

Bilingual Christmas Play "El Traje de Pancho Clos" to be Staged

Lubbock Centro Aztlan will be presenting a dramatic bilingual Christmas play for two performances. The play, "El Traje de Pancho Clos" will be staged at Cavazos Junior High, 200 N. University at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday December 19th and 7:30 p.m. on Monday December 20th. This bilingual Christmas play will be staged by an all local cast and production team from Lubbock.

The play was written by El Editor Publisher, Bidal Aguero and is based on an original short story written by Aguero in 1984. It is about a poor West Texas Mexican American family struggling to survive and provide the best for themselves during the Christmas season. It is about hardship and sacrifice faced by many a working family and the unusual stress encountered when a calamity falls upon Teresita, the youngest member.

Throughout the play the magic, mystery and wonders of the Christmas spirit unravel to give the audience an authentic view of the complex culture which still believes in the rich elements of faith, superstition and miracle.

The one hour four act drama is being directed by well known playwright, Rudy Alvarado.

The cast is composed of eleven members who are all bilingual and bicultural as well as native West Texans. None can boast professional acting experience but several of the members have participated in previous cultural community activities.

The play is being produced with a grant



"El Traje de Pancho Clos", un drama bilingüe expresando el misterio y los milagros de Navidad. Usted y su familia son cordialmente invitados que asistan la presentación en vivo de este drama presentado por Lubbock Centro Aztlan.

El drama se presentara en la Escuela Cavazos ubicado en el 200 de la Calle University el 19 de diciembre a las 4 de la tarde y el 20 de diciembre a las 7:30 de la tarde. Se solicitara una donacion de \$2.50 por adultos y \$1 por estudiantes y ancianos en la puerta. Esta produccion fue hecha posible por una concession de el Consejo de la Ciudad de Lubbock como recomendado por la Aliancia de Artes de Lubbock.

from the Lubbock City Council as recommended by the Lubbock Art's Alliance and with the support of local businesses. A \$2.50 donation for adults and \$1 for students and seniors will be accepted at the door. For ticket information call 763-3841

News Briefs

Study: Racial Segregation Rising

AP and the Los Angeles Times report that a study by the Harvard Project on School Desegregation found that racial segregation is spreading into U.S. public schools. Although African Americans make up more than 20% of the population, the study says two of every three African American children attended schools where blacks were more than half the student population during the 1991-1992 school term. That's the highest percentage since 1968, when 77% of black students attended predominantly black schools. "This report reflects what may be the beginning of a historic reversal," said Harvard Project director Gary Orfield. "The civil rights impulse from the 1960s is dead in the water and the ship is floating backward toward the shoals of racial segregation."

The study "shows that both African American and Latino students are much more likely than white students to find themselves in schools of concentrated poverty," Orfield said. "Segregation by race is strongly related to segregation by poverty." The level of segregation remains highest in big cities and middle-sized central cities, the study found.

The study said that about 73% of Hispanic children attended minority-dominated schools in 1992. Orfield attributed the increases to segregated housing patterns and "a huge change" in birth rates and immigration. He discounted the flight of white students to suburban or private schools as a factor even though others disagree, including the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's 50 largest urban school systems. Public school enrollment grew 7% between 1984 and 1991, while private enrollment fell by 9%, he noted. And he said there has been the same polarization in suburban as well as city schools. Fifty-eight percent of black and 64% of Hispanic children, who live in suburbs near large metropolitan areas attend schools that are more than 50% minority.

Yet educators say there is less anxiety about this segregation than there once was. The parents of students who remain in inner-city schools "are less concerned about issues of numerical segregation than they are (about) the quality of education," said Mike Casserly, executive director of the urban school coalition. Orfield, meanwhile, maintained that integration is important because it gives children contact with people of other races and cultures. He urged the federal government to restore aid to school systems with successful integration strategies and step up enforcement of civil rights laws.

Survey: Urban Youth & Guns

AP reports that a new Justice Department survey found that 22% of boys at 10 inner-city high schools said they own guns and 12% said they carry them routinely. The same survey found that 88% of 835 serious juvenile offenders in the same age group reported they had carried guns before their arrest. The inmates were surveyed at six high-security detention centers. Seventy-two percent of the inmates and 18% of the students reported they had been involved in drug trafficking. Seventy-five percent of the students and 89% of juvenile inmates who participated in the drug trade said they carried guns.

But drug use was not prevalent among the students or juvenile inmates who reported carrying guns. Overall, 93% of the high school students and 47% of juvenile inmates reported they had not used hard drugs, the study said.

"Our impression was that many of these kids looked on drug users with a great deal of contempt. They had a rather businesslike attitude about the whole thing," said James D. Wright, a Tulane University sociologist and co-author of the study.

Youths in the inner-city neighborhoods had ready access to "easy-to-shoot, accurate, reliable firearms," the report said.

Popular weapons were high-powered revolvers and automatic and semiautomatic handguns. "Most of the methods of obtaining guns reported by the juveniles area already against the law," the study said. "In the final analysis, the problem may not be that appropriate laws do not exist, but that the laws that do exist apparently are not or cannot be enforced."

The study was commissioned by the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and was only conducted in schools and detention centers in California, New Jersey, Illinois and Louisiana. The four states were chosen because they reported having problems of youth violence in inner-city schools.

Welfare Panel Eyes Child Support

The Washington Post reports that the White House task force on welfare reform will present several options for guaranteeing child support payments to mothers.

States would try to collect support from the fathers, who would be required to work off the amount in community service if they had no income. Clinton has not endorsed child support guarantees, and the task force is reported to be divided over the issue.

One of the panel's options would advance payment of \$50 or \$100 a month to single mothers who do not receive AFDC, when the father is unable to contribute because of low pay or unemployment. The proposal is intended to keep mothers from going on welfare. Another version would guarantee

The inequity between whites and minorities existed for every occupational group, but was greatest among low-level, blue-collar and clerical workers. The OPM statistics did not distinguish among different minority groups.

"I don't know what's causing the disparity, or how to solve it," said James King, OPM director. "But we're going to do the research to get to the bottom of the numbers. Then, if there is a problem, we're going to fix it."

In 1992, minorities comprised of more than one-quarter of the federal workforce of 2.2 million. But they accounted for more than half of the nearly 12,000 employees dismissed. "These are truly alarming and disturbing numbers," said John Johnson, director of labor issues for the NAACP. "Whether the gap is caused by outright racism, or lack of management sensitivity or inadequate training, I do not know. But that should not stop us from moving against it."

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New**

Established
Establecido
1977
El respeto al
derecho ajeno
es la paz
Lic. Benito Juarez



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El Acceso Legal Continua Siendo Un Problema Para La Comunidad Latina

Por Antonia Hernández

La sociedad estadounidense tiene una relación de amor y odio con los abogados. Nos encanta odiarlos.

La ley y el acceso al trámite legal, sin embargo, han sido y continuarán siendo elementos críticos para la habilitación de la comunidad latina. En una nación donde el sistema legal es la piedra angular de nuestra democracia, resulta de nuestro mejor interés que todos -- incluyendo a nuestros residentes más recientes -- sean ayudados y enseñados acerca del papel que desempeña la ley en nuestra vidas diarias.

Desgraciadamente, hay muchas tendencias problemáticas que no auguran bien y pueden impedir nuestro adelanto. Estas comprenden a una cantidad en aumento de varones latinos jóvenes que son miembros de pandillas o están actualmente encarcelados, la falta de protección de las leyes laborales para los trabajadores latinos, la resaca en aumento contra los inmigrantes y un sistema judicial cada vez más conservador que parece inclinado a quitar los derechos ganados con dificultad.

Estas tendencias son más fastidiosas cuando se considera cuán poco adelanto han realizado los latinos para adentrarse y avanzar en la profesión legal.

A medida que nosotros, el Fondo Mexicano-Americano para la Defensa Legal y la Enseñanza, damos comienzo a la celebración de nuestro vigésimo-quinto aniversario, reflexiono sobre el papel positivo que esta organización ha desempeñado en nuestra lucha para el cambio.

Las cifras, desgraciadamente, comprueban mis temores.

En 1992, los estudiantes de derecho de color representaban el 15 por ciento de la matrícula total de las escuelas de derecho. De éstos, los mexicanoamericanos eran un mezuino 1.3 por ciento, el mismo porcentaje que en el curso de 1975 a 1976. En verdad, todos los latinos, incluyendo a los cubanos y puertorriqueños, representan menos

del cinco por ciento de todos los matriculados en las escuelas de derecho.

De la información relativa a los que han tomado el examen para ingresar a las escuelas de derecho (LSAT), se ve claro por que la matrícula en las citadas escuelas se halla relativamente igual. En 1990, sólo el 1.1 por ciento de todos los que tomaron dichos exámenes eran mexicanoamericanos; 1.1 por ciento puertorriqueños y 2.5 por ciento cuba-

nos y otros latinos. La información muestra igualmente que un porcentaje menor de latinos que toman el examen, solicitan entrada a las escuelas de derecho, resultan aceptados y eventualmente se matriculan en ellas, en comparación con los blancos.

Tan desalentadoras como son estas cifras, enmascararan a un sub-representación todavía más sorprendente -- menos de 100 de entre el exce-

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¿QUE PASA?

Catholic Family Services Open House at New Location

Catholic Family Service, Inc., moved to a new location and is open to provide services at the new site.

The new location is 102 Ave. J, Lubbock, Texas 79401. It is the site of the former Well Baby Clinic. It is located in the Guadalupe Neighborhood, across the street from Aztlan Park and 4 blocks from the present CFS Office site.

The Catholic Family Service telephone numbers will remain the same: 765-8475 and 741-0409 (immigration program).

There will be an Open House for the community-at-large on Monday December 20 from 4 to 6 p.m.

The 123 North Ave N site will continue to be used by Catholic Family Service for parenting classes, Que Hago Teen Theater practice, U.S. Citizenship Exams, and general educational purposes.

For more information, please call Steve Hay, Executive Director, Catholic Family Service, Inc. at 765-8475.

LEARN Educational Talent Search Christmas Open House

The LEARN Inc Staff and Board of Directors invite the public to attend a Christmas Open House to be held on Friday, December 17th from 2 to 5 pm at 2162 50th St.

Meals On Wheels Christmas Adoption Program

Holidays -- A time for warm homes, a giving spirits, and the laughter of family and friends. While this is the essence of what most of us ex-

perience, for many this is not reality. Lubbock Meals on Wheels invites you to share your Heart with the Hearth of a lonely person.

You can give a Meals on Wheels subscriber the joy of knowing that someone cares. For a \$5 donation, Lubbock Meals on Wheels will purchase a gift a subscriber selected and present it to him or her in your behalf. You will receive an ornament with the name of your special person.

Your donation will bring warmth, love, and the true Spirit of Christmas to the "Hearth" of a homebound person this Holiday Season. Mail your contribution along with your name and address to Heart to Hearth, Lubbock Meals on Wheels, 2304 34th St. Lubbock, TX 79411.

Cancer in the 90's TV Series

Hodges Cancer Center of Methodist Hospital will sponsor a special four-part television series, "Cancer in the 90's," on avoiding, detecting and surviving common cancers on KAN-TV 40 (cable channel 11) each Monday in December at 8 p.m.

Each part of the series will focus on a different type of cancer. The topics include: Colorectal Cancer, Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Childhood Cancers.

"Cancer in the 90's," which originated at the University of Wisconsin, celebrates the 20th anniversary of their Comprehensive Cancer Center in Madison. The center has been the site of numerous advances in cancer prevention and treatment. The programs will feature experts from the cancer center as well as patients who have battle the disease themselves.

Legal Access Blocks Empowerment

By Antonia Hernández

Our society has a love/hate relationship with lawyers. We love to hate them.

The law and access to the legal process, however, have been and will continue to be critical components to the empowerment of the Latino community. In a nation where the legal system is the cornerstone of our democracy, it is in our best interest that everyone -- including our newest residents -- be assisted and educated about the role the law plays in our daily lives.

Unfortunately, there are many troubling trends that may impede our progress. These include an increasing number of young Latino males in gangs or currently incarcerated, the lack of labor law protection for Latino workers, the rising anti-immigrant backlash, and an ever-more conservative court system that seems bent on taking away hard-earned rights. These trends are more troubling when you consider how little progress Latinos have made toward advancing in the legal profession.

As we, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, begin to celebrate our 25th anniversary, I reflect on the positive role that this organization has played in our struggle to enjoy the rights and benefits of our society. Yet I worry that we still do not have the skilled, committed legal technicians who will be the vehicles for change.

The numbers, unfortunately, bear out my fears.

In 1992, students of color rep-

resented 15 percent of the total law school enrollment. Of these, Mexican Americans were a paltry 1.3 percent, the same percentage as in 1975-76. In fact, all Latinos, including Cubans and Puerto Ricans, represent less than 5 percent of law school enrollees.

From LSAT test-taking data, it is clear why Latino law school enrollments are relatively flat. In 1990, only 1.1 percent of all LSAT takers were Mexican American, 1.1 percent Puerto Rican, and 2.5 percent Cuban and other Latinos. Data also show that a smaller percentage of Latinos who take the test apply for, are admitted into, and eventually enroll in law school, in comparison to whites.

As discouraging as these numbers are, they mask an even more startling under-representation -- fewer than 100 of the more than 5,700 law teachers in the 175 credited law schools in the United States are Latinos. They are employed at only 60 of the accredited law schools in the United States. Their credentials exceed those of all other faculty hired, with a sizeable percentage of them possessing advanced degrees, having been on the law review, and having clerked.

Once out of law school, the numbers do not improve. The great law firms hold the key to many in acquiring the so-called "American Dream." The dream is increasingly out of reach. Today, less than 3 percent of all partners in the

country's largest law firms are non-white. In the 20 largest law firms, nine have no Latino partners.

Could it be racism? Despite claims to the contrary, large law firms reach as deep as the top 60 percent of the class for white candidates, but they select non-white candidates from only the top 10 percent. Lateral entry, a pathway for those who have gained experience outside of the narrow world of law firms, is also filled with stumbling blocks. These firms' heavy reliance on rigid hiring criteria prevents Latino attorneys from entering laterally, even if they have been tremendously successful in government or in-house practice.

Despite the negative numbers, there are some bright spots that give me hope we can turn things around.

A recent report in Hispanic Link Weekly Report showed that although the number of students applying for law school decreased by 5.9 percent last year, the number of Latinos applying rose 4.2 percent, with applications from Mexican Americans rising most dramatically.

Also, opportunities for non-white lawyers do exist, primarily in small law firms as well as in public interest law. Of those 1992 employed graduates who chose private practice, 44 percent gained jobs in small firms (defined as firms with two to 25 attorneys).

Almost 40 percent of non-white graduates chose to enter into public interest positions,

compared with about 28 percent of white candidates. That is good news for institutions like MALDEF, which are able to attract the best and the brightest despite the comparatively low pay and high workload.

Most encouraging, a few law firms are beginning to understand the importance of diversity in their work force and are taking steps to ensure that non-white attorneys, especially Latinos, are given opportunity to learn and grow. The law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson, for example, recently joined with MALDEF to fund a fellowship which will allow young lawyers to spend two years at its law offices followed by two years at MALDEF. In this way, these lawyers can enjoy the experience of both corporate and public interest law and hone the skills necessary to represent those two distinct categories of clients.

U.S. society in general may never come around to love its lawyers. But when the time comes, isn't it to our benefit to have lawyers who understand our community's unique needs?

(Antonio Hernández is a member of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda's board of directors and president and general counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.)

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Hunger In Cuba -- Is It a Weapon?

by Margarita Engle

Hunger is one of the most effective physical and psychological weapons ever devised. We've seen its deliberate use by warring leaders in Ethiopia, Somalia and Bosnia. Stalin's troops removed food from peasant homes in order to force acceptance of the collectivization of farmlands.

The hunger in Cuba today is undeniably real. In Havana and other cities, severe malnutrition has resulted in blindness, beriberi and other vitamin deficiency diseases.

Rations consist primarily of rice, with one small piece of bread and limited supply of beans. There is no longer any meat or chicken; the only source of animal protein for most people is five or six eggs per month. Vegetables are virtually nonexistent in Havana and other urban areas. Many families have no access to black market cooking oil, powdered milk or other high-priced "luxuries."

Since the recent "dollarization" of the Cuban economy, which allows Cubans to purchase goods with foreign currency at special stores, price have skyrocketed. In a country where the average salary ranges from 150 to 200 pesos per month, one bottle of cooking oil now costs 120 pesos and rice costs 20 pesos per pound. A black-market chicken (smuggled in from the countryside or raised surreptitiously inside urban apartment buildings) would bring 250 pesos, and chances are it would actually be a cat instead of a chicken. Even in rural areas, residents of this sugar-producing island can no longer obtain enough sugar to preserve wild fruit.

The unofficial exchange rate is now 70 to 100 pesos per dollar, reducing the average Cuban's salary to a buying power of less than \$3 per month. The Cuban government blames food shortages on the U.S. trade embargo; yet sugar, citrus and livestock are abundant in the countryside. Perhaps a great deal of that homegrown food supply is being funneled into the booming tourist business; much of it is surely being exported to obtain petroleum and hard currency.

Destruction of food sources was always Spain's method of forcing the Cuban population back into submission during every 19th century rebellion. After the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Castro ordered his troops to destroy all the fields and livestock in areas of central Cuba where opposition by peasants continued well into the mid-1960s.

Until recently, penalties for supplementing official rations with black market extras were severe. In his heart-breaking 1986 memoir, "Against All Hope," the Cuban poet Armando Valladares wrote that during his 22 years as a prisoner of conscience, he was subjected to extreme hunger as part of a medical experiment designed to test human tolerance levels.

Now, with the loss of Soviet subsidies, Cuba's economy continues to spiral downward. Yet the population remains, in general, stoic. Rebellion could lead to a bloodbath on this island with no borders to cross, no escape.

While isolated incidents of anti-government sabotage have occurred during the past few months, most Cubans simply continue waiting to see what will come next.

The fuel shortage aggravates the food shortage. Very few people have access to the transportation needed to scout the black market and the countryside for edible tidbits. Gas stoves are useless without gas, so even urban residents have turned to cooking with alcohol, coal or firewood. Matches are so scarce that embers must be kept burnish overnight to ensure access to a flame for cooking the next day's handful of rice.

Many Cubans have stopped going to work. Scouting for food is a full-time job for those with the energy and ingenuity. Salaries are so low compared to dollar-influenced prices that newly legalized small businesses are booming. Cubans can suddenly obtain licenses to cook for profit, or to make and sell handicrafts out of whatever materials they can scrounge. Street vendors are back for the first time in several decades, and

along highways, peasants can be seen holding up coconuts as an invitation to barter.

But what about all that livestock? The Cuban countryside still has herds of cows and goats. Who gets the meat? Certainly not Cubans, at least not legally. Peasants are allowed to own animals while they are alive, but the penalty for slaughtering one's cow or goat is five years in prison. Once dead, the animal belongs to the government. Newborn calves and piglets have to be registered, just like human births.

Peasants commonly turn their animals loose, hoping the poor beasts will get hit by a car. But the fuel shortage has reduced traffic to such a degree that most cows travel along Cuban roads for hours without encountering a vehicle.

This irony brings us back to the question of psychological control through imposed hunger. The combination of dollarization, inflation and hunger affects Cuban Americans

Legal Access Blocks Latino Empowerment

so de 5,700 catedráticos de derecho de las 175 escuelas de esa disciplina acreditadas en los Estados Unidos son latinos. Están empleados sólo en 60 de las escuelas de derecho acreditadas en los Estados Unidos. Sus credenciales sobrepasan a las de todos los demás profesores contratados, un porcentaje considerable de ellos tiene grados adelantados, han estado en la revisión de la ley y han prestado servicios como pasantes.

Una vez que salen de la escuela de derecho, las cifras no mejoran. Los grandes bufetes de abogados tienen la llave para que muchos adquieran el "sueño estadounidense." Pero el sueño estea cada vez más lejos de su alcance. Hoy, menos del tres por ciento de todos los asociados de las mayores firmas de abogados del país son no blancos. En las 20 firmas de abogados mayores, nueve no tienen miembros latinos.

¿Podría ser racismo? A pesar de los alegatos en contrario, las grandes firmas de ab-

as well. We long to send food, or dollars, to our relatives; yet we know we can't send enough to really keep them going. Even if we could a sizable chunk of our charity would be gobbled up by the very same government that intimidates them into submission.

The Spanish word *fe*, meaning faith, has taken on new meaning in Cuban street humor. FE now stands for Familia en el Extranjero (relatives abroad), and Cubans joke that "to survive, one must have FE."

The relatives abroad, on the other hand, can only keep the more traditional form of *fe*, praying for a swift and peaceful transition to democracy.

(Margarita Engle is the Cuban-American author of the novel, "Singing to Cuba," Arte Público Press, 1993. She recently visited the island with permission from the U.S. Treasury Department.)

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ogados llegan tan profundamente como al 60 por ciento superior de las clases en busca de candidatos blancos, pero seleccionan a candidatos no blancos sólo del diez por ciento superior. La entrada lateral, que es un camino para aquellos que han obtenido experiencia fuera del mundo estrecho de los bufetes de abogados, está igualmente llena de obstaculos. La confianza profunda de estas firmas en criterios rígidos de contratación evita que los abogados latinos entren lateralmente, aún cuando hayan tenido un éxito tremendo en el gobierno o en la práctica en alguna otra institución.

A pesar de las cifras negativas, hay algunos puntos brillantes que me dan la esperanza de que podemos dar vuelta a las cosas.

Un informe reciente de Hispanic Link Weekly Report mostraba que, aún cuando la cantidad de personas que solicitaron entrada a las escuelas de derecho disminuyó en un 5.9 por ciento, y que las solicitudes procedentes de mexico-americanos aumentaron bastante dramáticamente.

Crazy Horse

By Stephen C. McIntyre

So you don't know what to get that apathetic, apolitical...cousin(s) for Christmas. Buy a video for them. Make them think a little. Something like one of the following will make a few of their brain cells exercise: A Dry White Season, All The President's Men, America Me, Bob Roberts, Brubaker, Cry Freedom, Dances With Wolves, Do The Right Thing, Dr. Strangelove, El Norte, Fail Safe, Good Morning Vietnam, It's A Wonderful Life, JFK, King of Hearts, Little Big Man, Mandela, Marie, Matewan, Missing, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, Norma Rae, Old Gringo, Reds, Romero, Salvador, Silkwood, The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez, The Candidate, The China Syndrome, The Graduate, The Grapes of Wrath, The Milagro Beanfield War, The Mission, To Kill a Mockingbird, 12 Angry Men, Under Fire, Walker, Wall Street, X, Z, Zoot Suit, ...

Eliseo Solis has been in El Salvador lately monitoring the elections down there and trying to help establish their democracy.

- 12/6 1865 13th (Anti-Slavery) Amendment
- 1962 Asst. Secretary of Defense Sylvester: "...it is inherent in government's right, if necessary, to lie... that seems to me basic - basic."
- 12/7 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
- 12/8 1886 American Federation of Labor founded
- 1980 John Lennon killed in New York City
- 12/10 1948 UN passes Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 12/13 1954 First issue of Texas Observer
- 12/14 1972 President Nixon authorizes Christmas bombing of Hanoi
- 1977 American Agricultural Movement funded
- 1982 The IRS sends out over 200,000 letters to people suspected of ailing to register for the draft.

Judge Clinton died Saturday morning. Now it is up to Gov. Richards to appoint the person to sit as judge until the November election where they will most certainly run against a Republican. Will it be Ramon Gallegos who ran against Judge Clinton in the last election or someone else that will help the ticket in other ways?

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El Editor Newspaper

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News Briefs Era of Acceptance For Pregnant Teens

The New York Times reports that less than thirty years ago, pregnant teens were banished from schools, ostracized by their peers, or ushered out of town to give birth in secret. Today, pregnant teenagers are no longer shunned or ridiculed. Instead, they are supported in their decisions to give birth, keep their babies, and continue their education. Some adults, however, are shocked by these attitudes. "When I was in high school, girls got pregnant and they disappeared," said Richard Schuldt of Eau Claire, WI. "Now my pregnant daughter goes on 'The Montel Williams Show.'" Schuldt said, "I'm glad the old days of wearing a scarlet 'P' are gone, but today, teen pregnancy is being treated like it's no big thing, like it's the norm."

In the past five years, more than a million teens became pregnant, according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit research organization specializing in reproductive health issues. In 1989, the last year for which figures were available, 49% of teenage pregnancies resulted in birth, 37% in abortion and 14% in miscarriage, the institute said.

Alexander Sanger, the president and chief executive of Planned Parenthood of New York City, said he is trying to figure this all out; How much compassion and understanding should society show toward pregnant teenagers? And when does compassion become a license to do as one pleases?

The prevailing attitude among teens interviewed for the NYT article was that girls who choose to have their babies deserve more respect than those who decide to have an abortion, and that society should let them enjoy whatever moments of glory that come their way, such as being a cheerleader or homecoming queen. They point out the inconsistency of Hollywood images that glamorize sex and celebrities who have children out of wedlock but have maintained their star status as pop icons. Some pregnant teenagers, says the Times, are beginning to be viewed by some of their peers as role models.

minimum child support payments for all single mothers, with the government paying the difference between amounts collected from the father and the minimum assured benefit.

David T. Ellwood, co-chairman of the working group, said that regardless of whether the guaranteed-support option survives, the notion that both parents have to play a role in nurturing their children will be one of four or five key elements in whatever welfare reform package the administration decides to settle on.

Fewer Company Health Benefits For Retirees

The Chronicle Wire Services report that a new national survey shows that fewer than half of employers give medical benefits to their Medicare-eligible retirees. The survey polled 2,400 employers and found that 46% of U.S. companies provide benefits compared with 49% in 1991 and 57% in 1987.

The survey conducted by Foster Higgins, a benefits consulting firm in New York, said the cost of covering retirees soared an average of 11% over a year. Employers pay an average of \$2,760 per retiree in 1992, up from \$2,486 in 1991. The costs have prompted many companies to re-examine their role in covering retirees said the consulting firm.

German Immigrants -- An Example For Latinos To Follow?

by Raymond Rodriguez

We Latinos chuckle whenever we read letters to newspaper editors that begin: "My ancestors came from ..."

Inevitably, the writers go on to exalt the virtues and accomplishments of their family forebears. Most of the letters I've seen bear Germanic surnames.

That is not surprising. In the 19th century, Germany exported more people to the United States than any country, including Ireland.

The writers praise the self-reliance of their hard-working ancestors who unlike today's immigrants -- the letter writers stress -- didn't ask for special treatment. They learned English, adopted "American" ways and readily assimilated.

That is what their heirs would lead us to believe. But let us take a historical look at the German immigrant.

Students of United States history will recall the infamous German Hessians who during the Revolutionary War hired to kill Colonial rebels who resisted British rule.

After the war, approximately half of those hired guns did not return home. That in itself indicates the great advantage enjoyed by Germans emigrating to the United States.

One point the writers unanimously emphasize is that their ancestors eagerly set about learning English.

That was hardly the case. Most German immigrants lived in isolated enclaves. They made every effort to preserve their heritage. German-language newspapers flourished well into this century. Street-corner bands were as common in German communities as mariachis are today in some quarters of the U.S. Southwest.

In fact, their love of music and dancing alienated many of their neighbors. Conservative Protestants objected to the Germans celebrating the end of Lent with free-flowing buckets of beer. Beer and saloons were social customs deeply ingrained in German society; they refused to abandon them. Germans in the United States feared that prohibition efforts early in this century were directed at abolishing their way of life.

Many other settlers of our land considered the Germans to be boorish and overbearing. This made assimilation difficult and often forced German immigrant to move on to the frontier. Adding to the resentment was the fact that most of the Southern Germans were Roman Catholics.

In some areas of the United States, Germans were not allowed to vote or to teach in public schools. Those proud immigrants deeply resented being treated as second class citizens.

The letter writers I read often criticize the demand by new emigres from Latin America for bilingual classes.

Today's immigrants are merely following the lead of their German predecessors. Communities with significant numbers of German residents demanded that instruction in the schools be in German. In public schools. In fact, the Germans were so aggressive in promoting their language that German, rather than English, almost became the official language of the United States.

The fear of property has a long history in the United States. The letter-writers like to boast that their ancestors "made it" without benefit of government assistance.

In many instances, that wasn't the case. One example of government aid was the Homestead Act. For a fee of \$24, it offered citizens or anyone intending to become a citizen 160 acres of government-surveyed land, with the stipulation that they must live on the land for five years. Many German settlers took advantage of the generous offer.

Others utilized the right of preemption and took land to which they were not legally entitled.

Lastly, writers repeatedly ask whether Mexican-Americans or other minorities who hyphenate their identity are truly "Americans"? Until World War I, U.S. German used the hyphenated spelling, proudly proclaiming they were German-Americans. Faced with a hostile anti-German national sentiment during the war,

many chose to drop their Germanic identity. Their assimilation, contrary to claims, occurred rather recently.

Who knows what recent immigrants -- Latino and other -- may accomplish in an equal span of time?

(Raymond Rodriguez, of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor and frequent contributor to Hispanic Link.)

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Merry Christmas

Hispanic Have Lower Mortality Rate Than Non-Hispanics

Study says more research is needed to find reasons for lower rate

Chicago--Despite the fact that more Hispanics live in poverty and have less access to health insurance than non-Hispanic whites, the death rate from all causes is lower for Hispanics, according to a study in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Paul D. Sorlie, PhD, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., and colleagues used the National Longitudinal Mortality Study (NLMS) to provide estimates of mortality for more than

40,000 Hispanics ages 25 years or older in relation to mortality in approximately 600,000 non-Hispanics. That information was matched to the National Death Index (NDI) to determine the number of deaths occurring in the years from 1979 to 1987.

The researchers conclude: "Though the Hispanic population does show some high cause-specific mortality rates (homicide, liver disease, and pneumonia/influenza), mortality rates for the chronic diseases are relatively low. Adjustment for differences in income makes the disparity in Hispanic to non-Hispanic mortality rates even larger."

Adjusting for age, Hispanics were shown to have

lower mortality from all causes compared with non-Hispanic (standardized rate ratio (SRR) 0.74 for men, 0.82 for women). SRR figures approximate percentages, with 1.0 being the point of equal ratio.

Hispanics also had a lower mortality rate from cancer (SRR, 0.69 for men 0.61 for women), lower mortality from cardiovascular disease (SRR, 0.65 for men, 0.80 for women), higher mortality from diabetes (SRR, 1.86 for men, 2.38 for women), and higher mortality rate from homicide (SRR, 3.60 for men). After adjusting for differences in annual family income, the relative mortality rates were even lower for Hispanics than non-Hispanics.

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News Briefs Disparity in Govt. Firing of Minorities

The San Jose Mercury reports that the federal government fired minority workers at more than twice the rate of white workers last year. According to Office of Personnel Management statistics obtained by the Mercury News Washington Bureau, the rate of dismissal per 1,000 employees was 13.0 for minority men compared to 4.0 for whites. Rates for minority women were 7.9 compared to 3.1 for white women.

Increase in Those Without Health Insurance

The New York Times reports that new government data show that the number of people without health insurance grew to 38.9 million last year, up 2.3 million from 1991. The increase was greater than the two previous combined.

The Employee Benefit Research Institute which compiled the data, said that "a major reason for the 1992 increase in the number of uninsured is a decline in coverage among people working for small firms." But it also reported that 19% of the uninsured, or 7.2 million people, are in families headed by those who work for businesses with 1,000 or more employees.

Pizza Hut Program to Help Hungry

The PR Newswire reports that The National Association of Prepared and Perishable Food Rescue Programs (PPFRPs) plans to expand an existing program where pizzas from incorrect orders and surplus product are made available to local food distribution programs. The effort, called "The Pizza Hut Harvest Program," is currently in place in more than 1,500 Pizza Hut outlets. But by the end of 1994, Pizza Hut and the hunger organization, Foodchain, hope to include 4,000 Pizza Hut outlets around the country.

"Pizza Hut's ambitious program serves as a grant model for other restaurants. We're hoping other restaurant chains will follow their lead, so they, too, will find out just how safe and easy helping hungry people can be," said Christina Martin, executive director of Foodchain. "We now have food rescue programs in most major cities, and in addition to the safety and efficiency of the programs, Good Samaritan Laws have been enacted in each state and the District of Columbia, to help expedite the safe and efficient delivery of perfectly good food to those in need."

The program also has the endorsement of Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), the chairman of the Congressional Hunger Caucus. Hall emphasized the need for partnerships between government and business.

PPFRPs help to feed people in need by "linking" sources of unused, unserved cooked and fresh foods with community service agencies. Foodchain, which was started with the assistance of the UPS Foundation, works to link national restaurant chains with local programs and provides support services to existing food rescue programs. For more information contact, Christina Martin, 800-845-3008, or David Sheon, 202-778-1023, for The Pizza Hut Harvest Program.

Los Inmigrantes Alemanes -- ¿Un Ejemplo Para Que Los Latinos Lo Sigan?

Por Raymond Rodriguez

Nosotros, los latinos, nos sonreímos cuando leemos cartas dirigidas a los editores de periódicos que empiezan así: "Mis antepasados vinieron de ..."

Inevitablemente, los escritores continúan para exaltar las virtudes y los logros de sus antecesores familiares. La mayoría de las cartas que he leído llevan apellidos germánicos.

Esto no es sorprendente. En el siglo XIX, Alemania exportó más personas a los Estados Unidos que cualquier otra nación, incluyendo a Irlanda.

Los redactores de esas cartas elogian a la confianza propia de sus antepasados que trabajaban energicamente, y que a diferencia de los inmigrantes de hoy -- según destacan los autores de las cartas -- no pedían tratamiento especial. Aprendieron inglés, adoptaron las formas "estadounidenses" y se asimilaban fácilmente.

Eso es lo que sus herederos querrían hacernos creer. Pero echemos un vistazo histórico al inmigrante alemán.

Los estudiantes de historia de los Estados Unidos recordarán a los infames hessianos alemanes que, durante la Guerra Revolucionaria, fueron contratados para matar a los rebeldes coloniales que se resistían al gobierno británico.

Después de la guerra, aproximadamente la mitad de aquellos indica la gran ventaja de que disfrutaban los alemanes que emigraban a los Estados Unidos.

Un punto en que los autores de las cartas hacen un énfasis unánime es que sus antepasados se dedicaron con disposición a aprender el inglés.

Ese fue difícilmente el caso. La mayoría de los inmigrantes alemanes vivían en enclaves aislados. Hicieron todo lo posible por conservar su herencia. Los periódicos en alemán florecieron hasta

bien entrado este siglo. Las bandas de las esquinas eran tan comunes en las vecindades alemanas como lo son hoy los mariachis en algunos puntos del suroeste de los Estados Unidos.

En verdad, su amor a la música y al baile enajenó a muchos de sus vecinos. Los protestantes conservadores objetaron a que los alemanes celebraran el fin de la Cuaresma con cubos de cerveza que corría libremente. La cerveza y las cantinas eran costumbres sociales integradas profundamente en la sociedad alemana; ellos se negaba a abandonarlas. Los alemanes que estaban en los Estados Unidos temían que las gestiones de prohibición de bebidas alcohólicas de principios de este siglo estaban dirigidas a eliminar su modo de vida.

Muchas otras personas que se asentaron en nuestra tierra consideraban que los alemanes eran groseros y arrogantes. Esto hizo que la asimilación se dificultara y a menudo obligó a los inmigrantes alemanes a mudarse hacia la frontera. Se agregaba al resentimiento el hecho de que la mayoría de los alemanes del sur eran católicos romanos.

En algunas zonas de los Estados Unidos, no se permitía a los alemanes votar ni enseñar en las escuelas públicas. Esos inmigrantes orgullosos resentían profundamente el que se les tratara como ciudadanos de segunda clase.

Los redactores de cartas que leo critican a menudo la exigencia que hacen los nuevos emigrados procedentes de la América Latina sobre las clases de enseñanza bilingüe.

Los inmigrantes de hoy sólo están siguiendo el ejemplo de sus predecesores alemanes. Las comunidades que tenían cantidades importantes de residentes alemanes exigieron que la enseñanza en las escuelas fuera en alemán. En 1840, la legislatura de Ohio aprobó formalmente las escuelas públicas que enseñaban en alemán e inglés. En verdad, los alemanes fueron tan agresivos en fomentar su idioma que el alemán, antes que el inglés, casi llegó a ser el idioma oficial de los Estados Unidos.

El temor a la propiedad tiene una historia prolongada en los Estados Unidos. A los redactores de las cartas mencionadas les gusta jactarse de que sus antepasados "llegaron" sin el beneficio de la ayuda gubernamental.

En muchos casos, eso no fue lo ocurrido. Un ejemplo de la ayuda gubernamental fue la ley de toma de posesión de tierras legalmente. Por un honorario de \$24, la misma ofrecía a los ciudadanos o a cualquiera que se propusiera naturalizarse, 160 acres de terreno medido por el gobierno, con la estipulación de

que los beneficiarios debían vivir en la tierra durante cinco años. Muchos pobladores alemanes se aprovecharon de esa oferta generosa. Otros utilizaron el derecho de prioridad y tomaron tierras a las cuales no tenían derecho legal.

Por último, los autores de las cartas preguntan reiteradamente si los mexicanoamericanos u otras personas minoritarias que usan guiones para significar su identidad son verdaderamente "estadounidenses." Hasta la Primera Guerra Mundial, los alemanes de los Estados Unidos usaban la designación con el guiño, proclamando con orgullo que eran germano-americanos.

Page 4
tarse a un sentimiento nacional hostil contra los alemanes durante la guerra, muchos decidieron eliminar su identidad germánica. Su asimilación, al contrario de los alegatos, ocurrió mas bien recientemente.

¿Quién sabe los que los inmigrantes recientes -- latinos y otros -- puedan lograr en un espacio de tiempo igual?

(Raymond Rodriguez, de Long Beach, California, es catedrático universitario jubilado y contribuyente frecuente a Hispanic Link.)

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Special Education Inclusion Policy Criticized

AP reports that a policy placing children with special needs in regular classrooms is under fire by some educators. American Federation of Teachers President, Albert Shanker called the policy of inclusion a "recipe for educational disaster."

Shanker said teachers and all children, special education or not, pay the price when children who are medically fragile or who suffer severe and disruptive behavior disorders are placed in the classroom. He said school districts are using inclusion as a budget-cutting device. Teachers are not adequately trained, he said, and the special services these children need are not available. Shanker called for a moratorium to stop the "helter-skelter, even tumultuous rush toward full inclusion."

Yet others argue that a policy of inclusion offers the children their best opportunity to learn. "Inclusion means for us belonging, friendships, working together responsibilities, getting along, respecting differences and celebrating diversity," said Susan Lagos, principal of the Grant Early Childhood Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Andrew Stamp of the National Association of State Boards of Education, said he had trouble understanding why Shanker linked disruptive behavior to special needs students. "The majority of the kids creating the problems are not in special ed," he said.

The Education Department reported in November that 34% of the 4.7 million children with disabilities were taught in the regular classroom in 1990-91. About 35% used resource rooms, 25% were in separate classes and 5% were in separate schools. The remainder were in residential facilities, homebound or hospitalized. The AFT said inclusion is being implemented at some level in almost every state, and that California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Utah and Vermont are moving aggressively to put the policy into place.

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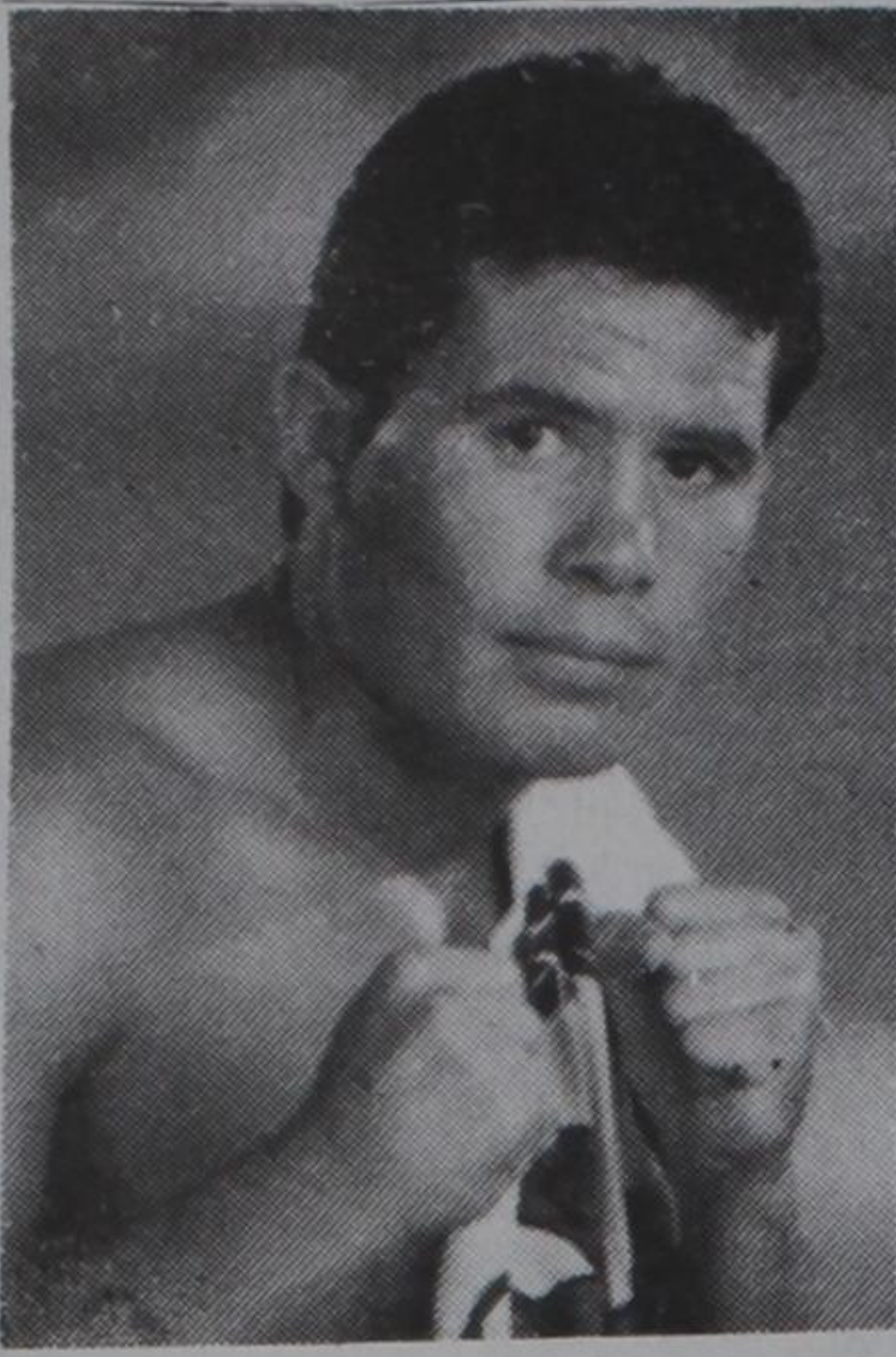
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WBC Honors Its Greatest Champions

LAS VEGAS, Dec 14 - Muhammad Ali, Roberto Duran, Julio Cesar Chavez and Mike Tyson were among the champions cited by the World Boxing Council on Tuesday as its greatest title holders of the past 30 years.

A total of 40 world champions were honored at an awards banquet during the WBC's 30th annual convention.

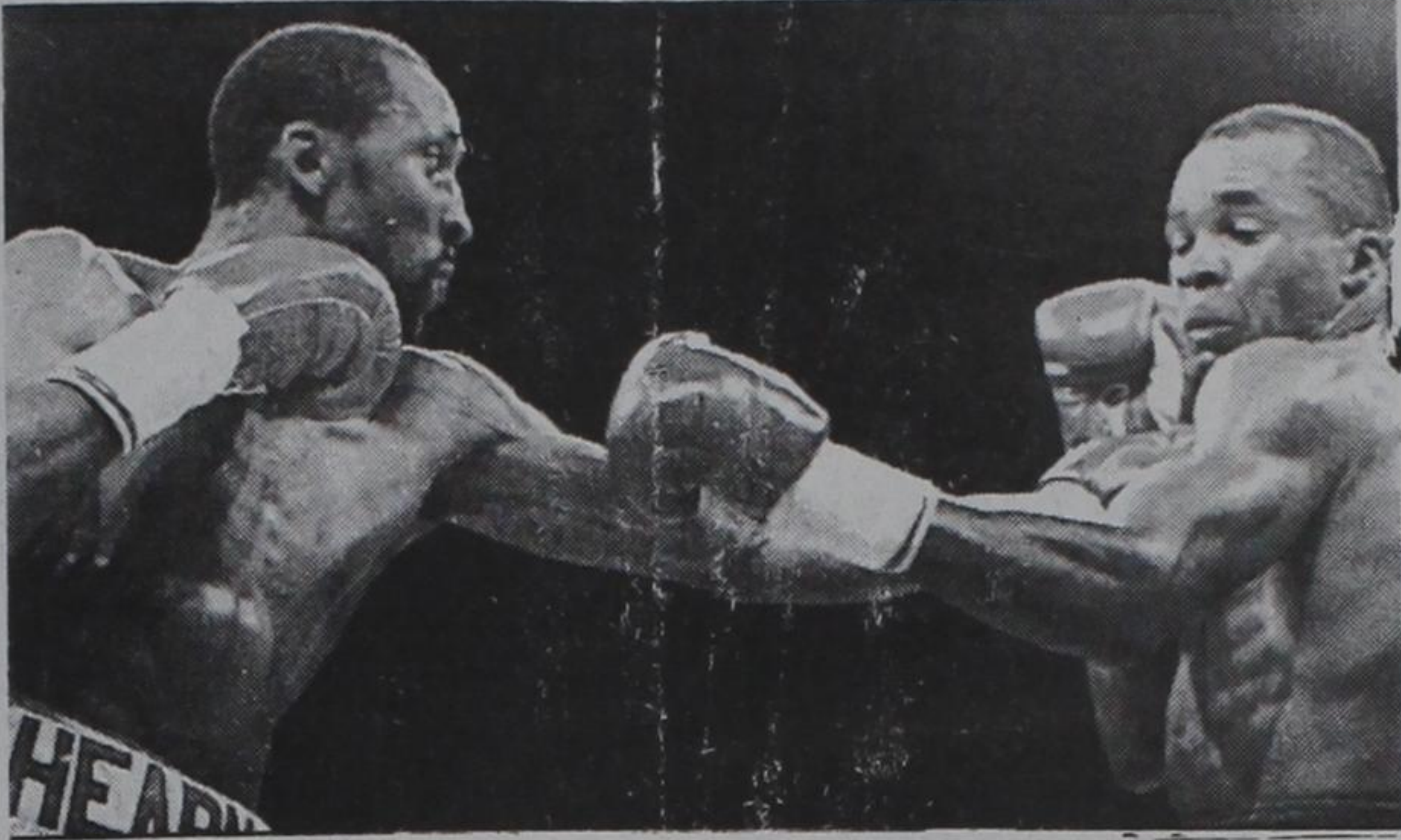
The WBC's greatest champions (in alphabetical order): Louis Acaries (France), Muhammad Ali (U.S.), Bruno Arcari (Italy), Nino Ben-



venuti (Italy), Jean Claude Bouttier (France), Hector Camacho (Puerto Rico), Pedro Carrasco (Spain), Jung-Koo Chang (South Korea), Julio Cesar Chavez (Mexico), Chartchai Chionoi (Thai-

land), Esteban De Jesus (Puerto Rico), Roberto Duran (Panama), Gabriel Elorde (Philippines), Jeff Fenech (Australia), George Foreman (U.S.), Bob Foster (U.S.), Joe Frazier (U.S.), Wilfredo Gomez (Puerto Rico), Emile Griffith (Virgin Islands), Marvellous Marvin Hagler (U.S.), Thomas Hearns (U.S.), Larry Holmes (U.S.), Evander Holyfield (U.S.), Eder Jofre (Brazil), Ray Leonard (U.S.), Carlos Monzon

(Argentina), Saensak Muangsurin (Thailand), Jose Napoles (Mexico), Azumah Nelson (Ghana), Ken Norton (U.S.), Ruben Olivares (Mexico), Carlos Ortiz (Puerto Rico), Gilberto Roman (Mexico), Vicente Saldivar (Mexico), Salvador Sanchez (Mexico), Michael Spinks (U.S.), Mike Tyson (U.S.), Rodrigo Valdez (Colombia), Pernell Whitaker (U.S.), Carlos Zarate (Mexico)



DURAN WINS IN 100TH PROFESSIONAL BOUT

BAY ST LOUIS, Mississippi, Dec 14 - Four-time world champion Roberto Duran celebrated his 100th pro fight by outslugging a man half his age as the 42-year-old Panamanian stopped Tony Menefee in the eighth round of a middleweight bout on Tuesday.

Duran knocked Menefee down in the fifth round and again in the eighth with crushing rights to the head.

After sending the 21-year-old Menefee to the floor in the eighth, Duran gestered to the referee that he thought his opponent had taken enough punishment and the referee agreed, waving an end to the fight at 2:34 of the round.

Duran, who has held world titles in the lightweight, welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight divisions, raised his record to 91-9 with 63 wins coming within the distance.

Menefee fell to 19-2. Duran ruled the lightweight division for nearly a decade after beating Ken Buchanan for the world title in June 1972. He made 12 successful title defenses before voluntarily surrendering the crown in 1979.

Duran reached the peak of his career in June 1980, when he outpointed unbeaten defending champion Sugar Ray Leonard for the World Boxing Council welterweight title.

But five months later, he reached the low point when he abruptly quit in the eighth round of the rematch against Leonard without any apparent injury.

In the 13 years since the loss to Leonard, his second as a professional, Duran has gone 17-7, losing to champions Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Wilfredo Benitez, and Leonard again as well as to journeymen such as Kirkland Laing.

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El Editor Newspapers

Germany & Argentina Meet Again in Miami

It was the first meeting of the two teams since the 1990 World Cup final in Rome when Germany won 1-0 through a penalty by defender Andreas Brehme, taking revenge for their defeat by the Argentines in the 1986 final in Mexico.

But the game was played in a hollow atmosphere in Miami's Orange Bowl stadium compared with the deafening din which accompanied the two teams' previous encounters.

The 33,000 spectators seemed lost in a stadium which holds 80,000, although the large number of Miami's high Hispanic population made their presence known with wild celebrations at the end.

Argentina clinched their first victory over the Germans since 1987 when the South Americans won 1-0 in Buenos Aires. In a brilliant second half, the Argentines were unlucky not to score more.

Three minutes after Balbo's goal, Hugo Perez went within millimetres of scoring when his fierce shot from outside the area hit the cross bar.

The Germans created some good chances in the first half,

but Vogts will be disappointed his striking combination of Juergen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten failed to penetrate an Argentina defence well marshalled by Sergio Vazquez.

Apart from Moeller's goal, the Germans' best chance came when Brehme hit the bar with a speculative cross in the 19th minute.

Vogts will need to do some serious talking to his defenders before the world champions continue their tour with a match against the United States in Palo Alto, California, on Saturday and Mexico in Mexico City next week.

Teams: Germany - Andreas Koepke, Lothar Matthaeus, Thomas Helmer, Juergen Kohler, Thomas Haessler, Stefan Effenberg, Guido Buchwald, Andreas Brehme, Andy Moeller (Matthias Sammer, 70th) Juergen Klinsmann (Andreas Thom, 68th), Ulf Kirsten.

Argentina - Sergio Goycochea, Sergio Vazquez (Jorge Borelli, 86th), Carlos Macalister, Hernan Diaz, Alejandro Mancuso, Oscar Ruggeri, Ramon Medina (Arnaldo Ortega, 89th), Hugo Perez, Abel Balbo, Diego Cagna, Leonardo Rodriguez (Roberto Monserret, 88th).

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Por Srta. Sofia Martinez

El Nuevo Testamento es la fuente mas pura donde se refleja claramente el corazon de Dios. Cristo-Dios manifiesta con claridad Su misericordia. Tenemos caso muy elocuentes: Bartimeo se llamaba el ciego que, cuando oyo que Jesus pasaba por el camino, comenzo a gritar pidiendo ayuda. Todos le decian que se cayara, que no fuera impertinente. Jesus tenia los ojos muy bien abiertos para ver la miseria humana, y lo mando llamar para pregarle la luz que necesitaba ese pobre ciego. (Luc. 18, 35-43). Diez leprosos le gritaban al Señor pidiendole auxilio en su desgracia. Le gritaban porque a ellos les estaban prohibido acercarse a la demas gente. Pero habia otras personas que ni siquiera pronunciaban una palabra, y Jesus, que andaba tras la desgracia, se adelantaba para sacarlos de sus apuros. Una mujer, la viuda de Naim, caminaba delante del feretro de su unico hijo, llorando lagrimas de dolor por la muerte de su hijo. Otra mujer, la hemorroisa, la que habia gastado casi todo su dinero sin lograr su curación, tampoco pido nada. Nomás se acerco para tocar la tunica del Señor Jesus. Y se le concedio su deseo. (Luc. 17, 11-19). (Luc. 8,40-48). (Luc. 7, 11-17). Si Jesu muestra su grandeza con los que padecen miseria fisica, manifiesta mas comprension con los que sufren de miseria moral. La "mujer adultera" ya se daba por perdida. Todo un pueblo de "justos" tenia su piedra en la mano para dejarla muerta en medio de la calle, como era la costumbre, all, en aquel tiempo.

Llego Jesus y les grito: "El que de ustedes no tenga pecado, que tire la primera piedra"... Santo remedio, Cada uno tuvo miedo de que, allí en publico, Cristo le sacara al sol sus trapos sucios. A otra mujer, la samaritana, Jesus se le hizo el encontradizo sentandose en la orilla de la noria de donde ella iba a sacar agua. Jesus comenzo pidiendole limosna: "Mujer, dame agua". Ella le contesto de mala forma. Luego, cuando vio que Jesus no buscaba pleito, comenzo una discusion de tipo religioso. Pero Jesus la paro en seco y "fue al grano"...La hizo que viera y examinara su conciencia: Habia adulterado seis veces... La hizo que viera y examinara su conciencia: Habia adulterado seis veces... La mujer, logro llegar hasta el fondo de su corazon y descubrio a Cristo. (Sn. Juan 4, 4-42). (San Juan8, 1-11).

Ahora, un hombre que se llamaba Zaqueo. Gordito y muy chaparrito. Tan chaparrito que tuvo que subirse a un arbol para ver a Jesus cuando iba pasando por el camino. El Señor miro para arriba y le dijo: "Zaqueo, baja en seguida, porque hoy voy a ir a senar a tu casa". Aquel hombre era un cobrador de impuestos y era natural que tuviera mucho dinero. Cristo lleo a la cena. Dijo unas cuantas palabritas, y Zaqueo en lugar de hacer un brindis delante de todos, hizo una confesion publica...Reconocio que habi arrobado y se comprometio a dar la mitad de sus riquezas a los pobres. ¿Y para que seguir hablando de Magdalena, de Pedro, del buen ladrón y de cada uno de nosotros? Dios quiere que hagamos una buena confesion y que cambiemos la vida. (Luc. 19:1-10)

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Crime Prevention Coalition and U.S. Department of Justice

EL BIENESTAR DEL NIÑO



Hablando a Favor de los Niños Los Efectos Devastadores del Abuso Sexual de Menores

Por: David S. Liederman

(NUH) - El abuso sexual de menores afecta cada aspecto de la vida de una familia. Así dice Karen, una madre que comparte la historia de las experiencias de su familia luego de descubrir el abuso sexual contra su hija. Ella narra la historia de su odisea para ayudar a otras familias a que estén mejor preparadas para el largo camino hacia la recuperación.

En 1992, más de 2.9 millones de niños fueron referidos a servicios de protección de menores en todo el país por motivo de abuso o negligencia. Alrededor de 15 por ciento de todas las querrelas son por abuso sexual contra niños, la mayoría incluye un adulto varón que es un familiar o conocido del niño, un porcentaje menor ocurre fuera del hogar. Este es el caso de Karen, cuya hija de seis años, Angie, fué abusada sexualmente por sus maestros del jardín de infancia.

Karen habla sobre su desecho en "Lo Que Sólo una Madre Puede Decir Sobre el Abuso Sexual de Niños" ("What Only a Mother Can Tell You About Child Sexual Abuse"): "Lo único bueno sería darle vuelta atrás al tiempo y cambiar los hechos para que mi niña no hubiese tenido que sufrir abuso en manos de alguien en quien ambas confiábamos. Pero esto es sólo parte de la imaginación. La realidad de la vida requiere que uno siga adelante."

Y ella expresa su frustración: "Nadie pudo preparar a mi familia para el infierno en el que nos lanzaron... Nosotros tuvimos que seleccionar nuestro camino a través de este campo minado, sin saber que hechos adicionales iban a explotar en nuestras caras."

Abuso sexual de niños - conducta sexual entre un niño y un adulto o un niño mayor a través del uso de la fuerza, seducción o el engaño - es devastador para el niño. Además de ayuda médica, ayuda psicológica es casi siempre necesaria para que el niño pueda desarrollar relaciones significativas y saludables en su vida futura. Aunque no se puede responsabilizar a los niños por el comportamiento de los adultos, es vital que éstos reconozcan que tienen el derecho a decir "no" a conductas indeseables.

Este planteamiento es claramente expuesto en otra historia de experiencia personal de abuso sexual de niños. Jane preparó el pintoresco libro de láminas para niños: "Cuando Yo Era Pequeña Como Tú" ("When I Was Little Like You"). Ella le dice a los niños que hubiese deseado que alguien le hubiese dicho cuando era pequeña que: "tu cuerpo te pertenece a ti y tú tienes el derecho de decidir que hacer con él."

Ambos libros, disponibles a través de la Liga Norteamericana Para el Bienestar del Niño ("Child Welfare League of America"), ayudan a educar a los niños y sus familias sobre el abuso sexual contra menores y a evitar que se conviertan en víctimas.

A través de educación y mayor reconocimiento público, los niños y sus familias estarán mejor protegidos del trauma perpetuo del abuso sexual de niños.

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