

Breaking Up is Hard to do for La Mafia

By JOEY GUERRA

HOUSTON, Dec. 2, 1998 -- Houston-based Tejano supergroup La Mafia has decided to call it quits after nearly two decades of music, international success, two Grammy awards and a slew of multiplatinum albums.

But not before one more tour. The band's latest album, "Euforia," was released in September (\$12.99 from Amazon.com). The first single, "Pido," was a top 20 hit on Billboard's Hot Latin Tracks chart. La Mafia will hold a press conference Thursday addressing the break-up.

"I had been thinking about it. It's hard because I've been doing this since I was 12 with La Mafia," lead singer Oscar de la Rosa said Wednesday at Houston Sound Studio.

"No one knew that this was going to happen. I didn't even know it was going to happen. It's just something that I decided a few months ago."

Located just off Interstate 45 North, Houston Sound Studio has served as La Mafia's headquarters and recording studio. Every wall is adorned with

posters, platinum albums and snapshots.

On Wednesday, however, the fortress was quiet, and the mood somber.

"I think I'm just getting tired of doing the same thing," de la Rosa said. "All the touring, always away from home. You start doing things because you want to. I want to enjoy myself when I'm performing, and it's gotten to a point to where it's like work."

"I'm not going to say that I didn't enjoy it, because I love when the fans get into what you're doing. It just started getting to a point to where it was work, and it wasn't music anymore."

developed within the band -- members Leonard Gonzales, David de la Garza, Tim Ruiz, Michael Aguilar and Mando Lichtenberger Jr.

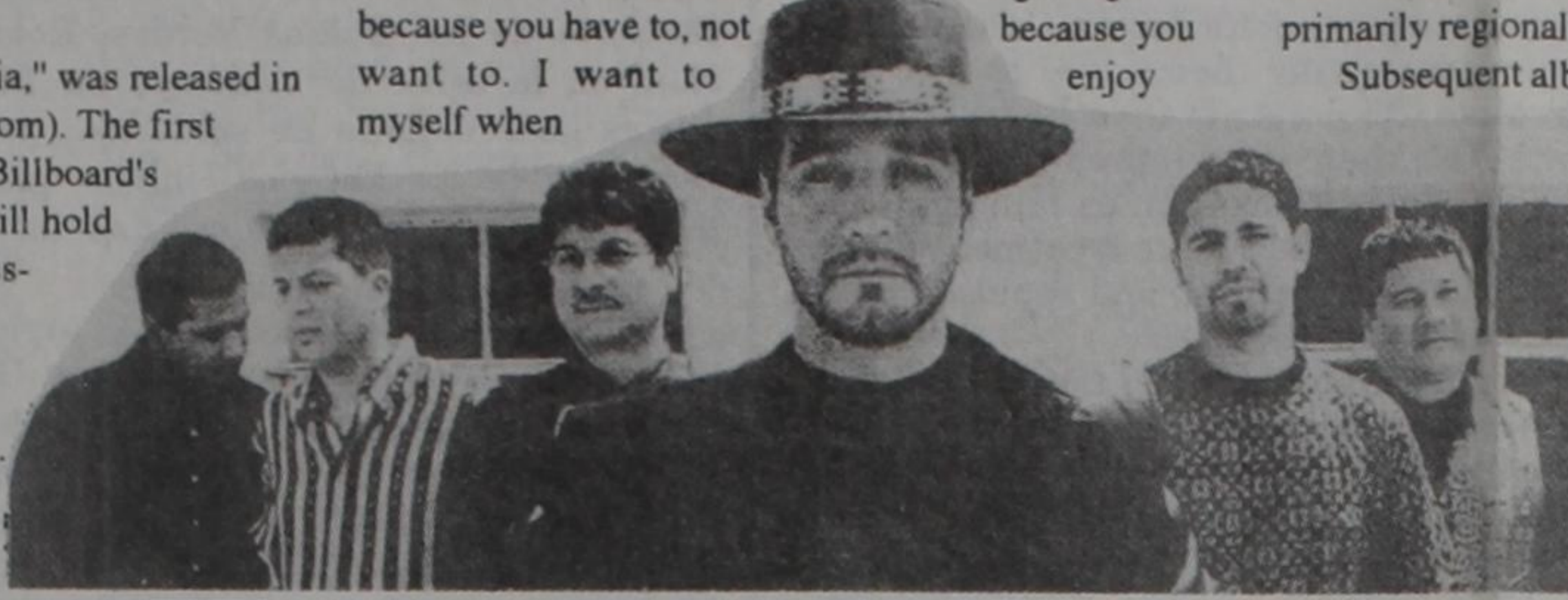
"These guys have been wonderful. It's been great

La Mafia established itself as the premiere Tejano group in Texas and around the world. After nearly two dozen albums on small and local labels, the group signed with Sony Discos and released "Estas Tocando Fuego" in 1991. It sold more than 1 million copies worldwide, a then-unheard-of number for the primarily regional Tejano market.

Subsequent albums were also successful, thanks to La Mafia's lilting blend of Tejano rhythms and pop sensibilities. The band earned Grammys in 1997 for "Un Millon de Rosas" and in 1998 for "En Tus Manos", both in the Mexican/Tejano category. Album sales to date are well over the \$-million mark.

Those past accomplishments are still important for de la Rosa, as is the sense of family that

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

EL EDITOR

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Sin Señales De Paz

Hasta el momento, no hay señales de paz entre el Gobierno y los rebeldes zapatistas en el estado sureño de Chiapas, así como tampoco existen muchos motivos para esperar un arreglo en poco tiempo.

El pasado fin de semana, algunos de los comandantes zapatistas más importantes se pusieron sus pasamontañas negros y vistieron atuendos indígenas tradicionales para salir de su escondite y viajar a San Cristóbal de las Casas, a fin de iniciar reuniones con sus simpatizantes y con mediadores en las pláticas de paz.

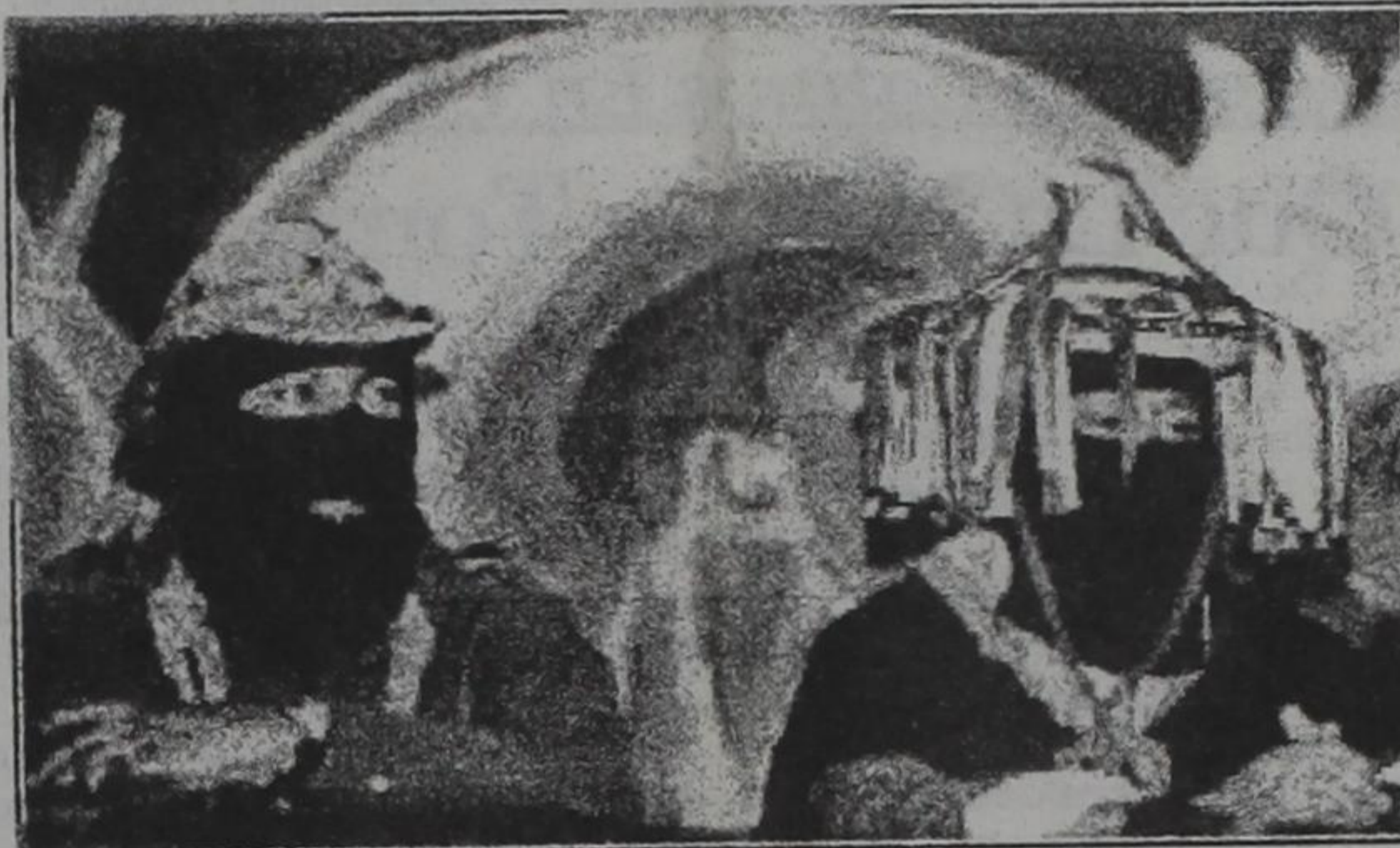
Fue la primera ocasión en que salieron de sus reductos clandestinos en dos años y su primer intento por hacer que las cosas avancen con los mediadores,

desde que se interrumpieron las pláticas a finales de 1996.

Sin embargo, tan pronto como comenzaron las conversaciones, los zapatistas disputaron con los mediadores, y los insurgentes y el Gobierno comenzaron a acusarse entre sí de actuar de mala fe.

Un comandante indígena vestido con uniforme militar, que se hace llamar Tacho, se quejó de que los mediadores gubernamentales encargados de la logística del encuentro sólo habían entregado "catres pequeños y miserables" sin colchón, para dormir, a los 29 miembros de la delegación zapatista.

Los zapatistas dijeron que los mediadores, legisladores federales representantes de diversos partidos, tampoco habían logrado



organizar una seguridad apropiada.

El Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja estaba a cargo de establecer un cordón de seguridad en torno al sitio de reunión.

"No permitiremos que nuestros pueblos indígenas sean humillados nunca más", dijo Tacho, calificando de racistas a los mediadores. Estos, ofendidos, rechazaron la acusación, pero se apresuraron a encontrar mayores comodidades para ellos.

El domingo pasado, al finalizar el primer encuentro en dos años entre los rebeldes y la Comisión Pacificadora del Congreso (COCOPA), los zapatistas se negaron a recibir la oferta de diálogo oficial, argumentando que no le reconocían a la COCOPA un papel mediador, y lo repitieron a la mañana siguiente cuando el subcoordinador general del diálogo, Alan Arias, intentó entregar dos sobres "confidenciales" a los delegados insurgentes.

En un comunicado, los 29 delegados del Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) indicaron que "nos reuniremos con la Comisión, para escucharlos y darles a conocer nuestras posturas acerca del proceso de paz".

La COCOPA aseguró que está dispuesta a encontrarse nuevamente con el EZLN, "siempre y cuando tengamos la certeza de que el rumbo al que nuestras acciones se dirigen es a una paz verdadera".

Las negociaciones de paz están interrumpidas desde hace dos años, ya que los rebeldes entienden que no se ha cumplido con lo estipulado en los Acuerdos de San Andrés, firmados con el Gobierno en 1996, sancionando una ley sobre cultura y derechos indígenas.

El Gobierno mexicano aseguró que mantendrá con "paciencia infinita" su iniciativa política de solucionar el conflicto en Chiapas a través del diálogo y la negociación, "a pesar de que la estrategia del EZLN ha sido imponer, no dialogar".

El coordinador gubernamental para el diálogo y la negociación en Chiapas, Emilio Rabasa, señaló estar dispuesto a analizar "juntos, las cinco condiciones que el EZLN pretende establecer unilateralmente para la reanudación del diálogo" y agregó que las partes "no pueden imponer condiciones para dialogar".

Las cinco condiciones impuestas por la dirigencia del EZLN para reanudar el diálogo con el Gobierno son: cumplimiento de acuerdos sobre Cultura y Derechos Indígenas, liberación de presos zapatistas, cese de militarización y presencia de paramilitares en Chiapas, propuestas para discutir democracia y justicia, así como un negociador con capacidad resolutive.

"La guerrilla indígena zapatista no quiere negociar", dijo el subcoordinador general para el diálogo, Alan Arias, luego de que los rebeldes rechazaran, por segunda vez en 12 horas, recibir sobres con propuestas del Gobierno.

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero
Montford: Welfare and Ballet Folkloricos in El Paso



Well maybe it's true and maybe not but a letter obtained by El Editor signed by Diana Natalicio, the President of the University of Texas at El Paso, says that Chancellor Montford suggested to her on the telephone that "El Pasoans are interested in spending border health funds on welfare and ballet folkloricos."

The letter goes on to say that the shock of hearing this prevented her from responding "more constructively concerning the Border Health Institute."

The quarrel between Tech and El Paso spawned from how and where to spend 'tobacco money' from the multi-billion dollar settlement between Texas and the tobacco industry.

El Paso says that they want more control over how the money is to be spent and recently one legislator has suggested that the money and Border Institute be administered by UTEP.

In what seems an irritated mood, Natalicio says in her letter that as stated in her telephone conversation, "let me assure you now that at no time and from no one in this community have I ever heard even in the most remote reference to spending Border Health Institute funds on anything except regional health research and education. To assume otherwise undermines any basis for productive collaboration."

The three paragraph letter ends by Natalicio stating that "communications and values gap between Texas Tech and El Paso is wider than I imagined. I trust that we will have an opportunity to address this fundamental issue in the near future."

So, did Montford really say what she is claiming? I think both Lubbock and El Paso needs some kind of response.

You can reach Bidal at elclub@aol

"Navidad del Pueblo" In Lubbock to Celebrate the Season

The swirl of the dancers, the soaring trumpets and the warm sound of the violins rising in the air...Navidad del Pueblo is coming to Lubbock. This spectacular family Christmas show will be at the Lubbock Civic Center Theatre on December 18, 1998. Featuring the internationally recognized Mariachi Campanas de América and the award-winning Ballet Mexico - España de San Antonio, Navidad del Pueblo is a heartwarming celebration of the season.

Presented by the Majestic Theatre (San Antonio), Navidad del Pueblo will be filling venues throughout Texas with the exuberant sound of Christmas -- "Mariachi-style." The evening will include joyous songs of the season, including traditional Christmas songs from both Mexico and the United States.

Narrated by Campanas' gregarious leader, Juan Ortiz, the evening is a tour through an old Mexican plaza at Christmas time as Juan leads the audience through Las Posadas and to a "serenata de amor." Juan and Campanas will also treat the audience to some popular American Christmas carols. The celebration ends with a grand fiesta featuring the traditional songs of Navidad. The evening is made perfect by the graceful, flowing dance of Ballet Mexico-España de San Antonio. The two groups compliment each other beautifully.



Founded in 1979, Campanas de América is a premiere musical ensemble known for its distinctive combination of traditional Mexican mariachi music with contemporary Latin rhythm and American mainstream pop. Campanas creates a fiesta atmosphere at every performance with their lively playing, gritos and flair for showmanship. Based in San Antonio, Campanas has performed both nationally and internationally. Most recently, Campanas has performed on the nationally televised Austin City Limits, Hispanic Heritage Awards - Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony "Fiesta Sinfonica," Coors Mariachi Concert Tour and Kumamoto Festival in Japan. Campanas has received national exposure on such programs as Good Morning America, NBC's Today Show and Entertainment Tonight.

Ballet Mexico-España de San Antonio, choreographed by Sonia Treviño, is well known throughout the dance community for their regional Mexican dance styles. Their beautiful costuming and synchronized dance complete this spectacular performance.

Navidad del Pueblo will be in Lubbock for one performance on Friday, December 18 at 8:00 PM.

Tickets are on sale now at all Select-A-Seat outlets, including Memphis Place Mall, Dollar Western Wear, Ralph's Records & Tapes, Luskey's on Frankford and the University Center or charge by phone at 770-2000 or (800) 735-1288. Tickets are \$14.50, \$18.50 and \$25.00. Service or convenience charges may apply.

News Briefs

Hispanic Inmates Denounce Discrimination in Denver Prison

By Francisco Miraval

Denver, Dec 1 (EFE).- In the past 50 years, the United States has adopted several laws to give greater protection and benefits to inmates, but a group of Hispanics has complained that - at least in Denver - the laws are not always fulfilled.

In a letter addressed to the local media, several Hispanic inmates in the Denver prison complained that they are not allowed to watch television or listen to the radio in Spanish, a clear violation of the rules and regulations of the detention center.

The prison, located in eastern Denver, houses 2,000 prisoners, 200 of whom - 10 percent - are Hispanic. However, Hispanics make up 40 percent of the prisoners lodged in the prison dormitories, where most of the conflicts and clashes take place. The prison was designed in the 1940s and built in the 1950s. Since then, the laws have changed and now the inmates have greater privileges, such as television and telephones, prison warden John Simonet told EFE.

Answering the complaint, Simonet said that sometimes the wish to watch television in the dormitories could not be granted.

He said that prison regulations allowed Hispanic inmates to watch television daily from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and, on Tuesday mornings, to listen to the radio in Spanish.

But the inmates insisted that the hours are not always respected. "We are not allowed to watch the news in Spanish, nor to listen to the radio or any other media in Spanish," Juan R., a Mexican inmate, told EFE from his cell.

The prisoner insisted that their requests were always ignored and that English-speaking prisoners were allowed to watch anything they wanted. Denver Security Administrator Fidel "Butch" Montoya said that, although he understands the frustration of the inmates, "when you commit a crime and end up in jail, you renounce certain privileges you had before."

Crime and Corruption Turn Mexico Into Most Dangerous City

By Mar Marin

Mexico City, Dec 2 (EFE).- Not only have Mexico City officials failed to control rampant crime in the Federal District, but their attempts to crack down on organized crime and police corruption have unleashed an unprecedented level of violence from the underworld in recent months.

Mexico City is now ranked as the most dangerous city in the world, with a crime committed every two minutes on average, while authorities publicly acknowledge their inability to control the situation.

The Mexican capital is home to eight million residents, as well as the 12 million people who live in the 27 municipalities surrounding the Federal District and which together form the Valley of Mexico, the largest urban area in the world.

This macro city is also home to more than 1,000 organized crime groups, according to police reports, with some 20,000 members who can often count on the cooperation of officers and district police chiefs.

Experts cannot explain the level of gratuitous violence in Mexico City. In many cases, robberies and muggings are finished off with beatings and shootings that do not increase the booty and often claim the victim's life.

The problem has become a critical political issue for the administrations of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and Mexico City Mayor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. Crime in Mexico City is directly linked to and thrives on a corrupt police force, which often collaborates in the attacks and abductions commonplace in the Mexican capital.

In an unprecedented sweep carried out by 300 specially trained police officers and coordinated by the Interior Ministry and the Attorney General's Office, 87 public and private security officers were arrested Nov. 23 for committing serious crimes, including rape and murder.

In addition, there are currently 400 Federal District police officers under investigation for involvement in criminal activity.

The police's most successful coup came in July with the capture of Mexico's number one on the most wanted list, kidnapper Daniel Arizmendi, known for his habit of cutting off victims' ears and sending them to relatives with his demands for ransom.

Arizmendi's arrest and the break-up of his crime ring uncovered links to high-ranking police officers in Mexico City who are still being investigated.

Police are still working on cracking other kidnapping rings, especially in the state of Morelos, where several police chiefs have been forced to resign after being linked to organized crime.

Spanish-Language Network Stays Atop South Florida TV Ratings

Miami, Dec 1 (EFE).- Channel 23, the Spanish-language network Univision's Miami affiliate, continues to lead ratings surveys, beating English-language TV stations in South Florida.

Preliminary results from the November rating period put Channel 23 at the top. The Univision affiliate also led the ratings in the February and May "sweeps."

Channel 23, the eight English-language commercial stations that serve the market, as well as Univision's main Spanish-language rival, Telemundo's Channel 51, are battling each other and a myriad of cable stations for ratings. The Miami Herald reported Tuesday Channel 23 ranked at the top in prime-time hours with a 10.6 share, which measures the percentage of families watching a specific station at a specific time. During that time slot, 16 percent of the televisions were tuned to Channel 23.

In south Florida, one ratings point represents some 14,000 families. The Nielsen ratings also put Channel 23 newscasts at 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. at the top. The Univision affiliate is also the most watched during the day.

To gather this information, Nielsen meters were installed in 450 south Florida homes. Channel 51, the only other Spanish-language commercial network station, ranked seventh during prime time hours.

The results showing the strength of Channel 23 in south Florida could heat up the controversy on the Nielsen rating system. English-language television stations claim that the rating system favors Spanish-language stations and that the meters are disproportionately placed in Hispanic homes.

Book Explains Welfare System

Maui News -- A Maui woman has written and published a book to help public service workers and people on welfare understand the welfare system.

"You Can't Play Fair If You Don't Know The Rules" was written by Donna Gutierrez, who says she wrote the book after "15 years of actual experience as a client and two years of intense study of the state statutes."

Gutierrez said the book can help counselors and clients find the services they need from public assistance, understand the rules and learn how to follow them -- and even learn how to get off welfare.

The author said she used the services of the state Department of Human Services Project Success (now replaced by Pono) and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to work her own way off welfare.

Gutierrez said she sees herself as a consumer advocate "for the little guy, whether it's dealing with government programs or dealing in real estate."

Gutierrez's 60-page book includes information gleaned from state statutes on topics such as self-employment, exempt income, unearned income, temporary disability benefits and strikes, and how assets and personal resources are counted.

Readers can get a FREE report on the book's highlights, or get the book by sending \$19.95 to Hawaiian Marketing Systems, P. O. Box 20, Pukalani, Hi. 96788

Latinos Emerge in California

Let the Nation Take Note

By Jose Perez
To the ecstasy of California Latinos who have labored in the state's political vineyards for years, the cork in their champagne bottle has finally popped. What happened in the state's voting booths Nov. 3 will create a dramatic new political profile when California's leaders reconvene in Sacramento in January.

What seismic events happened on or about Nov. 3 that are reshaping state's political structure?
-- For the first time since the 1870s, a Hispanic was elected to statewide office. Cruz Bustamante of Fresno, who two years ago became the first Latino ever chosen by his colleagues as state Assembly speaker, handily won the race for lieutenant governor. He received 3.8 million votes, a million more than his Republican opponent.

-- Latino numbers in the California legislature grew by six to 24, tripling their presence there in a single decade. Latinos now make up 20 percent of the capital's lawmakers, moving toward parity in a state that is about 27 percent Hispanic.

-- In the 80-member Assembly, the net increase was four -- from 14 up to 17. Los Angeles Democrat Antonio Villarraigosa, who succeeded Bustamante as speaker in February, was re-elected to the post Nov. 5.

-- In the 40-member Senate, the net gain was also three -- from four to seven. Another Los Angeles Democrat, Richard Polanco, will remain as majority leader under Senate President Pro-Tem John Burton.

-- The big surprise came two days after the election when Assembly Republicans elected youthful Rod Pacheco as minority leader. When he won office in 1996, Pacheco became the first Latino GOP representative in the California legislature

in 115 years. Lonesome, he convinced his party to support more Latinos, and sure enough, three -- count 'em -- more Latino Republicans were elected this time to the Assembly.

Interestingly, four of the seven Hispanics in the state Senate are now female, as are three of California's five Hispanic representatives in the U.S. Congress.

There was lots more good news in November for activists around the state:

-- Ron Gonzales, a Silicon Valley executive with Hewlett-Packard, became the first Latino elected to govern a major California city. He won his mayoral race in San Jose, the state's third-largest city.

-- In Orange County, U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez won easily against the GOP's Bob Dornan, whom she upset two years ago.

-- Lee Baca became the first Mexican-American Sheriff of Los Angeles County. His opponent, incumbent Sherman Block, died following brain surgery only days before the election.

Latino victors popped up all across the state. Many candidates won open seats. Some beat incumbents. The implementation of term limits at the state level helped. But so did perseverance. Latinos have been adjusted to a political system structured to protect incumbents for years. Finally, their dedication is paying a few dividends.

If there's a word to describe the Latino candidates' kinship, it's "moderate." Several of the Democrats were described regularly by the media with terms like "pro-business" and "middle-of-the-road." Whether Republicans or Democrats, the Latino office-seekers generally espoused similar political philosophies -- a mix of social progressive and fiscal conservative.

In that way, they reflected not only the sentiments of Latino voters, but of the electorate at large. Education, jobs, safety,

health, not ethnicity, were their major concerns.

A poll last spring found more California Hispanics identifying themselves as conservative (35 percent) than liberal (28 percent). Yet, their experiences make them supportive of programs such as bilingual education, concerned about treatment afforded legal immigrants, and repulsed by divisive extremist rhetoric.

In the gubernatorial race, Latinos who remembered Propositions 187, 209, and 227 coalesced with labor to elect Gray Davis as the next governor, breaking 16 years of Republican rule in Sacramento. Davis promised to bury the politics of divisiveness and establish policies of inclusivity.

California Latinos cast a growing and strategic -- but still relatively small -- 13 percent of the vote on Nov. 3. Because of immigration and the fact that they're a young population, their influence will grow dramatically with each succeeding election.

As this country prepares for its first presidential election of the 21st century, we can expect national Democratic and Republican leaders to compete as never before to ensure that there's a highly visible Latino presence in their parties.

Just as the Italians and Irish and Jews had to wait for voters to get past their "foreign" surnames to entrust them with political power, Hispanics have had to, also.

At last, the state's brown birthmark is showing through. If its new Latino leadership performs well, Californians might find it rather attractive.

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Desde Texas

La muerte de un héroe Roy Benavidez no se dejó vencer por la discriminación

Por Enrique Gómez

El domingo a la 1:33 de la tarde en San Antonio, murió el ex-sargento de los Boinas Verdes, Roy Benavidez, cuya heroica batalla en la selva de Camboya en 1968, fue una inspiración para varias generaciones de soldados... y cuya heroica lucha contra el Congreso de los Estados Unidos que le negaba el reconocimiento que merecía, debería de ser una inspiración para todos los hispanos.

En una memorable batalla, arriesgando decenas de veces su vida, y recibiendo 36 heridas, Roy Benavidez, en ese momento de 33 años, salvó la vida de 8 compañeros Boinas Verdes, transportándolos bajo el pesado fuego enemigo, cuando ya tres helicópteros que habían sido mandados para rescatarlos, habían fracasado en el intento.

"Fueron 6 horas de infierno", recordó en vida el propio Roy Benavidez, al referirse a una batalla que bien merecería ser llevada al cine, para que se mostrara como un Boina Verde hispano, superó en valentía y tenacidad, en la vida real, ante fuego y enemigos reales, a las escenas de ficción que vemos en las películas de guerra.

Tal vez así nuestra propia gente comprendiera el valor de que son capaces nuestros soldados hispanos... ta vez así la gente de otras razas aprendieran a respetar más a nuestro pueblo y darle el lugar que se merece en nuestra sociedad.

Todo ocurrió la mañana del 2 de mayo de 1968, cuando en la selva camboyana, un grupo de 12 Boinas Verdes quedaron atrapadas por una avanzada norvietnamita. Entre ellos se encontraban tres amigos de Roy Benavidez.

Tres helicópteros fallaron en su intento de rescatarlos ante lo pesado del fuego. Y tal vez allí habrían quedado, pero Roy pensando en sus amigos, se subió a su helicóptero, lo llevó hasta donde estaban los combatientes, aterrizó pese al fuego pesado, y al descender del helicóptero fue herido en la pierna derecha, la cara y la cabeza. Pese a las heridas, cargó a la mitad de los heridos hasta su helicóptero y los transportó hasta donde lo esperaba otro helicóptero fuera de la zona de peligro.

Roy Benavidez regresó por segunda vez al área de mayor peligro en busca de los que aún quedaban atrapados. Sangrando por nuevas heridas al abdomen y el muslo, cuando llevaba a su helicóptero al último de los heridos, el sargento fue derribado por un culatazo enemigo y tuvo que luchar cuerpo a cuerpo para salvar su vida y la del compañero herido; allí recibió nuevas heridas en la cabeza y los brazos hasta que finalmente dio muerte a su enemigo y cuando ya partía, tuvo que luchar contra otros dos norvietnamitas que trataban de tomar el control del helicóptero.

Una vez que dejó a salvo a sus compañeros, ensangrentado por todo el cuerpo, Roy Benavidez regresó por tercera vez al lugar de peligro para recobrar documentos secretos sobre la misión de los Boinas Verdes. En su tercer viaje encontró otros heridos a los cuales transportó a otro helicóptero que los esperaba fuera de la zona de peligro.

Pese a su heroica acción en combate aquella mañana de mayo de 1968, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos se negaba a reconocerle su valor y a entregarle la Medalla de Honor que se merecía plenamente. Los ocho boinas verdes que fueron salvados por Roy Benavidez declararon ante el Congreso todo lo que había sucedido. También fueron llamados los demás militares que habían estado en contacto con él durante su heroica acción de rescate. Pero, pese a las evidencias, el Congreso le daba largas y largas al valeroso sargento hispano.

Pero no era la primera vez que Roy Benavidez se enfrentaba a la discriminación racial, la conocía muy bien y no estaba dispuesto a dejarse vencer por ella.

Desde adolescente siempre quiso superarse. Pero la discriminación racial que imperaba en Texas durante los años 40 le impedían seguir adelante. Así que decidió enrolarse en el ejército a fin de no quedarse empantanado en la vida. Dentro del ejército, a la edad de 23 años, pudo completar su escuela preparatoria.

Si alguna vez ya había vencido a la discriminación, buscando nuevos caminos para dejarla atrás, igual haría en esta ocasión. Con la persistencia y tenacidad que mostró durante los tiempos de guerra, Roy Benavidez inició una batalla contra el Congreso para reclamar lo que era suyo.

Así, tras años y años de cabildos, de calladas luchas para que se abrieran puertas y se escuchara su historia, en 1981, trece años después de su heroica acción, el presidente Ronald Regan reconoció públicamente al Sargento Roy Benavidez y le entregó su Medalla de Honor.

El domingo, a la 1:33 de la tarde, falleció el heroico soldado. Los Periódicos Hispanos de Texas, rinden hoy un homenaje al valeroso Boina Verde, Sargento Roy Benavidez. E invitan a los hispanos de todo el estado a rendir un pequeño homenaje en sus casas, o en sus pensamientos, a este gran hispano, a este gran texano, que arriesgó su vida para salvar a sus compañeros de armas.

Que sea el Sargento Roy Benavidez, un ejemplo y una inspiración para toda nuestra comunidad. Un ejemplo de valentía y entrega a la nación, y una inspiración en nuestra incansable lucha contra la discriminación, para que no la sufran nuestros hijos, ni los hijos de nuestros hijos.

Surgen Los Latinos En California: Que La Nacion Tome Nota

Por Jose Perez

Para el éxtasis de los latinos de California, que se han fajado en las trincheras políticas del estado durante años, hay ocasión para celebrar. Lo que sucedió en las elecciones del estado el 3 de noviembre creará un nuevo perfil político dramático cuando el liderazgo de California se reúna en Sacramento en enero próximo.

¿Qué acontecimientos sísmicos ocurrieron en, o alrededor del 3 de noviembre, que están dando nueva forma a la estructura política del estado?

-- Por primera vez desde el decenio de 1870, un hispano fue electo para un cargo estatal. Cruz Bustamante, de Fresno, quien hace dos años llegó a ser el primer latino escogido por sus colegas como presidente de la Asamblea Estatal, ganó la contienda por vice-gobernador. El recibió 3.8 millones de votos, un millón más que su opositor republicano.

-- Las cifras de los latinos en la legislatura de California aumentaron en seis hasta 24, triplicando su presencia allí en un solo decenio. Los latinos forman ahora el 20% de los legisladores en la capital del estado, moviéndose hacia la paridad en un estado con el 27% población hispana.

-- En la Asamblea Estatal de 80 miembros, el aumento neto fue de tres miembros -- desde 14 hasta 17. El demócrata de Los Angeles, Antonio Villarraigosa, que sucedió a Bustamante en febrero, fue re-electo para ese escaño el 5 de noviembre.

-- En el Senado de 40 miembros, la ganancia neta fue también de tres miembros -- de cuatro a siete. Otro demócrata de Los Angeles, Richard Polanco, continuará como líder de la mayoría bajo el Presidente Provisional del Senado, John Burton.

-- La gran sorpresa llegó dos días después de las elecciones, cuando los republicanos de la Asamblea Estatal eligieron a Rod Pacheco para dirigente de la minoría. Cuando él fue electo al cargo de asambleista en 1996, Pacheco llegó a ser el primer representante latino republicano en la legislatura de California en 115 años. Sintióse solitario, él convenció a su partido para que apoyara a más latinos, y de seguro, tres -- cuéntenlos -- latinos republicanos más fueron electos en esta ocasión como miembros de la Asamblea.

Es interesante el que cuatro de los siete hispanos en el Senado estatal son mujeres, como lo

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'Power Nap' La Nueva Traducción De 'Siesta' Al Ingles

Por Andy Porras

Una "siesta" es algo terrible para desperdiciar.

Después de años de fastidiarnos sobre nuestra inclinación a las siestas en la tarde, los estadounidenses han descubierto que hay un método en nuestra llamada holgazanería.

Las siestas son buenas para su salud. Y para su negocio.

Los investigadores estadounidenses del sueño salieron al público este año con "sudescubrimiento" de que el tomar siestas durante el día disminuye la tensión, hace que uno esté más aguzado y alarga la vida misma.

De modo que, dondequiera que usted esté, cuando los brazos de Morfeo (el dios del sueño en la mitología griega) le llamen, ríndase.

Las siestas son una costumbre que muchos de nosotros trajimos de México cuando inmigramos a los Estados Unidos (o, si ya estábamos aquí primero, continuamos practicando bajo el amparo del Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo).

Como ocurre con muchas otras costumbres y nuestras propiedades de terrenos, hemos tenido dificultad para conservar la "siesta".

Con la llegada de la Revolución Industrial, los avariciosos capitanes del capitalismo querían mantener sus máquinas zumbando día y noche, sin importar cuál fuera el costo para los humanos. Y así la "ética del trabajo" yanqui se convirtió en la ley del país.

Para sobrevivir, los latinos empleados por otros tuvieron que ajustarse a un horario de 8 de la

mañana a 5 de la tarde, o al turno de la tarde o el de la noche.

Pero algunos empresarios latinos se resistieron. Mi amigo de muchos años, Tito Nieto, es uno de ellos. Tito, que llegó aquí desde México como bracero, abrió después un restaurante, llamado "El Potosino", cerca de Sacramento, California.

El otro día lo ví en el mercado y le mencioné la investigación de los expertos sobre el sueño.

"¿Le pagan a esa gente para probar que las 'siestas' son buenas para uno?" preguntó él. "¿Dónde han estado ellos? Nuestra gente ha sabido esto siempre".

Cierto, ha sido el conocimiento convencional desde antes de que llegaran Hernán Cortés o Cristóbal Colón.

Pero aún con mejores leyes laborales, somos una sociedad de adictos al trabajo durante las 24 horas del día. Las personas se llevan su trabajo a casa mediante las máquinas de fax, las computadoras, los teléfonos celulares y los videos. Algunos vehículos que se ven en las carreteras parecen oficinas territoriales.

Según la Comisión Nacional sobre los Trastornos del Sueño, la falta de sueño en el país se puede medir en costos directos que ascienden a \$16,000 millones, y en costos indirectos (pérdida de productividad, accidentes, etc.) que agregan otros \$150,000 millones. La comisión calcula que entre 25 y 50 personas mueren a diario a consecuencia de los conductores que se duermen al volante.

Agréguese a eso la tentación de los programas en altas horas de la noche por televisión, llos

Power-Nap -- The New English Translation for 'Siesta'

By Andy Porras

A siesta is a terrible thing to waste.

After years of needling us Latinos about our penchant for afternoon siestas, los norteamericanos have discovered that there is method to our so-called laziness.

Siestas are good for your health. And your business. U.S. sleep researchers went public this year with their "discovery" that taking naps during the day reduces stress, makes one work smarter, and extends life itself.

So, whoever you are, when Morpheus's arms beckon you, give in.

Siestas are a custom that many of us from Mexico brought along when we immigrated to the United States (or, if we were here first, continued to practice under the protection of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo).

But, as with many other customs and our land holdings, we have had difficulty retaining it. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, greedy captains of capitalism wanted to keep their machines humming day and night, no matter what the human cost. And thus the Yankee "work ethic" became the law of the land.

To survive, Latinos employed by others had to conform to an 8-to-5 regimen, or its swing and graveyard shift cousins. Those Latino who resisted had to become entrepreneurs. My longtime friend Tito Nieto is one of them. Tito, who came here from Mexico as a bracero, later opened a restaurant, El Potosino, near Sacramento, Calif.

The other day I saw him at the farmers' market and mentioned about the sleep experts' research.

"People get paid to prove that siestas are good for you?" he asked. "Where have they been? Our people have always known this." It has been our conventional wisdom since before Hernan Cortes or Cristobal Colon arrived.

But even with better labor laws, we are a society of round-the-clock workaholics. People take their work home via fax machines, computers, cell-phones and educational videos. Some vehicles on the freeway resemble field offices.

According to the National Commission on Sleep Disorders, the country's lack of zzzz's can be measured in direct annual costs totaling \$16 billion, with indirect costs (lost productivity, accidents, etc.) adding up to \$150 billion. The commission estimates that between 25 and 50 people are killed daily because of drivers who fall asleep at the wheel.

Add to that the temptation of late shows on TV, video movies, the Internet and even Viagra.

"Estan locos. They're nuts," Tito told me. "The body can't take all that strain." When he ran El Potosino, he closed his restaurant at 2 p.m. daily and re-opened it at 4:30 p.m. "I had a small cot in my office and I used it. My phone recorder had a message advising callers that in my place it was siesta time."

To make them acceptable north of the border, such siestas are validated by U.S. researchers as "power-naps." It's the same as tortillas becoming more de rigueur as "wraps." Rename it in English before you embrace it.

Some of Nieto's staff also used the break to take naps in the storeroom. For the dinner crowd, they were fresh and alert, going strong until the 10 p.m. closing time.

"You know, I remember back in San Luis Potosi almost all of the downtown area shut down, especially the banks and government offices," Nieto recounted. "There the normal hours for doing business were like from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and then they'd open again at 4 p.m. and last until 6 p.m."

Of course, not everybody always went home for a nap. The time could also be utilized for lengthy lunches with clients, business meetings outside the office, or maybe, love in the afternoon.

I've read that even President Clinton does it. Engages in power-naps.

The next time you visit across the Mexican border, observe the poor children. Knee-high youngsters will be there at sun-up to hawk you everything from shoe-shines to chewing gum to lottery tickets. But in the afternoon, you'll see them curled up in the plaza -- only to return energetically to their labor in the cooler evening.

"We all need siesta-time to balance our trabajo-time and fiesta-time," Nieto explained. "It's a good rule to live by."

But now come other reports from Mexico. NAFTA, fear some traditionalists in Mexico City, is changing the business culture -- and hours -- there. The siesta, they say, is becoming one of its early victims.

An endangered human rain forest. What irony! Just as we're accepting the value of the Latino "power nap" here, U.S. influence is undermining its existence in a city where the Spanish tradition has been faithfully observed for centuries.

(Andy Porras of Sacramento, Calif., writes on Hispanic issues. His column appears in several Sacramento-area newspapers.)

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videocassettes, el Internet y hasta la Viagra.

"Están locos. El cuerpo no puede absorber toda esa tensión", advirtió Nieto. Cuando él era el dueño de "El Potosino", cerraba el restaurante a las 2 de la tarde, y volvía a abrirlo a las 4:30. "Yo tenía un catrecito en mi oficina y lo usaba. Mi máquina tenía una grabación que avisaba a quienes llamaran que en mi establecimiento era la hora de la siesta".

Para hacerlas aceptables al norte de la frontera, dichas siestas, revalidadas por los investigadores estadounidenses, se mencionan como "power-naps" (siestas para recuperar las fuerzas). Es lo mismo que las tortillas que están llegando a ser más de rigueur como envolturas.

Algunos miembros del personal de Nieto usaban el intervalo para tomar siestas en el almacén. Después, a la hora de la cena, todos ellos estaban alertos y ágiles hasta la hora de cerrar, las 10pm.

"Tú sabes, recuerdo que cuando estaba en San Luis Potosi, casi toda la zona comercial cerraba, especialmente los bancos y las oficinas del gobierno", recordó Nieto. "Allí, las horas normales para trabajar eran de 9am. a 1:30pm y después volvían a abrir a las 4, hasta las 6."

Desde luego, no todos se iban a sus casas para tomar la siesta. El tiempo se podía emplear también para almuerzos prolongados con clientes, reuniones de negocios fuera del ambiente de la oficina, y quizás si hasta para

hacer el amor en la tarde.

He leído que hasta el Presidente Clinton toma siestas. Se dedica a las "siestas para recuperar las fuerzas".

La próxima vez en que ustedes vayan de visita atravesando la frontera de México, observen a los niños pobres. Los pequeños que llegan sólo a la rodilla -- con sus utensilios para limpiar zapatos colgados de los hombros -- estarán allí al salir el sol para venderles de todo, desde chicle hasta boletos de lotería. Pero en la tarde, los verán acurrucados en la plaza -- sólo para regresar energicamente a su trabajo en el fresco de la tarde.

"Todos necesitamos la hora de la siesta para equilibrar nuestra hora de trabajar y la hora de la fiesta", explicó Nieto. "Es una buena regla para vivir".

Pero ahora vienen otros informes desde México. El TLC, temen algunos tradicionalistas de la Ciudad de México, está cambiando la cultura de los negocios -- y sus horas -- allí. La siesta, dicen ellos, está convirtiéndose en una de sus tempranas víctimas.

Una selva virgen humana en peligro. ¡Qué ironía! Exactamente mientras nos damos cuenta del valor de la siesta aquí, la influencia de los Estados Unidos está socavando su existencia en uno de los lugares que mejor ha conservado la tradición, heredada de España.

(Andy Porras, de Sacramento, California, escribe sobre asuntos hispanos. Su columna aparece en varios periódicos de la zona de Sacramento.)

La Mafia

From Page 1

while it lasted, but it's time to move on and try something else, do something else," he said.

The break-up comes after much discussion, de la Rosa said. Ultimately, he wanted to end things on good terms, instead of waiting for the wear of hectic schedules and constant promotion to develop into disagreements.

De la Rosa downplayed rumors of fighting and money problems, but pointed to problems with Sony Discos as a factor in the group's decision.

"In Mexico, the past few years, I've been really, really disappointed with the label. They haven't been doing their job. They haven't been doing the work they should have been doing for the band," he said, referring to the group's disappointing promotional tour of Mexico.

"We were there for a whole month, and we were promoting the album 'Euforia', visiting radio, doing TV shows," he said. "We were told (by the label) that the album was out, and we have people that go out and check all the stores to make sure the product is out. We find there is no product out in the stores, and so we started asking questions. We had to cancel our tour in Mexico for that reason.

Siesta

from Page 2

son tres de los cinco representantes hispanos en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

Hubo muchas buenas noticias más en noviembre para los activistas alrededor del estado:

- Ron Gonzales, ejecutivo de Hewlett-Packard en Silicon Valley, llegó a ser el primer latino elegido para gobernar a una ciudad importante de California. El ganó su contienda para Alcalde de San José, la tercera ciudad de mayor importancia en el estado.

- En el Condado de Orange, la congresista Loretta Sánchez ganó fácilmente contra el republicano Bob Dornan, a quien ella desplazó hace dos años.

- Lee Baca se convirtió en el primer mexicanoamericano que haya llegado a ser Alguacil (Sheriff) del Condado de Los Angeles. Su contrincante, el titular Sherman Block, murió después de someterse a cirugía del cerebro, sólo algunos días antes de las elecciones.

Los latinos victoriosos surgieron por todo el estado. Muchos candidatos ganaron escaños abiertos. Otros derrotaron a los titulares. La implementación de los periodos limitados al nivel estatal ayudó. Pero también lo hizo la perseverancia. Los latinos han estado ajustados a un sistema político estructurado para proteger a los titulares durante años. Por fin, su dedicación está produciendo algunos dividendos.

Si hay alguna palabra para describir a la semejanza entre los candidatos latinos, es "moderado". Varios de los demócratas fueron descritos periódicamente por los medios informativos con términos como "a favor de negocios" y "de política centrada". Ya fueran republicanos o demócratas, los latinos que procuraban cargos electivos abrazaban por lo general filosofías políticas semejantes -- una mezcla de progresistas sociales y conservadores fiscales.

De ese modo, ellos reflejaron no solamente los sentimientos de los electores latinos, sino los del electorado en general. La educación, los trabajos, la seguridad, y la salud, y no la etnicidad, fueron sus preocupaciones más importantes.

Una encuesta llevada a cabo la primavera pasada halló que una cantidad mayor de hispanos de California se identificaban como conservadores (35 por ciento) que liberales (28 por ciento). Sin embargo, sus experiencias les hacen apoyar a programas tales como la educación bilingüe, estar preocupados por el tratamiento dado a los inmigrantes legales y rechazar a la retórica extremista divisiva.

En la contienda por la gobernanación del estado, los latinos que recordaban a las Proposiciones 187, 209 y 227 se unieron a los trabajadores para elegir a Gray Davis como el próximo gobernador, dando fin a 16 años de gobierno republicano en Sacramento. Davis prometió eliminar la política de la división y establecer cursos de acción conducentes a la inclusión.

Los latinos de California proyectaron un 13 por ciento de la votación, cada vez mayor y estratégico, pero todavía relativamente pequeño -- el 3 de noviembre. Debido a la inmigración y al hecho de que son una población joven, su influencia aumentará dramáticamente con cada elección sucesiva.

A medida que este país se prepara para sus primeras elecciones presidenciales del siglo XXI, podemos esperar que los líderes nacionales demócratas y republicanos compitan, como

The band was totally upset with the record company because we didn't get the respect we should've gotten."

La Mafia has canceled its scheduled appearances for December and January, but the group will play 20-40 dates in the United States and Mexico in 1999, de la Rosa said.

"We've talked about opening the tour here in Houston or closing the tour here in Houston, because Houston is our home base. Houston is where the group was born," de la Rosa said. "Once we go to one city, it means we won't go back as La Mafia. It's going to be a one-time thing, a last-time thing."

The group has one album remaining on its Sony contract. De la Rosa said the group's final album will be similar stylistically to "Euforia." An anthology of '80s hits is another possibility.

La Mafia is selling most of its equipment, including lighting rigs and tour buses. A bus recently purchased for the "Euforia" tour was sold to "norteño" group Los Palominos, and another truck was sold to a musical group out of California. Houston Sound Studio will remain. Lichtenberger, who served as La Mafia's keyboardist and producer, will continue to work on projects with other artists.

De la Rosa wants to get away from Houston for a few years, he said, "just try to start my new

never before, to make sure that you have a Latin presence that is clearly visible in your respective parties.

De igual modo que los italianos, irlandeses y judíos tuvieron que esperar que los electores fueran más allá de sus apellidos "extranjeros" para confiarles el poder político, los hispanos han tenido que hacer otro tanto.

Por fin, la marca marrón de nacimiento en el estado está abriendo paso. Si su nuevo liderazgo latino funciona bien, los californianos podrían encontrarla bastante atractiva.

(José Pérez, de Sacramento, California, es el editor de "Latino Journal", una publicación quincenal que informa sobre la escena política latina de California. Pueden comunicarse con él en: Latino Journal, 112 J St., Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814. Teléfono: (916) 492-9163. E-mail: latinojour(AT)aol.com)

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life ... maybe go to Miami, get myself a condo in Miami.

"In a way, I'm happy it's over, then in a way I'm sad, because ... I'm still wondering what am I going to do. It's not going to be the same. Come Christmas, New Year's Eve, you're always around your friends.

You're always together, and I know that this time around we're not going to be together. Everybody's going to go their own way. After 20 years of the same thing, it bothers you."

The USFA recommends the following safety tips to help your family avoid a potentially life-threatening chimney fire:

- Have your chimney professionally inspected and cleaned each season.
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash or Christmas trees — any of these can spark a chimney fire.



A few simple precautions before lighting a fire can help protect your family and home.

- Use seasoned, dry hardwood.
- A grate should be used to allow for proper airflow beneath the fire to insure proper combustion of your "seasoned" fire wood.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures where wood stoves are in use, so you can adjust burning practices as needed.

- Use proper fireplace equipment such as fire-resistant gloves, tongs and pokers when tending your fire.

Remember to install and maintain smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and remember to keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries. Having a working smoke alarm more than doubles your chances of surviving a residential fire.

"Prevention and planning are the best defenses against becoming a fire statistic this winter," says the USFA's Brown.

Roy Benavidez Dies:

Last Medal of Honor Winner

By Sig Christenson Express-News Staff Writer

Roy Benavidez was remembered Monday by a fellow Medal of Honor recipient as a man of great compassion, a soldier's soldier who stood by his brothers in arms.

"He was put in a special place in a moment of time to do some things and he did them," said Lt. Gen. Robert F. Foley, one of just two Medal of Honor recipients still on active duty in the armed forces.

"I think it's something that is not magically developed on the battlefield," Foley added. "It's a strength of character that he had developed. It's a value inside him, this consideration and regard for your fellow soldiers that just motivates you to go to do something like he did."

A retired Special Forces master sergeant, Benavidez died Sunday in San Antonio at 63 after a long battle with diabetes, anemia and other illnesses.

He received the Medal of Honor from President Reagan in 1981 for saving eight fellow Special Forces soldiers on a secret mission in 1968.

Clubbed, stabbed and shot multiple times, Benavidez braved vicious enemy fire in a Cambodian jungle for 6 1/2 hours before bringing one last group of wounded men to a waiting helicopter.

Foley, who received his Medal of Honor for rallying troops in a pitched battle 32 years ago in Vietnam, stood with his wife, Julie, at Benavidez's bedside just an hour before his death at 1:33 p.m. at Brooke Army Medical Center.

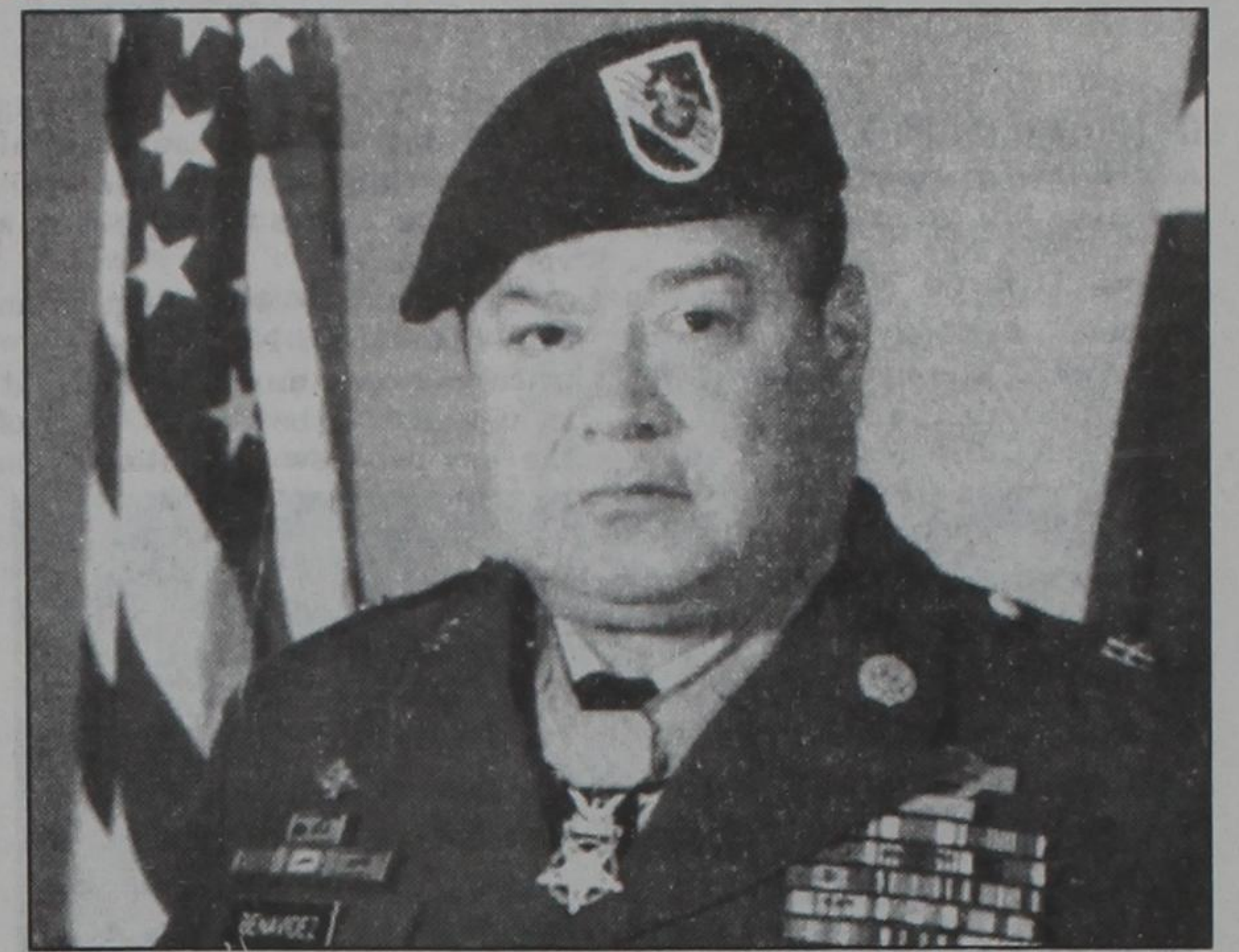
"He wasn't really lucid or conscious at the time," said Foley, a one-time West Point commandant now serving as commander of the 5th U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston.

BAMC's commander, Brig. Gen. Harold Timboe, said Benavidez succumbed to respiratory failure.

Benavidez's passing leaves the nation with 160 living Medal of Honor recipients, and word of his death came as a blow to veterans throughout the Alamo City.

"He was kind of unique," said retired Army Master Sgt. Ben Guerrero, a Benavidez confidant.

"You're so sad to see a great old trooper pass on," Timboe



Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez

Augusto 5, 1935 - Noviembre 29, 1998

El domingo día 29 de Noviembre el Sargento Roy P. Benavidez, recibiente de la medalla de honor por sus valientes acciones durante la guerra de Vietnam, murió después de una larga batalla con diabetes y las complicaciones relacionadas. Que en paz descanse y gracias de parte de toda la gente mexicana.

Rosary will be said at 6 p.m. today at St. Roberts Catholic Church in El Campo, where Benavidez was a longtime resident.

Visitation will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Porter Loring Mortuary, 1101 McCullough Ave., in San Antonio. Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Fort Sam's Main Post Chapel.

Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday in San Fernando Cathedral. Burial with full military honors will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Guerrero said Benavidez was moved to BAMC's intensive care unit early Sunday after taking a sudden turn for the worse.

Before that, he and others said Benavidez had been sick but stable after losing part of his right leg amputated in October.

"He was very upbeat," said retired Army Lt. Col. Dave Da-

vis, an aide to U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas. "He was clearly ill but he seemed to be in pretty good spirits."

Retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Gary Thomas, president emeritus of the Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans, praised Benavidez late Monday for his support of veterans on a wide variety of issues.

Several years after receiving the Medal of Honor from Reagan at a Pentagon ceremony, Benavidez challenged an administration decision to require disabled Social Security recipients like himself to show proof of their disability.

"Roy could have just enjoyed his life; forgot about all the problems the veterans were having; he could have become very rich; cashed in on being an Medal of Honor winner; gone to banquets, and Roy decided he was going to stay right with the troops," Thomas said. "He never abandoned the troops."

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7 Oportunidades De Ganar.

Holyfield Promises KO Against Lewis

Sosa Wins NL Most Valuable Player Award

NEW YORK -- Lennox Lewis is getting the fight he wants. And Evander Holyfield says Lewis also will get something he's not looking for.

"Two things are going to happen," said Holyfield, who will fight WBC champion Lewis for the undisputed heavyweight title March 13 in Madison Square

stential? Yes. I think we're going to sell out at pretty substantial prices. I think we'll be fine. This will put us in the fight game in a very big way."

Ticket prices will range from \$1,500 to \$100. No pay-per-view price has been announced, but it is expected to be \$49.95. One of the pay-per-view exhibitors, who

the top 10.

"HE'S HAD HIS REASONS FOR staying away from me, and they'll be apparent in the fight," said 33-year-old Lewis (34-1, 27 knockouts). "He definitely was ducking me."

Holyfield (36-3, 26 knockouts) said circumstances prevented the fight from not happening until now.

The 36-year-old champion said after he was stopped in the eighth round in third bout against Riddick Bowe, a non-title fight in 1995, HBO asked him whom he would like to fight.

"I said Lennox Lewis," he said. "He didn't want to fight me then." So Holyfield fought Bobby Czyz in the Garden May 10, 1996, and although he won in five rounds, he looked unimpressive. Holyfield thinks his

performance is what encouraged Tyson to defend the WBA title against him. Holyfield's 11th-round victory led to the rematch in which Tyson was disqualified for biting Holyfield's ears.

HOLYFIELD SAID HE THEN HAD a chance to win the IBF title and avenge a defeat by Michael Moorer, which he did by stopping Moorer in the eighth round Nov. 8, 1997.

He then had to fight Vaughn Beat in an IBF mandatory defense, which he won on points Sept. 19. He still owes a WBA mandatory defense against Henry Akinwande or the highest available contender, which he would make on Showtime if he wins March 13.

Lewis made a WBC mandatory defense by outpointing Zeljko Mavrovic of Croatia Sept. 26.

Trinidad Signs \$42.9 Million Contract With Don King

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) Felix "Tito" Trinidad has signed a \$42.9 million contract with promoter Don King for at least three fights per year over four years, the boxer's father says.

The new contract comes less than a week after Trinidad lost a legal battle to sever ties with King.

"We renegotiated, and now King will be Tito's promoter while Tito continues as champion," Felix Trinidad Sr. said Monday.

Trinidad is IBF welterweight champion. The Puerto Rican fighter received a \$300,000 advance upon signing the contract in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. last weekend, his father said.

Last week, the decision of a federal judge in New York forced Trinidad to cancel a contract he had signed with Dino Duva of Main Events, who had promised him a Jan. 9 bout with

former lightweight and welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker.

Under the new contract, King promised to arrange a fight in 1999 with either Whitaker or Vincent Pettway.

Trinidad is unbeaten in 33 fights with 29 knockouts, but he has only fought twice in the last 16 months because of the dispute with King.

In August 1997 Trinidad knocked out Australian Troy Waters in the first round, and on April 2 he knocked out challenger Mahenge Zulu of Zaire.

The new contract reopens the possibility of a match with Ike Quartey of

Ghana, whose fight with Trinidad was canceled because of the lawsuit. Trinidad has also said he wants to fight Oscar De La Hoya, the WBC welterweight champion.



Lennox Lewis has considered fighting Evander Holyfield for a long time. (AP)

Garden. "I'm either going to knock him out good or I'm going to knock him out bad."

"The fans are getting a fight they want to see," said Lewis, the WBC champion from Britain. "I've been waiting for this fight for such a long time. It's basically overdue."

Holyfield, the WBA-IBF champion, said, however, "I never thought it wouldn't happen."

Promoter Don King and Seth Abraham, president and CEO of Time Warner Sports, said at a news conference Monday it took a year to put together the match that will be distributed on pay-per-view by Time Warner's TVKO.

"I PREDICT TO YOU WE WILL sell the Garden out and we will have 2 million (pay-per-view buys)," King crowed. A sell-out would be about 19,000 seats.

The Lennox Lewis has considered fighting Evander Holyfield for a long time.

Garden reportedly is paying a live site fee of \$8.5 million.

"I can't confirm that figure," said Dave Checketts, Garden president and CEO. "Is it sub-

keep half the pay-per-view revenue, will be Cablevision, which is available in 3 million homes.

The biggest pay-per-view sale for a fight was 1.99 million for the Holyfield-Mike Tyson rematch carried by SET. Tyson has been involved in the four top pay-per-view bouts and seven of



Evander Holyfield will finally fight Lennox Lewis for the title. (AP)

Holmes Says Tyson Not Getting Title Back

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. -- Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes, who made four unsuccessful attempts to regain his title after a 1985 loss to Michael Spinks, doubts Mike Tyson will be a champion again.

"He can win a few fights and get a shot, but I don't think he has it in his heart to get his title back," Holmes said Tuesday at a news conference to promote his Jan. 23 fight against former champion George Foreman, who

turns 50 on Jan. 10. Tyson is scheduled to launch his latest comeback Jan. 16 against Francois Botha. However, that bout was in jeopardy Tuesday when Tyson pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault in Rockville, Md. The plea could result in the revocation of his parole for a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana.

HOLMES AND FOREMAN WILL BE A COMBINED 99 years old when they enter the Houston Astrodome ring 26 years and one day after Foreman first won the heavyweight title with a second-round knockout of Joe Frazier on Jan. 22, 1973.

"I've been training harder for this fight than for any other fight," said Foreman, who said he expects to weigh between 237 and 245 pounds.

Foreman has not weighed less than 250 pounds since he was at 244 in 1988, the second year of his comeback from a 10-year retirement.

Holmes turned 49 in November.

"I'm 49, but I fight like I'm 29," said Holmes, who held a portion of the heavyweight title from 1978-85. "I don't do all the things a 29-year old does, but I can do them in spurts."



Mike Tyson

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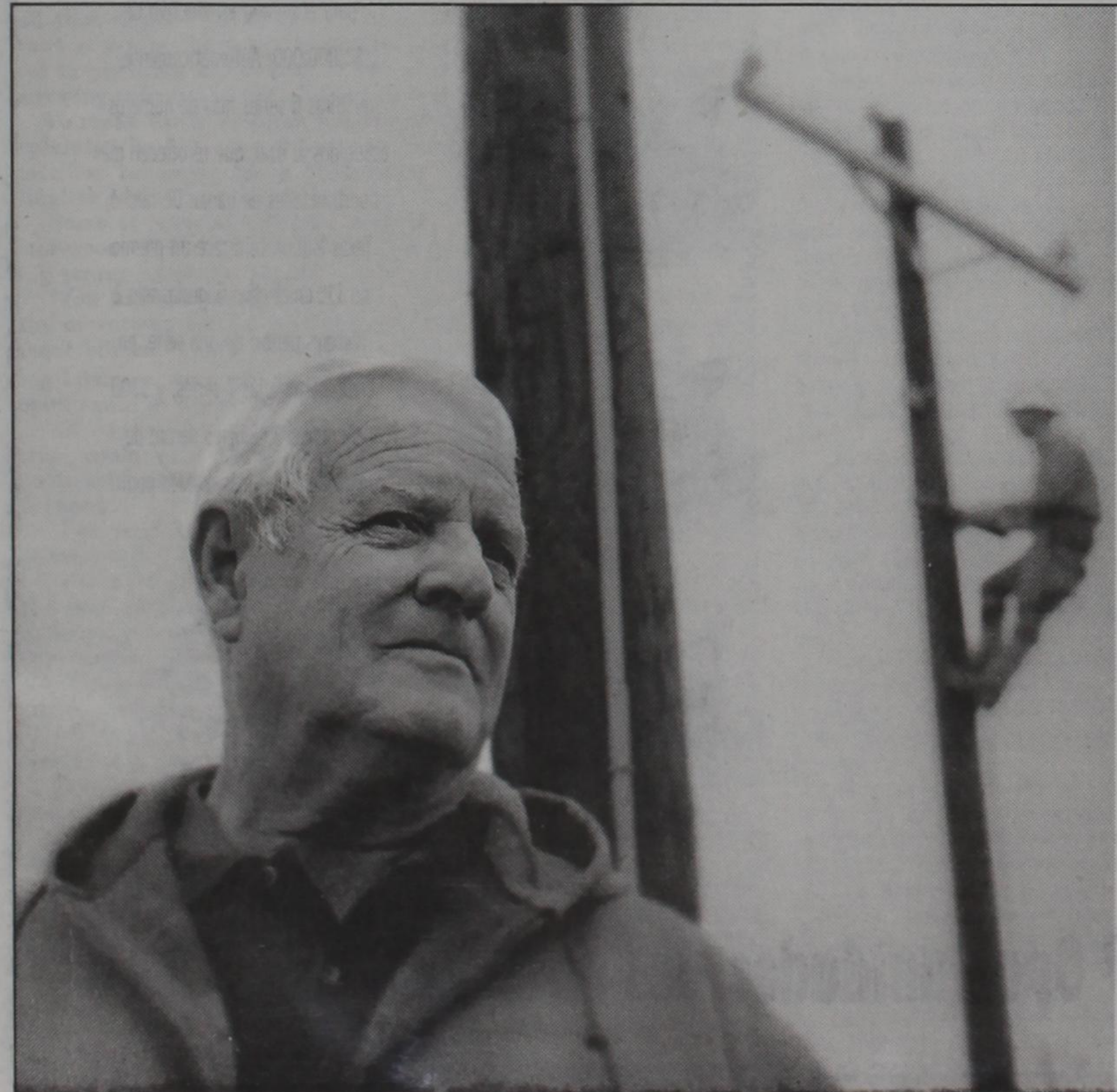
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Association. Besides being overwhelmingly one-sided, the result helped make history. With Juan Gonzalez of Texas having won the American League award a day earlier, it marks the first time Latin American players swept both MVP awards. In the previous 67 years of the Baseball Writers MVP voting, Latin players won eight times.

A native and hero of the Dominican Republic, Sosa is only the third Latino to win the NL award. Roberto Clemente won in 1966 and Orlando Cepeda in 1967. George Bell, who was the American League MVP in 1987, had been the only Dominican to win an MVP award.

The one-sided nature of the vote is not likely to defuse the debate that has raged and will continue to rage over the appropriate choice for the award. McGwire supporters among fans, baseball people and members of the news media believe he was the NL MVP because he passed Maris first and finished with more home runs. But Sosa



Sammy Sosa, de los Cubs de Chicago, fue nombrado uno de los mejores latinoamericanos del año en el béisbol de las Grandes Ligas.

supporters argue that there is a difference between player of the year, which some concede McGwire might have been, and MVP. In other MVP votes, the winner was not necessarily the player with the best statistics.

The voters clearly sided with the Sosa supporters, crediting the Cubs' right fielder for sparking his team to a wild-card finish as the second-place team in the NL Central Division. The St. Louis Cardinals, McGwire's team, were never in the race despite his unprecedented production.

The Cubs would have joined the Cardinals among the also-rans without Sosa's 66 home runs, major-league-leading 158 runs batted in and .308 batting average. McGwire drove in 147 runs, batted .299 and led the majors in walks (162), on-base percentage (.470) and slugging percentage (.752).

The McGwire-Sosa home run contest was credited with reviving interest in major league baseball, which had still lagged from the 1994-95 strike. Their joint pursuit of Maris' record commanded daily attention throughout the country.

Because McGwire was the primary focus of that attention, some people felt he should be rewarded for his value in helping bring baseball's popularity back. But not to be overlooked was Sosa's role in taking the interest to an even higher level and in inspiring McGwire to what in August became his obviously greater enjoyment of and appreciation for the impact he was making on fans everywhere.

Throughout their remarkably friendly rivalry, Sosa said again and again that McGwire would be the one to break the record and hold it at the end of the season. He was right on both counts. But Sosa also said he had other priorities - helping the Cubs reach the playoffs and winning the MVP award. He achieved both.

Sosa, who had never hit more than 40 home runs in a season, was placed second on the two ballots on which he was not named first. McGwire received 20 votes for second and the remaining 10 votes for third through seventh.

Moises Alou of Houston, a fellow countryman of Sosa, finished third in the balloting with 215 points and was the only other player who was named on all 32 ballots. Greg Vaughn of San Diego was fourth with 185 points, Craig Biggio of Houston fifth with 163 and Andres Galaraga of Atlanta sixth with 147. John Olerud and Mike Piazza were the only members of the Mets who received votes. Olerud placed 12th with 38 points, Piazza 14th with 15 points. Sosa's victory earned him a \$250,000 bonus, bringing his 1998 income to \$8,325,000. (NYT)

El Editor = BEST!

Crímenes Y Corrupcion Hacen Mexico Ciudad Mas Peligrosa Mundo

Por Mar Marín

México, 2 dic (EFE).- El gobierno de la ciudad de México no solo no ha conseguido reducir los índices de inseguridad, sino que sus medidas contra el crimen organizado y la corrupción en la policía han provocado una reacción en el hampa que ha elevado a niveles desconocidos la violencia en los últimos meses.

La ciudad de México se ha convertido en la más peligrosa del mundo, con una media de un delito cada dos minutos, mientras las autoridades reconocen públicamente su incapacidad para combatir el problema.

La capital mexicana, como Distrito Federal, cuanta con unos ocho millones de habitantes, a los que hay que sumar unos doce más de los 27 municipios que se encuentran conurbados con ella y que forman, en conjunto, lo que se conoce como Valle de México, la mayor concentración humana del mundo.

En esta macro ciudad operan, según datos de la policía, más de mil bandas del crimen organizadas, que integran a unos 20.000 delincuentes que, en muchos casos, cuentan además con la colaboración de agentes y jefes de la seguridad pública.

En México, la delincuencia se envuelve en una dosis de violencia para la que los expertos no encuentran explicación. Los asaltos van acompañados, en la mayoría de los casos, de agresiones y disparos que no aumentan el botín y que, en muchas ocasiones, cuestan la vida de sus víctimas.

El problema se ha convertido en una cuestión política que está provocando un duro desgaste tanto para el gobierno de Ernesto Zedillo, del Partido Revolucionario Institucional, como para el izquierdista Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, del Partido de la Revolución Democrática, y jefe de gobierno del Distrito Federal.

La delincuencia en México es inseparable de la corrupción en la policía, que en muchos casos colabora con las bandas organizadas tanto en asaltos como en secuestros.

Cárdenas, que prometió durante su campaña electoral (1997) atajar el problema, ha visto como se reducían sus posibilidades de aspirar a la Presidencia de la República en el 2000 mientras crecía la violencia.

Cárdenas se encuentra limitado además porque no tiene plenas competencias sobre la materia y debe someter a la aprobación de Zedillo la designación del responsable de Seguridad Pública en el Distrito Federal.

El aumento de la violencia le obligó a relevar al titular de Seguridad, Rodolfo de Bernardi, el pasado septiembre ante las críticas por incapacidad.

Alejandro Gertz Manero, el nuevo secretario de Seguridad Pública, ha sustituido a 16 altos cargos de la policía del Distrito Federal en poco más de dos meses y ha reconocido la incapacidad de las autoridades para eliminar la corrupción de la policía.

El desgaste político que el problema supone para el PRD y el PRI les ha condenado a entenderse y a colaborar en el combate contra el crimen organizado.

En septiembre, Ernesto Zedillo anunció una Cruzada Nacional contra la delincuencia y un aumento considerable del presupuesto.

Los operativos contra el hampa provocaron una reacción de las bandas, que elevó el índice de delitos en un 20 por ciento en solo una semana -entre el 5 y el 11 de noviembre- hasta situarlo en 785 denuncias diarias, una media superior a un delito cada dos minutos.

En una operación sin precedentes coordinada entre la Secretaría de Gobernación -ministerio del Interior- y la Procuraduría del Distrito Federal, en la que participaron unos 300 policías, fueron detenidos y encarcelados el día 23 de noviembre 87 agentes auxiliares y de empresas de seguridad privada por delitos que iban desde violación a asesinato.

Además, otros 400 agentes de la policía del Distrito Federal tienen investigaciones abiertas por distintos delitos.

Pero, sin duda, el mayor éxito de la policía mexicana fue la captura, a finales de julio, del "enemigo número uno" del país, el secuestrador Daniel Arizmendi, conocido como el "mocha-orejas" porque mutilaba a sus víctimas y enviaba sus orejas a la familia para exigir el rescate.

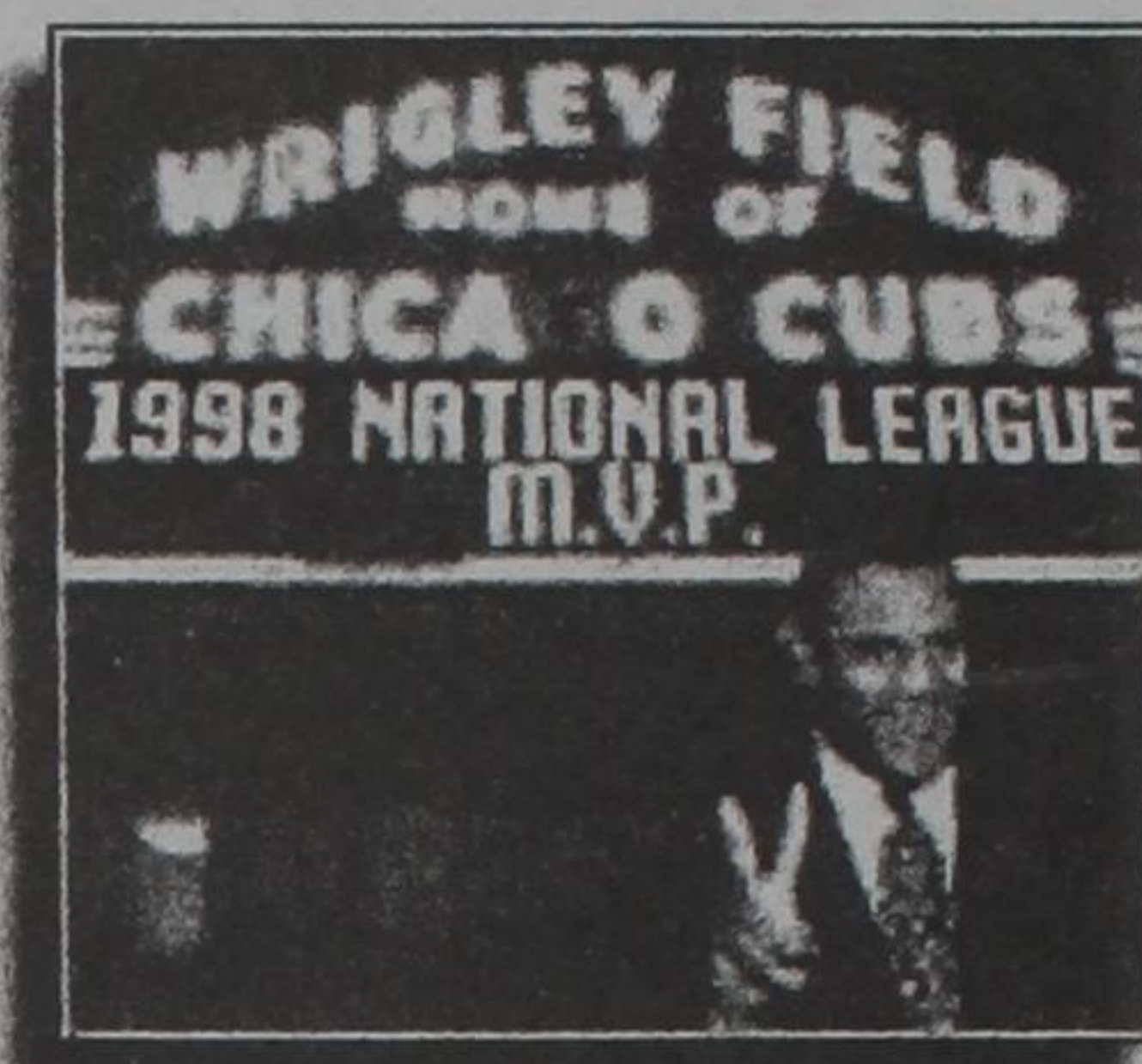
La desarticulación de la banda de Arizmendi dejó al descubierto sus relaciones con altos cargos de la policía de México que no se han esclarecido aún.

La policía no ha podido desarticular otras bandas de secuestradores que operan en el país, en especial en el estado de Morelos, donde varios responsables de la justicia mexicana han tenido que renunciar a sus cargos tras demostrarse su implicación en redes criminales.

retaría de Gobernación -ministerio del Interior- y la Procuraduría del Distrito Federal, en la que participaron unos 300 policías, fueron detenidos y encarcelados el día 23 de noviembre 87 agentes auxiliares y de empresas de seguridad privada por delitos que iban desde violación a asesinato.

Sammy Sosa, el "Jugador más Valioso" de la Liga Nacional

Nueva York. - El dominicano Samuel "Sammy" Sosa, de los Cubs de Chicago, fue designado por votación de la Asociación de Redactores del béisbol estadounidense de las Ligas Mayores como el "Jugador más Valioso" de la Liga Nacional en la temporada 1998, dejando en segundo lugar a Mark McGwire, con el que formó el dúo jonronero más notable en la historia del béisbol.



Durante la temporada, ninguna otra actividad en los diamantes atrajo la atención de millares de aficionados en los Estados Unidos y en países de la América Latina donde se conoce o practica este deporte, como la que Sosa y McGwire impusieron en su trayecto de rebasar los 61 jonrones de Roger Maris, uno de los récords más memorables en la historia del béisbol profesional.

Ambos lo hicieron bajo el torbellino publicitario más espectacular que se recuerde. McGwire superó la marca y terminó el torneo con 70, contra 66 de Sosa. Pero Sosa estableció récord para el mes de junio cuando botó la esférica 20 veces a las tribunas.

En el conteo final, la ofensiva y la producción de carreras del superestrella quisqueyano fueron vitales al avance de su equipo a los playoffs.

Sosa produjo 158 carreras, récord en las mayores y la cuarta cifra más elevada en los anales de la Liga Nacional. McGwire le secundó con 147. En bateo, el promedio de Sosa fue de .308, con 20 dobles, 134 carreras anotadas y 18 robos de base. McGwire, .299, apuntó 130 carreras, 21 dobles.

Lo importante, como se cita en los medios de prensa, fue la espontánea amistad que ambos sluggers demostraron dentro y fuera del terreno y en la simpatía que demostró con su gran carisma el "Jugador más Valioso", no sólo para el béisbol, sino como valioso "ser humano" con su incansable ayuda a las millares de personas que murieron o fueron debastadas en su país por el huracán "Georges", y más recientemente en Centro América, por "Mitch".

Leading Plans To 'Fix' Social Security Cut Retirement Benefits 20-40% For Typical Worker

Modest changes will correct shortfall in Social Security Trust Fund; Indexing Payroll Contributions to Longevity Among Proposed Modifications

Washington, D.C. - By adopting any of three leading plans for reforming Social Security, the typical worker would experience between 20-40% in retirement benefit cuts, according to a new report released today by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). The report finds that most workers would be better off if modest adjustments to the current Social Security program were made, rather than adopting the leading plans for reforming the system.

In Saving Social Security in Three Steps, EPI economist Dean Baker offers a three step plan that addresses the long-term solvency of the Trust Fund, while leaving retirees' benefits and the program itself intact. Furthermore, Baker critiques three prominent proposals to reform Social Security and finds that they would all significantly reduce benefits and/or increase taxes for retirees.

Increased life expectancy is the primary cause of the future shortfall in the Social Security Trust fund, due to the significantly longer period of time that future generations are projected to spend receiving benefits, according to Baker. Simply living longer will increase the per-person benefit payments by nearly 25% at the end of the planning horizon in 2075. The current level of Social Security tax will be largely sufficient to finance the retirement of the large baby boom cohort, but will not be able to cover the cost of ever-lengthening retirements.

Radical plans to reform Social Security are unwarranted, according to Baker, who argues that modest changes will allow all benefits to be paid over the 75 year planning horizon and at the same time leaves the fundamental structure of the program intact. Baker proposes the following changes to correct the current shortfall of 2.19 percent of payroll (the amount each step will count toward closing the gap are in parentheses):

- * Commit a portion of the federal government's projected budget surpluses to the Social Security Trust Fund; or alternatively b) index the payroll tax to increases in life expectancy (1.4 percentage points);

- * In the spring of 1998, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced changes to the CPI that would reduce the measured rate of inflation by 0.2 percentage points annually. The impact

of these changes should be fully incorporated into projections for the trust fund (0.28 percentage points); and

- * Return the cap on the wages that are subject to the payroll tax to 90% of wages (currently the cap is \$68,000) so that it keeps pace with the upward distribution of income (0.55 percentage points).

Social Security must, by law, project its funding expenses over a 75-year period. The 1998 Social Security Trustees' report projects a shortfall in the Fund of 2.19 percentage points of payroll. In other words, if the Social Security tax was 2.19 percentage points (1.095 each for both the employee and employer) higher, the fund would be able to pay scheduled benefits over the next 75 years.

Despite the fact that the Social Security program is sound and will have no problem paying all scheduled benefits for the next 34 years, a host of proposals to restructure the system have been put forward which threaten the well-being of current and future retirees.

Unlike Baker's plan, three leading proposals currently being floated to 'fix' Social Security do not preserve the current schedule of benefits through the 75-year planning horizon. Instead, The National Commission on Retirement Policy plan; the Scheiber-Weaver proposal put forth by members of the president's Advisory Council on Social Security; and the Kerry-Moynihan plan, all involve cuts in retirees benefits by raising the retirement age, cutting annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), or reducing mandated benefits.

Most would also shift a portion of the Social Security payroll tax receipts into individual

savings accounts, with associated increases in administrative costs. In contrast to many private sector insurance and retirement programs, Social Security achieves its goals with extremely low administrative expenses and few instances of fraud and abuse.

Baker's estimated benefit reductions under the three leading plans include the following:

National Commission on Retirement Policy

- * Cuts benefits for middle- and higher-income workers, for example.

- * Under current law, an average income worker (\$27,026 annual wage in 1998) who retired at age 65 in the year 2045 would receive 37.7% less in benefits under the commission plan, than under the current Social Security system.

- * The money placed in mandated savings accounts under the plan only offset these cuts by 10 percentage points, leaving the average income worker's benefits reduced 27.9% from the levels of the current Social Security system.

Scheiber-Weaver:

- * Reduced guaranteed benefits to below poverty level, leaving workers dependent on mandated savings accounts

- * Under this plan, an average wage worker retiring at age 65 in 2045 would receive 22-31% less in benefits than under the current Social Security system.

- * An average-income worker will pay more than \$40,000 in administrative fees over their lifetime.

Moynihan-Kerrey:

- * A lower COLA means that beneficiaries will see a decline of 1.0% in benefits compared to the current law. This change would hit older people, typically



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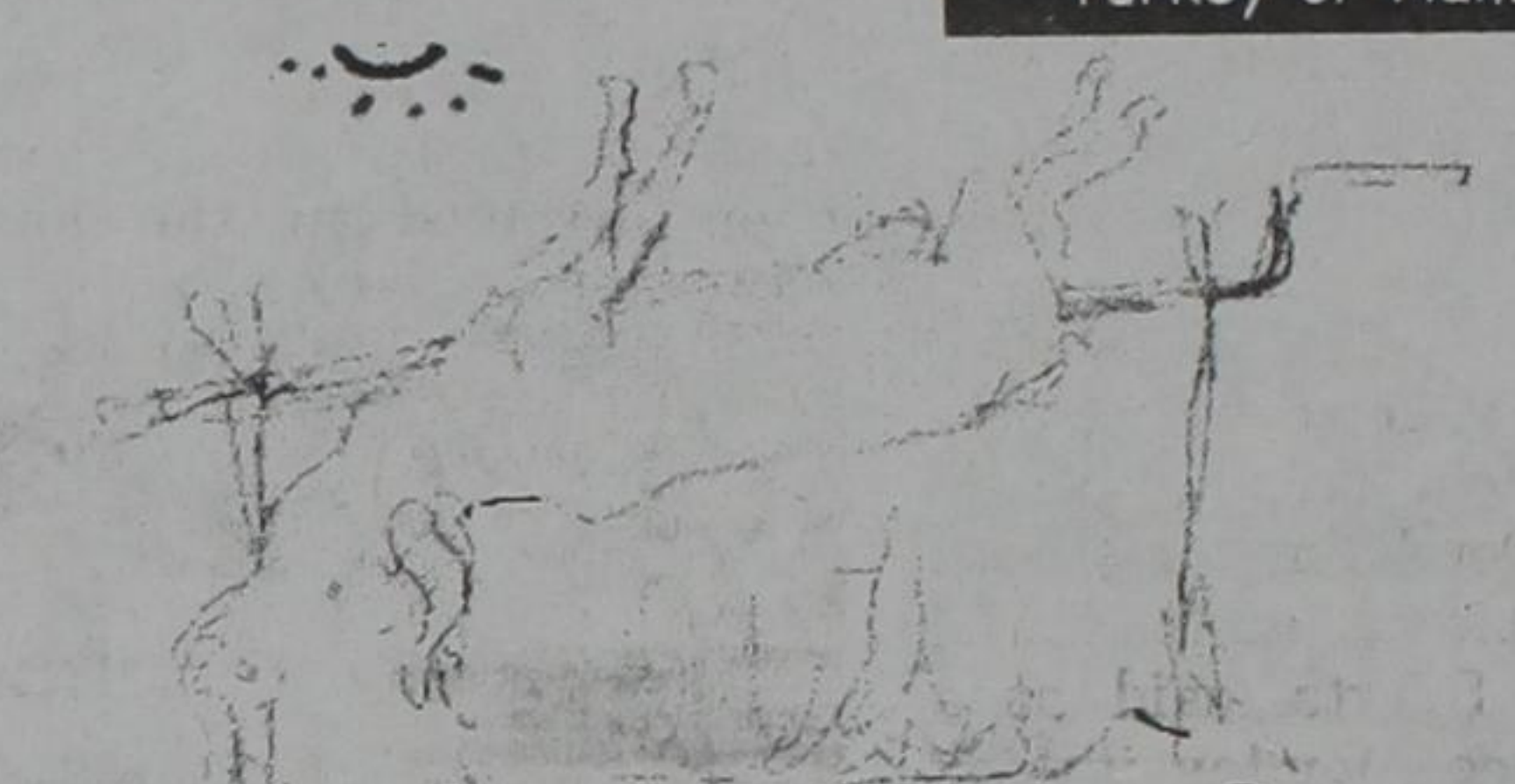
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