

Narcocorridos Polka Beat, Gansta Rap Lyrics, Top Charts In Mexico's Northwest

EDITOR'S NOTE. Germans brought the sound -- polka beats played with accordions. But drug traffickers are the subjects of the hit songs in Northwest Mexico these days. The narcocorridos, as they're called, resemble gangsta rap in the U.S. and have even given rise to a Mexican version of Tupac Shakur. PNS correspondent Sam Quinones is a freelance reporter based for the last five years in Mexico City. This is the second of three reports on Mexico's narcoculture. Photographs illustrating the series are available through PNS - call George Gundry at 415-243-4364.

BY SAM QUINONES
CULIACAN, MEXICO -- In a grassless backyard, an unpolished young band bounces through the classic song, "Pacas de a Kil."

Juventud Nortena -- five guys, ages 16 to 25 -- are intent on making it big. They have desire, no little talent, and a monster accordion player in 18-year-old Raul Lopez.

The group has mastered several "classics" of norteno music -- a Mexican adaptation of the polka, brought to the region, along with the accordion, by Germans who came to work in breweries more than a century ago. But they



are widening their repertory. "We want to learn all kinds of music, so we can get all kinds of gigs," says Lopez.

What they lack is a sponsor to buy equipment and get them some concerts. Jesus Garcia, a young taxi driver promoting the band, is blunt. "A lot of these bands are sponsored by some narco (drug smuggler). That's what we want." The band's second original song is a corrido -- a ballad or stor-



Grupos como los de las fotos, Los Tigres del Norte (arriba) y Los Huracanes del Norte (izq.), están en la cresta de una ola con éxitos mediante narcocorridos con títulos como "Contrabando de Juárez", "Terrible AK-47", "Socios de la Mafia", etc.

y-telling song -- about a cousin of singer Rene Bastida, who "is on the wrong path."

"We're going to write corridos, you know, about the mafia. That's what really sells," says Jesus Garcia.

It's true -- narcocorridos have become the pop music for much of Northwest Mexico. The genre has been a major part of Mexican folk music for at least a century and now the narcocorrido has become a

pervasive part of the "narcoculture" in places like Culiacan, capital of the state of Sinaloa. Most corridos tell of historic events -- narcocorridos recount the exploits of drug smugglers, often from the smuggler's point of view. Most include an execution or a shootout between narcos and federales or other bloody events -- all set to a polka beat and the obviously cheerful

Continued on page 6

News Briefs

Clinton Again Pushes Volunteerism

President Clinton, touting the importance of volunteer citizen service to the nation's future, announced Saturday that he will propose legislation to extend several national programs for five more years, including AmeriCorps.

Clinton asked Americans in his weekly radio address to observe the Martin Luther King holiday by volunteering their time to help others.

Clinton also wants to extend Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps.

Harris Wofford, head of the government's Corporation for National Service, said AmeriCorps has had a multiplier effect, with each worker bringing about a dozen other volunteers for projects such as the America Reads initiative.

AmeriCorps has not been without detractors, however. Some Republicans in Congress believe young adults, who receive a modest living allowance and up to \$4,725 in education vouchers for completing one year of AmeriCorps service, shouldn't be paid to volunteer. Congress sought to strip the agency of funding for fiscal 1996, and House Republicans tried again in the 1997 budget.

But this year, Congress increased spending for the program by \$49 million, hoping members would recruit even more volunteers for the literacy project.

In an effort to boost volunteerism across the nation, Clinton also announced 73 grants for communities to conduct special events on Martin Luther King Day. Congress marked January 19 as a day of service in 1994. This year, grant recipients have proposed activities from cleaning up local housing projects to collecting foods from local farms for the poor.

GOP to Launch Affirmative Action Attack in '98

Republicans will be taking aim at scores of federal programs benefiting women and racial minorities next year in Congress, reports Associated Press.

Affirmative action and related issues had begun to heat up just before lawmakers went home earlier this month. But 1998 is a congressional election year, and one Republican lawmaker says he's ready again to push a bill ending federal race- and gender-based programs.

Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., said Congress shouldn't wait for courts to act, even though they are increasingly ruling against affirmative action. The programs, he said, are based on the "flawed belief that we will be able to overcome discrimination by practicing discrimination."

Canady's attempt to advance the anti-affirmative action bill in November was blocked when Rep. George Gekas, R-Pa., questioned the timing. Gekas, who also opposes affirmative action, doubted whether Congress should be involved.

Gekas said a "legislative slam-bang" solution would be counterproductive, considering that judges are reviewing the issue.

Postal Service OKs Nonprofit "Safe Harbor"

After months of meetings and negotiations, the National Federation of Nonprofits (NFN) announced recently that the Postal Service has agreed to a "safe harbor" for offers of back-end premiums in return for charitable contributions, in nonprofit Standard (A) mail.

The Revenue Forgone Reform Act of 1993 requires back-end premiums offered in nonprofit mail to be "substantially related" to the nonprofit's purpose. But the Postal Service has interpreted that very narrowly, not distinguishing between advertising vs. requests for contributions, nor between products for sale vs. back-end premiums. This created an administrative burden for the USPS, and a nightmare for mailers.

The new "safe harbor," published in the November 14 Federal Register, says that a request for contributions that includes a back-end premium is clearly not a sale if the contribution requested is more than four times the cost to the charity of the back-end premium, and more than two times the represented value of the premium, if a value is represented. If these conditions are not met, the premium must be "substantially related" to qualify for nonprofit postage rates.

For more information or a faxed copy of the Federal Register language, e-mail NFN at nfnfd@aol.com. (From PULSE! News)

Survey: Youth Curfews on the Rise

A new survey finds a growing number of U.S. cities are using curfews to keep youths off the streets and at home, reports Associated Press.

A report being released today by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 276 of 347 responding cities had a nighttime curfew. Seventy-six had a daytime curfew as well.

"Curfews are not the end-all. It's just one tool in the toolbox," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, chairman of the mayors' conference task force on youth violence.

Abramson said curfews should be just one part of a juvenile crime prevention. He cited survey results that showed officials in 247, or 90 percent, of the cities that had curfews, thought it was a good use of a police officer's time. The rest of the cities thought curfew enforcement wasted police time.

In Tulsa, Okla., officials surveyed said there is generally no useful purpose for children to be out late at night. In Charlotte, N.C., officials said the curfew could stop teen-agers from getting into trouble and that many parents did not even know their children were outside the home. Officials in Claremont, Calif., said the city's day and nighttime curfews free up police officers for other work.

But officials in Billings, Mont. complained there was often nowhere to take curfew offenders, since many parents themselves would not be home. City officials in Freeport, Ill. said curfew enforcement turns officers into baby-sitters. Richmond, Calif. officials said curfews treat all youth as if they were delinquents, giving law enforcement a bad image in the eyes of young people who are not troublemakers.

According to the survey, 56 percent, or 154, of the surveyed cities have had a youth curfew for at least 10 years. Officials in half these cities say juvenile crime has dropped since the curfew was imposed; 11 percent say the number of juvenile crimes has remained steady, and 10 percent have had an increase in juvenile-related crime.

Because most of the remaining cities have had curfews for

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

EL EDITOR

Vol. XXI No. 10

Week of December 4 to December 10, 1997

Lubbock, Texas

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Latino 'Geniuses' Share Their Souls, Hearts And Minds

By Raymond Rodriguez

Someday, we may look back on it as the defining Latino event of 1997. It told 32 million U.S. Latinas and Latinos not just who they are, but who they can be.

It happened last month, when a dozen of the nation's brightest, most committed and creative souls -- all Latino leaders

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

As I spoke to a group of journalism students this past Wednesday, I was asked what I thought would be a fair admission policy for Tech.

"To me a fair admissions policy would be open enrollment, where anyone who wanted to go to school could" I answered.

This coming week the Tech Regents will discuss changes to be made in admissions policy. Recommended is policy that would require students to graduate in the top 25% of their class, that they score over 1200 on the SAT test and that students admitted be required to maintain or reach a certain grade point by the end of the first semester.

Their decision will affect not only those entering Tech in the near future but could very well determine the future of minorities and poor for many years to come. With the new policy, Regents could follow the wishes of many to make Tech into the "Ivy League" school of West Texas and thereby limit enrollment of those not living up to the expectations of elitist or decide that Tech is an institution that needs to work toward providing an education for all residents of West Texas.

The Regest's meeting to decide admission policy will be December 11. Attendance to the meeting will be most probably limited. Written comments will be taken until Dec. 8th.

Chancellor Montford will personally meet with the minority community on Dec. 8th to receive comment. The meeting is scheduled for 5 pm at the Maggie Trejo Center in the Arnett Benson barrio.

I would think that none of us want to miss the meeting to express our opinions or concerns.

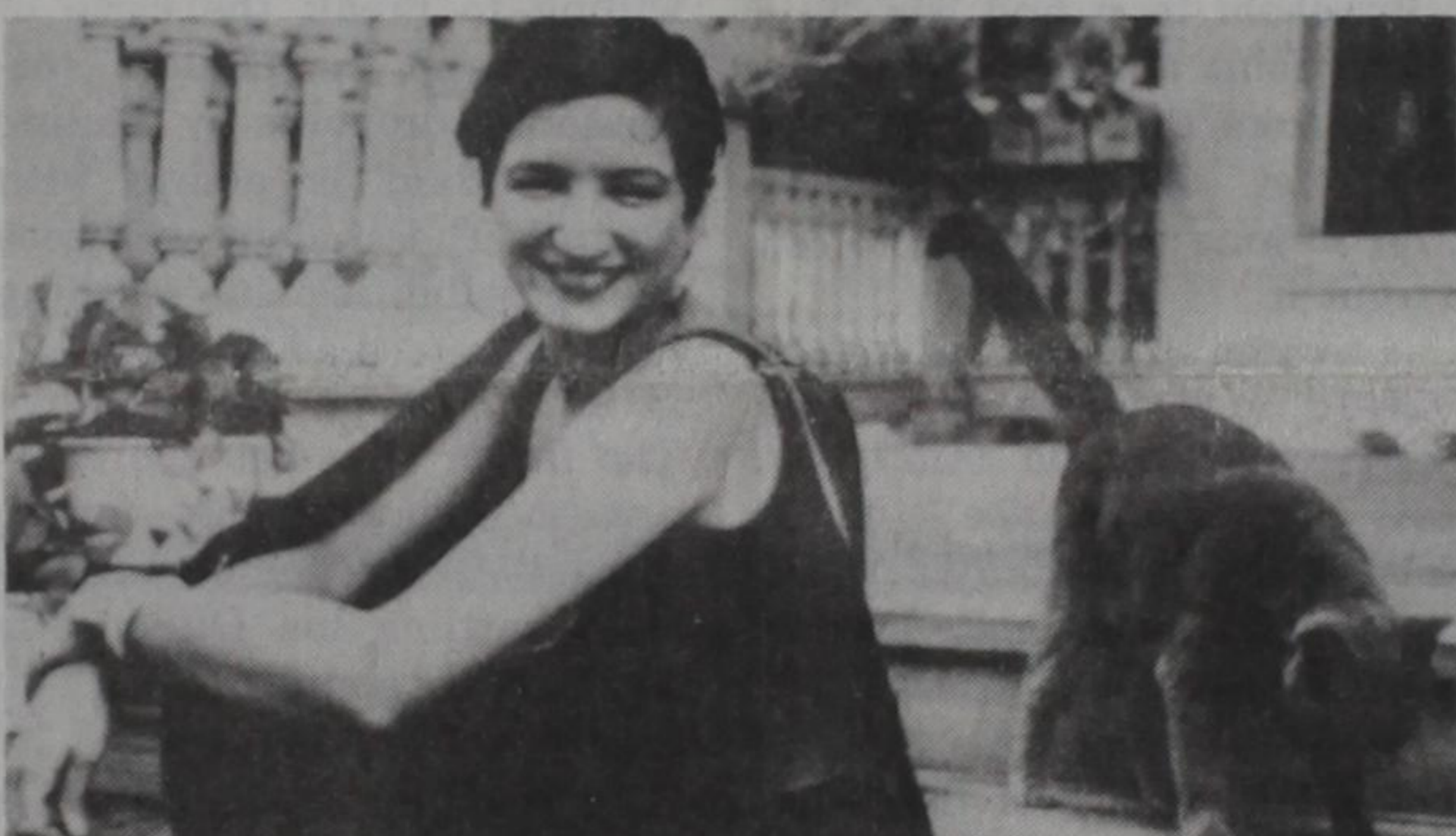
El Editor Call & Subscribe 763-3841

but relative strangers to one another -- joined hands in San Antonio for three days last month.

The common denominator that brought them together was that, over the past several years, each had been selected as a recipient of prestigious five-year John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation grants, commonly called the Genius Awards. Since 1981, the Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation has bestowed some 500 no-strings-attached gifts now averaging about \$250,000 each on individuals of unique talent and character engaged in diverse fields. To date, 16 of the beneficiaries have been Latina or Latino.

The three-day San Antonio experience was the inspiration not of the foundation, but of author Sandra Cisneros, a 1995 winner. She reasoned that genius has a responsibility to share with its community.

The focus of the meeting in San Antonio, her hometown, was not to dwell on personal accomplishments, but to connect with students and others, emphasizing the importance of learning and the possibilities that exist when you reach beyond the imaginable.



Students couldn't have asked for role models more qualified to carry the message. The list of attendees read like a who's-who roll call, representing a variety of cultural and intellectual areas. They ranged from performance artist Guillermo Gomez-Pena to Hugo Morales, a farmworker from Oaxaca, Mexico, who earned a Harvard law degree and rose to create Radio Bilingue, a vital community-based radio network.

The assemblage was entitled *Ofrendas del alma, del corazón y de la mente* (Offerings of the soul, heart and mind).

I spoke with Joaquin Avila, another Harvard law school product and a hugely success-

ful voting rights attorney, on his return to California following the sessions. Avila, a 1996 MacArthur "genius," described the experience as nothing short of awesome. "I'm still caught up in the afterglow."

To convey their messages about education and to promote intellectual excellence, reunion participants spent much of their time with high school and college students. They spoke at different schools or to groups of students with interests common to their own. Avila, for example, interacted with law students, whose eagerness to learn and achieve left an indelible impression on him.

Continued on page 4

Los 'Genios' Latinos Comparten Sus Almas, Corazones Y Mentes

Por Raymond Rodriguez

Algún día, quizás lo miremos retrospectivamente como el acontecimiento latino definidor de 1997. El mismo le dijo a 32 millones de latinos estadounidenses no solamente quiénes son, sino quiénes pueden ser.

El evento tuvo lugar por más de tres días en San Antonio el mes pasado, cuando una docena de las almas más brillantes, dedicadas y creadoras de la nación -- todos ellos líderes latinos, pero relativamente desconocidos entre sí -- unieron sus manos en San Antonio el mes pasado.

El denominador común que los unió fue que, durante los años recientes, cada uno de ellos fue seleccionado como recipiente de subvenciones prestigiosas de cinco años de la fundación de John D. y Catherine T. MacArthur,

conocidos popularmente como los galardones de "genios".

Desde 1981, la Fundación MacArthur, con sede en Chicago, ha otorgado cerca de 500 donativos incondicionales, que ahora promedian \$250,000, a personas de talento y naturaleza singulares, en diversos campos. Hasta la fecha, 16 de los beneficiarios han sido latinas o latinos.

La experiencia de tres días de San Antonio fue la inspiración, no de la fundación, sino de la autora Sandra Cisneros, merecedora de una beca en 1995. Ella razonó que el genio tiene la responsabilidad de compartir con su comunidad.

El enfoque de la reunión de San Antonio, su ciudad natal, no fue enfocarse en los logros personales, sino conectarse con estudiantes y otras personas, haciendo énfasis en la

importancia del aprendizaje y en las posibilidades que existen cuando uno se proyecta más allá del alcance imaginable.

Los estudiantes no pudieron haber pedido modelos más calificados para llevar el mensaje. La relación de asistentes lucía como una lista de "quién es quién", representando una diversidad de campos culturales e intelectuales. Fluctuaban desde el artista de ejecución Guillermo Gómez-Peña, hasta Hugo Morales, un agricultor de Oaxaca, México, que obtuvo un grado de derecho en Harvard y se elevó hasta crear "Radio Bilingue", una poderosa red de estaciones de radio basadas en la comunidad.

La reunión fue titulada *"Ofrendas del alma, el corazón y la mente."*

Continúa en la página 4

Liberando Nuestros 'Genios' Latinos

Por Victor Landa

La palabra española para "genius" es "genio". Pero "genio" es también la palabra que define a un espíritu fantástico (en el folklore árabe y mahometano) y para el estado de ánimo.

Cuando alguien se halla en un mal estado de ánimo, decimos en español: "Anda de mal genio". Se puede encontrar a "genios" imaginarios en botellas cerradas con corchos y en lámparas mágicas que, al frotarse, producen seres etéreos cuyo único propósito es el de torturar nuestras vidas al conceder tres deseos.

Tal es la naturaleza del genio.

Esta cualidad, esta situación del ser caprichosa e imaginaria, fué llevada al primer plano hace pocas semanas por una reunión de mentes latinas prominentes.

A la invitación inspirada de una de ellas, la autora Sandra Cisneros, 12 recipientes de las becas de la Fundación MacArthur, o "custodios del genio", como se les llama comúnmente -- artistas, activistas, educadores, comunicadores -- se reunieron en San Antonio para inspirar al "genio" que todos llevamos. Pasaron tres días compartiéndose a ellos mismos en reuniones y grupos de debate con estudiantes de escuelas secundarias y superiores.

Un enfoque tan democrático para un don tan exclusivo es

refrescante. Su conferencia, titulada "Ofrendas del alma, del corazón y de la mente", fué concebida como una invitación abierta para todos los que tienen el valor de actuar sobre sus sueños, con el valor siendo la esencia del "genio".

En el sur de España, ellos tienen un concepto radical del genio. Le llaman "el Duende". El poeta andaluz Federico García Lorca definió al "Duende" como "una fuerza y no un trabajo, una batalla y no un pensamiento".

El "Duende" no es un ángel ni una musa. Es, antes bien, un modo de vida. "El ángel", escribió García Lorca, "guía y regala. La musa dicta y en algunas ocasiones sopla. En cambio, al Duende hay que despertarlo en las últimas habitaciones de la sangre".

Cuando un(a) bailarín(a) baila con una energía que trasciende a la inspiración, cuando una cantante canta como si estuviera fuera de sí misma, se dice que ella tiene "el Duende". Vivir con esta clase de genio es como vivir con una conciencia penetrante de la propia mortalidad, vivir con propósito y sinceridad. La verdadera batalla, dijo el poeta, es con "el Duende".

Esta clase de genio es imposible de medir. No se le puede aplicar una cifra y un punto inicial y decir: "Desde aquí hacia adelante, eres un genio,

y desde aquí hacia atrás no lo eres". "El Duende" está allí para cualquiera que desee enfrentarse.

Cuando uno está dispuesto a crear formas nuevas -- en el aula de clase, en la familia, en la prosecución de la justicia -- se está actuando con "Duende". Cuando uno deja de ver los límites y ve a la posibilidad, se ve con "Duende". Cuando uno habla con el valor de la verdad, está hablando con "Duende".

En este sentido, la reunión de los 12 becados de MacArthur es en sí misma un acto de genio, un don de posibilidades. El saber que hay genio en la humanidad, el procurarlo en otros por ninguna otra razón más que darle vida, el ver la posibilidad del propósito, la belleza de la individualidad, equivale a saltar al "Duende".

Unánimemente, cada uno de los 12 becados le dirá a uno que la clave de "soltar al genio" es la enseñanza, porque el conocimiento es la puerta hacia la libertad. Pero igualmente importante es el valor, el valor de vivir libre y honradamente, de poner a prueba los límites, de ser un individuo, de pintar fuera de las líneas. Esta es la lección y la carga del genio y, al compararlo, ellos han ampliado su definición misma.

La madre joven que está dispuesta a romper el círculo de la pobreza y la sucesión interminable de desertores es-

colares al leerle a su hijo(a), está actuando con "Duende". El (la) estudiante que ve las posibilidades de enseñar a sus mayores a leer y escribir, está dando vuelo a su genio. El padre que tiene el valor de mantener a su familia en medio de la delincuencia y la desilusión, combatiendo a su "Duende", está viviendo con genio.

García Lorca escribió que él vio una vez a una mujer de 80 años ganar un concurso de baile "flamenco" en contra de un despliegue de mujeres jóvenes, bellas y musculares "de caderas como el agua". Todo lo que hizo la mujer anciana fué levantar sus brazos, enderezar su cabeza con orgullo y golpear el piso una vez con su pie.

Toda la edad, toda la vida, toda la belleza de la mujer fueron expresadas en aquel acto singular con el genio del "Duende".

Los 12 becados latinos de MacArthur han planeado conferencias sobre el genio en cada una de sus ciudades natales. La esperanza es que ellos descubran genios a medida que viajan, y que proporcionen el espacio para que nosotros descubramos al genio en nuestras propias vidas.

(Victor Landa es director de información de la estación KVDA-TV, afiliada de Telemundo, en San Antonio, Texas.)

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

Freeing Our Latino 'Genios'

By Victor Landa

The Spanish word for genius is *genio*. But *genio* is also the word for genie, and for mood.

When someone is in a bad mood, we say in Spanish, "Anda de mal genio." One can find mythical *genios* in corked bottles and in magical lamps that when rubbed produce ethereal beings whose sole purpose is to torture our lives by granting three desires. Such is the nature of genius.

This quality, this moody, mythical state of being, was brought to the forefront a few weeks ago by a gathering of prominent Latino minds. At the inspired invitation of one of them, author Sandra Cisneros, 12 recipients of MacArthur Foundation fellowships, or "genius" awards, as they are commonly called -- artists, activists, educators, communicators -- came together in San Antonio to inspire the *genio* in us all. They spent three days sharing themselves in meetings and panels with high school and college students.

Such a democratic approach to such an exclusive gift is refreshing. Their conference, *Ofrendas del alma, del corazón y de la mente* (Offerings

of the soul, the heart and the mind), was conceived as an open invitation to all who have the courage to act on their dreams, courage being the essence of *genio*. In southern Spain, they have a radical concept of genius. They call it *el Duende*. The Andalusian poet Federico Garcia-Lorca defined *el Duende* as "a power and not a labor, a battle and not a thought."

El Duende is neither angel nor muse. It is, rather, a way of life. "El ángel," wrote Garcia-Lorca, "guía y regala. La musa dicta y en algunas ocasiones sopla. En cambio, al Duende hay que despertarlo en las últimas habitaciones de la sangre." "The muse dictates and on occasion blows. But *el Duende* must be roused from the farthest reaches on one's blood."

When a dancer dances with an energy that transcends inspiration, when a singer sings as if outside herself, she is said to have (ITALS)el Duende. (UNITALS) To live with this kind of genius is to live with a keen awareness of one's mortality, to live with purpose and honesty. The true battle, said the poet, is with *el Duende*. This kind of genius can't be measured. You can't apply a number and a

threshold to it and say "from this point on, you are genius, and from this point back, you are not." *El Duende* is there for anyone who wishes to confront it.

When one is willing to create new forms -- in the classroom, in the family, in the pursuit of justice -- one is acting with *Duende*. When one sees not the limits but the possibility, one sees with *Duende*. When one speaks with the courage of the truth, one is speaking with *Duende*. In this sense, the gathering of the 12 MacArthur fellows is in itself an act of genius, a gift of possibilities. To know that there is genius in humanity, to seek it in others for no other reason than to give it life, to see the possibility of purpose, the beauty of individuality, is to unleash *el Duende*. To a person, each of the 12 fellows will tell you that the key to unleashing genius is education, because knowledge is the door to freedom. But just as important is courage, the courage to live freely and honestly, to test the limits, to be an individual, to paint outside the lines. This is the lesson and the burden of genius, and by sharing it, they have expanded its very definition.

The young mother who is

willing to break the cycle of poverty and the endless succession of dropouts by reading to her child is acting with *Duende*. The student who sees the possibilities in teaching his elders to read and write is giving flight to his genius. The father who has the courage to maintain his family amidst crime and disillusion, battling his *Duende*, is living with genius.

García-Lorca wrote that he once saw a woman of 80 win a flamenco dance contest against an array of young, beautiful, muscular women "with hips like water." All the old woman did was to lift her arms, straighten her head with pride, and hit the floor once with her foot.

All the age, all the life, all the beauty of the woman was expressed in that one act with the genius of *Duende*.

The 12 Latino MacArthur fellows have planned genius conferences in each of their hometowns. The hope is that they uncover genius as they go along, and that they provide the space for us to discover the genius in our own lives.

(Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo station KVDA-TV in San Antonio, Texas.)

Copyright 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

La Droga--El Secretito De Familias Latinas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Para la gente de la comunidad latina la droga legal y su comercialización está presente en la urdimbre de la vida --y las consecuencias recaen sobre parientes, amigos, seres queridos en general. La cruceza de estas relaciones, dice la comentarista Barbara Renoud-Gonzales, debe ser un recordatorio de que todos estamos relacionados, aunque no nos plazca, y que esta relación representa una carga dolorosa para los que están a dos fuegos. Barbara Renoud-Gonzales escribe mucho sobre la vida del chicano. Es articulista del San Antonio Express y comentarista de la Radio Pública Nacional.

BY BARBARA RENOUD-GONZALES

Algunos de mis mejores amigos están en el comercio de la droga. Uno de ellos, Miguel Luis (el nombre es ficticio), era el capo chicano que manejaba negocios del actualmente encarcelado clan de García Abrego. Su territorio abarcaba desde Brownsville, Texas hasta la ciudad de Nueva York --¡A propósito de

éxito!-- y ni siquiera figura entre los quinientos empresarios hispanos sobresalientes (Hispanic Business 500).

La única vez que leí algo acerca de él fue cuando él iba a hacer su declaración sobre las relaciones entre su jefe y Raúl Salinas, el infame hermano del expresidente de México.

No hay que escandalizarse. En la lucha de mi familia por lograr el sueño americano han sido las drogas las que han marcado la pauta. Mi hermano Gabo está en una cárcel tejana por haber cometido una serie de robos a mano armada, movido por su adicción a la cocaína. Mi hermano menor David murió en 1993 de una gripe que se le complicó debido a su drogadicción de años. Había que

ver el entierro --un centenar de clientes acongojados, todos estudiantes o profesores. Resulta que David había estado vendiendo bolsitas de a quinto y pastillas durante años para pagarse sus estudios en la Universidad de Texas. Mi hermana Magda ya se desintoxicó de un romance con la heroína.

Es fácil decir que las drogas son malas. Pero la gente que conozco que anda en el negocio, conectes o consumidores, es gente buena. No andan más que tratando de hacerla, "a la americana," pero piensan que en el sueño americano hay unas leyes para unos y otras para otros --hay que seguir las reglas del juego, hasta uno mismo puede ponerlas. Dicen que el negocio de las drogas es más honrado que cualquier otra em-

presa. "Echale un vistazo a los fármacos, al tabaco, al caso Ford Pinto," dice mi amigo Juan Antonio, estudiante de leyes. "Ellos saben que ha habido gente que ha muerto por consumir sus productos y les importa un bledo. En la narcoindustria, nadie le miente a uno."

Y, a diferencia de los demás negocios estadounidenses, el comercio de la droga tiene en alta estima a los latinos. Las habilidades bilingües y biculturales son cruciales en la comunicación con los zares de la droga colombianos y mexicanos, y el núcleo familiar intacto es esencial para sobrevivir.

Sí, los riesgos son enormes, pero las recompensas son un sueño hecho realidad. Como todo el mundo, los latinos han visto en la tele el glamour de

A Tale of Two Families

EDITOR'S NOTE: The first recorded birth of sextuplets to an African American couple occurred in Washington, D.C., on May 8 of this year. But unlike the massive media attention that attended the "miracle birth" of septuplets to an Iowa couple, the story of Jacqueline and Linden Thompson's new family went almost entirely un-noted until the Sisters of Touch, and word of mouth in the black community, brought it to light. PNS commentator Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of *The Assassination of the Black Male Image*. (email: ehutchi344@aol.com)

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

If Jacqueline and Linden Thompson are perplexed over the massive media attention and public outpouring of support for Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey, the parents of the Iowa septuplets, it is understandable. On May 8, the Washington D.C. couple set the record for the longest sextuplet pregnancy at 29 weeks and six days in the United States. They also were the first African-American couple to give birth to sextuplets. The children were delivered by Cesarean section. One was delivered stillborn. Mrs. Thompson remained hospitalized for a month at the Georgetown University Medical Center.

Multiple births are still an extreme rarity. Only 2.6 percent of the total live births in the United States in 1996 were of more than one child. Sextuplets are almost unheard of. Other than the Thompsons, there has been only one other recorded birth of sextuplets in the United States this year. Yet unlike the McCaughey's media-dubbed "miracle birth," the birth of their children stirred no interest in the media. In an extensive search of all major publications, I found no record of any TV news feature, special report, or print feature on them in any major daily. If not for a brief news blurb on the Thompson births in the black weekly, *Jet* magazine, the event would have gone completely unnoticed.

It's not hard to figure out why. Unlike the McCaugheys, the Thompsons are a low-income, working class African-American couple. They do not live in a small, tight-knit Mid-American Iowa community. They did not use a fertility drug. As a result, the Thompsons did not get this treatment:

- *Free advertising in major newspapers for their family assistance fund.
- *The donation of a 12 seat Chevrolet van.
- *A year's supply of groceries from a national supermarket chain.
- *The offer by Iowa's governor to build a new and larger home.
- *A year's supply of baby care products.
- *A phone call from President Clinton congratulating them on their "amazing adventure."
- *A special invitation to the White House.
- *A bid of \$250,000 from a tabloid weekly to tell their story.
- *Countless offers from their friends and neighbors to assist with the children.

The Thompson's story only became the subject of mild passing interest when the McCaughey's septuplets made news and a caller to a local black Washington D.C. radio station complained about the lack of help the couple had received.

This prompted a local community group, Sisters in Touch, to make the Thompson's plight an issue. The Washington Post did a back pages story on them. But even then this was not enough to spark the kind of national offers of help that flooded into the McCaugheys.

A Proctor & Gamble spokesperson announced they would consider a six to eight month supply of diapers but added that this was the standard contribution for families with multiple births. A spokesperson for Johnson & Johnson suggested that the Thompsons contact the company to determine if there are "things we can do."

With the assistance of the D.C. Housing Finance Agency, the Thompsons were able to move out of their cramped one bedroom duplex unit into a three bedroom apartment. Since then they have managed to find a six bedroom house but they have not been able to move in. Even with Linden Thompson's salary from two jobs, they can't afford the \$1,500 a month rent.

Still, as a result of the appeal letters on their behalf by Sisters in Touch, they are now receiving free day care at a local child care center, and they were notified that they will be eligible to enroll their children in the Head Start Program. The group also reports that due to the slightly increased media attention on the Thompsons a handful of individual and corporate donors have offered to help the family.

While the Thompsons have been forced to shoulder the tremendous physical and emotional strain and financial burden of caring for five children alone, they have expressed pleasure at the showering of support for the McCaugheys. Their only regret is, as Mrs. Thompson said, that her community and the nation did not support them the same way. It didn't and still hasn't. And that underscores the general indifference of much of America when the children in need are not media sensationalized products of "miracle births" but children of the minority poor.

Donations and information contact:
Sisters in Touch
P.O. Box 4337
Largo, Maryland 20775
(301) 499-8976
(202) 773-4006

la vida, y obviamente la respuesta está en la droga. No hay más que decir que sí. Tal vez no pueda uno llegar a ser médico --apenas a mis treinta conocí un médico latino-- pero se gana más dinero que siendo médico.

Miguel Luis habrá dejado sus estudios, pero eso no quita que haya sido ambicioso. Yo creo que algunos de nuestros cerebros que andan en el lavado de dinero lo hacen porque se aburrían en la escuela. En la droga uno puede destacar como pionero de técnicas contables y financieras en menos que un gallo cante "FBI." No hay de otra.

Si parece que estoy orgullosa de Miguel Luis, en cierto modo así es. Al fin y al cabo, ¿Qué diferencia hay entre los narcocorruptos y los potentados del siglo pasado? Miguel Luis es el clásico niño pobre que la hizo. Dentro de cien años a nadie le va a interesar saber de dónde sacó tanto dinero. No quiero dar la impresión de que somos los malos de la película porque el medio de la droga que yo conozco incluye a todo mundo. Todos en la misma familia. Mi gran amiga de la secundaria, Adelina, enjuicia a gente como mi hermano, a quien ella adoraba. Sal, el juez que encerró para siempre a Miguel Luis, era amigo íntimo de mi difunto suegro. Mi amiga Paulina, doctora en medicina graduada en Harvard, jura que ella hubiera podido salvarle la vida a mi hermano David porque ella sabe --sus propios hermanos han sido arruinados por la droga. La próxima vez que estés entre profesionistas latinos pregúntales si tienen algún pariente en la cárcel, por droga. Es de esperar que haya negativas. Pero, por

Continued on page 6

Conversaciones Con El Lechero

Por Miguel Pérez

Durante los últimos años de la década del 1960, cuando yo era un adolescente en la "Pequeña Habana" de Miami, mi abuelo se levantaba temprano para esperar al lechero.

Miguel Martínez, mi "tocayo", estaba viejo y enfermo en aquella época, pero en los días en que se entregaba la leche a la puerta de nuestra casa, él hacía guardia en el portal al romper el alba.

No era la leche lo que le hacía esperar. Lo que pasaba era que el no quería perderse ni una oportunidad para tener una conversación con el joven lechero, agresivo y dinámico, que hablaba extensamente y con pasión -- como lo hacía mi abuelo -- sobre la lucha para liberar a Cuba de la dictadura comunista de Fidel Castro.

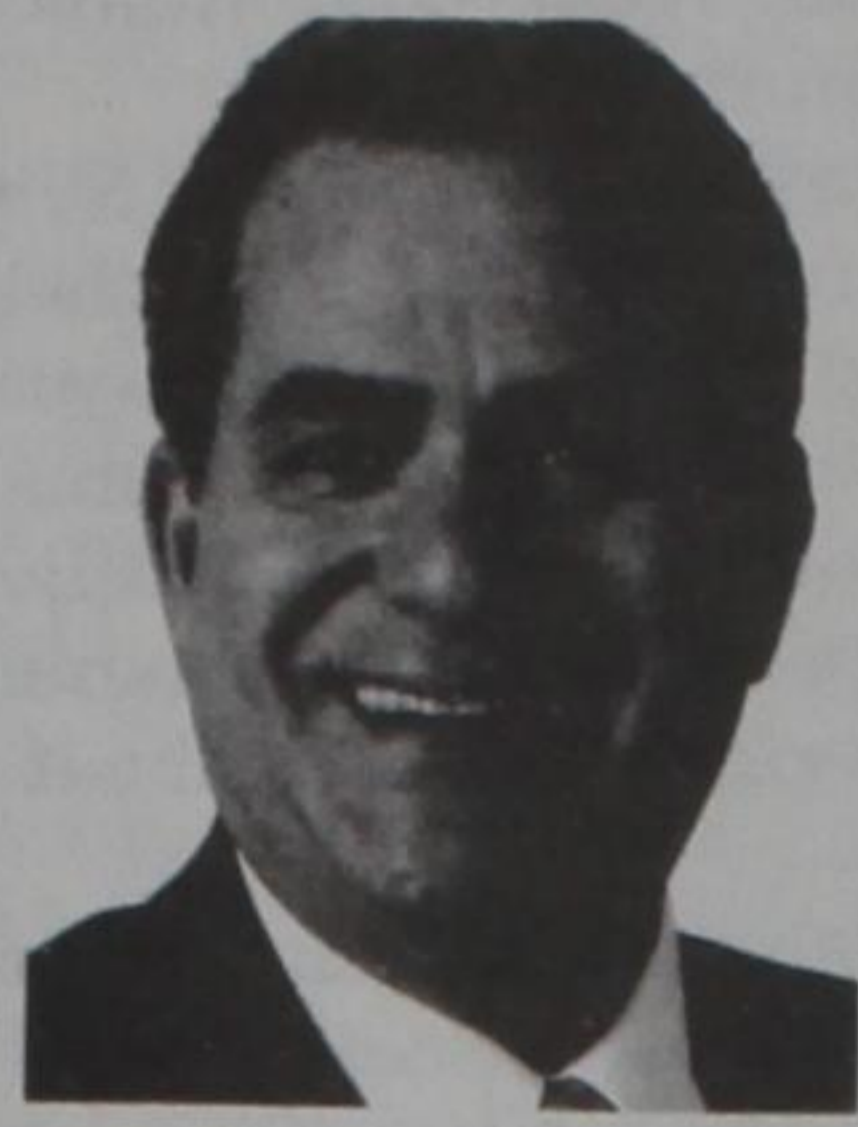
Sus conversaciones en el portal, por la parte exterior de la ventana de mi dormitorio, no sólo me servían como despertador para prepararme para ir a la escuela, sino como la primera lección del día. Cuando llegué a la escuela intermedia, sentía que ya había recibido una bachiller en ciencias políticas -- de mi abuelo y el lechero.

Sus debates sobre los acontecimientos mundiales abrieron mis ojos a muchas cosas. Ellos eran extraordinariamente patrióticos, dos refugiados cubanos que no veían otra prioridad que la de liberar su patria.

Eran muy parecidos y estaban de acuerdo sobre tantas cosas, que llegaron a ser amigos. El lechero había participado en la fracasada invasión en Bahía de Cochinos. Pero él no se había dado por vencido. Hablaba elocuentemente sobre la necesidad de convencer a Washington de que ayudara a los refugiados cubanos a continuar luchando por su libertad.

Jorge Mas Canosa

Head of the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), Jorge Mas Canosa had almost singlehandedly shaped U.S. policy toward Cuba. His focus on the issue of the U.S. embargo on Cuba and his strong anti-Castro stance had withstood the winds of change in Washington, through several Republican and Democratic administrations. This ability to keep one particular issue above others of interest to the Hispanic community at large was commendable and



ranked Mas Canosa as one of the most effective Hispanic lobbyists in Washington. Mas Canosa died this month due to lengthy illness.

En el lechero, mi abuelo veía a un joven con posibilidades políticas tremendas. Era un creyente firme en la libre empresa, un verdadero demócrata renuente a aceptar las dictaduras, fueran de derecha o de izquierda. Abuelo admiraba también el entendimiento comercial del lechero. En Cuba, mi abuelo había luchado de la pobreza a la riqueza, y él veía la misma posibilidad en el lechero.

"El tiene la madera de la que están hechos los líderes," decía mi abuelo. "Tiene el carisma, es un gran orador y tiene las ideas correctas sobre el restablecimiento de la democracia en Cuba."

"¿El lechero?" Otros miembros de la familia estaban escépticos.

Mi abuelo murió en Miami en 1979, sin ver al lechero convertirse en Jorge Más Canosa, multimillonario y el líder cubano más influyente de la lucha de 38 años en contra de Castro. Más Canosa, de 58 años de edad, murió de complicaciones de cáncer pulmonar y fue enterrado en el mismo cementerio de Miami donde mi abuelo descansa.

Durante los años en que mi abuelo estuvo incapacitado por una apoplejía, Más Canosa había encontrado oro en las telecomunicaciones. En 1981, él organizó la Fundación Nacional Cubano-Americana, que es ahora la organización de cabildeo por la libertad de Cuba más poderosa en Washington y en todo el mundo.

Abuelo nunca vió al lechero asesorar a tres presidentes de Estados Unidos y a numerosos líderes mundiales sobre las políticas con Cuba. El nunca vió a Más Canosa convertir en realidad sus sueños comunes.

Pero él habría aplaudido de seguro los muchos logros de Más Canosa, incluyendo al papel de la fundación en la formulación y aprobación de legislación importante que estableció a Radio Martí y Televisión Martí, así como la Ley Helms-Burton de 1996 y la Ley para la Democracia en Cuba de 1992, que apretaron más el embargo económico contra Cuba. El habría estado orgulloso de las muchas gestiones humanitarias de la fundación para ayudar a los refugiados cubanos desam-



Fidel Castro tildó de "procónsules de Estados Unidos" a quienes le reclaman la falta de apertura democrática.

parados por todo el mundo.

El se habría sentido de seguro reivindicado de hacer pronósticos fantásticos sobre el lechero, si hubiera presenciado a Más Canosa debatiendo con los liberales del Congreso, o al hacer "picadillo" de Ricardo Alarcón, dirigente del parlamento comunista de Cuba, en un debate televisado de 1996.

Cuando se le preguntó a Más Canosa qué seguridades tendrían los isleños pobres de que los exiliados ricos no regresarían para explotarles, su respuesta habría hecho que mi abuelo se sintiera orgulloso.

"Las mismas seguridades que nos fueron dadas a nosotros por el sistema democrático y la economía de mercado cuando llegamos medio muertos de hambre a este país", replicó Más Canosa. "Los estadounidenses respetaron nuestra dignidad, nos dieron una oportunidad de prosperar en este país hasta lo mejor de nuestras capacidades".

La muerte de Más Canosa deja un vacío enorme. Ningún otro cubano-americano atrae al seguimiento que él tenía.

Sus críticos, incluyendo a los liberales partidarios de Castro y a algunos cubano-americanos que envidiaban su poderío, dijeron que él era excesivamente ambicioso y que empleaba grandes aportes políticos para ganar influencia en Washington. Pero eso es precisamente lo que mi abuelo habría admirado. Después de todo, él no fomentaba el terrorismo ni la guerra. El diseñó su organización siguiendo el modelo del típico comité de acción política estadounidense y canalizó los aportes y los votos de los cubano-americanos hacia los políticos que se plantaron firmemente en contra de Castro.

Algunos de sus críticos estaban demasiado preocupados acerca de si Más Canosa quería ser presidente de una Cuba libre y democrática. Mi abuelo habría estimado que esa era una ambición honorable. Sin duda, él habría depositado su voto a favor del lechero/presidente.

Muchos años después, como periodista que entrevistaba al dirigente cubano-americano

más influyente, en muchas ocasiones me encontré a mí mismo llenando los zapatos de mi abuelo, continuando sus conversaciones con el lechero.

En varias oportunidades recordé a Más Canosa que mi casa había estado en su ruta de distribución de leche. El vió al tema con agrado, porque él sabía que yo era testigo de sus comienzos humildes, de su disposición para trabajar árdamente por su familia y de su larga devoción a Cuba -- aún antes de que él fuera rico y famoso.

Desde luego, él recordaba sus conversaciones con mi abuelo. "Siento mucho que Miguel haya muerto sin ver a Cuba libre", me dijo Más Canosa una vez mientras yo lo entrevistaba en un programa de radio. Y éso exactamente sentí yo el domingo pasado, cuando me enteré de que el lechero había muerto.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista de "The Record" en Bergen, Nueva Jersey.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Bergen Record Corp. en 1997. Reproducido por Hispanic Link News Service con autorización. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

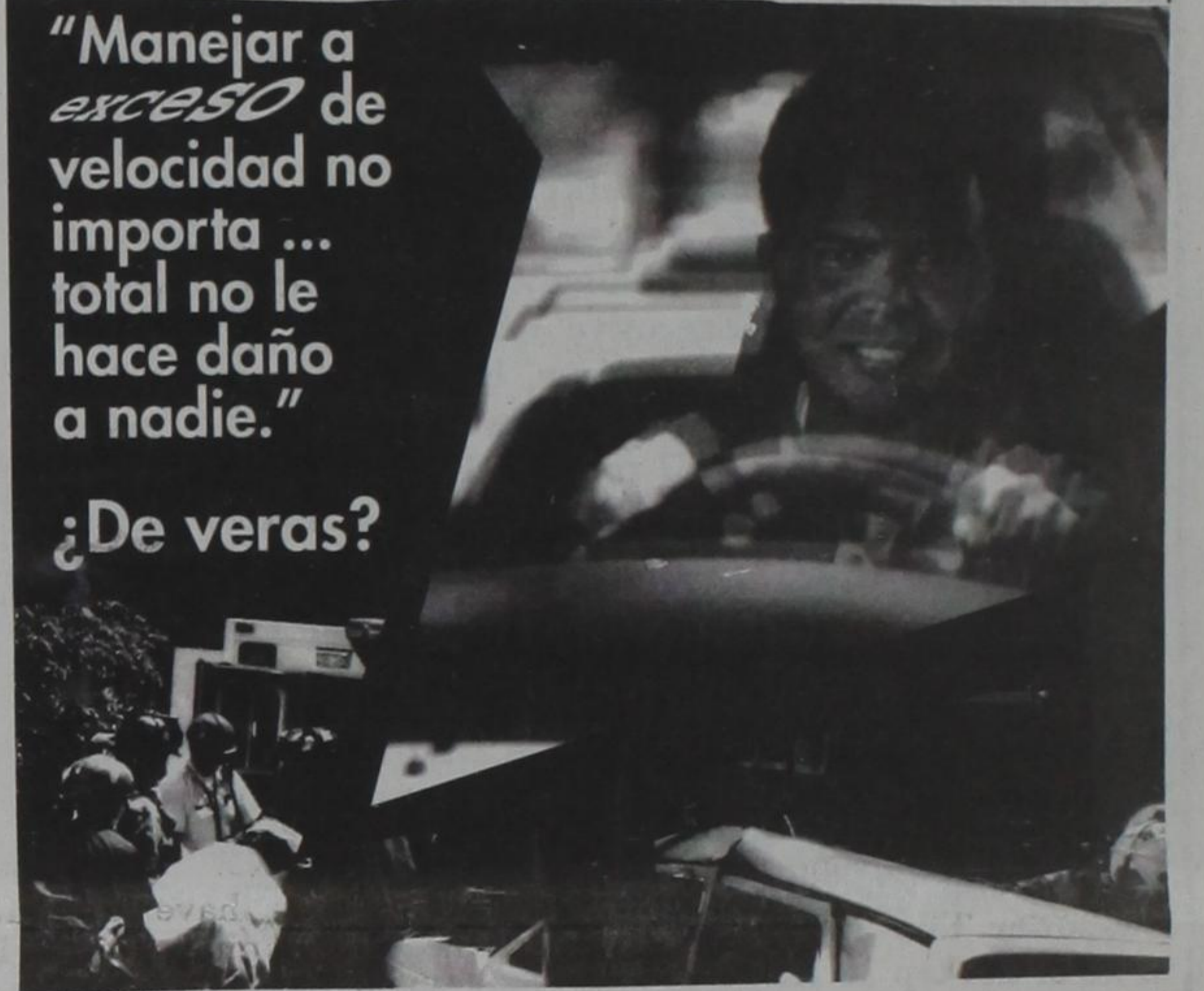
El Editor Newspaper

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.

Editor/Publisher -- Bidal Agüero
Manager -- Olga Riojas-Agüero
Subscription -- Bob Craig

"Manejar a exceso de velocidad no importa ... total no le hace daño a nadie."

¿De veras?



Compré un boleto cuatro minutos antes de que cerraran.

Y en menos de treinta minutos gané \$23.6 millones.



LA HISTORIA:

Aquella noche, Jesús Amaya compró su boleto de LOTTO Texas cuatro minutos antes de que cerraran las ventas para el sorteo. Quince minutos después, igualó los seis números ganadores. Esa noche hubo sólo un ganador en el sorteo de LOTTO Texas: Jesús Amaya.

EL DINERO:

\$23,678,897

LOS NÚMEROS:

35 40 41 44 45 46

TIEMPO ENTRE COMPRAR EL BOLETO Y GANAR:

34 Minutos



MÁS DE 290 MILLONARIOS Y LA CUENTA SIGUE.

News Briefs From Page 1

only a short time, no data on the impact on juvenile crime were available.

The most important reason for a daytime curfew is to ensure teens go to school, Abramson said, but adds there are financial incentives as well. State education funding typically is based on attendance, he noted, and truancy can cost a school system millions of dollars in lost revenue.

But curfews can be expensive for cities, too.

Twenty-three percent, or 61, of the cities said there were increased costs to enforce curfews. Officials in Chandler, Ariz., cited more paperwork, court appearances and time officers spent dealing with youths. Officials in New Orleans pointed to increased overtime for police. San Jose, Calif. officials said curfew enforcement hiked police payroll costs by \$1 million.

Twenty-three percent of cities reported problems implementing the curfew. Parents in a middle-class Denver neighborhood opposed a proposed youth detention center. Some judges in Chicago did not take curfews seriously. Los Angeles officials said "the problem is convincing liberal politicians that it doesn't violate kids' rights and convincing police officers that it is productive."

Fourteen cities said there had been constitutional challenges to the curfew. The American Civil Liberties Union has fought such laws in a number of cities on the grounds that they impinge on liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. It suggests cities use the money spent enforcing curfews on youth programs instead.

Univision Communications Inc. Authorizes 2-for-1 Stock Split

LOS ANGELES--Univision Communications Inc. (NYSE: UVN) today announced that its board of directors approved a 2-for-1 stock split. All common stockholders of record as of December 17, 1997, shall be entitled to participate in this split, which will be effective on or about January 12, 1998. Each shareholder will receive one new share of common stock for each outstanding share of the Company's common stock held as of the record date.

The stock split will increase the number of shares of Class A Common Stock outstanding to approximately 24 million from 12 million and the number of fully diluted shares of Class A Common Stock to 117 million from 58.5 million.

"Advertisers increasingly recognize the enormous buying power of the Hispanic market, making Spanish-language television a core media buy and boosting Univision's earnings and stock price accordingly," said Jerry Perenchio, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "Our Company has had excellent performance since Univision went public in September 1996, and the increase in our stock price from \$23 per share to more than \$67 reflects that success. Splitting the stock will increase the number of Univision shares outstanding and lower the price, making the stock more accessible to a broader base of investors who wish to tap into the high-growth business of Spanish-language television."

Univision Communications Inc. is the leading Spanish-language broadcast company in the United States. Its operations include Univision Network, the most popular Spanish-language broadcast network in the U.S.; Univision Television Group, which owns and operates 13 full-power and eight low-power television stations, including full-power stations in 12 of the top 15 Hispanic markets; and Galavision, the most-watched Spanish-language cable network in the country. Covering 92 percent of all U.S. Hispanic households through its owned-and-operated stations, 21 broadcast affiliates and 832 cable affiliates, Univision also owns the U.S. Spanish-language television rights to all 64 games of the 1998 World Cup.

GOP Appoints 8 To Medicare Panel

Congressional Republican leaders appointed their eight members Monday to a bipartisan commission that is to suggest ways to buttress the long-term financial health of Medicare, reports Associated Press.

Five are members of Congress, one is a Medicare recipient who works for Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and the other two work in the health industry.

But the four panel members named by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., all accepted one precondition: that there should be no increase in taxes to rescue the \$200-billion-a-year health-insurance program, said Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin. Medicare, which covers about 40 million elderly and disabled Americans, is expected to begin running deficits as the baby boom generation begins retiring in about a decade.

Lott exacted no similar pledge from his four appointees but expects the same result, said Lott spokeswoman Susan Irby.

Lawmakers made relatively minor changes to prolong the program's fiscal strength as part of the budget-balancing deal last summer. But they backed away from more profound changes such as gradually raising its eligibility age from 65 to 67 and increasing monthly premiums for better-off elderly people.

The GOP no-tax position led some analysts to predict that the commission would have a difficult time fulfilling its mandate of producing bipartisan proposals by March 1, 1999. To make a recommendation, 11 of the panel's 17 members must agree to it.

"I think that's a prescription for disaster," said Marilyn Moon, a health economist for the Urban Institute, a policy analysis group. "You're essentially laying down the gauntlet, saying the other side has to give, you're not giving anything."

In further indications of difficulties, President Clinton did not name his four members and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., did not name his two, even though Monday was the legal deadline.

A Gephardt spokeswoman said Gephardt would act later this week. But White House officials said Clinton would not do so until he and GOP leaders agree on a chairman. Participants and observers said that process was deadlocked.

Gingrich's appointees are Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the House Ways and Means health subcommittee; Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla., chairman of the House Commerce health subcommittee; Rep. Greg Ganske, R-Iowa, a member of Bilirakis' subcommittee and a doctor; and Samuel H. Howard, chief executive officer of Phoenix Healthcare Corp. in Tennessee.

Lott named Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a heart surgeon and chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources public health subcommittee; Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Finance health subcommittee; Illene Gordon, who handles constituents' Medicare cases in Lott's Jackson, Miss., office and has worked for him for 15 years; and Deborah Steelman, a Social Security adviser to President Bush who is now a Washington, D.C., attorney specializing in health care.

Frist's brother, Thomas F. Frist, is chief executive of Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp., in Tennessee, which has been under federal investigation for Medicare fraud. Thomas Frist has not been named a target of the probe.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., named his appointees last month: Sens. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., and Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

So far, people mentioned as possible chairmen have included Sen. John Breaux, D-La.; former Senate Majority Leader and GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole, R-Kan.; former Sens. Lloyd Bensten, D-Texas, and Nancy Kassebaum Baker, R-Kan.; and former Rep. Bill Frenzel, R-Minn.

From Page One

Hablé con Joaquín Avila, otro producto de la escuela de derecho de Harvard y exitoso abogado de derechos civiles, a su regreso a California. Avila, un "genio" MacArthur de 1996, describió la experiencia como nada menos que impo-nente. "Todavía estoy atrapado en el resplandor crepuscular."

Para transmitir sus mensajes sobre la enseñanza y promover la excelencia intelectual, los miembros del grupo pasaron gran parte de su tiempo con estudiantes de escuelas secundarias y superiores. Ofrecieron charlas y foros en distintas escuelas y a grupos de estudiantes con intereses afines a los mismos de los genios. Avila, por ejemplo, trabajó con estudiantes de derecho, cuya avidez para aprender dejó en él una impresión indeleble.

Artistas, escritores, ejecutantes, historiadores y activistas comunitarios colegas presentaron talleres de trabajo, presentaron lecturas o demostraron sus talentos ejecutando para los auditorios jóvenes apreciativos. Un debate nocturno en grupo que destacó a todos los asistentes fue efectuado en St. Philip's College. Estuvo abierto al público en general y atrajo una audiencia grande y animada.

Como lo describe Sandra Cisneros, aquellos designados "genios" querían proyectarse no sólo hacia los jóvenes, sino hacia la comunidad en general, para convencer a cada contacto de que la chispa del genio en potencia está en cada uno de nosotros.

A pesar del adelanto que la comunidad hispana ha efectuado en todos los órdenes en los años recientes, queda mucho por hacer. Algunos de los hispanos de hoy que han tenido éxito, y que tuvieron que sobreponerse a grandes dificultades para "llegar", tienen la tendencia a olvidar lo pasado y asumir que el problema se ha resuelto.

Cisneros, Avila y los demás participantes de la reunión de MacArthur (o "MacArturos", como se llaman a ellos mismos) reconocen esto bien. Ellos ya están haciendo planes

para continuar las reuniones como acontecimientos anuales, visitando cada uno de sus pueblos natales para esparcir esperanza y sembrar responsabilidad. Mediante su buena fortuna e influencia, ellos se proponen estimular a cada comunidad con el mensaje de que, "Sí, se puede hacer."

Quieren compartirse ellos mismos como ejemplos vivientes de que el servicio y el estar involucrados son aspectos indispensables de una carrera y una vida de éxito.

El Galardón de la Fundación MacArthur se da a personas identificadas como que se han distinguido en sus campos de trabajo y que estén haciendo un aporte significativo.

No hay un trámite formal para ser postulado. El primer indicio que tienen muchos recipientes de que están siendo considerados para una subvención es la llamada telefónica que les informa que han sido seleccionados.

A medida que ellos mudan sus reuniones públicas alrededor del país para extender sus relatos y su inspiración, los "MacArturos" llevan la esperanza de que algún día un(a) estudiante a quien ellos inspiraron experimentará la misma emoción que tuvieron ellos cuando respondieron al teléfono.

(Raymond Rodríguez, de Long Beach, California, es catedrático universitario jubilado.)

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

Latino 'Geniuses' From Page One

Fellow artists, writers, performers, historians and community activists presented workshops, gave readings or demonstrated their talents by performing for young, appreciative audiences. An evening panel discussion that featured all of the attendees was held at St. Philips College. It was open to the general public and drew a large, charged audience. As Sandra Cisneros emphasizes, the ordained "geniuses" wanted to reach out not only to the youth, but to the community at large, to convince each contact that the spark of potential genius is in each of us.

Despite progress the Hispanic community has made across the board in recent years, much remains to be done. Some of today's successful Hispanics who had to overcome great odds to "make it" have a tendency to let down and assume the problem has been solved.

Cisneros, Avila and the other MacArthur reunion participants (or "MacArturos," as they call themselves) recognize this well. They are already making plans to continue the reunions as annual events, visiting each of their hometowns to spread hope and plant seeds of responsibility. Through their good fortune and influence, they intend to stimulate each community with the message: Yes, it can be done. They want to share themselves as living examples that service and involvement are essential aspects of a successful career and life.

The MacArthur Foundation award is given to individuals identified as having distinguished themselves in their fields of endeavor and making a significant contribution. There is no formal process to be nominated. The first inkling many recipients have that they are being considered for a grant is the phone call telling them they've already been selected. As they move their public reunions around the country to spread their stories and inspiration, the "MacArturos" carry the hope that some day a student whom they inspired will experience the same thrill they did when they answered the phone.

(Raymond Rodriguez of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor.)

Copyright 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Reserve Su Espacio Para La Edición De EL EDITOR Navideña Llame 763-3841



WORRIED ABOUT HIGH CHOLESTEROL?

Give us a call to learn more about an important clinical study. Numerous studies have shown that a total cholesterol level above 200 can increase your risk of developing heart disease. If you've tried lowering your cholesterol with a low-fat diet, and it still remains high, you may qualify to participate.

Baggett Pharmacy in Levelland is currently conducting a research study sponsored by a major pharmaceutical company for men 45 and older or women 55 and older who are concerned about their cholesterol, and who are not taking prescription medicine to lower cholesterol. And it's free for qualified participants. Interested participants must be able to speak, read and write English.

For more information call 1-800-57-STUDY
Because the most important thing you can do for your family is stay healthy.



Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofia Martinez

Todos los Catolicos que tienen uso de razon, estan obligados a oír misa entera todos los dias de fiesta, y el que no la oye o falta a parte grave de ella, como desde el principio hasta el evangelio, o a parte principal, como a la consagración, peca mortalmente; pero si nomas falta a una parte leve, como hasta "el gloria", y aun hasta la epistola, peca venialmente; pero siempre peca cuando voluntariamente --no va a misa.

Estan dispensados de ir a misa los que verdaderamente estan impedidos, como los encarcelados, los enfermos, los

que cuidan enfermos o cuidan niños, los que llevan ganados a pastar al campo o los tienen que cuidar necesariamente en el corral. Cuando se duda si la excusa es suficiente, debe de consultar al parroco o al doctor, segun sea la clase de excusa.

La Misa debe de oirse con atención, porque no es solamente una acción racional, sino también religiosa, y es la primera y la más grande de la religión. La atención debe dirigirse a las palabras y acciones del celebrante, y a las lecturas de la Palabra: Antiguo Testamento, Epistola y Evangelio. También se ha de asistir a Misa modesta y decentemente. En todo esto se ve que el que oye Misa es un verdadero cristiano que conoce y vive lo que cree como lo enseña Jesucristo para agradar al Padre Celestial. (Exodo 20,6)

El Editor

It's all part of the Home-Owned Advantage and quality time

For over 80 years Lubbock Power & Light has been providing power to prepare treasured family recipes. And in its own quiet way, LP&L has also been making it easier for us to enjoy special moments with those who mean the most to us. In many ways, LP&L is helping us get the most out of life, which is all part of the home-owned advantage.



EL EDITOR SPORTS -- DEPORTES EL EDITOR -- EL EDITOR SPORTS

De La Hoya Fights Saturday

Cowboys? OR Cowgirls!

NEW YORK, Dec 3 (Reuters) - Oscar de la Hoya says he fired

Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward just three weeks before he fights Wilfredo Rivera Saturday to head off a family feud.

"I didn't want to have any friction with my father," De La Hoya said of his father, Joel, at a news conference earlier this week. "He strongly believed in not having Emanuel Steward because he sensed that he wasn't teaching me anymore. I didn't argue with him."

There had been reports that de la Hoya's father was concerned that Steward's training of World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis was taking too much time away from Oscar de la Hoya.

Steward had worked with de la Hoya, the unbeaten WBC welterweight champion, for his last two fights and de la Hoya responded well to his guidance.

"I felt happier and confident when we were going up in camp with Emanuel Steward," said de la Hoya, 26-0. "He used to bring life into the training camp. It was a good learning process being with a man of great experience. But, hey life goes on."

"The next day (after he left) I had forgot about it. You have



Oscar de la Hoya to throw these things away and not think about it. Steward pushed de la Hoya to be more aggressive. De la Hoya responded by stopping David Kamu in the second round in June and battering Hector "Macho" Camacho for a lopsided 12-round decision win in his last fight in September. "Having Emanuel Steward leave the camp will not affect me one bit," said de la Hoya, who will defend his title against the rugged Puerto Rican challenger (27-2-1) on Saturday at the Atlantic City Convention Center. De La Hoya selected Robert

Alcazar, his first trainer who has stayed with him throughout his pro career, to take over for Steward as head trainer. But, realizing that Alcazar is still learning his own craft, De La Hoya brought Hall of Fame trainer Gil Clancy out of retirement to help for this fight. "One day down the road it will be me and Alcazar definitely. When I feel that Alcazar is ready, I will decide that he alone will be training me," said De La Hoya. "Right now he is in a learning process, he is in school learning from all these great masters of boxing." Clancy has worked with Emile Griffith, Jerry Quarry, Juan LaPorte and George Foreman. Clancy effectively retired from training 20 years ago except for coming out to train Gerry Cooney for one fight -- a second-round knockout by Foreman in 1990. "I feel the little tricks that a trainer can bring in can make a big difference in a fight," de la Hoya said. "He might witness some weakness that Rivera has that we might not be able to see. It's just little things that will help us out."

"The foundation has been done," Clancy said of De La Hoya. "In my opinion he is a complete fighter and can do just about anything. It is up to us to find a weakness in the other guy and exploit it."

IRVING, Texas - The Dallas Cowboys keep getting second and third chances. They figure Monday night's game against Carolina will be their last chance to stay alive in the NFL playoffs.

The Cowboys were headed for the NFC East's boot hill after a 27-14 loss to the Tennessee Oilers Thanksgiving Day plunged them to a 6-7 record, the worst since the 1990 season. Then both the New York Giants and Washington Redskins lost on Sunday. The Giants now are 7-5-1, while the Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles are 6-6-1.

"The NFC East is getting to be like the old NFC Central," offensive tackle Nate Newton said. "You don't know who's going to be there at the end of the year."

The Cowboys have won five consecutive NFC East titles.

"This league can't survive without the Cowboys," Newton said. "We need to be in the drama somewhere. We've tried to give this thing to the Giants and Redskins, but they don't want it. So, we'll take another chance against Carolina and see if we want it."

Defensive tackle Tony Casillas said the Cowboys are getting the feeling that 1997 might still be their year.

"The teams that are in position either don't know what to do with it, or don't want it," Casillas said. "Something is pointing in our direction as

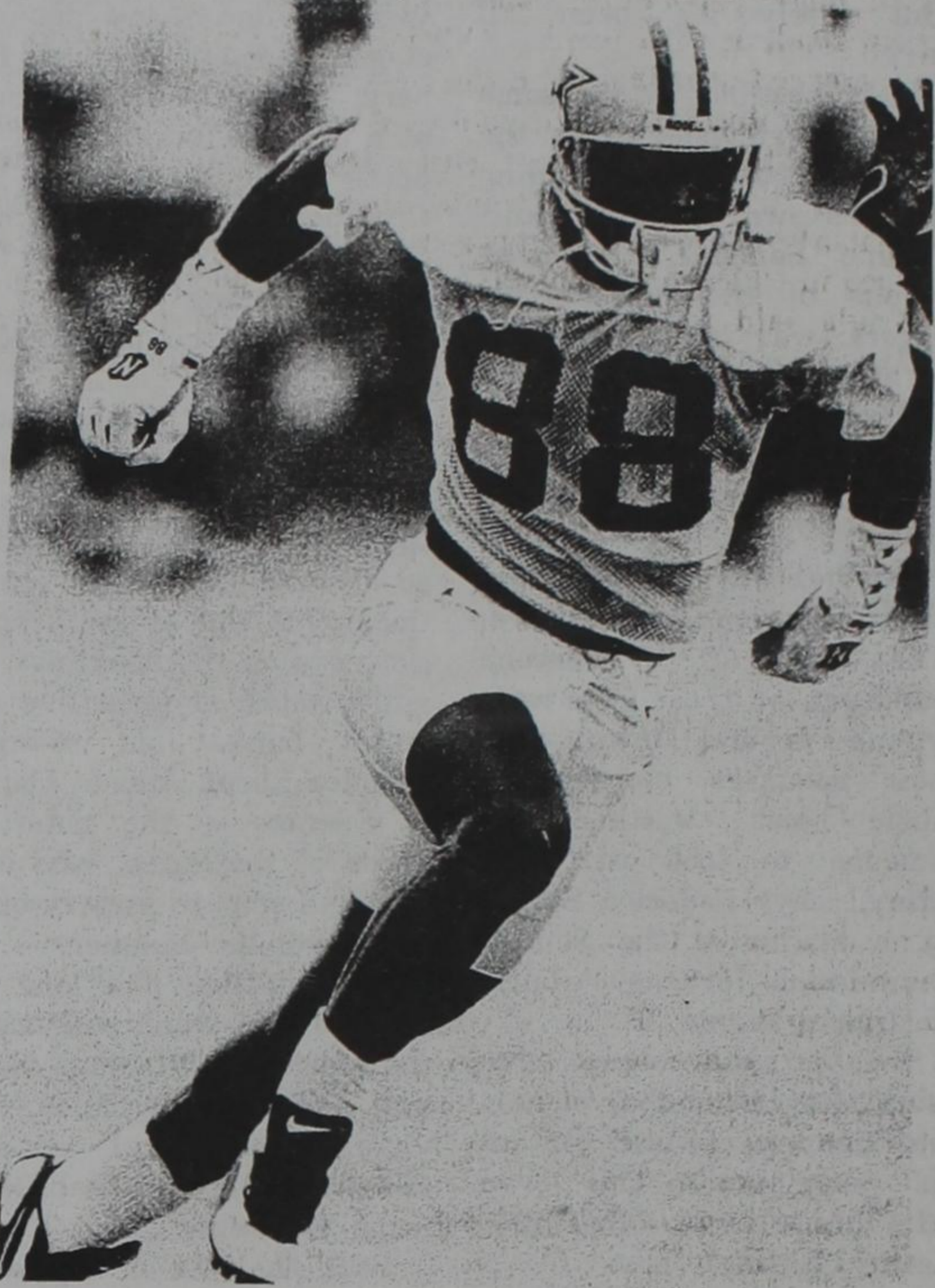
far as going and still having a chance to be in it after what has happened bad."

Wide receiver Michael Irvin said it's amazing the Cowboys still are in the playoff picture after they've played

out of my misery. I don't want to say, 'What if, what if, what if.' That's a serious way to go through the next few weeks."

Irvin said the Cowboys are due some luck.

"I'm convinced we can



so poorly.

"You can call it a blessing or a punishment ... we've still got a shot," Irvin said. "I was praying for Washington and New York to win it to put me

make the playoffs," he said. "I think we've just got to come together. The offense has to step up and pull its weight."

The Cowboys face a task they haven't accomplished all season: winning three consecutive games.

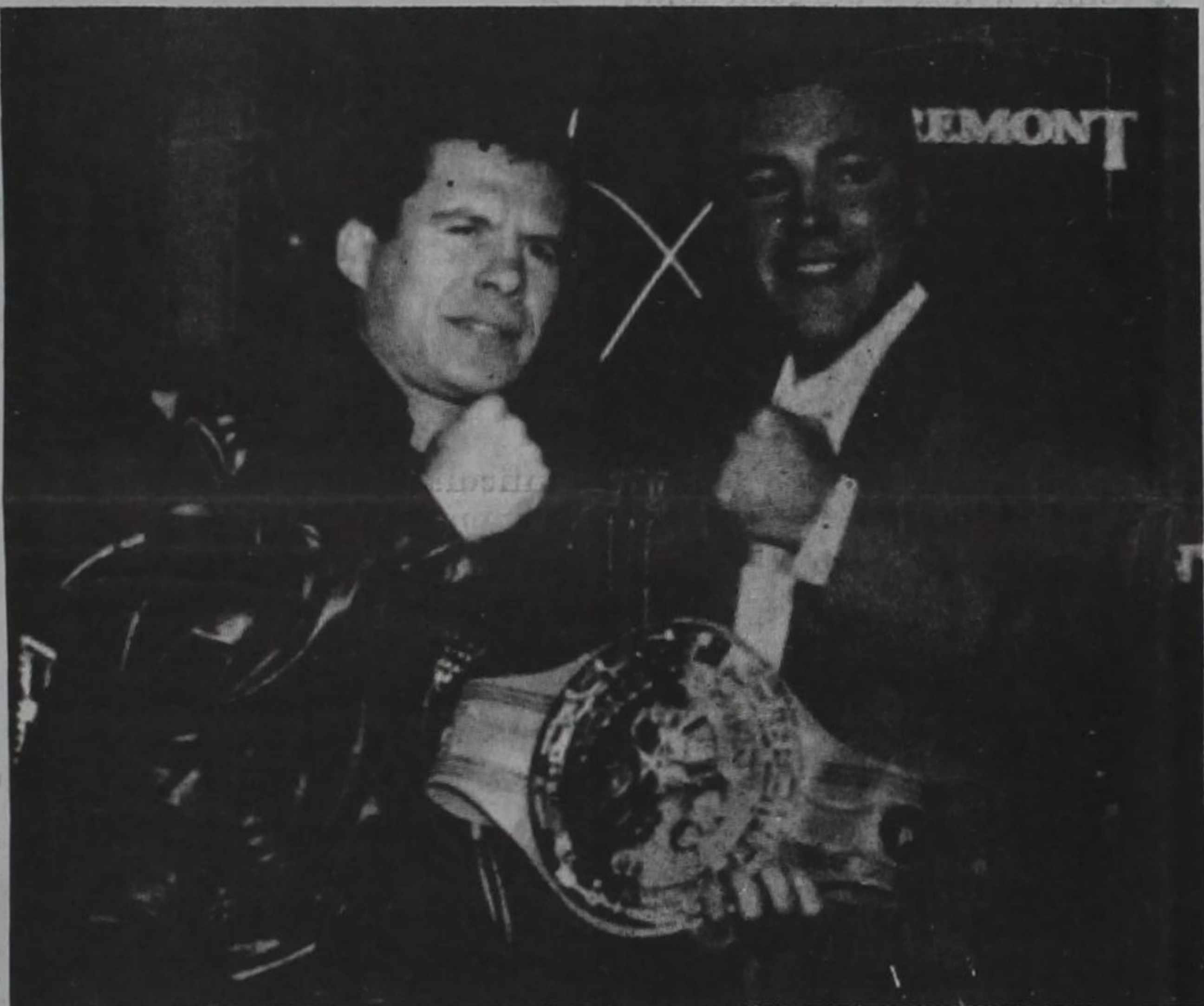
Who Is Oscar De La Hoya?

26-0, 21 KO's
Born: February 4, 1973
East Los Angeles, CA

"Golden Boy" is a fitting name for four-time world champion Oscar De La Hoya. Not only does he have the hardware to back up such a illustrious name (he won a Gold Medal at the Barcelona Olympics), but De La Hoya has the looks and charm of a matinee idol. These qualities have combined to make De La Hoya box-office magic -- he gathers raves from analysts, fans, boxers, promoters and TV producers alike.

His list of opponents reads like a who's who of recent years: Hector "Macho" Camacho, Julio Cesar Chavez, Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker, Rafael Ruelas and Jorge Paez. He has won world crowns at 130, 135, 140, and 147 pounds after only five years as a professional. Currently he holds World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title belt and has been rated by many as the finest "pound for pound" fighter on the planet.

When De La Hoya won the Gold at Barcelona, he held up an American flag in one hand and a Mexican flag in



the other. Born in East Los Angeles and proud of his Mexican-American heritage, De La Hoya appeals to legions of fans from across the US and indeed the world.

Oscar De La Hoya has become one of the most celebrated boxers in the world and is considered by many to be the best boxer on the planet, pound for pound. But to Wilfredo Rivera, De La Hoya is simply an obstacle in his quest for a

world title of his own.

There are three world title belts at stake on December 6th when Top Rank presents the "Title Wave" night of boxing from the Boardwalk Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Deion Sanders Questionable

Dallas Cowboys star cornerback Deion Sanders is listed as doubtful for the Monday night game against the Carolina Panthers due to a fractured right rib.

Sanders suffered the injury when he was tackled by linebacker Terry Killens in the first quarter of Dallas' Thanksgiving Day loss to Tennessee.

Rookie free agent Kevin Mathis will likely start at right cornerback Monday for Sanders. The Cowboys (6-7) and Panthers (6-7) are fighting for an NFC playoff spot. Sanders, regarded as the best cover corner in the NFL, has two touchdowns this season, one on an interception and one on a punt return. He has been used as a punt returner and cornerback this year, but has not been utilized as a receiver.

Sanders, who doubles as an outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, is in his third year with the Cowboys. He won a Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers following the 1994 season and signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Cowboys in September 1995. Sanders won a Super Bowl in his first season in Dallas. The 30-year-old Sanders hit .273 with five homers and 23 RBI and finished second in

the National League with 56 stolen bases for the Reds in 1997.

Nicknamed "Prime Time," Sanders is the only player to appear in both the Super Bowl and the World Series, participating in the fall classic for the Atlanta Braves in 1992.

El Editor
Best In Sports

Guadalupe Economics Services Corporation will be distributing emergency food at the following dates and times for all cities in Lubbock County.

When: Tuesday December 9, 1997 to Wednesday December 10, 1997

Time: 10:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m.

And Thursday, December, 11th

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Place: Lucky Bingo 1707 Parkway Drive
You must provide your S.S. Card, Picture ID, and proof of residence to pick up these commodities.

Services are offered with no physical segregation of or other discrimination against any person because of race, color, disability, age, sex, national origin, political belief or religion. We would appreciate any extra paper sacks you can bring us. For future distribution dates and sites, call the recording at 744-6422. In case of cancellations due to bad weather conditions please call 744-4416.

EMPIRE PAWN SHOP



¡Nos Gusta Prestar Dinero!

747-0383
1510 50th St.

747-7043
1120 19th St.

Ho, Ho, Ho!
Merry Christmas
Look For It

Special
Christmas
Edition
Dec. 23, 1997
Christmas
Stories, Photos,
Messages

Call For Your
Reserve Space Today
763-3841

POLLARD USED CARS & AUTO CREDIT BUILDERS SATURN

- \$1,900.00 TTL 80 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme 2 door, Green, We Finance!!
- \$2,400.00 TTL 87 Plymouth Sundance 4 dr., 5 speed, Gray. We Finance!!
- \$3,500.00 TTL 85 Chevy Astro Mini Van, Tan, Auto. We Finance!!
- \$3,900.00 TTL 91 Pontiac Lemans 4 dr., auto, Gray. Low Payments!!
- \$4,900.00 TTL 92 Subaru Loyale 4 dr., auto, Silver. Save Big!!
- \$9,900.00 TTL 93 Pontiac Formula 2 dr., auto, hard loaded. Must See!
- \$9,900.00 TTL 94 Mercury Cougar XR7 pkg, leather, 6 cylinder, auto.
- \$9,900.00 TTL 94 Ford Ranger Super Cap, XLT Pkg, 4 cylinder, 5 speed.
- Save Big! 94 GMC Ext. Cab P/U, tilt, cruise, AM/FM Cassette 6 cylinder, 5 speed
- \$180.00/mo. 94 Chevy Cavalier, 2 dr., 5 speed, 4 cylinder, 70K miles.
- \$180.00/mo. 94 Mercury Tracer 4 dr., wagon, 4 cylinder, auto, 48K miles.
- \$200.00/mo. 94 Saturn SL1, 4 dr., 4 cylinder, 5 speed, 32K miles.
- \$235.00/mo. 95 Olds 4 dr., 6 cylinder, auto, white 45K miles.
- \$250.00/mo. 96 Toyota Tercel 4 dr., 4 cylinder, 5 speed, 36K miles.
- \$260.00/mo. 96 Ford 4 dr., 4 cylinder, auto, 43K miles.
- \$270.00/mo. 96 Pontiac Sunfire 2 dr., 4 cylinder, 5 speed 23K miles.
- Special Financing 97 Chevy Lumina 4 dr., 6 cylinder, auto, 30K miles.
- Low Low Payments!! 97 Ford Escort 4 dr., 4 cylinder, auto, 25K miles.
- Blow Out! 95 Dodge Ram 1500 P/U, 8 cylinder, auto, 63K miles.
- Save Big! 95 Chevy Cheyenne P/U, 6 cylinder, auto, 34K miles.

Pollard/Saturn 323 N. University Lubbock
Used Cars (806) 744-0281 Fax: 744-3988

Latino 'Geniuses'

From Page One

norteno accordion line. "For as long as I can remember, there have been corridos about bandits, horses, shootouts, fighting roosters," says Jose Nieves, vice president of a record company based here and in California. "But lately it's been all narco."

It is possible to see some parallel in gangster rap in the United States -- including Mexico's own Tupac Shakur. Chalino Sanchez, the most famous of the narcocorrido singers, was taken from his car after a show here in 1992. His body was found the next morning, with a bullet to the head. The case remains unsolved.

Sanchez was much beloved within Sinaloa narcoculture. "The day after everyone found out, all these guys were driving around town with their speakers blaring his music just waiting for someone to look at them funny," says Federico Saucedo, a staffer at the Sinaloa Commission for the Defense of Human Rights.

Today, more than five years later, a number of narcocorrido singers still imitate his raspy tenor. One even calls himself "El Chalinillo" (Little Chalino).

Also like gangster rap is the fact that most narcocorridos are never heard on the radio because stations around Mexico have an "understanding" with the government -- yet the music remains enormously popular.

"This is what sells," says Nieves, standing in his company's record store, surrounded by record posters of

shorthaired young men in cowboy hats, gold chains, silk shirts, and ostrich skin boots, standing by fast cars and holding semiautomatic pistols or AK-47s.

About 350 bands pass through his offices every year. Album covers depict a staged shootout or drug robbery, complete with young men dressed like those in the posters. The latest called "Soy Crocodrilo Y Que?" ("I'm a Crocodile and What of It?" -- crocodile being slang for cocaine user in this part of Mexico).

The demand for narcocorridos is such that most are no longer about real events -- there simply aren't enough to go around -- but most practitioners of the genre keep a close eye on the headlines. By mid-October at least five different bands had recorded corridos about Amado Carrillo Fuentes -- the notorious Lords of the Skies, who died during a plastic surgery operation over the summer.

It's not clear how long the narcocorrido trend will last -- the music has a tedious sameness and so many bands have virtually identical sounds, few are able to establish a large following.

Still, the cult of the narcotrafficante is deep-rooted here in Sinaloa. And narcos consistently have money. "Any group that's going to make it big has to be sponsored by a narco," says Jesus Garcia, promoter of Juventud Nortena. "The band that doesn't have a sponsor behind them ends up playing cantinas. We don't want to be playing cantinas."

La Droga

De la pagina 2
allí, queriendo y no, poco a poco va saliendo que sí, que un primo lejano está cumpliendo una sentencia, por robo, que necesitaba dinero para su dosis. Luego sale a relucir un tal tío Roberto, que rellenaba los paneles de su coche con bolsitas de plástico, llenas de polvito blanco. Y el nieto de la vecina vende anfetaminas caseras en casa de la propia abuela. Ya llevamos tanto tiempo con estos secretos que ya ni cuenta nos damos. Son vergonzosos. Nos hacen confundirnos.

La intimidad que tengo con el mundo de la droga me recuerda algo muy importante -- que todos estamos relacionados entre sí, nos guste o no. Si vas a vender droga necesitas quién la compre. Está Miguel Luis, el zar de la droga, y está mi hermano Gabo, el adicto. No puede vivir el uno sin el otro, así de simple.

El mundo de la droga es un microcosmos de los que sí y de los que no. Es el drama estadounidense desarrollándose en la cocina de mi madre. Para latinos como yo, las interrogantes punzan, las respuestas nos eluden. "Haz algo."

¿Por qué yo? Porque yo ando aquí entre todo esto,

atestiguando este espectáculo. Conozco a los traficantes, fui a la escuela con los consumidores. Voy a recepciones a las que van los comerciantes que venden los Mercedes y los Rolex que compró Miguel Luis. Sé que se marchitarían economías enteras sin el comercio de la droga. También sé que la guerra contra la droga no es para ganarse -- porque queremos nuestra droga a toda costa, y los latinos están dispuestos a pagar el precio.

Estoy supuesta a decir la verdad. Que jugué a la pelota con Henry, actualmente en la cárcel por robo con allanamiento de morada. Que jugué al maquillaje con Zenaida, actualmente una cocainómana empéderna. Que fui de

pesca con "Tonio," actualmente un capo. Estos son nuestros tíos, nuestros primos, las ovejas negras. Somos los policías y somos los ladrones, los banqueros y los zares de la droga, y la línea que nos separa es sorprendentemente tenue. Créeme, un diploma universitario no vale gran cosa si tu hermano está en la cárcel o está muerto.

Sí, uno escoge. Pero a mí jamás nadie me ha preguntado cómo se escoge. Cómo es que a mí me tocó salir adelante mientras que tantos han caído. La gente dice, "Es que tú eres diferente. Tú triunfaste." Y pienso, "Sí, claro. Pero si supieran."

Total, ahora ya saben.
Traducido por Rudolph Aceves, PNS

We, the Romo Family, would like to express our gratitude to the Hospice Family Service Staff for the compassion and caring of Jose S. Romo. It was a year ago that they were there to help him and us through his struggle with cancer. They made us realize that saying goodbye is not easy, but in their effort made us strong to accept it. Their compassionate touch every week was never forgotten and was something to look forward to, to bring a smile to his face. We would also like to thank Dr. Phillip Galasso for all the attention and comfort he gave him since the time he was first diagnosed. Once again, our sincere appreciation to all those who cared. You will never be forgotten and always in our prayers. God Bless You, Elena S. Romo and Family

Muchas Gracias

JOB OPENING

Seeking a creative, motivated individual to coordinate group sales and servicing. Strong interpersonal skills and customer relations required. Individual should have excellent organizational skills as well as a background in sales, tour operations, and events planning. Previous experience in convention sales and tourism travel. Degree preferred. Multi-lingual or bi-lingual preferred. Send resume and references to: The Convention & Tourism Bureau of Lubbock, P.O. Box 561, Lubbock, Texas 79408.



You Are Cordially Invited To Attend Our

LULAC 263 Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner

**Thursday, Dec. 11, 1997
Maggie Trejo Supercenter
3200 Amherst**

**6:00 pm Reception X-Mas Music
6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Presentations
Special Visitors
Pancho Clos & Mrs. Claus
8:00 pm Dance**

RSVP 767-2702 or 767-2705

Here Comes Pancho Clos!!



**Ya Viene Pancho Clos
Sunday, December 21, 1997
Sponsored by American GI Forum
Maggie Trejo SuperCenter
3200 Amherst
1:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!
¡Feliz Navidad! Merry Christmas!**

ATTENTION FORMER REESE AFB EMPLOYEES

Lost your job due to base closure?
Are you interested in full-time employment?
No cost to you to help you get back into the workforce!

**Texas Workforce Center
Lubbock**

Call Don Davis or Darryl Victor today at 765-5038
Don't delay! You must enroll by the end of the year!

Buscamos **TECHEROS** Para trabajar en **Richmond, Virginia y Dener, Colorado**. Se provera gastos de viaje. Interesados deberan: Saber techar con composition y madera y tener permiso para trabajar en USA. Se pagara bien y cada viernes. Llamar al telefono: 972-272-3595 para entrevista.

Los Hermanos Gil



Luis Gil ponen a la disposicion del publico su grupo especializando en todo tipo de musica incluyendo Canciones o mañanitas. *Hamenos Ahora Para Sus Fiestas de Dia de Dar Gracias o Navidad Musica de su Preferencia*
Para informacion llame al 806-747-6950

Lo Mejor En Comida Mexicana



MONTELONGO'S RESTAURANT
3021 Clovis Rd - 762-3068