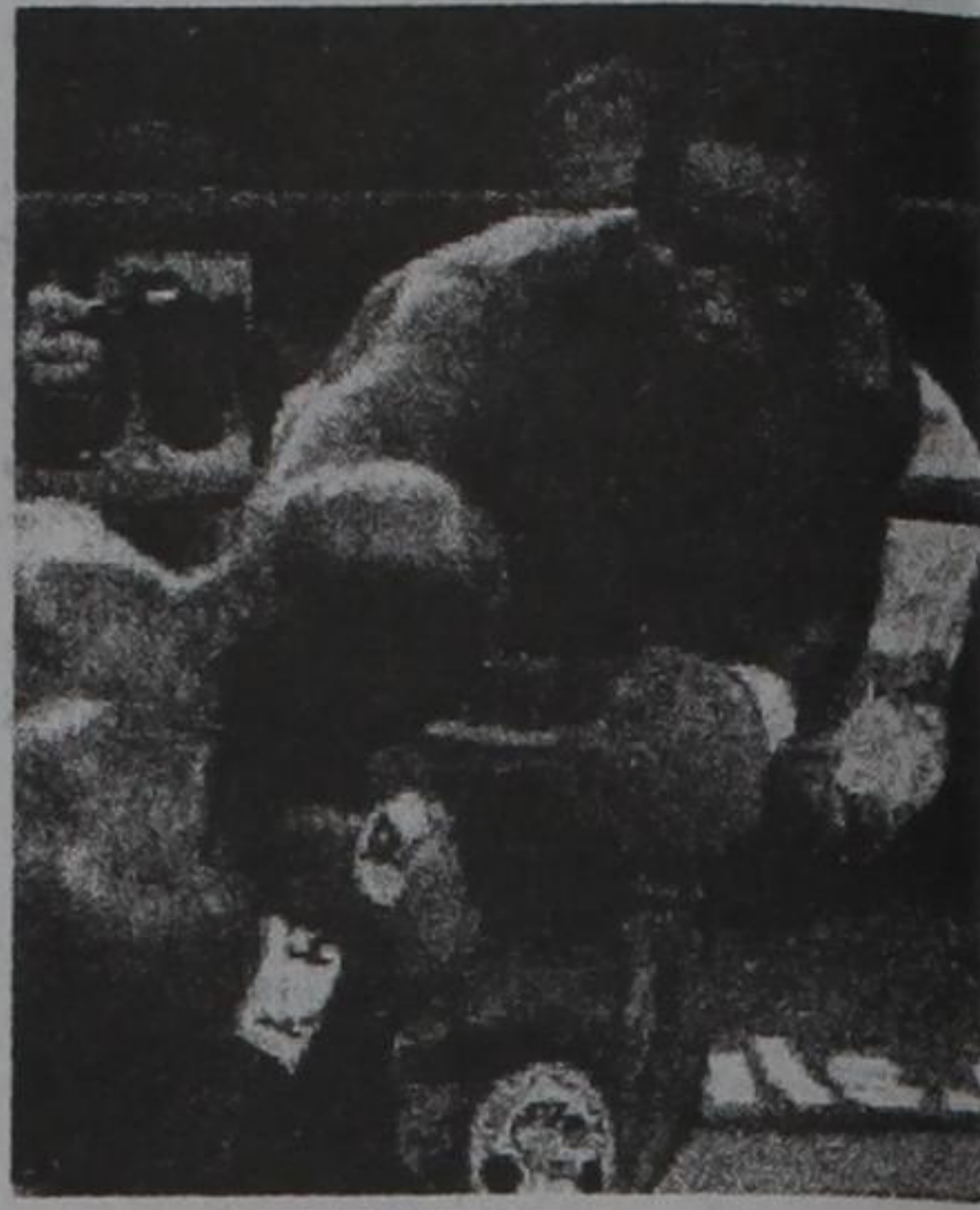
"It's parity and that's important," Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, said.

King said he received Holyfield's signature for a rematch Saturday. Lewis had a clause in his contract for the first fight calling for him to get \$15 million in any rematch.

"This is the only corrective we have in boxing ... when we have a dispute is to have a rematch," King said in a TV interview from his Florida home.

Holyfield kept his WBA and

IBF titles while Lewis retained his WBC title when three ringside judges decided the 12-round bout that Lewis appeared to dominate was actually a draw.



PICTURE
Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield appear ready to go at it again.

THE DECISION SPARKED THREE different investigations, with a particular focus on the scoring of Judge Eugenia Williams of Atlantic City, N.J., who scored the fight for Holyfield 115-113. Larry O'Connell of England scored it 115-115, while South African judge Stan Christodoulou favored Lewis, 116-113.

The fighters hadn't even left the ring and King was already trying to promote a rematch. Hours later, the heads of the WBA, IBF and WBC agreed, ordering a rematch within six months to unify the title once and for all.

"This is the only fight that boxing needs at the moment. Nothing else matters," Maloney said from London. "The only

thing Lennox says is why has it taken so long to get it on again?"

Though the first fight was a financial success, selling out Madison Square Garden at prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,500 a seat and drawing 1.1 million pay-per-view buys, selling the rematch may be more difficult.

Apart from the scoring dispute, there was little in the fight itself to merit a rematch. Holyfield, looking every day of his 36 years, fought ineffectively and never hurt Lewis, who scored easily with jabs and right leads but never tried to put Holyfield away.

THE RESULT WAS A FIGHT that settled into a predictable pattern after the fifth round, with neither fighter seemingly willing to risk what was necessary to take the decision out of the judge's hands.

Madison Square Garden paid \$8.5 million to stage the fight, and sold some \$11 million in tickets. But it's doubtful the same kind of money would be paid for the rematch, and Las Vegas casinos are also leery of paying big money for the fight.

That leaves open the possibility of King shopping the fight overseas, with England and South Africa mentioned as possible sites. Lewis fights out of England.

"The favorite at this moment in time has to be America with South Africa second and England and Scotland third and fourth," Lewis promoter Panos Eliades said. "South Africa appeals to everybody but they need the money to pay people's expenses, to fly everyone in and house them down there."

King, meanwhile, denied influencing the judging of the fight to keep control of the heavyweight titles.

"I have nothing to do with the outcome of an event," King said. "I have nothing to do with the appointment of the officials."

"I feel the draw was justified because that's what the judges rendered."

El Editor Newspaper

Texas Tech to Travel to Baylor

March 24, 1999
LUBBOCK, Texas - No. 10 Texas Tech (24-5, 7-1 Big 12) will travel to No. 18 Baylor (7-2, 21-6 Big 12) for a weekend series. Game times are 2 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Texas Tech enters the weekend after winning its last 10 consecutive games. Those 10 wins are a season high for Tech. The Red Raiders are one of the hottest teams in college baseball after winning 18 of their last 19 games. The one loss came at Missouri, 7-0 on Friday, March 5. Prior to the loss at Missouri, Texas Tech had won eight straight games.

Texas Tech leads the all-time series with Baylor 52-51 while head coach Larry Hays is 24-17 all-time against the Bears.

Probable starters for Texas Tech are RHP Shane Wright, RHP Kevin Tracey and RHP Brad Ralston. Baylor will probably counter with RHP Jason Jennings, LHP Josh Scott and RHP Chad Hawkins.

TECH ON 23-GAME HOME WIN STREAK

With its 11-1 victory Tuesday, Texas Tech is currently on a 23-game home winning streak. Texas Tech is obviously a tough team to beat at Dan Law Field. Already Tech has amassed a perfect 17-0 record at "The Law" this season.

Upon entering this weekend, the Red Raiders have their 23-game home winning streak in tact since last losing at home 15-1 to Oklahoma on April 24, 1998.

Texas Tech has had six straight 800+ seasons at Dan Law Field. That proves that Dan Law Field is one of the toughest venues to win at for an opponent.

The all-time home winning streak record is 30 straight games set from 4/28/95-4/27/96.

TECH BECOMES FIRST BIG 12 TEAM TO REACH 20 VICTORIES

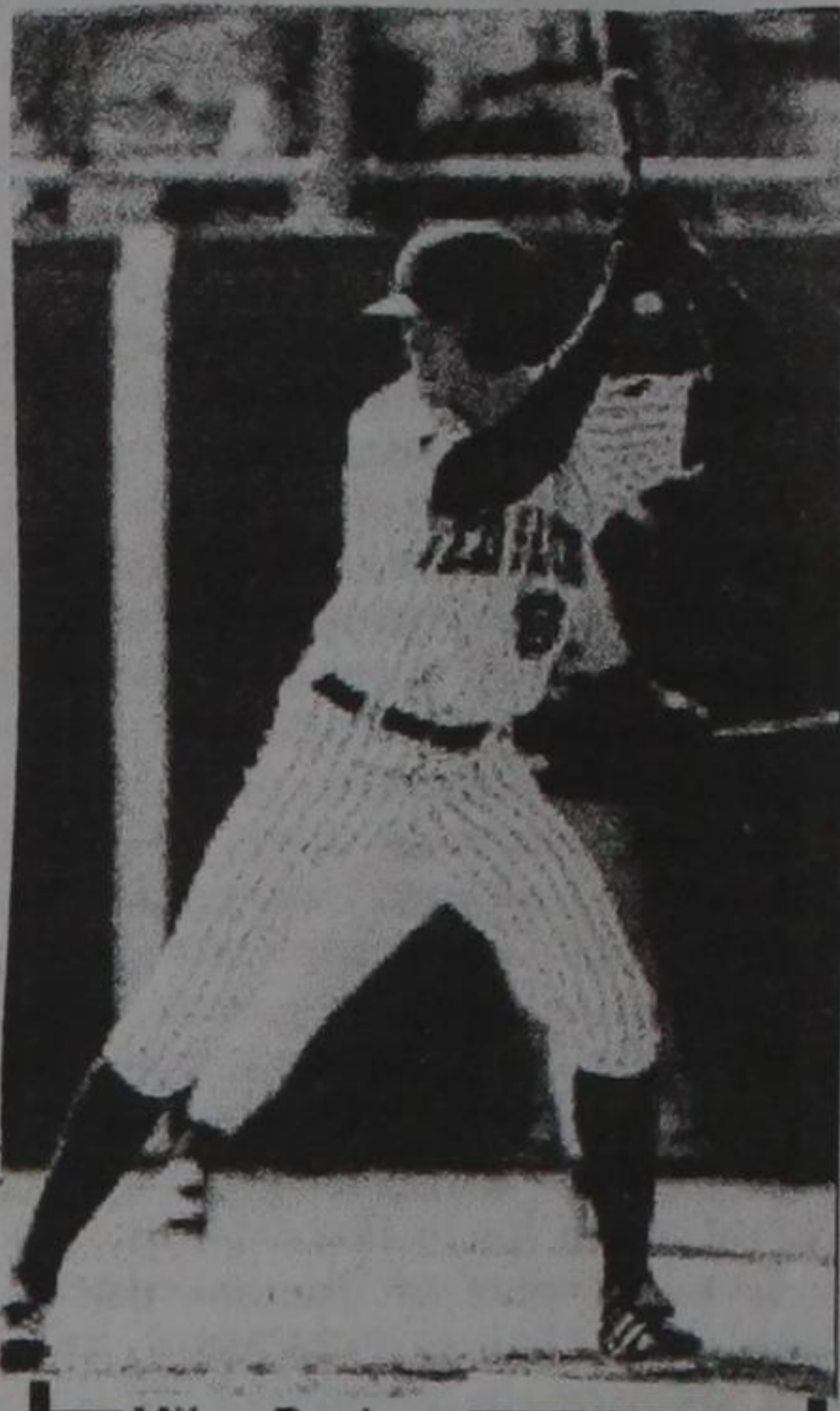
With its 5-1 victory on March 16 against West Texas A&M, Texas Tech became the first team in the Big 12 to reach 20 wins. At the time, Texas had 19 wins while Baylor had 17. Several other schools around the nation already had won 20+ games including Rice, Auburn, Florida International and Arizona State among others.

RAIDERS WIN 18 OF LAST 19 GAMES

Texas Tech is one of the hottest teams in collegiate baseball. The Red Raiders have put together a current 10-game win streak and have won 18 of their last 19 games.

Fans Can Pick Roster for Annual Red-Black Spring Football Game

LUBBOCK, Texas - For the second year in a row, the Texas Tech official athletic Internet site will play a major role in the annual Red-Black spring football game. Red Raider fans who log on to texastech.com before March 23, will have the opportunity to vote for starters for the Red Team. The spring game will be played on Saturday, March 27.



Miles Durham

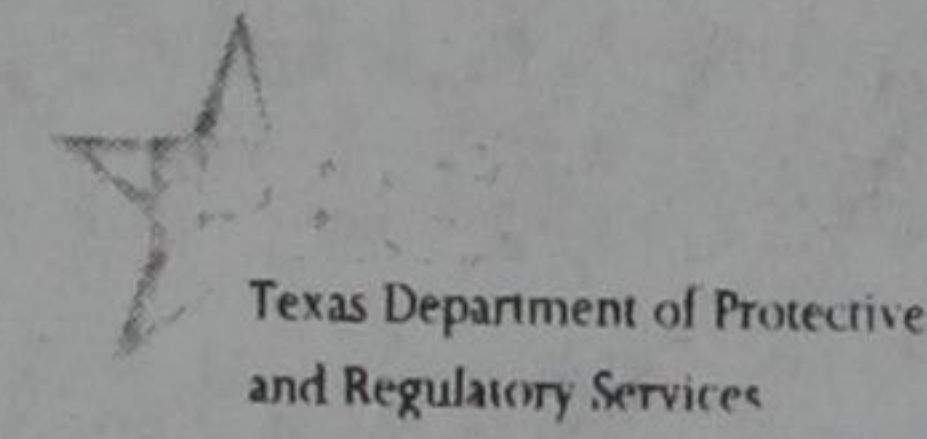
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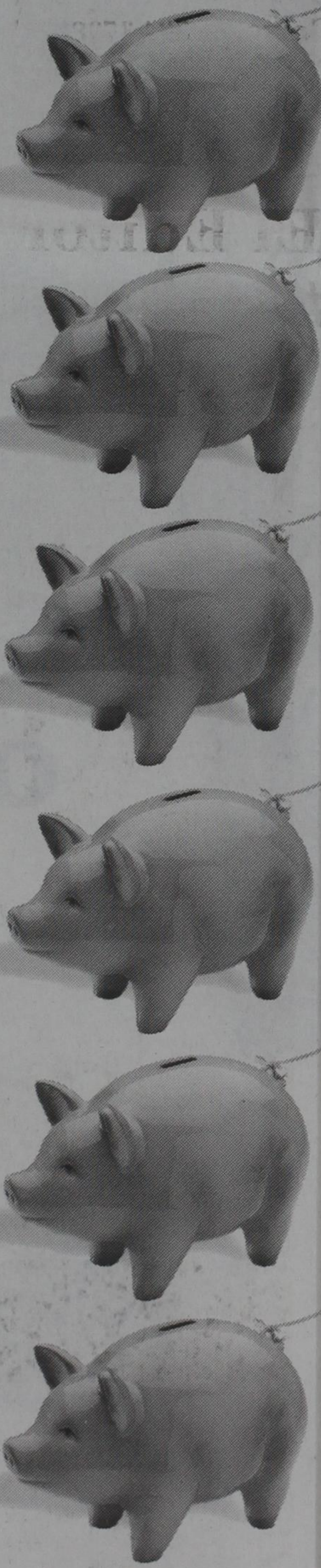
Local and regional positions available. Degree required. Please see our website for more information: www.tdprs.state.tx.us/jobs or fax resumes to 512-719-6180



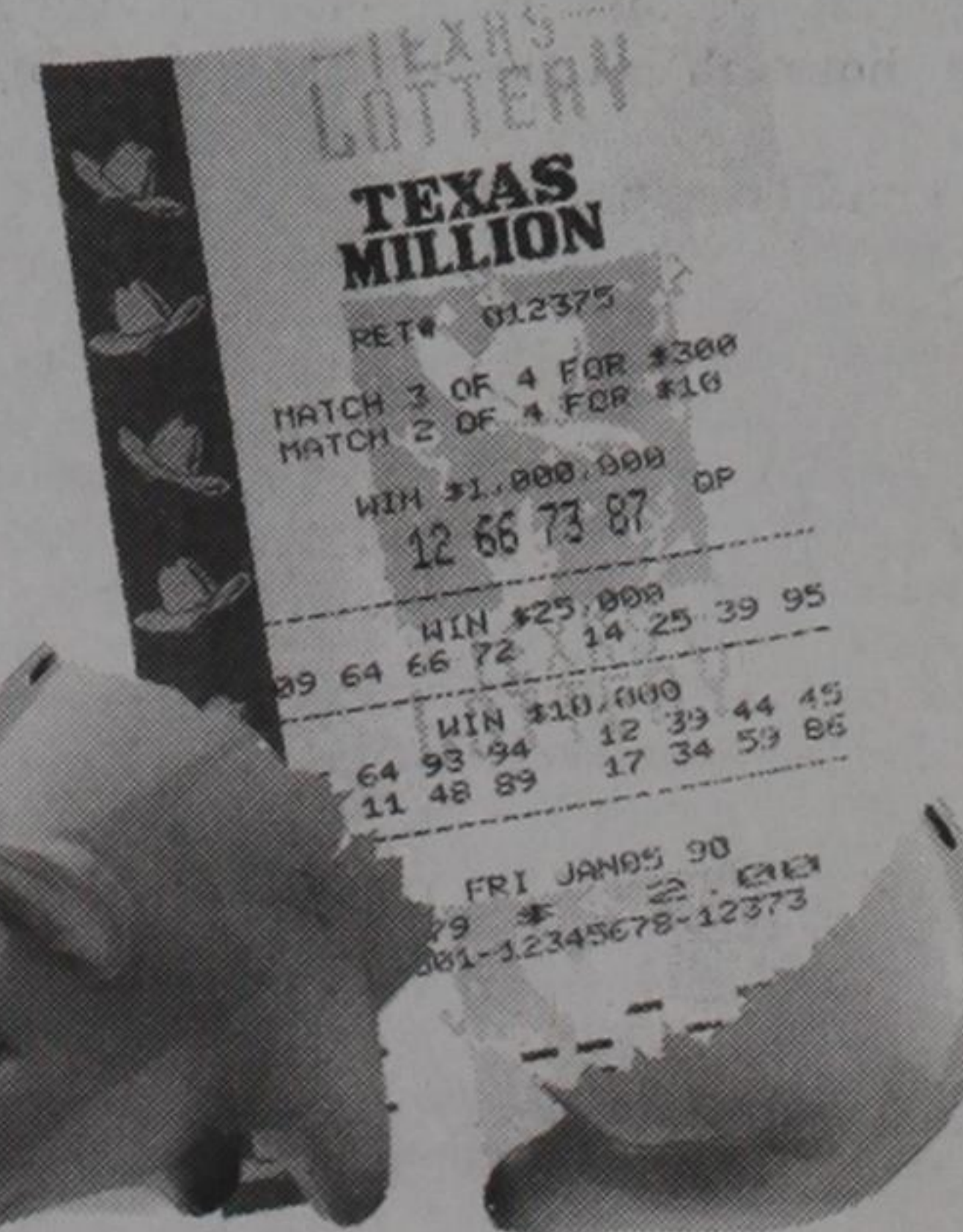
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7 Oportunidades De Ganar.

Probabilidad de ganar, 1 en 20. Debes tener 18 años para poder jugar. ©1999 Texas Lottery

"Last year we let the fans decide who should start our spring game," said Coach Spike Dykes. "There was some interesting voting at several positions. The fans input certainly added some fun to the event and our players were just as interested in the outcome of the polls. I think several of them tried to affect the outcome by voting for themselves. I really think this promotion is a lot of fun and adds a lot of excitement to our game."

Fans who have access to the Internet can vote through a special online voting program on the Red-Black game page at www.texastech.com. Fans will choose the best player for each offensive and defensive position. Fans can also select starters by filling out printed ballots found in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Each fan who fills out an online ballot will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a pair of Texas Tech football season tickets.

"Texas Tech has embraced the interactivity of the Internet to really make fans feel they are part of the program," said Jeff Cravens, Vice-president for Product Development for the FAN-Only Network. "This program highlights the strong relationship between the FAN-Only Network and its member institutions. We will continue to work with these universities to find innovative ways for fans to interact with their favorite teams."

On Thursday morning before the game, the athletic department will combine the votes submitted through the Internet with votes received through mail-in ballots, which were printed in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Final rosters will be announced before the game on the Texas Tech athletic site and will be printed in the game program.

This year's Red-Black game is one component of "FootballFest '99, sponsored by Texas Tech Medical Center." The Red-Black game will be broadcast on the radio in English and in Spanish.

SPC SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE
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SOUND TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR
Levelland Campus full-time positions: Request position description and application packet from South Plains College, Human Resources Office, Maria Chapa, 1401 S. College Ave., Levelland, TX, 79336, (806) 894-9611, ext. 2177. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 1999, with an anticipated start date of August 19, 1999.

SPECIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lubbock Campus full-time position: Request application materials and submit resume, SPC employment application and transcripts to: Maggie Seymour, South Plains College, Lubbock, TX 79401, (806) 747-0576, ext. 4654. Application review will begin March 30, 1999. Complete employment listings and descriptions are available at our web site www.spc.cc.tx.us under "JOBS".

South Plains College reserves the right to extend the search or not offer position advertised. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educational Institution.

El Mexico Antiguo'

Un Vistazo Desde Una Caja Mohosa

Por Kay Bárbaro

El secreto de la limpieza de primavera es comenzar temprano y no tener prisa. Así, encuentro recuerdos mohosos ocultos en cajas equilibradas sobre las vigas del garage -- objetos que exigen tiempo para desempacarlos y apreciarlos.

Dentro de la más mohosa de mis cajas mohosas, encuentro libros envejecidos tales como el titulado: "México -- Nuestro Vecino de al Lado".

Publicado en 1875 por Harper and Brothers, de Nueva York, relata las aventuras de Gilbert Haven por sur de la frontera.

Aquéllos de entre nosotros que sufren de alergias producidas por un polvo real o histórico, pueden hallar que algunos de sus pasajes sean inquietantes. Pero tiene igualmente una fascinación.

Haven es un viajero mundial cristiano, cuyo espíritu aventurero le lleva en diligencia y a lomo de caballo desde Veracruz hasta Yucatán y Ciudad México, así como a los pueblos mineros turbulentos y florecientes del centro de México, donde él halla que "esta tierra en toda su belleza ... y este pueblo en toda su humildad" realmente pertenecen a Cristo.

"Cristo conquistará", nos promete él. "El llevará a esta población al nivel de la probidad, la devoción y la pazDD.

A través de 467 páginas, Haven descubre volcanes y el "pulque" intoxicante de la planta del maguey; entusiasmo y peligro a cada vuelta. El se reúne con generales, huye de los bandidos, habla con antiguos esclavos del sur de los Estados Unidos que han llegado a ser herreros mexicanos con éxito.

El llega hasta a compartir un panfleto católico de Toluca que insta a "dar muerte a los protestantes".

Su relato fué expulsado de la Biblioteca Fay de Southboro, Massachusetts, hace algunos decenios. Con un sello que dice "Descartado", de algún modo llegó a manos de mi familia. Su tarjeta de lectores muestra que sólo tres personas en este siglo -- en 1913, 1940 y 1957 -- lo pidieron para leerlo.

En la misma caja de cartón corugado tropiezo con un "programa completo" de Español de Berlitz de cinco volúmenes, registrado como propiedad literaria en 1957, completo con cassettes que me enseñan a charlar sobre aventureros ("El mundo está tan lleno de aventureros de toda clase, ¿no es cierto?") a vitorear a un torero y a proponer matrimonio.

Tiene hasta una frase para los "conductores del asiento trasero": "¿No vió la luz roja?"

Lo siguiente que atrae mi atención es un libro con cubierta de papel de Doubleday Dolphin, con un precio de 95 centavos, titulado "Zapoteca", por la socióloga Helen Augur, publicado en el decenio de 1950.

El libro me enseña sobre de los habitantes de los estados sureños

de México: Chiapas, lugar de la continua rebelión indígena en México, y Oaxaca, donde las raíces de mi familia son muy profundas.

Augur observa que un hombre de Chiapas lleva "pañales curiosos" a modo de pantalones ... "que exhiben piernas magníficas de color caoba oscuro". Su sombrero es "un artículo pequeño, absolutamente rústico ... de paja con tejido doble y una corona redonda terminada en punta, adornada con una borla de lana de color rosado subido y además con una cascada de cintas de seda estrechas con los colores del arcoiris..."

Ella sugiere que "únicamente los hombres de la masculinidad más indisputable se dejarían ver muertos con esos atuendos".

En el altiplano de Oaxaca, Augur encuentra "una clase de mujeres de las cavernas con caras planas".

En cuanto a la mujer de Chiapas -- ella es "una pequeña vieja chismosa desaliñada. Sus ropas no tienen estilo y sus facciones son deformes y abultadas, bastante distintas que las de su esposo, salvajemente bien parecido".

Lo cual me recuerda que mi grupo de almuerzo va a reunirse dentro de poco. Tenemos una película sobre el "misteriosamente buen mozo" subcomandante Marcos -- cuya máscara oscura de esquiar oculta su belleza masculina -- en la que él explica su plan de paz y concordia a los "chiapanecos" indígenas y el modo de que las antiguas culturas pueden encajar democráticamente en el siglo XXI.

Es mejor que me salga de estos harapos, me ponga un poco de pintalabios y un traje decente, y salga en camino. Mañana puedo regresar a mi tarea de limpieza primaveral. Tengo suficiente tiempo.

(Kay Bárbaro es el pseudónimo usado para una columna redactada por el personal del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report. La familia Ericksen-Mendoza, que son los dueños de Hispanic Link, es la poseedora de la caja mohosa.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

'Old Mexico' View From A Musty Box

By Kay Bárbaro

The secret to spring cleaning is to start early and not be in a hurry. Thus, I find musty mementos hidden in boxes balanced on rafter beams in the garage -- objects that require time to unpack and appreciate.

Inside the mustiest of my musty boxes, I encounter browning books such as "Mexico -- Our Next-Door Neighbor."

Published in 1875 by Harper and Brothers of New York, it recounts the south-of-the-border adventures of author Gilbert Haven.

Those of us with allergies affected by real or historic dust may find some of its passages unsettling. But it has a fascination, too.

Haven is a Christian world traveler whose adventurous spirit leads him by stage and horseback from Veracruz to Yucatán to Mexico City and the boisterous, booming mining towns of central Mexico, where he finds that "this earth in all its beauty ... and these people in all their lowliness" really belong to Christ.

"Conquer Christ will," he promises us. "He will bring up this population to the level of probity, piety and peace."

Across 467 pages, Haven discovers volcanoes and the maguey plant's intoxicating pulque; rapture and danger at every turn. He consorts with generals, flees bandits, discourses with former slaves from the U.S. South who have become successful Mexican blacksmiths.

He even shares a Catholic pamphlet from Toluca that urges "Death to the Protestants."

His tale was evicted from the Fay Library of Southboro, Mass., a few decades ago. Stamped "Discarded," it fell somehow into my family's hands. Its borrower's card shows that only three per-

sons in this century -- in 1913, 1940 and 1957 -- ever checked it out to read.

In the same corrugated box I come across a five-volume "comprehensive program" of Berlitz Spanish, copyright 1957, complete with tapes that teach me to make small talk about adventurers ("El mundo está tan lleno de aventureros de toda clase, ¿no es cierto?"), to cheer at a bullfight, and to propose marriage.

There's even a phrase for back-seat drivers: "¿No vió la luz roja?"

A 95-cent Doubleday Dolphin paperback, "Zapotec" by sociologist Helen Augur, also published in the '50s, catches my attention next.

It educates me about inhabitants of the southern Mexico states of Chiapas, the site of Mexico's lingering native rebellion, and Oaxaca, where my family's roots run deep.

A Chiapas man, observes Augur, wears "curious diapers" for pants ... "displaying magnificent legs of deep mahogany." His hat is "a small, utterly silly affair ... of double-woven straw with a round crown coming to point, embellished with a tassel of shocking-pink wool and further embellished with a cascade of narrow silk ribbons in rainbow colors..."

She suggests, "Only men of the most indisputable masculinity would be seen dead in such costumes."

In the Oaxacan highlands, Augur finds "a type of flat-faced cave women."

As for the Chiapas female -- she's "a drab little biddy-hen. Her clothing has no style, and her features are unformed and blobby, quite unlike those of her savagely handsome husband."

Which reminds me, my lunch

group is meeting shortly. We have a film on misteriosamente buenmozo Subcomandante Marcos -- whose dark ski-mask hides his male beauty -- explaining his plan for peace and concordance to indigenous chiapanecos and how ancient cultures can fit democratically into the 21st Century.

I better get out of these rags,

put on some lipstick and a decent outfit, and be on my way.

Tomorrow, I can get back to my spring cleaning chores. Plenty of time.

(Kay Bárbaro is the pseudonymous byline used for a staff-written column in the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report. The Ericksen-Mendoza family, publishers of Hispanic Link, possess the musty box.)

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HOST INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Clark Sharpe
Vice President

March 11, 1999

Letters to The Editor

To El Editor:
Regards: Shooting of a minority CHILD, Joseph DE La ROSA

As an ex MP and U.S. Treasury employee, I wonder why three police could not overcome a youth in trouble.

One question , in my mind, was it absolutely necessary to Kill this Child

Another question is: Have any of this policeman have had recent or previous shooting operadum. It appears that shooting and killing is the only answer to problems. What happen to maze, what happen to billy clubs, that are longer than the knife. Are this law enforcement officers not trained in hand to hand combat or are this law enforcement individuals out of shape and in a hurry to go eat, that they cannot outmanuver a youth. Why shoot him three times, why not 21 to 30 like the NY incident????

Are the reports of all involved, exactly the same or are there discrepancies, and where is Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Patterson, and LULAC and GI Form.And where is the Justice Department, auditing Monica.

Do we not value life anymore, that shooting and killing is the only answer. God help us.

George Arteaga
El Editor Newspapers
is a weekly bilingual published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806-763-3841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

Noticias Breves

Practicar de Contrabandistas Ponen en Peligro a Indocumentados

El Paso (Texas), 22 mar (EFE).- Los contrabandistas de inmigrantes indocumentados han adoptado la práctica de esconder a cientos de personas en el interior de camiones de carga para no ser detectados por agentes de inmigración, algo que preocupa a las autoridades estadounidenses.

Portavoces de la Patrulla Fronteriza en el sector de El Paso indicaron que en la mayoría de los casos estas personas no pueden siquiera moverse para ingerir alimentos, y corren el riesgo de morir por asfixia.

"Esto es serio porque los inmigrantes permanecen inmóviles por largas horas y la falta de ventilación puede causarles asfixia", dijo Doug Mosier, portavoz de las oficinas regionales en El Paso, que tienen bajo su jurisdicción al estado de Nuevo Mexico.

Mosier dijo que el incidente más reciente de esta modalidad se registró el fin de semana pasado, cuando las autoridades del condado detuvieron un camión comercial que en su interior llevaba a 107 indocumentados.

"Las personas estaban paradas, apiladas una contra otra y sin espacio para moverse", dijo el sargento Ernesto Segura, de la oficina del sheriff del condado.

Las autoridades detuvieron al camión para una inspección de rutina porque este tenía un farol apagado.

"Al abrir la puerta, los indocumentados comenzaron a caer del vehículo, ya que se encontraban apretados unos contra otros", dijo Segura.

Mosier indicó que el chófer del camión, que se encuentra detenido, declaró que recibió 250 dólares por trasladar a cada indocumentado a Albuquerque, desde donde los inmigrantes viajarían a otras ciudades como Denver, Nueva York, Los Angeles, Nashville y Las Vegas.

Los indocumentados se encontraban en buen estado de salud, pese a que viajaban sin agua y alimentos y sin instalaciones sanitarias. Todos ellos fueron entregados a autoridades del Instituto Nacional de Migración en Juárez, México.

Construyen Nueva Barda Metálica Entre California y México

Calexico (California), 22 mar (EFE).- Autoridades de inmigración esperan que con la instalación, este lunes, de una barda metálica en la frontera entre California y México, puedan reducir el flujo de indocumentados que cruzan por la zona del desierto.

El portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza en Calexico, Henry Rolón, dijo a EFE que la valla de tres metros de alto y cinco kilómetros de largo es parte de un proyecto contra la inmigración ilegal en el área que se ha convertido en ruta preferida de los indocumentados.

El proyecto de construcción, a cargo de ingenieros militares de la Guardia Nacional de California, tendrá un costo de aproximadamente 1,5 millones de dólares y quedará concluido el próximo 15 de abril, dijo Rolón.

Esta barda es diferente a las vallas ya instaladas en la región limítrofe, pues en vez de placas lisas metálicas colocadas una sobre la otra, la nueva contiene tubos instalados de manera alternada, con espacios entre sí.

El plan busca desviar de esta zona el paso de nueva contiene tubos instalados de manera alternada, con espacios entre sí.

El plan busca delimitar el año pasado poco después de cruzar la frontera de California, unas 108 murieron en el área desértica de Calexico, donde a los peligros del desierto se suman los de canales de irrigación y al menos un río con fuertes corrientes.

El Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) comenzó a instalar bardas en la frontera sur de California desde finales de 1993, como parte de un operación que ha complementado con miles de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza en los condados de San Diego e Imperial.

Unos 250 kilómetros, de los 400 que tiene la frontera sur de California, ya han sido aislados por barreras metálicas.

Book On Alamo Seeks To Disinherit Battle Myth

By David Bennett
SAN ANTONIO — In the 163 years that have passed since the battle for the Alamo, hundreds of books, movies, children's games, and toys have made Colonel William B. Travis, David Crockett, and Jim Bowie into mythic heroes whose "ultimate sacrifice" gave birth to the nation of Texas.

Now a new generation of historians and anthropologists are digging into the roots of Alamo myths and finding that many of the commonly believed "facts" about the Alamo have little or no basis in history. These stories were created, many believe, to symbolically confirm the Manifest Destiny that eventually spread Anglo-American culture across the continent.

Today, Mexican-Americans, particularly Mexican American Texans, in growing numbers are finding they have little desire to "Remember the Alamo." What purports to be Alamo history has always painted a very simple picture of the Texans inside the Alamo as heroes and the Mexicans outside as executioners. "Inherit the Alamo"

One of the best books to confront these mythic depictions is *Inherit the Alamo*. It was written by anthropologist and San Antonio native Holly Beachley Brear. The book helps make some sense of the Alamo myths and the hodgepodge of acronyms (DRT, DAR, SALHA, LULAC, SRT, etc.) that represent the various groups that today fight to "protect" the Alamo and its legendary story.

Beachley Brear believes that instead of being a proud icon of Tejanos' Spanish and Mexican roots, the Alamo — and the focus by its caretakers on the 1836 battle — is now seen by many Mexican Americans as a stolen symbol of oppression that prevents Latinos from being allowed to take their rightful place in Texas history.

Beachley Brear makes no apologies for her book. The book is intended to "decry ethnic racial divisions in Texas," Beachley Brear said. The 184-page book has been slammed by some historians, but that hasn't fazed Beachley Brear.

"It's fun to play with these myths, and that's what anthropologists do," she said.

In one of the most intriguing sections of the book, Beachley Brear tackles the long-held belief by lovers of the myth that the Travis-led stand at the Alamo

was designed to "buy time" for Sam Houston and his forces. Historic records show that Travis' decision to hole up behind the walls was an enormous tactical military error, and that he refused to believe Santa Anna would come to Texas to do battle with the rebels.

So why did the myth of sacrifice spread? Much of it has to do with the timing of the battle — coming just weeks before Easter — and the news reports that trickled back to the East Coast were targeting an audience of primarily Christians. Beachley Brear explains:

"Once Travis has committed himself to this task, he becomes similar to Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane: Although Travis calls out for help, there is no one to 'take this cup' from him. He realizes that his sacrifice must be carried out; he has already crossed the line separating the living and the dead. He then asks his men to cross that line as well."

Even the Jewish Frenchman Louis (Moses) Rose, who according to legend was the only man to flee the Alamo before the fighting began, plays a role in this New Testament version of the Alamo.

"Rose is the old order," Beachley Brear writes, "being both Jewish and European. In the mythology, he is similar to Judas in the Gospels who, though initially part of Christ's inner circle, abandons Christ and his disciples in their darkest hour." Revisionist heritage

Beachley Brear's book also explores the groups that today claim its heritage, and she asks many questions of Mexican Americans in Texas as they continue seeking to rectify the portrayal of their forebears in the Alamo legends.

"How do [Mexican Americans] change an entire mythology of the struggle between the good Anglo and the evil Hispanic portrayed in most Alamo films? How do they counter the genealogical image of the current Alamo custodians, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and other groups associated with the Alamo?"

Beachley Brear said she intends to further explore the political maze involving the Alamo, ethnicity and gender, state versus local politics.

"It's one of the most fascinating historical sites in the world," she said.

Oscar Loss Does Not Mar Success of Ibero American Films

By Patricia Souza
Los Angeles, - The Oscar night defeat of Spain's "El Abuelo," Argentina's "Tango" and Brazil's "Central do Brasil" does not tarnish the success of this year's movies with a Latin flavor, nor impair their box-office potential.

None of these films won an Oscar in the course of Sunday's 71st Awards Ceremony of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, but only because Roberto Benigni and his "Life Is Beautiful" took Hollywood by storm.

Makers of the Spanish, Argentine and Brazilian entries highlighted the importance of having been nominated because, they said, in the absence of "Life Is Beautiful" awards would have been distributed quite differently.

In contrast to other years, a number of films in the foreign language category attracted substantial U.S. audiences.

This was certainly true of "Life Is Beautiful" but also of "Central do Brasil," a film which some years ago might not have been shown commercially in the United States at all, but this year enjoyed considerable critical and popular success.

The makers of "Central do Brasil" seem to have taken defeat the hardest. The film, nominated in two categories, failed to place Brazil in the annals of the Academy as they and their countrymen had hoped.

The film's director Walter Salles and best-actress nominee Fernanda Montenegro left immediately after the ceremony to attend post-show parties.

When the winning film was announced, members of the "Central do Brasil" team, especially child actor Vinicius de Oliveira who played the part of Josue, found it difficult to hide their disappointment.

Makers of the films competing with Benigni's had nevertheless acknowledged that he was most likely to take home the statuette, given that "Life Is Beautiful" grossed over 25 million dollars at the box office.

"For Americans, it is not a foreign film," said Spanish director Jose Luis Garci, whose "El Abuelo" was the only nominated film never shown commercially in the United States.

Critics consider it a coup that three of the five films nominated in the foreign language category were Hispanic/Latin American productions.

INS Denies Mass Deportations to Central America

Washington, - Although the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on Saturday insisted it is not carrying out mass deportations of undocumented aliens to Central America, it has deported 201 Salvadorans and Guatemalans over the last four days, most with criminal records.

It has also scheduled 1,600 Salvadorans and 1,354 Guatemalans for immigration hearings that could result in the immigrants' immediate deportation, INS spokesman Dan Kane told EFE.

"The number of deportations this week - 141 Salvadorans and 60 Guatemalans - are within normal range and do not constitute a mass deportation of immigrants who have broken U.S. laws," Kane said.

To back up his claims, Kane quoted INS statistics showing that during the last fiscal year, from Oct. 1, 1997, to Sept. 30, 1998, 5,000 Salvadorans and 4,900 Guatemalans in the United States illegally were returned to their countries of origin.

"The message is clear: the INS patrols the border and stands firm in its determination to repatriate those people who cross the border without the necessary paperwork required by law," Kane added.

On March 16, INS authorities deported 60 Guatemalans. Of these, 17 had criminal records and 43 did not have legal papers. Less than two days later, on March 18, the INS deported a similar number of Salvadorans: 10 with criminal records and 50 who lacked the paperwork to remain in the United States legally.

On Friday, 81 Salvadorans were deported, including 54 who had already served criminal sentences and 24 who lacked legal authorization to remain in the United States.

Kane said additional deportations were scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday, although he did not reveal the number of cases. The White House suspended deportations of Guatemalans and Salvadorans in mid-November 1998 as a humanitarian gesture following the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch

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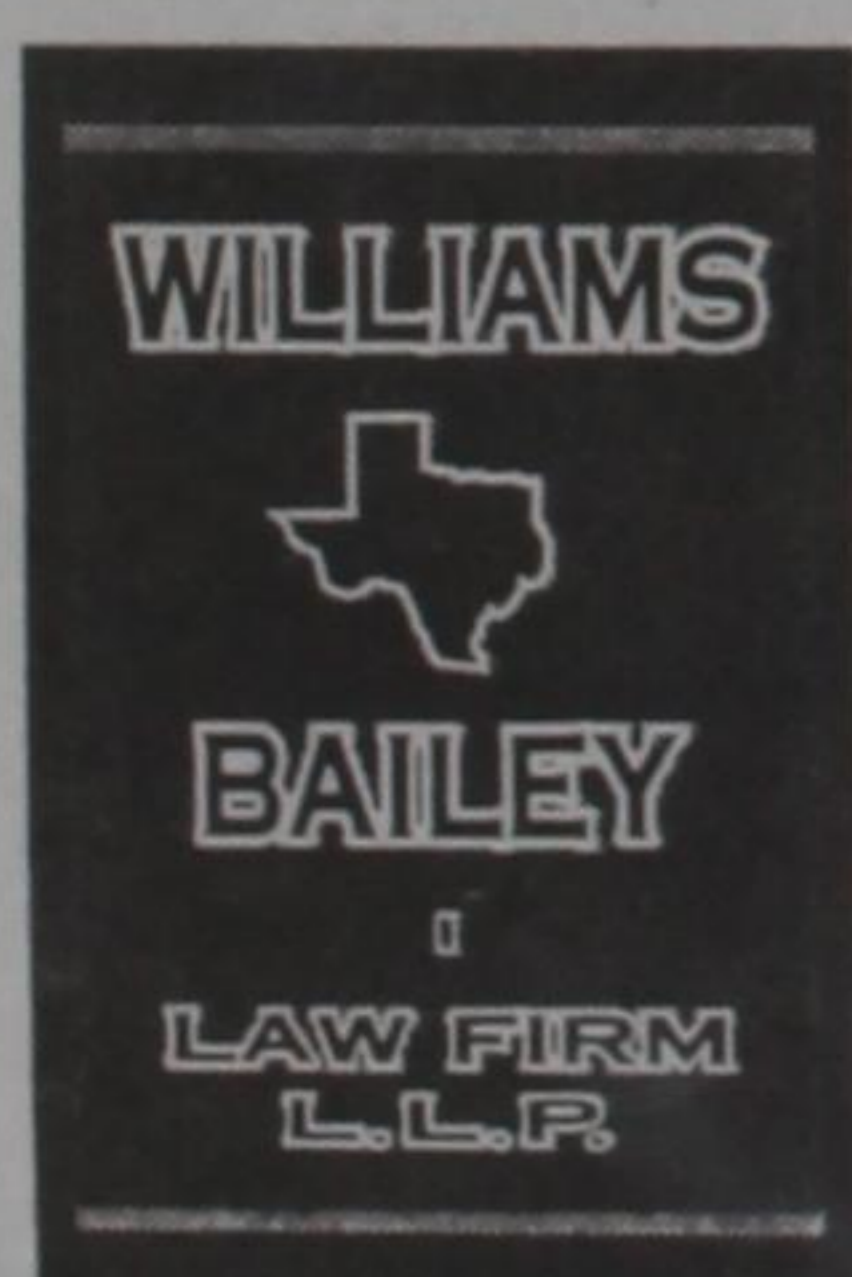
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