

Affirmative Action at Michigan University

By *Jessica Yule*
When new students arrive at the University of Michigan in a few weeks, about a quarter of them will be minorities — a freshman class selected through the kind of race-based admissions system despised by opponents of affirmative action.

Two lawsuits against Michigan seek to eliminate race from the admissions process. While similar struggles have played out in other states — California, Texas and Washington — experts say the fight in Michigan could be decisive for the nation.

"It is a case that very well may go up to the Supreme Court," said Gary Orfield, a Harvard University professor of education and social policy. "It has every possibility of being truly historic."

Michigan may become the bellwether because of the novel and aggressive nature of its defense: The university has spent \$3 million summoning statistical evidence to prove that racial diversity is indispensable to its educational mission.

"Most of these cases have not involved that kind of organized evidence or

development," Orfield said. "I think the University of Michigan has really turned some of its resources into looking at its own racial issues and the consequences of its own politics."

The studies commissioned by the school show that affirmative action doesn't just help minorities gain admission; diversity, the school contends, builds better citizens out of all its graduates and improves learning.

"This is not simply a policy that some universities have adopted because they like it," said university President Lee Bollinger. "This is profoundly connected to the sense of what a modern education is all about."

Trials had been scheduled in the fall, though a court decision Tuesday allowing some minority students to join the lawsuit was expected to cause a delay.

When the plaintiffs in the case applied in 1995 and 1996, Michigan used a grid that sorted students by grades and test scores.

The school can afford to be selective. In 1997, it received 13,000 applications for

3,000 slots in the undergraduate college. The law school — the target of the second lawsuit — gets more than 3,000 applications for about 340 seats.

Plaintiff Jennifer Gratz applied in 1996 with a 3.8 high school grade-point average and a score of 25 out of 36 on the ACT entrance exam. The grid suggested Gratz's application be postponed, while black, Hispanic and American Indian students in the same range were recommended for admission. The school eventually denied her application.

Michigan later changed its system, and now grades an applicant's record on a 150-point scale. Minority students get 20 points just for their race — equal to raising their grades a full letter on the traditional 4-point scale.

Under a 1978 Supreme Court ruling, universities may not use racial quotas, but they may consider race as a factor when selecting students.

The Center for Individual Rights, a Washington-based organization guiding the lawsuits, argues that Michigan's admissions system is unconstitutional.

"What the Constitution permits them to do is achieve intellectual diversity," said Terence Pell, senior counsel for the group. "Part of that is appreciating people from different points of view."

"No court has ever said racial diversity by itself is connected with the mission of a university."

The CIR is known for its handling of the Cheryl Hopwood case, a white woman who was denied admission to the University of Texas Law School. In 1996, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals barred consideration of race in admissions at Texas. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Minority admissions have since declined, according to a Texas report, as they did in California after a voter initiative there banned the use of race in admissions. In Washington, where voters banned the use of race last fall, minority applications are down 8 percent at the University of Washington.

Michigan says it uses race in a way that's fair and legal, and contends diversity would be lost if race were

ignored.

Michigan professor Patricia Gurin analyzed data from about 10,000 students and concluded that those who were exposed to more diversity on campus do better in life and were more likely to work and live in integrated settings.

"Majority and minority individuals whose childhood experiences take place in schools and neighborhoods that are largely segregated are likely to lead their adult lives in largely segregated ... settings," Gurin wrote. "College is a uniquely opportune time to disrupt this pattern."

Alaina Beverly says she's benefited from the policies. A 22-year-old black law student from Okemos, Beverly said Michigan needed affirmative action to get students with a wider range of viewpoints and experiences.

"I don't think white people are being discriminated against with these policies," she said. "I think minorities are getting a chance to show their qualifications beyond raw numbers and raw test scores."

News Briefs

Extremely Poor Transportation Conditions Cause Workers' Deaths

Fresno, - Extremely poor transportation conditions in California's Central Valley have caused the deaths of 63 agricultural workers in traffic accidents in the region since 1994.

The latest victims died Monday when their vehicle collided with a truck carrying tomatoes in Five Points. Of the 15 passengers traveling in the overloaded vehicle, 13 died and two remain in serious condition at a Fresno hospital. The truck only had a capacity for 10 persons.

Central California Legal Services Director Chris Schneider said that, in this valley, which is one of California's most productive, "we not only harvest agricultural products, but also (agricultural workers') deaths."

Just a few years ago, field owners provided agricultural workers with transportation services in buses similar to school buses, which would take them from city locations in Fresno or Visalia to camps where they worked in the harvests.

"But with the arrival of contractors, owners rid themselves of (transportation) responsibilities and left the matter of worker transportation in the hands of others," said Schneider.

He added that contractors compelled workers to use old vehicles to carry passengers. On average, contractors charge between three and five dollars for daily transportation.

Attorney Joe Lara, who has been working with agricultural workers in the Valley for more than a decade, said that field workers "have no options" when it comes to means of transportation.

Since 1994, when former California Governor Pete Wilson prohibited illegal immigrants from obtaining driver licenses, drivers and contractors have increased their income by offering transportation services to workers, said Lara, who works for the California Legal Rural Assistance organization.

With the new immigration laws passed in 1996, some field workers began fearing that they could be deported for traffic violations so they decided to use the services offered by contractors and drivers.

Vehicles used by contractors to carry workers "have been remodeled in order to carry more people, they have wooden benches covered by blankets instead of seats and they don't have seat belts," said California Highway Patrolman Dan Cantieri.

Joe Coelho, a tomato field owner who employs agricultural workers, claimed that he was unaware of the condition of the vehicles used by workers.

United Farm Workers (UFW) union representative Tana Ybarra said that owners, despite being saddened by workers' deaths, are also responsible for the extremely poor transportation that they use.

The overcrowded transportation problem comes amid an INS report that says the agency has deported 133,522 undocumented and criminal immigrants between October 1998 and June 1999, an increase of 5 percent compared to the same period in 1998. Criminal deportation rose by 14 percent, to 47,083.

A whopping 84 percent of deportations involved Mexicans, while the rest involved Salvadorans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Colombians.

Hispanic Professionals Want Time for Art, Poetry

By Yanira Hernandez Cabaya

Chicago, - New generations of Hispanics are finding in art a means for expressing their Latin American heritage.

For instance, Beatriz Heredia, born in Chicago to Argentine parents, maintains that her paintings reflect her social reality as a citizen of the United States, as well as her emotional reality.

"Painting is also an escape, in which I can paint my world. I am not from here, but I am not from there either," the young woman told EFE Tuesday. Meanwhile, Susana Sandoval, who has a passion for poetry, remarked that she tries to reflect her experiences as a Mexican living in the United States in her poetry.

Although Sandoval, like Heredia, was also born in Chicago to Mexican parents, she says she feels very close to her Mexican roots.

"I believe it is very important for me to be a writer because I don't just document my experiences, but the experiences of other Latin women. And it is a responsibility, because it serves for others to know that we have something to say and that our words are also important," she added.

However, for many of these artists, expressing their experiences involves, in some cases, breaking off with their mother tongue or choosing between earning a living and their vocation.

Johanny Vazquez, a Puerto Rican poet, has published several works, but she said that her greatest challenge now was to be able to express what she feels in English.

"In the United States, there are few publishers of Spanish works, and these few publishers prefer authors well-known in Latin America. We, the new ones, have little acceptance," she said.

To make their art known, Vazquez, Sandoval and Heredia have resorted to non-conventional venues, such as Chicago bars and other locations.

But Sandoval and Vazquez can do this only at night. During the day, they teach in the Chicago public schools.

Hispanic Coalition Announces Boycott of National TV Networks

New York, - The New York chapter of the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) announced here Tuesday a boycott, to begin on Sep. 12, of the four major U.S. television networks due to the lack of Hispanics in their programs.

"This is an unprecedented movement, because all national Hispanic organizations have joined together... to ask the Hispanic community not to watch these networks starting on Sep. 12, when the new fall schedules start," Juan Figueroa, President of the Puerto Rican Fund for Legal and Educational De-

ELEITOR

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

Lic. Benito Juarez

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

I had an opportunity to get away for a few days last week to do a little fishing in San Antonio. I put in two day of fishing and spent two days in between each day with the family giving Marisol the her last big event during summer vacation to visit Sea World, Fiesta Texas and the Zoo.

The first thing people asked me when I got back was: "Was it hot?"

I guess some people don't realize that San Antonio is to the south of us. You know. The further you go south the hotter it is.

I might say...since Sea World and Fiesta Texas gave us free media passes...that both places were fun and we enjoyed all the shows presented. I was surprised and happy to see that the show weren't the same as the ones presented during our last visit 2 years ago. I thought we were going to see the same old shows.

We had an opportunity to visit with my friends Nephtali and Josie during our visit and enjoyed catching up with all the happenings of Chicanos in San Antonio. He committed to coming to Lubbock in the near future to exhibit some of his new painting. Including his new "La Virgen de Guadalupe."

As I flew down there on American, in their flight magazine I read an article that featured San Antonio and the hot spots visited by the writer. Of course he had to visit the Riverwalk, stay in the fancy hotels and eat at the expensive restaurants. We went to the Riverwalk too. We went in a small bar and had a cold draft beer which cost us \$5 a glass. We left the Riverwalk. Then headed toward the nearest Ice House.

Oh I mention that the writer of the article wrote about the fancy restaurants. We checked out some of the prices. We headed toward "The Alamo Smoke House" located on Hwy 183 south of San Antonio. Good Food!

All in all it was a good trip even though we didn't follow the writer suggestions as to how to have a good time. Maybe American will ask me to write next time.

*****Pico de Gallo*****

I mentioned that the Fiestas committee lead by Victor Hernandez this year is set to give everyone a good time this Sept. 16 for a total of 4 1/2 days. For more information on booths, parade, entertainment call Victor or Rosa at 765-5481.



Un grupo de indocumentados mexicanos aparecen ya detenidos por el oficial Jesús Garza, durante una de sus inspecciones rutinarias.

Inspecciones Inmigracion Atemorizan Latinos En Ciudad Fronteriza

Por Judith Torrea

Austin, - Las inspecciones de la Patrulla Fronteriza están llenando de pánico a los habitantes de El Cenizo -al sur de Texas frontera con México-, donde viven aproximadamente 7,000 personas, el 85 por ciento inmigrantes indocumentados.

Los autobuses públicos de la localidad de El Cenizo se están quedando vacíos, incluidos los de la línea El Aguila, que realiza ocho viajes diarios a Laredo (Texas), localidad donde trabaja la mayoría de los vecinos.

Uno de ellos es Mauro García, quien fue detenido por agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza cuando se dirigía en autobús rumbo a Laredo. Debido a que no llevaba consigo sus tarjetas de residencia legal, a las pocas horas García fue deportado a México junto con su hijo Carlos, quien lo acompañaba.

"Llame a mi esposa en cuanto nos dejaron libres en México y Gregoria tuvo que venir con los documentos para poder regresar a nuestro hogar", explica Mauro.

Aunque no se conocen las cifras totales de deportados, el ayuntamiento dice que en un autobús con 30 pasajeros suelen ser deportadas unas 25 personas.

El ayuntamiento de esta localidad texana ha aprobado una ordenanza que recuerda la naturaleza de Estados Unidos como país de inmigrantes y prohíbe a las autoridades locales a contribuir con la Patrulla Fronteriza en ofrecer información sobre la situación legal y el paradero de sus pobladores.

Asimismo, la ordenanza declara al español como la lengua oficial predominante.

"La mayoría de los vecinos son indocumentados y sus hijos son ciudadanos estadounidenses. Estas personas compran un terreno y quieren ofrecer un futuro digno a sus niños", señala Elsa Degollado, secretaria del ayuntamiento de El Cenizo.

El ayuntamiento se queja de que las leyes "no conocen el espíritu de la frontera", agrega.

Degollado considera injusta la deportación a México de residentes y ciudadanos estadounidenses que en el momento de las inspecciones no tienen los documentos legales consigo, especial-

mente las madres de familias que son deportadas mientras sus hijos pequeños esperan en casa.

En los últimos cuatro meses se han intensificado los controles de la Patrulla Fronteriza, informó el ayuntamiento.

"Mucha gente opta por no ir a trabajar y se dedica al robo. El índice de robos ha aumentado en un 80 por ciento en los últimos tres meses", señaló la secretaria del ayuntamiento.

Los ciudadanos estadounidenses también se han quejado de los retrasos que están causando las inspecciones que realiza la Patrulla en los autobuses.

Mike Herrera, portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza en el sector de Laredo, dice "no hay nada que comentar. Hay un 85 por ciento de indocumentados. Entonces, ¿cuál es el problema?"

Herrera asegura que las inspecciones "no han aumentado" y que no tiene conocimiento de que se hayan deportado a algún residente estadounidense.

"Los inmigrantes indocumentados que son deportados vuelven a entrar por el Río Grande, corren los riesgos de cruzar la frontera para reunirse con su familia", relata Degollado.

El alcalde de El Cenizo, Roberto Rodríguez, exhorta al gobierno federal que conceda una amnistía para los inmigrantes indocumentados cuyos hijos son ciudadanos estadounidenses.

"La solución no está en la deportación de los padres de familia que pueden quedarse en México o perder la vida en el intento de cruzar la frontera", dice el alcalde.

"Si algo le pasa a los padres, el gobierno va a tener que mantener a los niños. Sería menos costoso conceder una amnistía a estos inmigrantes", afirma.

Esta localidad de El Cenizo, a 20 millas de Laredo, que hasta 1989 era una colonia sin agua corriente, drenaje, luz, electricidad y teléfono, está cuestionando las leyes de inmigración.

La decisión de declarar el idioma español como lengua oficial predominante se enmarca en la política de esta localidad de velar por los intereses de nuestra gente, dice Degollado.

"La mayoría de la gente habla español y no inglés. Entonces, ¿por qué vamos a celebrar las reuniones del ayuntamiento sólo en inglés? ¿Por qué las ordenanzas van a estar sólo en inglés? Si, estamos en EEUU, pero aquí la mayoría habla español", afirma.

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Miembros de la diócesis de El Paso (Texas) y actividades de la Coalición de Derechos del Inmigrante exigieron el sábado pasado un cese a las deportaciones permitidas bajo esa ley.

Indicaron que sólo en el distrito de Los Angeles, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS, en inglés) calcula que 1.200 extranjeros se encuentran a la

espera de su deportación por algún delito que cometieron en el pasado.

En el estado de Texas, las autoridades del INS detuvieron a más de 500 residentes legales durante una operación denominada "Última llamada" en septiembre pasado.

Ese mismo mes, las autoridades realizaron redadas simultáneas en Houston, Dallas, San Antonio y El Paso.

La operación "Última Llamada" tenía como propósito deportar a residentes legales que en el pasado hayan cometido varios tipos de delitos, incluso el conducir un vehículo bajo los efectos del alcohol.

Fernando García, miembro de la Coalición de Derechos dijo que la expulsión de estos residentes legales en EEUU ha afectado

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El Enjuiciamiento Prolongado de Cisneros Plantea Una Cuestión de Justicia

By Carlos D. Conde

El estatuto para la Oficina del Fiscal Independiente, creada después de Watergate para perseguir a los bribones públicos, caducó el pasado 30 de junio. Su última responsabilidad será el terminar con el ex-niño prodigo político latino, Henry Cisneros, enfrascado en los problemas que sus galanterías le han producido.

Cuando sus problemas lo asediaron, la estrella de Cisneros se hallaba en su ápice. El parecía destinado a ocupar un alto cargo nacional. Ahora, en contraste con su ex-jefe, el Presidente Clinton, que atravesó con éxito indiscreciones semejantes, el ex-Secretario de Viviendas está luchando para salvar lo que queda de su carrera.

Parece casi injusto. No justifico las presuntas infracciones de la ley por parte de Cisneros para salvar su pellejo político, pero el sistema judicial parece haber aplicado ya las normas para irregularidades semejantes al dar un pase al presidente. A Paula Jones se le dió un arreglo considerable para que se fuera y dejara tranquilo al presidente, mientras el Fiscal Especial Kenneth Starr se concentraba en asuntos mayores.

Es evidente que Cisneros no juega en la liga del presidente. Su ex-amante y ahora su torturadora, Linda Medlar, que usa actualmente su apellido de soltera, Jones, todavía está persiguiéndolo por abandonarla. Puesto que su barco se hundió, ella parece creer que Cisneros debería sumergirse con ella.

Como Clinton, Cisneros está siendo acusado por un fiscal independiente, que presentará grabaciones incriminadoras en cassette en su juicio en septiembre. La Sra. Jones grabó 88 conversaciones telefónicas, en las cuales Cisneros estaba presuntamente complotando para engañar a los agentes de la FBI que investigaban sus antecedentes antes de su confirmación como Secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD). Las conversaciones grabadas presuntamente atrapan a Cisneros tratando de influir. Sin embargo, hay defectos graves en las cintas, y de esto depende que Cisneros pueda escaparse de ir a la cárcel y salvar lo que resta de su carrera.

Según los fiscales, las conversaciones presentan a Cisneros instruyendo a la Sra. Jones sobre el modo de contestar a los agentes federales cuando ellos le preguntaran sobre los pagos que él comenzó a hacerle a ella. Cisneros ha sostenido siempre que fué un gesto humanitario después que ella fué marginada públicamente y perdió su empleo y una exitosa carrera.

Cisneros reconoció haber mentido respecto de la cantidad. El dijo que le pagó a ella \$60,000 durante tres años. El fiscal dice que fué más de \$250,000. Oh, dijo Cisneros, pensé que usted estaba refiriéndose a

los pagos anuales.

Los abogados de Cisneros argumentan que las grabaciones son inútiles, considerando la fuente. La Sra. Jones reconoció que ella "arregló" y copió varias de ellas. Confesó haber destruido los originales. Los abogados de Cisneros argumentaron sin éxito que la evidencia contaminada no debería ser escuchada por un jurado. Además, agregan, la Sra. Jones reconoció que ella mintió en 11 reuniones con los investigadores.

Pero el Juez Stanley Sporkin no se convenció. El dictaminó que 24 cassettes y las partes no alteradas de otras 4 son admisibles. Ellas servirán como punto central del auto de procesamiento, que incluye 18 acusaciones de mentir, conspirar y obstaculizar a la justicia. Cada acusación podría resultar en cinco años de prisión.

Clinton tuvo a algunos de los mejores abogados que el dinero pueda conseguir, pero Cisneros no ha escatimado en ayuda legal tampoco. Eso está llevándose una buena parte del sueldo que él gana como presidente de la red principal de televisión en español de este país, Univisión.

Sin que importe cuán brillante y talentoso pueda ser Cisneros, no obstante, él no es Clinton. El no tiene los recursos que están disponibles para el presidente que llevó a los dirigentes del trámite de impugnación en el Congreso a ponerse de rodillas y que de un plumazo puso fin al resto del drama de la acusación.

Ni tampoco tiene Cisneros al batallón de malabaristas políticos del presidente, que al final hicieron creer a la opinión pública que Clinton era la víctima antes que el perpetrador. Ahora esto es académico, pero la comunidad latina no se alzó para defender a Cisneros.

El ex-alcalde de San Antonio no desfalcó al erario público ni traicionó la confianza pública. El cometió un error estúpido por el cual ha pagado considerablemente. Mediante la opinión pública negativa contra su conducta insensata y el hecho de que él destruyó su carrera política, la justicia ya ha sido servida con respecto a él.

La persecución de Cisneros antes del juicio duró 2 años. Su enjuiciamiento está costándonos por lo menos \$12 millones. Todo este esfuerzo y dinero no prueban nada, excepto quizás que, como lo probaron Adán y Eva hace mucho tiempo, el cuerpo es más débil que el espíritu.

Si el sistema legal puede exonerar a un presidente de pecados aparentemente mayores, entonces es de esperar que enfoque al enjuiciamiento de Cisneros con la misma indulgencia. Como lo mostró el caso de Clinton, la justicia es el interés libidinoso del público, y ya ése ha sido servido.

(Carlos Conde de Falls Church, Va., es un escritor por cuenta propia.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters To The Editor

Editor:

Several people have strongly opposed Judge Heads Desire to eliminate the General Assistance Agency. I agree this would be one of the last departments I could cut, however, the court can trim a lot of fat from the budget! If I were Judge Head I would make the following recommendations to the court:

1) Eliminate the Administrative Research Dept. budget \$152,011. This department was set up to oversee courthouse renovations. It no longer needed.

2) Courthouse security Budget \$159,664. consist of three security guards with a company car. How can you provide security if you sit in an office in the back of the courthouse. I am of the opinion this department was set up to provide security for the judge.

3) Environmental officer budget \$52,624. This officer duties is to follow up on complaints regarding sub-standard septic tanks in the rural area. This is a duty that should be performed by the County Commissioner.

4) Trash Inspector budget \$44,474. People will continue to dump trash in the rural area - no one person can police four precincts - this should be the responsibility of the commissioner and Road foreman.

5) Lubbock Historical Commission - why should we continue to collect antique farm equipment and place it in storage.

6) Personnel Manager - primary duties are to explain employee benefits to new employees - this should be the responsibility of the payroll department.

7) Jail Commissary - the profits from this operation were over \$100,000 of which the county receives \$2700 a year rent. If we are going to provide the labor operate the commissary the county should get the revenue.

8) Maintenance - this budget has increased from 1 million to 22 million. The court has spent over 24 million for court house renovations and equipment. Why should we have this kind of increase in maintenance.

9) Court House Renovations - as of 10-1-98 the court has spent 20.6 million on renovations. Another 2.7 million has been approved for future renovations - a new Omnimax could be built for less money.

10) Permanent Improvement Fund - approximately 2 cents of the total ad-advalorum tax goes into this fund. This tax was dedicated by the court in 1993 when the jail bonds were retired. This was a special tax, approved by the voters to construct a second floor on the jail. It should have been returned to the voters. Since it wasn't, it should go in the general revenue fund and not courthouse renovations.

Judge Head is correct when he says we need to trim the fat out of the budget. The court needs to make an in dept. analysis of all departments and remove this fat before they consider raising taxes.

Sincerely, Randall Carpenter

Editor:

I would like to humbly petition that my Mexican brothers and sisters the head of the work now undertaken by Mr. Charles Dunn, attorney at Law, and consider helping him to help all of us people of color. Mr. Dunn has taken on the injustices of the racist attitude in the Lubbock Police Department who stubbornly and immorally persist in perpetuating discriminatory practices in this day and age against the Black and Mexican communities of Lubbock. Write him or call him, let him know of your own, your families or you neighbor's injustices. Do something to thwart the serpent from devouring another precious child. There is no middle ground here. You either condemn it or condone it. I ask you to contact Charles Dunn, Attorney at Law at 1001 Main Ste. 502 or P.O. Box 311 Lubbock, TX 79408. And no, I am not receiving anything from this lawyer. I have never even met the man. Thank you sir.

Respectfully, Eduardo R. Estrada

Prolonged Prosecution of Cisneros Raises a Question of Justice

By Carlos D. Conde

The statute for the Independent Counsel's Office, created after Watergate to chase after public miscreants, expired June 30. Its last gasp of life will be finishing up with former Latino political wunderkind Henry Cisneros, mired with the problems his philandering has brought him.

When his troubles beset him, Cisneros's star was at its apex. He appeared destined for high national office. Now, in contrast to his former boss, President Clinton, who successfully navigated similar indiscretions, the former Housing secretary is struggling to save what's left of his career.

It seems almost unfair. I don't condone Cisneros' alleged flaunting of the law to save his political skin, but the judiciary system seems already to have applied the standards for similar misdeeds by giving the president a pass. Paula Jones was given a handsome settlement to go away and leave the president alone, while special prosecutor Ken Starr concentrated on bigger issues.

It's obvious Cisneros is not in the president's league. His former lover and now his tormentor, Linda Medlar, who currently uses her maiden name Jones, is still pursuing him for jilting her. Since her ship went down, she apparently thinks Cisneros should sink with her.

Like Clinton, Cisneros is being pursued by an independent counsel who will introduce incriminating tape recordings at his trial in September. Jones taped some of the telephone conversations in which Cisneros supposedly was plotting to mislead FBI agents investigating his background before his confirmation as HUD

Secretary.

The 33 taped conversations allegedly catch Cisneros trying to mess with her mind. However, there are serious flaws in the tapes, and on this hinges whether Cisneros can escape jail time and salvage what is left of his career.

According to prosecutors, the conversations have Cisneros coaching Jones on how to respond to the feds when they asked about the payments he started making to her. Cisneros has always maintained it was a humanitarian gesture after she was publicly ostracized and lost her job and a successful livelihood. He admittedly fudged on the amount. He said he paid her about \$60,000 over three years. The prosecutor says it was more than \$250,000. Oh, Cisneros rejoined, I thought you were referring to annual payments.

Cisneros' lawyers contend the tapes are worthless, considering the source. Jones admitted she doctored and copied several of them. She confessed to destroying the originals. Cisneros' lawyers argued unsuccessfully that the tainted evidence that should not be heard by a jury. Furthermore, they added, Jones conceded she lied in 11 meetings with the investigators.

Judge Stanley Sporkin wasn't impressed. He ruled the tapes are admissible. They will serve as the heart of the indictment, which includes 18 counts of lying, conspiracy and obstructing justice. Each count could carry five years' imprisonment.

Clinton had some of the best lawyers that money can buy. Cisneros hasn't skimped on legal assistance either. It's probably eating a good part of the salary he earns as president of this

nation's leading Spanish-language television network, Univisión.

No matter how bright and talented Cisneros might be, however, he is not Clinton. He does not have the resources available to the president that brought the impeachment leaders in Congress to their knees and in one swipe ended the rest of the prosecutorial drama.

Nor does Cisneros have the president's battalion of political spinners who in the end had public opinion believing it was Clinton who was the victim, rather than the perpetrator.

It's academic now, but the Latino community did not rise in defense of Cisneros.

The former San Antonio mayor did not pilfer the public treasury or betray the public trust. He made a stupid mistake for which he has paid dearly. Through negative public opinion against his thoughtless conduct and the fact that it destroyed his political career, justice has already been served on him.

The pretrial pursuit of Cisneros took two years. His prosecution is costing us at least \$12 million dollars. All this effort and money prove nothing except perhaps that, as Adam and Eve proved long ago, the flesh is weaker than the spirit.

If the legal system can exonerate a president for seemingly greater sins, then hopefully it will approach the prosecution of Cisneros with the same forbearance. As Clinton's case showed, justice is the public's prurient interest, and that has already been served.

(Carlos Conde of Falls Church, Va., is a free-lance writer.) (c) 1999, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Activistas De Puerto Rico Traen Asunto De Vieques a Estados Unidos

By Patricia Guadalupe

Los partidarios de una medida para poner fin al uso de la isla municipal de Vieques por parte de la Marina de los Estados Unidos para prácticas de bombardeo y otras maniobras están acelerando sus gestiones de cabileo en Washington, D.C. y otras ciudades importantes, a sólo semanas antes de que una comisión presidencial expida sus recomendaciones.

La comisión, formada después de que un incidente de bombardeo el pasado abril le cobrara la vida a un civil de la isla, está investigando la viabilidad de continuar las maniobras navales en Vieques, al sureste de Puerto Rico. Los militares estadounidenses usan el 13 por ciento de Puerto Rico y sus islas adyacentes, haciendo que ésa sea, en proporción, la mayor concentración de recursos militares estadounidenses en cualquier parte de los Estados Unidos y sus territorios. Se espera que la comisión presente sus recomendaciones al Presidente Clinton este mes, quien como comandante en jefe tiene la decisión final.

El Representante Luis Gutiérrez (demócrata por Illinois) plantea esta comparación: "Imagínense que una bomba estallara a una milla del centro de Chicago." El agrega: "Las personas necesitan saber que los militares de los Estados Unidos han estado bombardeando a sus propios ciudadanos y que sus propios ciudadanos han estado viviendo en medio de un campo de

prácticas de tiro. Es indignante."

Los miembros del grupo de coalición Todo Puerto Rico para Vieques efectuaron una asamblea el 4 de agosto frente al Capitolio de los Estados Unidos para llamar la atención del Congreso hacia el asunto, antes de que los legisladores se fueran a su receso.

"Este asunto no puede desaparecer, y no desaparecerá," dijo el portavoz de la coalición, Flavio Cumpiano. "Es inconcebible lo que está sucediendo en Vieques y estamos exigiendo que se le ponga fin. El Presidente Clinton necesita actuar."

Las gestiones de cabileo del grupo en Washington este mes incluyen reuniones con la subdirectora de personal de la Casa Blanca, María Echaveste, y otros importantes funcionarios de la administración Clinton. En Nueva York, varios senadores estatales y los miembros hispanos del consejo municipal de la ciudad de Nueva York están organizando un viaje a Vieques en septiembre, para tomar parte en las protestas allí. Desde el pasado abril, un grupo de activistas han estado acampando en Vieques, prometiendo permanecer hasta que la Marina se vaya de allí permanentemente. Varios grupos de Chicago, Miami y otras ciudades están considerando semejantes viajes.

En el decenio de 1940, la Marina de los Estados Unidos explotó el 75 por ciento de Vieques, una pequeña isla de 9,300 habitantes.

Los ambientalistas argumentan que las maniobras han dañado gravemente el sistema ecológico de la isla -- la Marina reconoció hace poco haber usado el gas napalm en la isla -- y la Agencia para el Registro de Substancias y Enfermedades Tóxicas, una entidad federal para la observación del cáncer, empezó una investigación el 29 de julio sobre los alegatos de que los ejercicios de bombardeo de los Estados Unidos han resultado en altos niveles de cáncer en Vieques. Las tasas de cáncer de Vieques son más del doble que las de Puerto Rico y se hallan entre las más elevadas de los Estados Unidos y sus territorios.

Los oficiales de la Marina dicen que la isla es de "interés vital para la seguridad nacional," un argumento que hasta algunos miembros conservadores del Congreso rechazan. "Es absolutamente ridículo el decir que no hay un desierto en alguna parte, o que no hay cualquier otro lugar para llevar a cabo este tipo de maniobras," dice el congresista republicano Lincoln Diaz-Balart, cubano-estadounidense del sur de la Florida. "Nosotros (los miembros del Congreso) tenemos mucho que decir en cuanto a lo que hace la Marina. Voy a tratar de asegurar que la Marina se vaya a otro lugar."

Como ningún otro asunto, Vieques ha unido a los puertorriqueños de todas las corrientes ideológicas. Los grupos puertorriqueños de Puerto Rico y del con-

tinenten han estado organizándose para formar coaliciones con otros grupos hispanos. La Liga de Ciudadanos Latino-Americanos Unidos (LULAC), con sede en Texas, está coordinando una gestión de divulgación.

"Es un insulto para todos los latinos que el gobierno se dedique a una práctica indignante como el bombardeo de una isla habitada, con lo que nunca podrían hacer en una zona no hispana de los Estados Unidos," dijo Rick Dovalina, presidente de LULAC.

Otro grupo, la Coalición Puertorriqueña Nacional, de Washington, D.C., (NPRC) está ayudando a organizar una "marcha de solidaridad" el 11 de septiembre en la ciudad de Nueva York. Gutiérrez no descarta actos de desobediencia civil a nivel nacional si el grupo presidencial recomienda que la Marina permanezca en Vieques y el presidente sigue sus determinaciones. "Y dependiendo de lo que digan los candidatos sobre el asunto, no dudo de que podría tener un efecto sobre el modo de que los puertorriqueños voten en las elecciones del año que viene, a nivel nacional, estatal y local," agregó.

(Patricia Guadalupe es editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C. Es posible comunicarse con ella por el (202) 234-0280, o por correo electrónico mediante el indicativo zapoteca(AT SIGN)aol.com) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate

By Patricia Guadalupe

Supporters of a move to end the U.S. Navy's use of the municipal island of Vieques for bombing practices and other maneuvers are stepping up their lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., and other major cities, just weeks before a presidential commission issues its recommendations.

The commission, formed after an April bombing accident killed an island civilian, is investigating the feasibility of continuing naval maneuvers on Vieques, off the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico.

The U.S. military utilizes 13 percent of Puerto Rico and its surrounding islands, making it by proportion the largest concentration of U.S. military resources anywhere in the United States and its territories. The commission is expected to make its recommendations this month to President Clinton, who as commander-in-chief, has the final decision.

Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-III) draws the comparison: "Imagine if a bomb went off a mile away from downtown Chicago."

He adds, "People need to know that the U.S. military has been bombing its own citizens, and that its own citizens have been living in the middle of a bombing range. It's outrageous."

Members of the coalition group, Todo Puerto Rico Para Vieques, held a rally Aug. 4 in front of the U.S. Capitol to bring congressional attention to the matter before legislators left for their month-long summer recess.

"This issue cannot and will not go away," said coalition spokesperson Flavio Cumpiano. "It is unconscionable what is going on in Vieques, and we are demanding an end to it. President Clinton

News Briefs

fense, told EFE. From Page 1

Of the 26 new series to be televised during the 1999-2000 season, only one, NBC's "West Wing," includes an actor of Hispanic descent, Martin Sheen, according to organizers.

NHMC co-director Marta Garcia said the networks - ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX - have an obligation to reflect society's make-up.

"Even though the networks are not regulated by the Federal Communication Commission, their affiliates are, and legal action can therefore be taken when they engage in acts of discrimination," she said.

Garcia added that, in addition to Hispanics, other minority groups have also been excluded from the network programming, including African-Americans, Asians and other minorities.

Organizers also said that news programs have a few Hispanics in charge of news management and preparation and, consequently, news content tends to portray a distorted image of the Hispanic community.

"Such was the case at WCBS, where the general manager pointed his finger at us and said that he didn't care what we said," Garcia said, adding: "Now we are waiting for an apology from him."

According to National Coalition of La Raza (NCLR) data, Hispanics make up 11 percent of the U.S. population but only have a two percent representation on the most popular TV programs.

The protest is backed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which is also expected to announce shortly a similar initiative.

Hispanic Protest Immigration Law Which calls for Deportations

San Diego, - Relatives of hundreds of immigrants who are in custody and undergoing deportation proceedings for having committed misdemeanors began a series of protests against the 1996 immigration law which will continue until Oct. 12 in Washington.

"We saw Proposition 187 fall a few days ago, now we have to start changing the federal laws which have affected us the most," said Agricultural Workers Union co-founder Dolores Huerta, in reference to the repeal of said law which denied basic education and health services to illegal immigrants.

Huerta stated that the march "is only an example of the protests that we are going to hold in California, which have as a goal the defense of the civil and human rights of Hispanic immigrants."

Some 400 demonstrators - many of them women and children - walked the streets of San Diego Sunday requesting the release of their relatives whose deportation may be pending because of crimes they committed over the past decade or so.

The spouse of one such detainee, Rosa Villalobos, said that she and her children are U.S. citizens but her husband, Marco Antonio Arce, is only a resident. He is currently jailed on traffic violations committed five years ago.

Villalobos mentioned the problems she has had to face since her husband was arrested, including having to look for a job as well as finding someone with whom to leave her children while she is at work.

"Immigration agents don't care about our lives, or about what happens to people like us who are American citizens," she said.

"We have been desperate ever since the agents came early one morning, knocked on our door and arrested my husband in order to deport him forever," she said.

A representative from the La Raza Attorneys Association, Lilia Velasquez, said that "Congress went too far this time, passing a law which brought suffering to thousands of Hispanic families throughout the country."

Velasquez said that citizen groups affected by the 1996 immigration law will travel to Washington on Oct. 12, the Day of La Raza, to ask Congress to amend the legislation which punishes all illegal residents with criminal records by deporting them.

10 Rules For High School Grads From A Guy Who Took Eight Years To Get Through College

By Joe Rodriguez

It's the season to give graduation addresses, and I received two invitations from alternative high schools: Would I speak to seniors who had almost dropped out, who needed special attention to earn diplomas and who were headed for college but still needed a pep talk?

Lord knows, I'm no orator. I suffer from stage fright, get all sweaty and stiff. I accepted immediately.

These seniors reminded me of myself, and some of my friends, long ago. Like us, most were nonwhite or blue-collar or both, the first in the family to complete high school or enroll in college or vocational school.

Most of my friends dropped out in junior college. It took me eight years to earn my bachelor's degree. Looking back, I wrote down 10 things to help the "Almost Didn't Make It" class of 1999 get through the next stage of their education.

1. Be a total student. Even if you live at home or have to work part time, you must feel and think like a full-time student who lives on campus. Study is the highest priority. Hang out more at college. Hang out less, or not at all, with old friends who aren't doing anything.

2. Resist the temptation to buy expensive stuff. Taking a break from school to work and buy a hot, new car is a sure step toward dropping out. A nice car may carry you 100,000 miles or more, but a good education will carry you for life.

3. Learn to handle family crises that pressure students to leave school. It's never easy, but you can be responsible without dropping out. It takes good planning, as well as learning how to cope with feelings of guilt and criticism from other family members.

4. Don't worry about the tuition. Only the wealthy pay their way through college these days. Don't let a lack of money stop you from attending the school you want. Most will help you with a combination of grants, loans and work-study programs.

5. Study harder in college. Be prepared for this shock: High school was easy, compared to college. Professors and classes in colleges are more demanding and

less flexible, and the students are more competitive.

6. Fight loneliness, homesickness and alienation. Many non-white and blue-collar students fresh from high school feel isolated at mainstream or elite colleges. If you're feeling blue, do what E.T. did -- call home. Seek out students with similar interests and background.

7. Get to know students of different backgrounds. Don't isolate yourself by race, culture or social class. College is your gateway to our ever-shrinking societal melting pot. Success comes to those who embrace change.

8. Ignore career confusion. Only a lucky few people fall from their mother's womb knowing exactly what they want to do in life. We hate them. Most of us get confused in college, change our majors, stress out big time. It's natural. Blow it off. Here's a little secret about the real world after college: Your major isn't critical.

9. You are much more than a future employee, so don't think like one. A real education doesn't prepare you for a specific job in a specific industry. It won't simply fill your head with information. Rather, it draws out your potential and develops your talents and abilities. Here's another secret: That's who enlightened companies really want to hire -- people who are well-rounded, creative and confident enough to push the company forward.

10. Remember where you came from. This is the most important rule. The love and support you received from your family, teachers and community are your source of strength. Also remember the hardships and social and economic injustices you endured, but don't let them harden your heart.

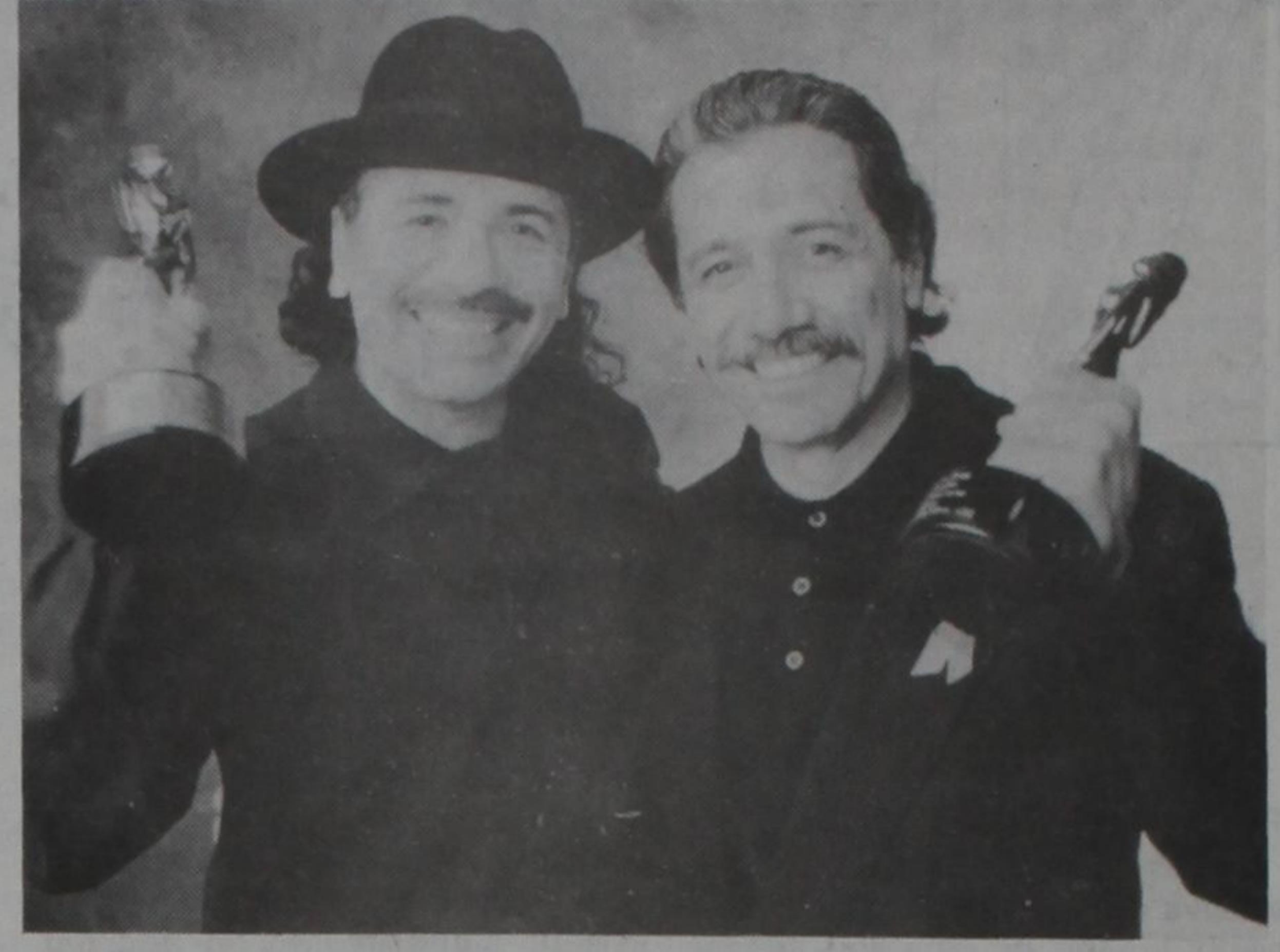
Instead, study and understand those problems. Only then will you be able to correct them.

The graduates and audiences applauded. I said, "Thank you," and watched them walk into the future.

(Joe Rodriguez is a columnist with the San Jose Mercury News in San Jose, Calif.)

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Golden Eagle Awards Highlight Hispanic Presence In The Arts



By Rocio Ayuso

Los Angeles, - The Hispanic organization "Nosotros" will celebrate its 29th year Friday with a gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles and an award ceremony to recognize outstanding achievement by Hispanics in the theater, music, television and films.

The ceremony will take place amid controversy over a perceived lack of Hispanics and other minorities in next season's U.S. television programming, as well as the presence of noticeably fewer Hispanics on the big screen this year than in previous years.

Actor Ricardo Montalban founded "Nosotros" in 1970 to improve the Hispanic image in the arts and increase opportunities for Hispanics both in front of and behind the camera.

"We have simple, straightforward goals. We want to work within the system, improving the image and fulfilling the ambitions of the 30 million Hispanics living in the United States," Montalban said.

This year the organization will present its Golden Eagle award to singer Jose Feliciano, as well as actor Eddie Albert, journalist Maria Elena Salinas and actor Henry Darrow, best known for his character "Manolito" in the "High Chaparral" series.

Honors will also go to actress Laura Fabian, Pedro Gonzalez Gonzalez and Tito Guizar, who was recently saluted by the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles as a Hispanic pioneer in Hollywood for his performances with Bob Hope during the golden age of film.

The Golden Eagle will also be awarded to the National Council of la Raza, which celebrated its annual convention in Houston this week.

During the convention, La Raza members voted to boycott the four largest TV networks in the United States - CBS, ABC, NBC and Fox - next September, citing the lack of leading roles for Hispanics in all of next season's 27 new series.

The ABC network has responded to the boycott by announcing an expanded minority casting in its new programs, including the series "Sabrina," which will feature a Hispanic woman.

During the Golden Eagle award ceremony, the organization is scheduled to announce an eight-million-dollar project which includes the purchase of a Hollywood wood theatre to be used as an acting school for Hispanic performers.

The project will be named after Ricardo Montalban, in honor of the actor who has presided the organization for many years, and whose goal is to provide tools for the advancement of Hispanics in show business.

Hosted by actors Hector Elizondo, Esai Morales and Edward James Olmos, among others, the Golden Eagle award ceremony will celebrate Hispanic achievement and render tribute to Hispanic artists.

"We extend an invitation to all Hispanic professionals in show business to join us in our efforts, for only together will we reach our highest goals," Montalban said.

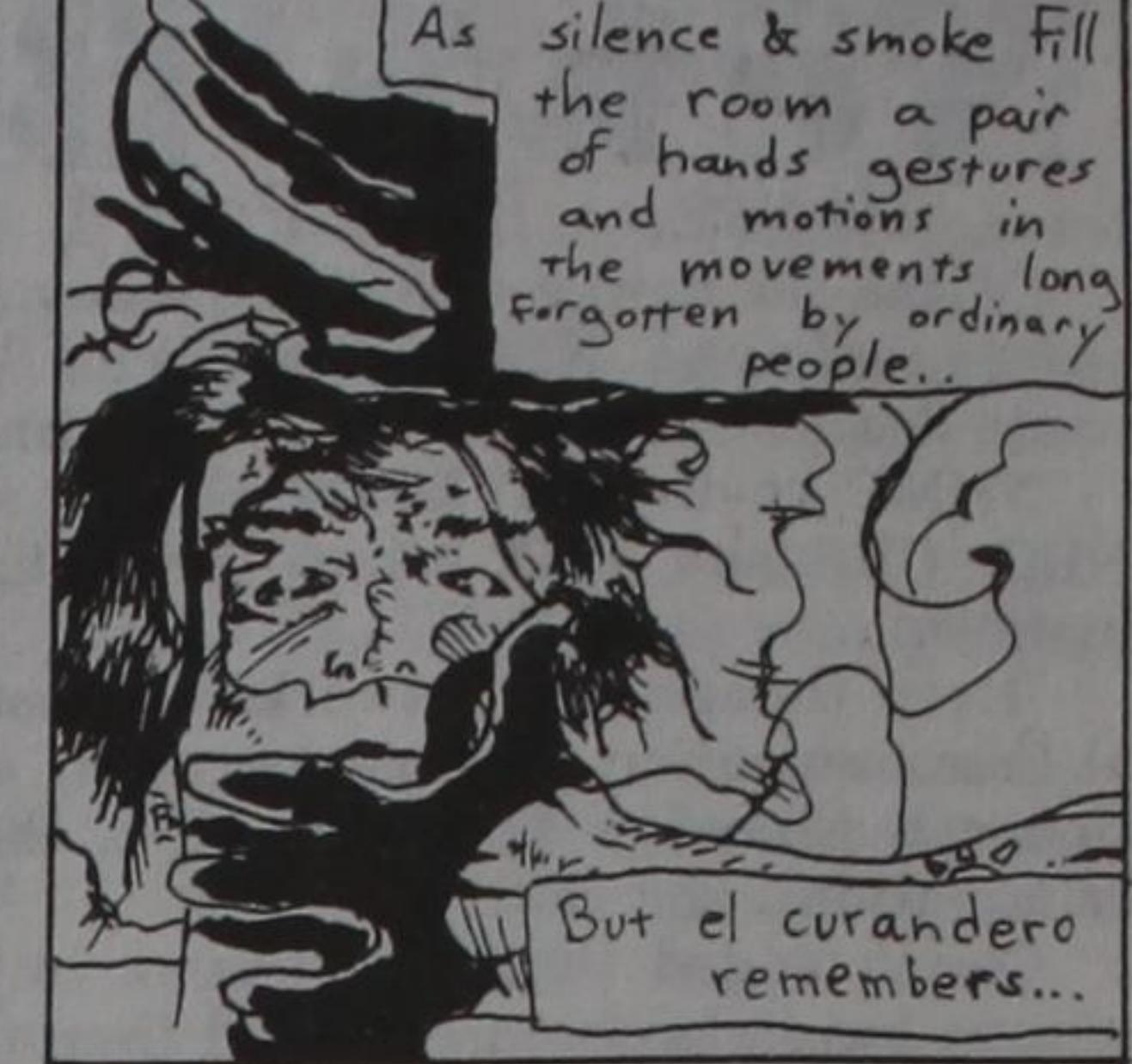
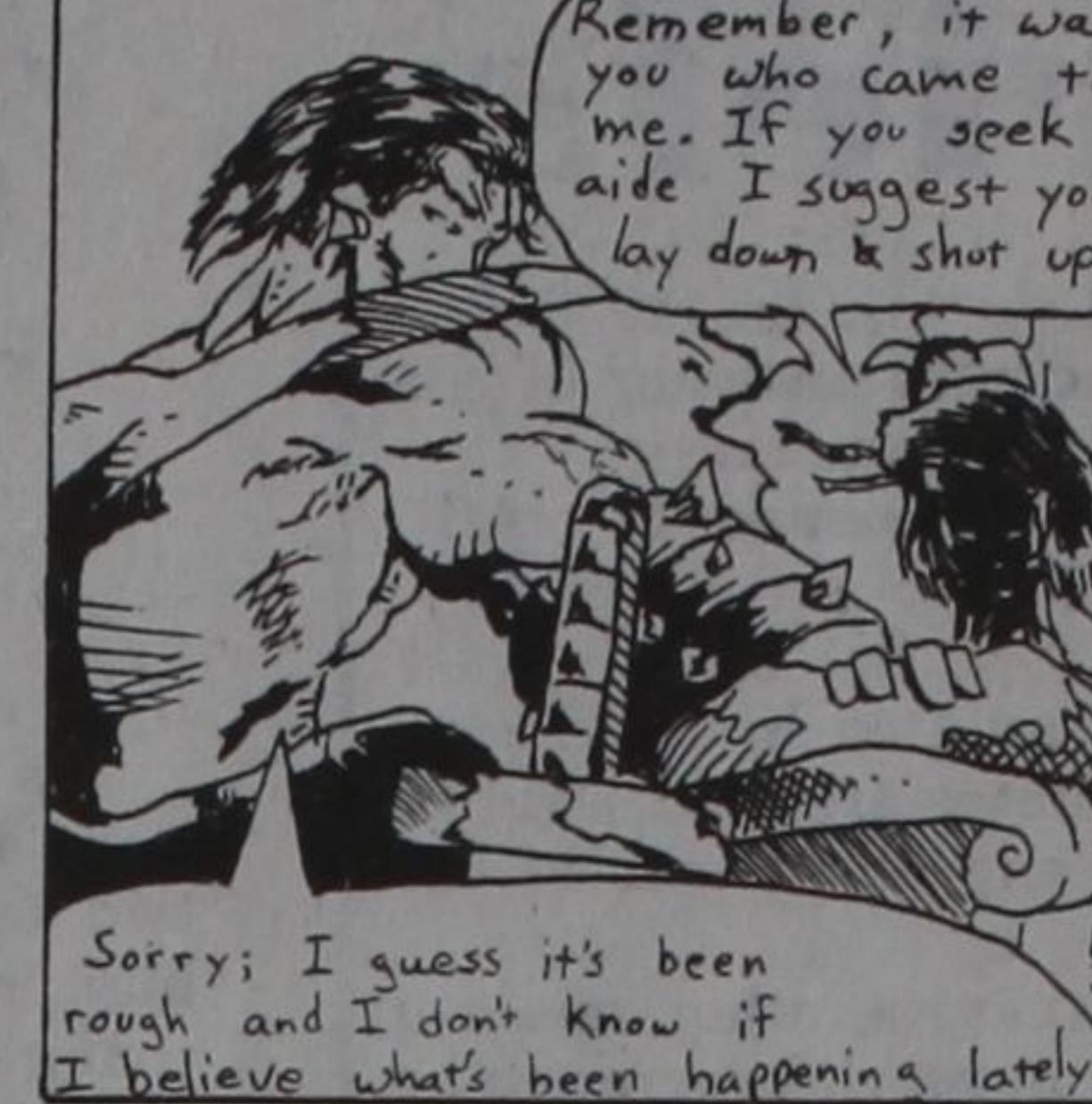
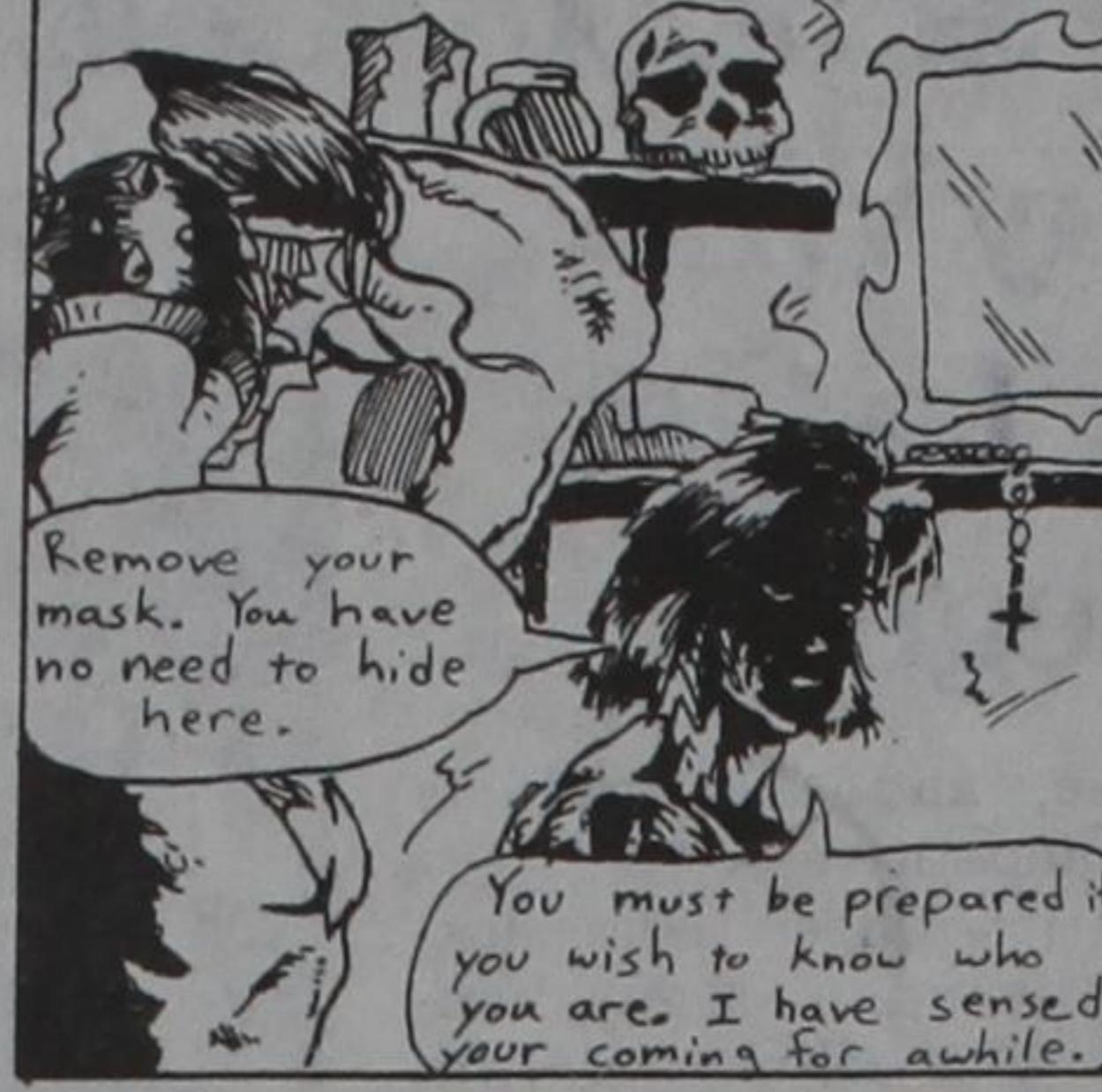
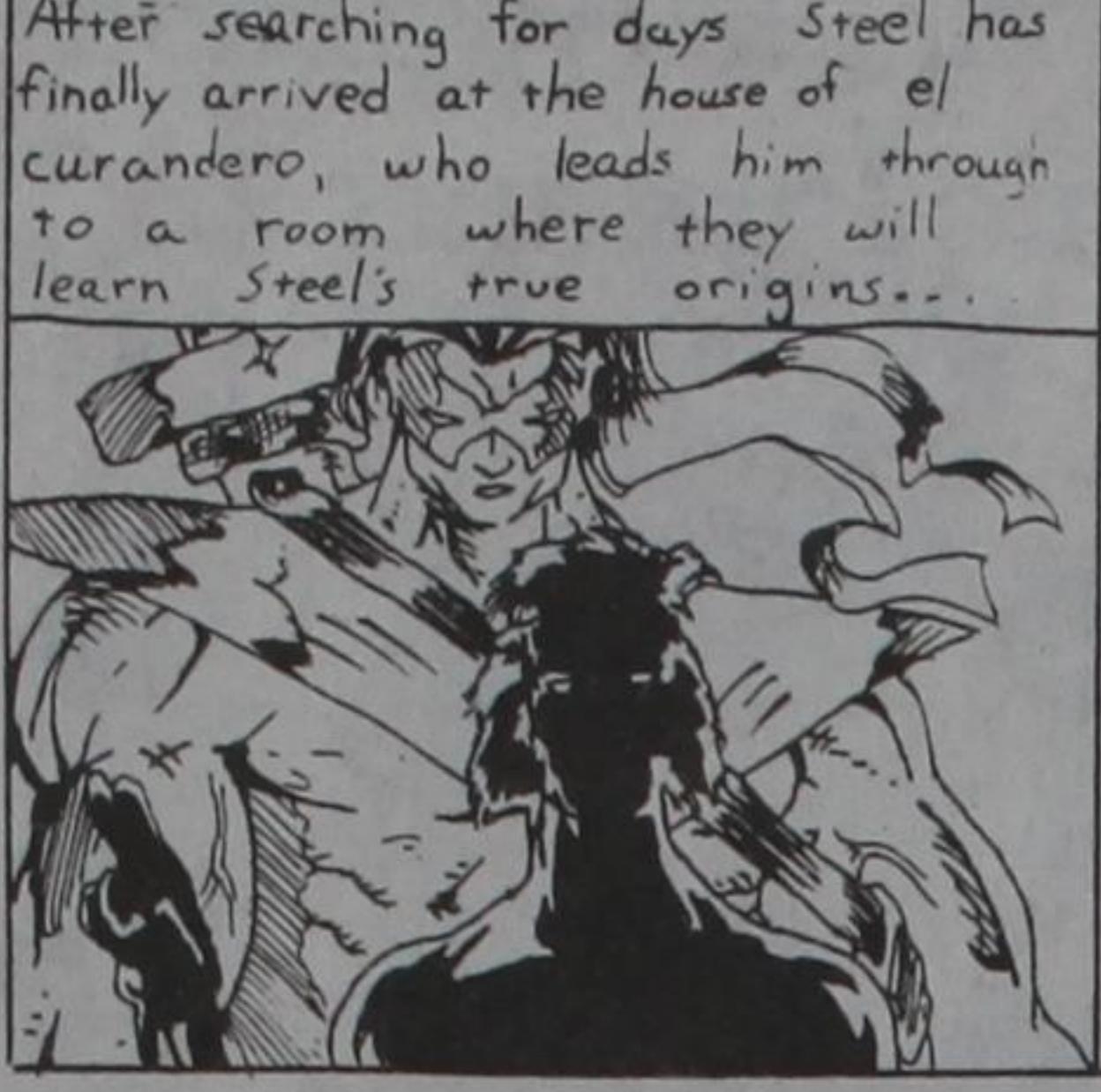
Si una línea de poder de arriba pudo hacer ésto
a un par de tijeras, imagíñese lo que le hizo
a la persona que las tenía en sus manos.

Sparky dice: "Por favor tenga cuidado con electricidad." Porque un simple trabajo como podar un árbol puede volverse extremadamente peligroso cuando líneas eléctricas de poder están presentes. Mantenga todas escaleras,

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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx. August 12, 1999**BREVES
DE SALUD****El deporte ayuda a dejar de fumar**

Washington - La práctica intensiva de un deporte duplica las posibilidades de que una mujer deje de fumar definitivamente y ayuda a evitar que engorde, indica un estudio publicado por los Archives of Internal Medicine.

La investigación muestra que el 19.4% de las mujeres que intentaron dejar de fumar y que al mismo tiempo hacían deporte durante doce semanas lograron dejar de fumar al menos dos meses, contra 10.2% de las que no hacían deportes.

Tres meses más tarde, prosigue la encuesta, el 16.4% de las "deportistas" contra 8.2% de las otras no había vuelto a fumar. Un año más tarde, las proporciones eran 11.9% por 5.4%.

Por otra parte, indicó la principal autora del estudio, Bess Marcus, de la Universidad Brown en Providence (Rhode Island), las que practicaron un deporte intensivo durante las doce primeras semanas sólo engordaron la mitad que las otras y tenían una forma física netamente mejor.

Las 281 mujeres que participaron en las pruebas no recurrieron a ningún tratamiento

anexo a base de nicotina. Las sesiones de deporte tenían lugar tres veces por semana.

Edad no afecta capacidades mentales

Chicago, EE.UU. - La disminución de las capacidades mentales no está necesariamente conectada con la edad, aunque sí con ciertas dolencias, según un estudio publicado en el Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Quienes sufren de arterioesclerosis (obstrucción de las arterias) o de diabetes y que tienen el gen ApoE4 -asociado con el mal de Alzheimer- tienen más riesgos de sufrir una baja de sus capacidades o de pérdida de memoria, según el estudio.

Este fue realizado por investigadores de la Facultad de Medicina Davis, de la Universidad de California, que siguieron a 5,888 individuos en un lapso de diez años.

Las responsables de la investigación, la profesora Mary Haan, destacó que "el 70% de las personas observadas no mostró una disminución de sus capacidades mentales a lo largo del estudio".

"Descubrimos que las personas cuyas capacidades se mantuvieron constantes, tenían en común dos factores: no poseer el gen ApoE4 y tener pocos signos de diabetes o de arterioesclerosis".

Al contrario, los estudios notaron que las personas seria-

mente afectadas por la arterioesclerosis o la diabetes o poseedoras del gen relacionado con el mal de Alzheimer, tenían ocho veces más posibilidades de ver deterioradas sus capacidades mentales.

Las personas que cuentan solamente con el gen ApoE4 tienen tres a cuatro veces más opciones de ver disminuidas sus capacidades, mientras que las que padecen únicamente de arterioesclerosis tienen tres veces más riesgo de padecer el mal, según el equipo médico.

"Nuestro estudio es una buena noticia porque significa que al prevenir la arterioesclerosis podemos reducir el riesgo de perder las capacidades mentales o sufrir de demencia, cuando se tiene predisposición genética para estas afecciones", subrayó Haan.

Muerte-droga-poder adquisitivo

Boston, EE.UU. - Las muertes ligadas directa o indirectamente al consumo de drogas y alcohol son más frecuentes a principios de mes, cuando existe mayor poder adquisitivo, indica el New England Journal of Medicine.

Durante la primera semana del mes, hay un promedio de 4,320 muertes más que durante la semana precedente, comprobó un equipo de la Universidad de California, que estudió los archivos federales de actas de decesos de 1973 a 1988.

La diferencia de muertes se debe principalmente a los fallecimientos vinculados con el uso y al abuso de drogas y alcohol, con homicidios, suicidios y accidentes de carretera, según los resultados de la investigación. Los universitarios sostienen que el incremento de muertes tiene conexión con el cobro de salarios, jubilaciones y pensiones en ese período. "El dinero destinado a la compra de drogas o de alcohol suele estar más disponible a principios de mes y escasear a finales de mes, sobre todo para las personas de pocos recursos económicos", indica el artículo. "Dado que el abuso de drogas está vinculado con suicidios, homicidios y accidentes, la fluctuación mensual del poder adquisitivo puede explicar" las variaciones de mortalidad, añade el informe.

Esos datos pueden contener una lección. "Acaso la reducción de la cantidad de muertos a finales de mes deja entrever lo que ocurriría en caso de que se reduzca el consumo de droga o alcohol", afirman.

Abuses of the Bracero Program Continue 35 Years Later

EDITOR'S NOTE: Between 1942 and 1965, the U.S. government issued some 4.5 million contracts to Mexican workers ("braceros") willing to come to the U.S. for brief periods. The program, widely criticized for failing to protect workers from abuse, seems to have added insult to injury by "losing" money that rightfully belongs to the workers. PNS commentator Jesus Martinez is an immigrant researcher and activist who was formerly a member of the Political Science Department at Santa Clara University.

By Jesus Martinez, PNS

A new immigrant-based social movement has emerged on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border that seeks redress from both governments.

The roots of the grievance stretch back more than 50 years, to 1942, when the U.S. government began the "bracero" program to fill labor shortages caused by World War II. Under this program, the government issued contracts to Mexicans willing to cross the border for temporary employment.

Braceros, working on farms and on railroads, made it possible for the U.S. economy to meet the challenges imposed by the war effort. Government and employers found the program so appealing that it was extended, through various acts, until 1965, when it was terminated unilaterally, after much pressure from unions and activists concerned with the systematic exploitation of the workers. During its existence, some four and a half million contracts were issued.

As part of their contract, braceros agreed to have ten percent of their wages withheld and placed in a fund controlled by the Mexican government. When they returned to Mexico, individual migrants could request that the money be returned to them.

According to Ventura Gutierrez, who heads the bracero redress movement in southern California, the overwhelming majority of the workers never received compensation. Moreover, the whereabouts of the funds remain unknown.

To resolve the matter, Gutierrez and other activists based in the United States and Mexico have initiated a campaign to have the Mexican government make payments to the braceros or surviving family members.

Despite their contributions to the U.S. and Mexican economies, claims Gutierrez, many former braceros now live in dire poverty,

abandoned by the both governments, and without even the means to claim Social Security, which was supposed to be a benefit of the program.

The campaign, which started only a few months ago in Michoacan, Guanajuato, and other major bracero sending regions, has rapidly gained momentum. It has identified and enrolled tens of thousands of braceros, who have initiated individual claims for benefits promised by both governments.

The movement has emerged just as the Mexican government has established a temporary labor program with the Canadian government which, like the Bracero program, does not permit the workers the right to unionize to improve wages and conditions.

The movement has also arrived at a time when many in the United States are engaged in an intense campaign to create a new Bracero program. As in the past, they argue that there is a need for foreign, particularly Mexican, labor. Also as in the past, the proponents seek to create conditions of employment that will make the migrants exploitable and easy to control.

Securing justice for the braceros, their children and widows, is a necessary step in the process of reconciling the histories of these two countries. It will affect many people on both sides of the border, as most contemporary

Mexican immigrants are direct descendants of the braceros. Several of my uncles, my paternal grandfather, dozens of other relatives, and scores of neighbors from my hometown in Michoacan contributed with their labor to the U.S. World War II efforts.

During the life of the Bracero Program, the workers were exploited by employers and often the targets of political attacks - as we have seen in recent years. Resentment against Mexican immigration is deep, and all too often this social sector becomes the scapegoat for the structural problems caused by government and the private sector.

At the very least, the Mexican government should investigate the whereabouts of the bracero fund and initiate payment to the migrants and their surviving relatives. One Mexican senator, Hector Sanchez of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), has agreed to introduce the issue as a bill to the Mexican Congress.

In turn, the very least the U.S. government can do is to honor the promises made to the braceros. In addition to economic benefits due to the braceros or their widows, it would be appropriate for the U.S. government to recognize and celebrate the braceros' contributions. After 57 years, it is time to acknowledge the role of all social sectors in making this nation great.

**National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs
Lubbock Independent School District
1999-2000 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

The Lubbock Independent School District offers free or reduced-price meals for children from families whose income is at or below guideline levels. Parents are encouraged to purchase pre-paid meal tickets for their child at any school in the district.

Eligible families may apply at each campus at the beginning of the school year. Foster children are also eligible for the benefits.

A letter from Superintendent Curtis Culwell, containing information on the free or reduced-price meals, will be distributed to students to take home to parents. All programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against, they should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Under provisions of the free or reduced-price meal policy, all applications will be reviewed by the local Director of Food Services at 3501 Avenue G. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. The request should be directed to Darwin Hilliard, Executive Director of Purchasing and Contract Services, 1628 19th Street, telephone 766-1098. The school district's policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

The following income guidelines will be used to determine the eligibility for free or reduced-price meals:

1999-2000 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	Annually		Monthly		Weekly	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$10,712	\$15,244	\$893	\$1,271	\$206	\$294
2	\$14,378	\$20,461	\$1,199	\$1,706	\$277	\$394
3	\$18,044	\$25,678	\$1,504	\$2,140	\$347	\$494
4	\$21,710	\$30,895	\$1,810	\$2,575	\$418	\$595
5	\$25,376	\$36,112	\$2,115	\$3,010	\$488	\$695
6	\$29,042	\$41,329	\$2,421	\$3,445	\$559	\$795
7	\$32,708	\$46,546	\$2,726	\$3,879	\$629	\$896
8	\$36,374	\$51,763	\$3,032	\$4,314	\$700	\$996
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*The level of revenue increases in these communities constitutes a "major change" as defined by state law.

Copies of the filing are available at the Energas Office at 5110-80th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424

**10 Normas Para Los
Graduados De
Escuela Secundaria**

Por Joe Rodriguez

Es la temporada para pronunciar discursos de graduación, y recibí dos invitaciones de escuelas secundarias alternativas: ¿Desearía yo hablarles a los alumnos de cuarto año que casi habían desertado, que necesitaban atención especial para ganar sus diplomas y que se encaminaban a las universidades, pero que aún necesitaban palabras animadoras y asesoramiento?

El Señor sabe que no soy orador. Me da miedo, me pongo a sudar y me siento tonto. Pero acepté inmediatamente.

Estos alumnos me hicieron recordar dónde yo y mis amigos estaban hace mucho tiempo. Como nosotros, la mayoría de ellos eran minorías, procedían de familias de obreros y eran los primeros en sus familias que hubieran terminado los estudios secundarios o que se hubieran matriculado en universidades.

La mayoría de mis amigos desearon en los primeros años de la universidad. A mí me tomó ocho años el recibir mi bachillerato.

Mirando hacia atrás, escribí 10 continued on page 6

PUBLIC NOTICE**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
Goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2000**

City Transit Management Co. Inc., DBA Citibus has established its proposed Fiscal Year 2000 DBE Goal of 15.9%. The proposed goal description and goal setting determination is available for review between the 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, beginning August 8, 1999 until September 22, 1999 at the offices of Citibus located at 801 Texas Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79457.

City Transit Management Co. Inc. and the Department of Transportation will accept comments on the DBE Goal for 45 days beginning August 8, 1999 and ending September 22, 1999. Comments are for information purposes only.

Comments can be sent to:

Cody R. Amis, Management Assistant of Finance
Citibus
PO Box 2000
Lubbock, TX 79457

Offices located at: 801 Texas Avenue
Phone number is: 806-767-2380 ext. 234
Fax number is: 806-767-2387

Comienza a caldearse la "Pelea del Milenio"

JOSÉ LUIS SÁNCHEZ

La tan esperada pelea entre el mexicano-estadounidense Oscar de la Hoya y el puertorriqueño Félix "Tito" Trinidad del próximo 18 de septiembre en Las Vegas, Nevada, va camino de convertirse en un tremendo pulso entre las dos comunidades latinas más influyentes de Estados Unidos: la mexicana y la puertorriqueña.

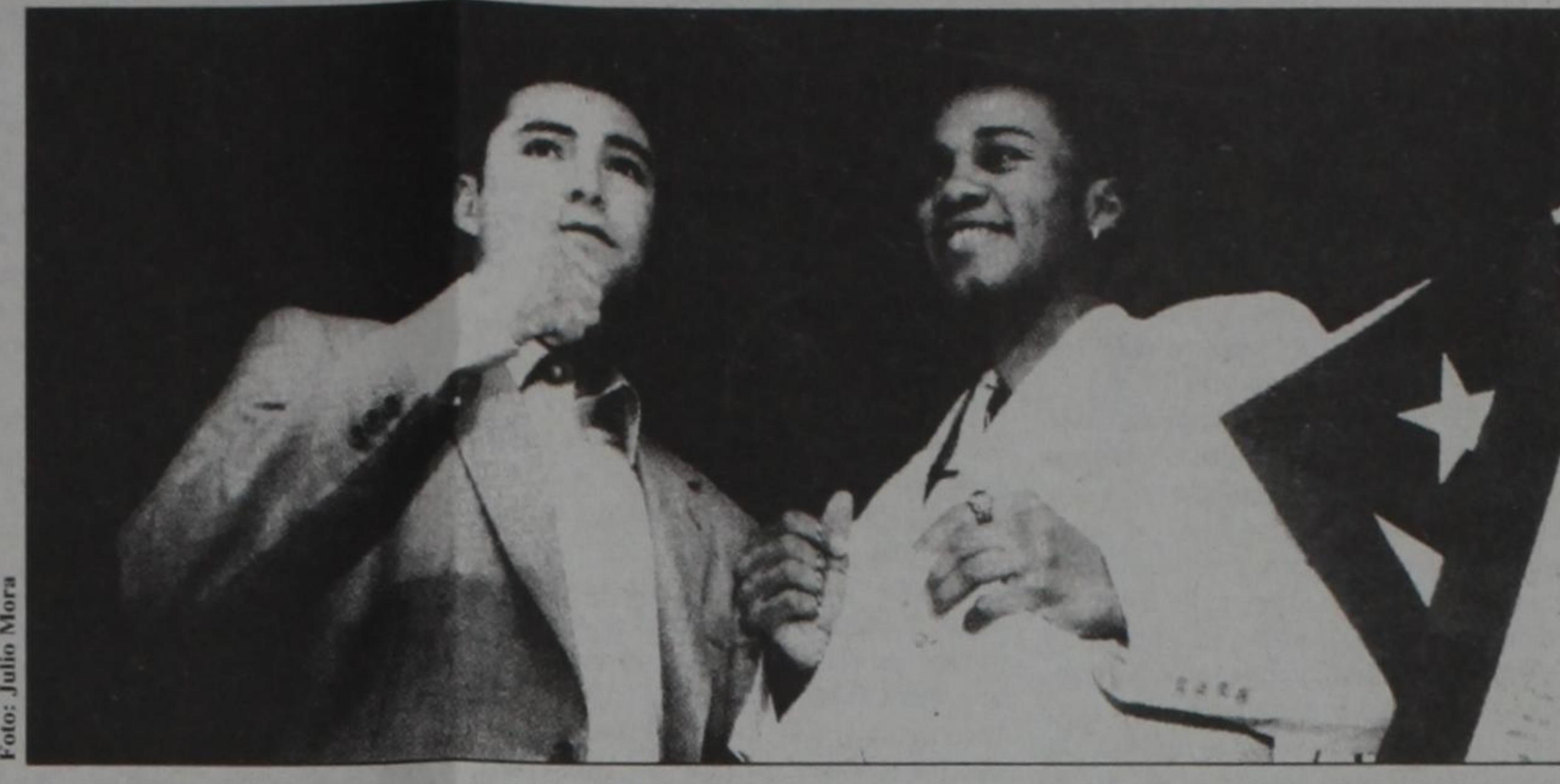
Así lo han querido y dirigido los promotores Don King y Bob Arum, que en conferencia de prensa celebrada el pasado día 15 en Navy Pier, ofrecieron todo un recital de nacionalismos para calentar y promocionar aún más el multimillonario combate entre sus pupilos.

En lo puramente deportivo, la rivalidad entre Oscar de la Hoya (31-0, 25 KOs) y Félix "Tito" Trinidad (35-0, 30 KOs) por conquistar la hegemonía mundial del peso welter también es conocida por todos. No en vano son dos campeones con una brillante carrera de invictos y nocauts que compiten por ser los mejores boxeadores libra por libra del momento.

"Esta pelea significa mucho porque todo el mundo va a estar pendiente de ella y el que gane va a salir como el rey del boxeo", asegura Oscar de la Hoya.

El "Golden Boy" sabe perfectamente lo complicada e importante que es esta pelea y por eso ha decidido que volverá a entrenar durante tres meses, cosa que no hacía desde que se enfrentó por primera vez a Julio César Chávez.

"Sé lo que tengo que hacer para



Oscar de la Hoya y el boricua Félix "Tito" Trinidad presentaron su pelea en Navy Pier, Chicago.

Foto: Julio Mora

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx, August 12, 1999

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cosas para ayudar a la clase de 1999, la que "Casi no Terminó," a adelantar en las universidades u otras etapas de su enseñanza.

1. Sean estudiantes totales. Aún cuando vivan en sus casas o tengan que trabajar a medio tiempo deben sentirse como estudiantes de tiempo completo que viven en los dormitorios. El estudio es la prioridad más alta. Pasen más tiempo en las universidades y quedense menos, o no se queden del todo, con los amigos que no estén haciendo nada.

2. Resistan a la tentación de comprar cosas costosas. El ausentarse de la escuela para trabajar y comprarse un auto nuevo y "caliente" es un paso seguro hacia la deserción. Un auto bueno puede llevarles a distancia de 100,000 millas o más, pero una buena instrucción les llevará durante todas sus vidas.

3. Aprendan a manejar las crisis familiares que apremian a los estudiantes para que no se vayan de las escuelas. Nunca es fácil, pero se puede ser responsable sin desertar de la escuela. Se necesitan más.

From Page 1

much severamente a sus familias que han perdido su sostén principal y que en ocasiones recurren a la ayuda del gobierno.

"Lo más grave es que el número sigue creciendo", dijo García.

La ley de inmigración, que entró en vigor el 1 de abril de 1997, amplia la definición de lo que consideran delitos graves, y por los cuales un residente permanente puede ser detenido y deportado.

Estos delitos que justifican la deportación incluyen, según las autoridades del INS, el conducir en estado de embriaguez, la falsificación de documentos y hasta la prostitución.

También se penaliza con la deportación a quienes hayan cometido homicidio, violación o abuso sexual de menores, delitos de narcotráfico y lavado de dinero, robo, y contrabando de armas, entre otros.

La retroactividad de la ley pone en riesgo de deportación a cualquier residente legal que haya pagado ya por su delito, criticaron los miembros de la agrupación.

"Ha sido una ley silenciosa que en los últimos ocho meses ha dado a las autoridades del INS el tiempo suficiente para conseguir espacios en las cárceles para los detenidos", dijo a EFE la activista Luz María González.

Esta miembro del Centro de Ciudadanos Inmigrantes por la Igualdad de Justicia, advirtió que "miles de residentes legales podrían perderlo todo".

Algunos de los residentes han sido detenidos en sus propios hogares, frente a sus esposas e hijos, mientras que otros han sido llamados a las oficinas del INS, a su regreso del exterior.

ta una buena planificación y aprender a hacer frente a los sentimientos de culpabilidad y a las críticas de otros miembros de la familia.

4. No se preocupen por las matrículas. Sólo los ricos pagan por completo sus años en las universidades. No dejen que la falta de dinero les detenga de asistir a la universidad a la que deseen asistir. La mayoría de ellas les ayudan con una combinación de becas, préstamos y programas de trabajo mientras estudian.

5. Estudien más árdicamente en la universidad. Estén preparados para esta sacudida: La escuela secundaria era fácil al compararse con la universidad. Los profesores y las clases de las universidades son más exigentes y menos flexibles, y los estudiantes son de mayor competencia.

6. Combatán a la soledad, la nostalgia por el hogar y el aislamiento. Muchos estudiantes minoritarios y otros que proceden de familias obreras, acabados de salir de las escuelas secundarias, se sienten aislados en las principales universidades del país. Si se sienten tristes, hagan lo que hizo E.T. — llamen a sus casas. Busquen a otros estudiantes con intereses y antecedentes parecidos.

7. Lleguen a conocer a estudiantes de antecedentes distintos. No se aíslen por raza, cultura o clase social. La universidad es su puerta de entrada a nuestro mundo cada vez más multiracial. El éxito les llega a los que abrazan el cambio.

8. Paseen por alto la confusión de las carreras. Sólo unas cuantas personas afortunadas saben desde chiquitos, exactamente lo que quieren hacer en la vida. Las odiamos. La mayoría resultamos confundidos en las universidades, cambiamos de concentración, nos sentimos excesivamente tensos. Es natural. Dejen salir ese vapor. He aquí un pequeño secreto sobre el llamado mundo verdadero después de la universidad: Su concentración no es lo más crítica.

9. Ustedes son mucho más que empleados futuros, de modo que no piensan como ellos. Una instrucción verdadera no les prepara para un empleo específico en una industria específica, ni simplemente les llena la cabeza de información. Antes bien, saca a relucir sus posibilidades y desarrolla sus talentos y capacidades innatas. He aquí otro secreto: Las compañías realmente buenas quieren contratar a personas con educación amplia, que sean creativas y lo suficientemente confiadas como para llevar adelante a la compañía.

10. Recuerden de dónde vienen. Esta es la norma más importante. El amor y el apoyo que reciben de sus familias, sus maestros y su comunidad, son sus fuentes de fortaleza. Recuerden también las dificultades y las injusticias sociales y económicas que ustedes sufrieron, pero no les permitan que endurezcan sus corazones.

A Journalist Finds Herself on the Other Side of the Pen

By Mara Elena Fernandez

Ten years after I became a journalist, someone wrote a story about me.

By the time I reached the end of the offensive and inaccurate account, I had been called a "tamale" and a "hottie" by a white man who has never met me. An African-American columnist piped in a few weeks later, adding the label of "saucy" and indirectly blaming me for Washington, D.C.'s rising homicide rate.

These characterizations of the most bizarre and painful episode of my career made me understand too well why the public distrusts the media and why, lately, people have been opting to tell their own stories without the filter of the reporter.

That is what I want to do now.

After working at the Hollywood (Fla.) Sun, the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, I was hired by The Washington Post in January 1998 to cover crime in the nation's capital. It was a great opportunity for the first-generation daughter of exiles who left Cuba in 1966 to give their children a chance to blossom in a culture of free expression.

In Miami, where I grew up surrounded by loving people who successfully rebuilt their lives without losing their identities or culture, I learned to dream big and believe in myself. In my Cuban-American world, I lived in Spanish and English, and was taught to laugh as hard as I worked.

My gender was never a limitation, despite what the old Latino stereotype would have you believe. In addition to the value of an education, I learned from the strong and educated women in my family to embrace my femininity and appreciate all of its gifts. Latinas like to look presentable. We use clothing, cosmetics and hair styles to accentuate our feminine essence. The women in my family, for example, dress well, even when making short trips to the store.

I never expected that allowing my clothes to reflect my extroverted personality would prompt the top professionals in my industry to ridicule and disparage me. It is this lesson that brings me to my last month of employment at The Washington Post, the topic deemed newsworthy by

City Paper, The Washington Times and Washingtonian magazine.

As the D.C. police reporter, I got to know Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey pretty well. He joined the department four months after I moved to Washington, and unlike previous chiefs, Ramsey kept an open-door policy with all the local media.

Seven months after Ramsey was on the job, he asked me out on a dinner date. It was an awkward moment, but the support of my editors got me through it. They advised me to have a frank discussion with the chief about the ethical dilemma his offer presented. Ramsey apologized and emphasized that he hoped our working relationship was not damaged. I continued to do my job without obstacle until this spring.

On May 1, The Post invited Ramsey to the White House Correspondents Dinner. I was one of eight other guests at the Post's table. Nothing about the night stood out until May 5, when a uniformed police officer arrived at the Post lobby with an envelope in his hand. It was a letter from the police chief, primarily apologizing for leaving the dinner early.

The letter made me very uncomfortable. Ramsey expressed he was still attracted to me but did not ask for anything. He stated I was the only reason he had gone to the dinner and that he enjoyed my company.

I knew then I could no longer cover the police department. My editors agreed. They told me to let them deal with the police chief, and that they would find a new beat for me. I was embarrassed but relieved by their response.

Things changed five days later. My editor, an African-American woman who wears her long hair in dreadlocks and dresses in muu-muus, decided to have a talk with me about the way I dress. She began this chat by telling me that she found it very strange that the police chief had written me such a letter and that she had been meaning to talk to me about my wardrobe.

The problem, she said, was that I was causing too much of a buzz in the newsroom with some of my outfits. She made reference to a particular pair of white pants and went so far as to tell me there were men in the newsroom who could not work because they were preoccupied with fig-

uring out if I was wearing underwear. She said that men were making their way around my desk constantly to look at my legs and that I needed to understand that it was my burden to conceal it in the professional world.

I was stunned and hurt. Later, I became furious when I learned that my editor had not acted on her own. Before our talk, she had sought the support of the metro department's top editor. That editor, in turn, found it necessary to consult the Post's executive editor about the pressing issue of my wardrobe.

To make matters worse, my editor had used a lie as leverage. She told her supervisors that another editor, who was no longer at the newspaper and had relished in gossiping about me since I was hired, had once reprimanded me about my taste in clothes.

The Post spin machine responded to my indignation by telling me that my editor had meant no harm, that I should take her comment as friendly, womanly advice.

My editor never apologized and I never bought it. If we were supposed to be having a sister-to-sister chat, why was it necessary to involve the top editors of the newspaper? And worse, how could these editors sanction such a conversation, considering what had just happened to me with the police chief?

No one seemed concerned about the men who allegedly could not work because of me. Who were they, and why wasn't action taken against them?

The day I received the chief's letter, the top editors of the Post were in Florida reading an internal report that detailed why the few Latino members of the staff feel like outcasts. I guess the presentation fell on deaf ears. When I expressed outrage to one top editor, she suggested that I might want to consider wearing slacks all the time.

Wait a minute. Wasn't it a pair of white pants that launched this saga? For days, I thought long and hard about my wardrobe, my personality, the things that made me stand out in the Post newsroom.

It is true that my taste in clothes is different from that of most Washingtonians. I was raised in a tropical city where women wear bright clothes that flatter their bodies. To work, I wore colorful suits, dresses and

pants that were completely professional. On my 5-foot, size-2 frame, tailored clothes look best. I do not dare squeeze into a size 2, nor will I don a size 6 to placate middle-aged women by hiding my small waistline. As one top editor who came to my defense put it, I was like the little girl in the red coat in "Schindler's List" who sometimes colored the otherwise black and white screen. My purple silk sheath, my chartreuse two-piece suit stood out in the navy, khaki and gray world of the Post.

In the end, after many discussions, I realized that the only people who felt I dressed provocatively for work were a handful of middle-aged, conservative women who never liked me. On my first day of work, one of these women told me the only reason my two male editors had hired me was because I was pretty.

Even though a couple of male editors advocated on my behalf and provided a lot of emotional support, plenty of damage was done. It became obvious that one of the country's premier newspapers was not the right place for a Cuban American who wanted to work hard and be herself.

The Post editors may be trying to recruit Latino talent, but the message I deduced from this episode was this: It was OK for me to have a Spanish surname and even speak a little Spanish, but I should not be diverse in my thinking, actions and personal style. For my supposed prestigious job, I should have been willing to conform to the homogenous hallmarks of Post fashion.

The problem is that the art of conforming is not in my Cuban blood. It clashes with everything I have learned about becoming a successful U.S. journalist who cherishes her heritage. It also offends me in a way I have never before been offended.

Luckily, for me, in the middle of this turmoil, The Los Angeles Times called me. By Memorial Day, I had accepted a job covering the Latino community in Orange County. Now that I know what it feels like to be on the other side of the pen, I pray that I am fair to those I encounter on my journey for stories in Southern California.

Once again living in the land of the sun, I can smile and dress as brightly as I want.

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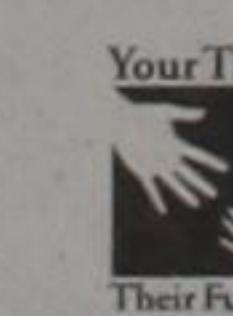
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