

Mexico border issue divide some in GOP

by Nora López

San Ysidro, CA.-Border Patrol Agent Marco Ramirez scans the scenic view of sloping mountains and canyons and declares it a miracle.

Three years ago, he says, the same view was marred by hundreds of undocumented immigrants waiting in makeshift camps for the cover of night to make a run across the border.

Many didn't even wait for the sun to go down, rushing the handful of agents who patrolled the border by the hundreds in broad daylight.

Now, the only thing that disturbs the view from atop Spooner's Mesa is a thick, rust-colored wall that snakes across the mountainside. A line of towering utility poles equipped with powerful lights runs parallel to the steel fence. Two green and white Border patrol trucks stand guard in the distance.

"We are controlling it right here," Agent Ramirez said. "The wall, the lights, the manpower ... as long as whoever gets elected maintains this level of commitment, it can be done."

How to control the border and the estimated 300,000 immigrants who cross it illegally has emerged as a volatile campaign issue among Republicans at their convention in San Diego.

On Monday, the GOP delegates approved a platform that backers say will ease the burden of illegal immigration on taxpayers by cutting off social services, including public education, to undocumented immigrants and denying automatic citizenship to their U.S.-born children. The plank also suggests putting a cap on legal immigration.

Bob Dole supports limiting government services to undocumented workers and banning their children from public school.

Those measures have been denounced by many Democrats and some Republicans as too strict; that they threaten the spirit of immigration that has built America.

Before being picked as Mr. Dole's running mate, Jack Kemp had opposed Proposition 187, the California ballot initiative that seeks to deny public services to undocumented immigrants and has been ensnared in the courts. Mr. Kemp has since said that he supports the idea of allowing states to bar children of undocumented immigrants from public schools.

But other Republicans, including Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Texas Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, have said they will continue to support

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Fortunato German Vasques se une con una demostración en San Diego protestando la polizas sobre inmigracion de el Partido Republicano. Los demostrantes marcharon mas de cuatro millas hasta la frontera de Mexico y los Estados Unidos.

Documented Immigrants are Better Educated

A study shows many documented immigrants to the United States are better educated and better skilled than the average American, reports The San Francisco Examiner.

In fact, some immigrant groups are strikingly better educated. Sixty-two percent of documented immigrants from Taiwan, for example, are college educated, compared with 21 percent of the U.S. population.

The well-schooled also hail from India, 65 percent of whose immigrants are college educated, and Iran, 51 percent of whose immigrants have college educations. Among African and Hong Kong immigrants, 47 percent are college educated, while 43 percent of immigrants from the Philippines, 33 percent from Thailand and 31 percent from China have college educations.

Only 18 percent of documented immigrants from Europe are college educated.

The "social well-being in this country (has) been enriched considerably by these highly educated immigrants," said Ben-chieh Liu, an economics professor at Chicago State University who reported his findings at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago.

Liu, a native of China who grew up in Taiwan, based his findings on U.S. Census Bureau data from 1992.

Twenty percent of all documented immigrants are college educated, just 1 percent below the U.S. average, the statistical survey showed. Twelve percent of documented immigrants are in professional careers, compared with 14 percent of the U.S. population.

The average household income of documented immigrants in the United States is \$28,314 a year, not far behind the average U.S. household income of \$29,943.

As a group, the best educated documented immigrants come from Africa and Asia, with, respectively, 47 and 38 percent having college educations. The least educated, according to Liu's survey, are documented immigrants from Mexico, only 4 percent of whom have college educations.

Insurance Companies Can Hide HIV Test Results

A federal appeals court has ruled against a widow who contends an insurance company should have told her husband that he tested positive for the AIDS virus, reports Associated Press.

Jody Deramus of Vienna, Va., sued Jackson National Life Insurance Co. of Mississippi after her husband, Frank, died in 1991 from AIDS-related complications.

Deramus, an attorney, took a blood test in 1988 as part of a routine examination required before Jackson National would consider increasing his coverage from \$500,000 to \$800,000.

The insurance company advised him he was medically unsuitable, but did not tell him why until nine days before his death.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a federal judge's decision that the insurance company was not legally required to release the results of the blood test.

The appeals court ruling simply affirmed the decision of U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate, who threw out Mrs. Deramus' lawsuit. Wingate said Mississippi law did not require such disclosure as long as the information is used only to determine coverage eligibility.

Currently, at least 21 states have such disclosure laws and a federal disclosure bill is pending before Congress.

FCC: More 'Quality' TV for Kids

The Federal Communications Commission gave final approval Thursday to a requirement that television stations air at least three hours a week of children's educational shows, Reuters reports.

The new rules stem from a White House-brokered proposal that won support last week from children's advocates, White House officials and television broadcasters.

The plan, sent to the FCC for drafting into formal language and approval by the agency's four commissioners, deadlocked for more than a year over this issue.

The rules require television stations to broadcast at least three hours a week of educational shows geared toward children aged 16 and under.

Stations will get leeway in meeting the rule and deciding what shows will qualify as educational. Such flexibility had been a major demand by FCC Commissioners James Quello and Rachelle Chong, who had rejected previous proposals as too strict.

Broadcasters had opposed a mandated minimum, saying it was unconstitutional and amounted to needless government meddling. They changed their stance last week after President Clinton focused a political spotlight on children's television, hosting a White House conference on the issue.

Push for Immigrants to Become Citizens

Concerned about the potential financial impact of the biggest welfare reform package in the nation's history, Los Angeles County will assist documented immigrants to become U.S. citizens and maintain benefits that otherwise would be lost, reports The Los Angeles Times.

The Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 to set up a task force to create citizenship-assistance centers in county libraries, welfare offices, hospitals, clinics and other county facilities.

Supervisor Gloria Molina, author of the motion, said the county needs to develop "an aggressive and effective strategy" to encourage the naturalization of documented immigrants who are not citizens.

Officials fear it could cost the county an additional \$236 million a year if 93,000 documented immigrants, who are aged, blind and disabled, lose their supplemental security income benefits and instead seek general relief from the county.

At the insistence of Board Chairman Mike Antonovich, Molina agreed that the cost of the new program should be borne by the federal government and community groups and not by the financially strapped county government.

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GOP Message Misses Minorities

By DAVID PACE

SAN DIEGO - With a shrug of his shoulders and a shake of his head, Vernon Robinson tells how he tried to get a North Carolina Republican women's club to recruit minorities.

"They were meeting at 10:30 (a.m.) at the country club" when most black women in the area were working, said Robinson.

With only 54 blacks and 47 Hispanics among 1,990 Republican National Convention delegates, some say the Republican Party isn't trying hard enough to reach out to minorities.

"There's talk, but no action," said Patrick Flack, one of four black alternates from South Carolina, whose 37-member delegation has no blacks. Flack complained that attempts to get minorities involved in the GOP stopped with the late party chairman Lee Atwater, who died in 1991.

"The biggest disappointment for me personally and for the party is that we haven't been able to get black voters to respond to us yet," said Rusty Paul, chairman of the Georgia Republican Party.

Minority representation at the convention is down sharply from four years ago, when the party mustered 83 blacks and 73 Hispanics, according to an Associated Press survey.

Georgia, where blacks comprise 27 percent of the population, sent no black delegates compared with five in 1992. In Alabama, with roughly the same proportion of black voters, only one of 40 delegates is black, down from two in 1992. South Carolina is nearly 30 percent black.

North Carolina has a black



population of 22 percent. Robinson is the lone black among the state's 58 convention delegates.

The party's record in attracting Hispanics to its ranks of activists hasn't been much better. In Texas, nearly a quarter of the population is Hispanic, but only three of 123 convention delegates claim that heritage.

For the vast majority of blacks, the Democratic Party has been home since 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson and a Democratic Congress passed the Voting Rights Act that enfranchised minorities for the first time.

Black Republicans at this week's convention say that history, coupled with the GOP shift to the right in recent years, has hardened the partisan lines in the black community.

"There are a number of blacks who believe in conservative ideas but they are afraid to step out because of the fear of being ostracized," said Milton Bethune, a black businessman and alternate from Alabama.

Bethune said the GOP platform, with its hard line oppo-

sition to welfare and other social programs "makes it more difficult" to recruit blacks.

White GOP leaders insist that its only a matter of time before minority voters recognize that Democratic policies which originated in Johnson's Great Society are a dead end and opportunities with the GOP are the future.

"A lot of young blacks in my state and around the country are beginning to see the Democratic Party is not the panacea for the black community, but quite the opposite," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., who enjoyed widespread black support before bolting from the Democratic Party in 1994.

In Georgia, Paul said Republicans have made a concerted effort to recruit blacks. But he said they have found almost no takers among those old enough to have first hand knowledge of the civil rights movement.

"The post-civil rights generation, the upwardly mobile, educated African Americans, they'll listen to us," said Paul. "As I've always said, to

be a conservative, you've got to have something to conserve."

Republicans are making a concerted effort this week to showcase the black support they do have.

Colin Powell, the most prominent black on the political scene, was the featured speaker Monday night. "My fellow Americans, my fellow Republicans," he began.

Minority delegates also were given prominent speaking roles. Rep. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., is speaking to the convention today. And Rep. Gary Franks, R-Conn., was one of the featured congressional candidates in Monday's session.

Virginia delegate Kay Cole James, a conservative black Christian, became a last-minute choice to stand at the podium Wednesday night to take the delegate vote for Bob Dole's nomination for president.

Meanwhile, Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, who is Hispanic, was selected to nominate Jack Kemp for vice president. He has been one of the party's cheerleaders this week at state delegation meetings around San Diego.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said the party is "working very hard to send out a signal of inclusiveness." He said Dole's selection of Kemp, who is viewed favorably by many blacks, will help.

That doesn't stop Flack, the South Carolina alternate, from feeling a bitter irony at sitting in the back of the convention hall, away from delegate action. "We fought tooth and nail to get here," said Flack. "Nobody gave us a ... thing."

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'Independence Day' And Other Hysteria Fantasies

By Lalo Lopez

"Let's go kick E.T.'s butt!" - Over-the-top dialogue from the overhyped "Independence Day."

"Alien? I ain't no damn E.T.;" -- overheard, overused Chicano slogan.

I'm really in orbit about all this "Independence Day" movie alien hysteria. The summer's sci-fi blockbuster -- from where I sit -- turned out to be an incredibly strange convergence of pop art and pop politics.

My trip? The "ID4" world unites against "aliens." The world I inhabit unites against "illegal aliens." But am I the lone nut who sees this?

Probably. I feel like Richard Dreyfuss in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," building a mountain of masa for my alien theory to land on. Either I'm going totally loco, or it's about time I started my own end-of-the-millennium cult -- time to put on a robe and cancel my summer haircut.

So, "ID4" is just an action-disaster flick. Or is it?

The basic theme would seem to be that humanity (led by the U.S.'s Clintonesque-yet-macho fighter-pilot president) manages to unite against a common enemy. It seems to be the kind of hopeful prophecy so often proffered by wispy-eyed liberals despondent over

racial friction: "It's going to take a global crisis (like an alien invasion) for human beings of all races to finally unite."

That is one way to look at it. On the other hand, isn't it precisely the movie's "us versus them" marketing strategy -- a straight bite from the Republican campaign playbook -- that's really pulling in the crowds? Probably. I decided this when I heard "The Crazy Kids," young Chicano DJs on a Los Angeles radio station, repeatedly shouting on-air, "This is my planet!" and "I feel like kicking some alien butt!"

Dr. Orson Huelga of the National Pochismo Institute's Center for the Overanalysis of Cinema and Horoscopes reports that analysis based on the "alien" double-entendre can be applied to many sci-fi movies with illuminating results.

Mainstream fears about life in an increasingly nonwhite world, says the doctor, are reflected in the themes and characterizations of many recent (and not-so-recent) popular films:

-- James Cameron's "Aliens" is really about Latino immigrants taking over the neighborhood, breeding like insects, depriving little blond Anglo kids of their

birthright.

-- Steven Spielberg's warm and fuzzy fantasy film "E.T." is really an allegory about Asians, the so-called Model Minority. E.T. gets along famously with white suburban kids, has a thing about technology and can't hold his liquor.

-- How about The Coneheads? They wear funny "hats." They speak perfect -- somehow too perfect, too formal -- English. They're attracted to convenience store food. Hmm... Somebody call out the Pakistani Anti-Defamation League!

Some horror pictures don't even bother to disguise their message. Alesia Garcia, Ph.D. (in English, with an emphasis in Chicana Literature) couldn't help but notice that Mexicana sexuality is represented in the Robert Rodriguez/Quentin Tarantino film "From Dusk Till Dawn" by bloodsucking Mexican vampire strippers! The film's closing long-shot reveals that its main locale, a bar, is built on top of an Aztec pyramid, presumably by ignoble bloodthirsty savages from south of the border.

Garcia's classmate, Chad Allen (Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Culture and Literature), has noted in a recent

scholarly paper that in the 1994 comic book "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Graphic Album," the Anglo hero and the Native American (from the great northern plains!) get together to fight off an Aztec vampire god, actually an "illegal" Mexican alien from outer space who literally sucks the life out of white male cowboy types.

And refuses to learn English.

"Undesirable" groups of people have always been characterized as monsters and aliens. It's easier to hate 'em and kill 'em that way. This seems to be happening subliminally -- or subconsciously, or metaphorically, or allegorically or whatever -- in cinema, although I could be reading too much into these pictures.

Still, before deciding that this sort of analysis is overblown, just consider the alternative: that today's films have no underlying meaning.

Damn! We just wasted \$7 a pop on a bunch of crappy movies!

(Lalo Lopez of Los Angeles writes "Mexiled," a political satire column, for the L.A. Weekly. Readers may write to him c/o Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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Otras Fantasias Histericas El 'Dia de la Independencia' Y

Por Lalo López

"Vamos a patearle el trasero a E.T." -- Diálogo excesivo de la película "Independence Day" celebrado sobremanera. "¿Extranjero? Yo no soy un maldito E.T.;" -- Lema chicano escuchado y empleado excesivamente.

Estoy realmente en órbita respecto de toda esta histeria sobre los extranjeros en la película "Independence Day." La cinta taquillera de ciencia-ficción -- desde donde estoy sentado -- resultó ser una convergencia extraña de arte popular y política popular.

¿Mi conclusión? El mundo "ID4" se une contra los "extranjeros." El mundo en que yo habito se une contra los "extranjeros ilegales."

Pero, ¿soy yo el único loco solitario que ve esto?

Probablemente. Me siento como Richard Dreyfuss en "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," construyendo una montaña de masa para que mi teoría extranjera aterrice. O bien estoy volviéndome completamente loco, o es hora de que yo dé comienzo a mi propio culto del fin del milenio -- hora de ponerme una túnica y cancelar mi corte de pelo para el verano.

Bueno. "ID4" es sólo una película de acción y desastre. ¿Es así?

El tema fundamental parecería ser que la humanidad (dirigida por el presidente piloto clintonesco-aunque-macho de los Estados Unidos) se las arregla para unirse contra un enemigo común. Parece ser la clase de profecía esperanzada proferida tan a menudo por los liberales de ojos pequeños disgustados por la fricción racial: "Va a necesitarse una crisis global (como una invasión de extraños) para que los seres humanos de todas las razas se unan por fin".

Ese es un modo de ver al asunto.

Por otra parte, ¿no es precisamente la estrategia de mercadeo de "ID4," "nosotros contra ellos" -- una mordida tomada directamente del guión de la campaña republicana -- lo que está realmente atrayendo a las multitudes?

Probablemente. Decidí esto cuando escuché a "The Crazy Kids", el duo de locutores chicanos en una estación de radio en Los Angeles, gritando reiteradamente en el aire: "Este es mi planeta!" y "Tengo ganas de patearle el trasero a algún extraño!"

El Dr. Orson Huelga, del Centro para el Análisis Excesivo del Cine y los Horóscopos del Instituto Nacional de Pochismo, informa que el análisis basado en la doble interpretación de "extranjero" puede aplicarse a muchas películas de ciencia-ficción con resultados iluminadores.

Los temores de la corriente principal sobre la vida en un mundo que es cada vez menos blanco, dice el doctor, se reflejan en los temas y las caracterizaciones de muchas películas populares recientes (y no tan recientes):

-- "Aliens" de James Cameron es realmente acerca de los inmigrantes latinos que se apoderan de la vecindad, que procrean como insectos, que privan a los chicos rubios anglo-americanos de su primogenitura.

-- La cinta "E.T.", "la cálida y adorable fantástica" de Steven Spielberg, es realmente una alegoría sobre los asiáticos. El llamado Minoritario Modelo E.T. tiene fama de llevarse bien con los chicos blancos suburbanos. Le gusta la tecnología y no puede retener su licor.

-- Y, ¿qué hay de los Coneheads? Ellos llevan sombreros cómicos. Hablan inglés perfectamente -- de algún modo demasiado per-

fecto y demasiado formal. Se sienten atraídos a las comidas de las tiendas de conveniencia. Hmm... Que alguien llame a la Liga Contra la Difamación de los Pakistanos!

Algunas cintas de horror ni siquiera se molestan en disimular su mensaje. Alesia Garcia, Ph.D. (en inglés, con énfasis en Literatura Chicana) no podría menos que advertir que la sexualidad mexicana está representada en la película de Robert Rodriguez y Quentin Tarantino, "From Dusk Till Dawn", por las vampiresas desnudistas mexicanas que chupan la sangre! La imagen de cierre de la película revela que su ubicación principal, un bar, está construido sobre una pirámide azteca, presumiblemente por salvajes innobles sedientos de sangre procedentes del sur de la frontera.

El compañero de clase de Garcia, Chad Allen (candidato a Ph.D. en Cultura y Literatura Comparadas) ha hecho notar, en un documento erudito reciente, que el folletín cómico de 1994 "Album Gráfico del Llanero Solitario y Tonto" (que es, después de todo, una clase de película), que el héroe anglo-americano y el norteamericano aborigen (de las grandes planicies sep-

tricionales!) se unen para rechazar a un "dios" azteca vampiro, realmente un mexicano extranjero "ilegal" del espacio exterior que literalmente le chupa la sangre a los vaqueros blancos.

Y que se niega a aprender el inglés.

Los grupos de personas "indeseables" han sido caracterizados siempre como monstruos y extraños. Es más fácil odiarlos y matarlos de ese modo. Esto parece estar ocurriendo subliminalmente -- o subconscientemente, o alegóricamente, o como sea -- en el cine, aunque yo podría estar leyendo demasiadas cosas en estas películas.

Empero, antes de decidir que esta clase de análisis está exagerada, sólo consideren la alternativa: Que las películas de hoy no tienen significación subyacente.

Rayos! Acabamos de desperdiciar \$7 por persona en un montón de películas de basura!

(Lalo López, de Los Angeles, redacta "Mexiled", una columna satírica política, para L.A. Weekly. Los comentarios de los lectores pueden enviarse a través de: Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 "N" St. NW, Washington, DC 20005. E-mail: zapoteco@aol.com)

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Stumbling At The Congressional Welfare Dance

By Victor Landa

The first time I felt the wrathful gaze of feminine disapproval deep in my soul was in the fifth grade. I admit it was early in my life. That's why I remember it so well.

The all-boys school I attended had partnered with the all-girls school only blocks down the road to form a Ballet Folklorico. I was paired off with a pretty little third-grader. Our group practiced for months in the basement below the music hall.

When the day of the performance came, we danced as if we were floating on pillows of air; the crowd cheered and we took our bows. But when I turned to look at my partner, the pretty, doe-eyed third-grader had turned into the daughter of Beelzebub. Her eyes seared a path from the top on my sombrero to the bottom of my boots.

Although she didn't say a word, I sensed I had done something wrong. I was hurt-

ing in parts of my ego that I hadn't yet discovered. She turned quickly, and before her crinolines could settle, she pointed her chin in the air and walked away.

I thought I had danced well. To this day, I believe it was all a matter of perception. It's funny how we spend most of our lives doing different dances, thinking we danced well, when in fact we may have been stepping on someone's toes.

In Washington, President Clinton and members of the Congress have just finished their Welfare Reform Waltz. The president, as promised, has signed the third version of the welfare reform bill that Congress sent to him.

For their own reasons, I'm sure they each feel they've done well. They each kept their promises to fix what everyone knows is broken.

Now they're battling for bragging rights.

The problem with reform of

Sittin' Here Thinkin' Of Life and Lives

by Ira Cutler

There was so much news to talk about last week that the diner was just buzzing. The folks had broken up into small groups, just like at some sort of a workshop, and each group of three or four people was involved in an animated discussion of a different topic. I listened in, as I always do when I stop at the diner for breakfast, but I did not stay long enough to see whether the small groups later made reports to the larger group or whether anyone wrote notes in multi-colored markers on newsprint and taped them to the wall. I doubt it.

In the far corner, Larry and Mel and a couple of others were discussing the news that the President of the United States, who is running for re election as an Independent, had just invented Welfare As We Do Not Yet Know It. In one stroke one man changed the lives of millions of people that he does not know. He made a political calculation and maybe, to give him the benefit of the doubt, a social policy calculation, and then he just did it. It is the essence of being poor that people who do not even know you are forever making decisions that you, not they, will have to live with.

Mel, who is nearly eighty years old but looks ninety, was carrying on about this being the beginning of the end of the New Deal and about how his generation had paid into Social Security from the very beginning. Larry said that he'd bet that Mel's Social Security number was in two or maybe three figures, something like 314 and with no dashes necessary.

"Yeah," Mel said. "You think you can laugh, smart guy, but one by one they are going to pick us off until the rich people have ALL the money and nobody else can live a decent life. Today it's the welfare mothers, tomorrow it's the old geezers like me and the day after that it's you. Clinton has killed the Democratic Party and our lives are going to be different now because the two-party system just went POOF."

Vinnie, meanwhile, was all agog over the intergalactic news that tiny fossilized micro-organisms had been found in a meteor and were believed to have originated on Mars about 3.6 billion years ago.

"Not that I don't believe it," Vinnie said to everybody. "But tell me how they know any of that. How do they know it wasn't from Venus, like say 2 billion years ago? Or even New Jersey a year ago last October? I sure wouldn't know the difference."

Arthur Bupkiss was sitting at a nearby table with Connie, the black waitress, in what might be called discussion Group 3. Their table was just a little bit away from the big round table in the corner and Arthur overheard both Vinnie's group and Mel's group and jumped in.

"The thing is," Arthur said. "That this Mars thing may be the most profound discovery of our lifetimes. Maybe this is a moment in history that people will talk about 10,000 years from now. It may not mean anything to our daily lives today but it could be important to going to space and it could be remembered long after Social Security is dead and forgotten."

"And what are you two talkin' about, Arthur?" Vinnie asked. "You got secrets? Tell the whole class."

"Arthur got a job," Connie said and with that all the conversations of Clinton and Mars stopped in the face of an understandable life changing event. Arthur Bupkiss, formerly a finance guy for a giant corporation that was bought out in a hostile takeover by an even larger one, had not worked a day since he was forcibly retired in late 1994.

Arthur's job, as it turned out, is one of those after-the-corporate downsizing replacement jobs that the politicians and corporate leaders think are just fine. Arthur is the first and only bookkeeper for a newly created firm made up of six guys who buy used furniture, refinish it and, God willing, sell it out of a rented warehouse for a profit. The place is called Born Again Furniture.

Arthur talked with excitement about this job and about the furniture re finishing venture. These six guys are trying to produce a real, physical product in what we are continually told is a service economy. They took control of their lives and set up a business rather than work at jobs that would have taken them nowhere. As Arthur described it, there is a young guy who owns and manages the business, his Italian high school friend who learned how to refinish furniture from his immigrant grandfather, a black guy who owns a truck and who handles the deliveries and finds the used furniture to re-finish, and three Hispanics from Central America or somewhere who may, or may not, have papers. Arthur is thirty years older than the next oldest employee.

Like a lot of these second wave jobs this one is neither steady nor secure. It carries no health or other benefits and it pays far less than Arthur used to make. On the upside, Arthur does not have to wear a tie, the guys really appreciate what he knows and he only has to work at most twenty hours a week. Whatever the tangible rewards, Arthur's friends and I could see that doing this job was changing Arthur's life. He was waking up from a long and probably depressive sleep, laughing more and looking younger and more relaxed.

According to newspaper accounts the scientists tell us that the one called Martian organisms, on their best day, were not much to brag about. They were tiny and primitive. They had no consciousness, no sense of self, no awareness of their place in the larger scheme of things. They did not know that they were one-celled organisms or that they were Martian. They did not control their destiny or have an awareness that they did not. Consciousness of self, self awareness, is perhaps the only thing that really separates us from the other species that we have met so far.

Arthur Bupkiss has a sense of self and, thanks to his background, he has a belief that he can control his personal destiny. Maybe not wholly control it -- there are such things as luck, natural disasters and even forced retirements. But in the main, and when he is not depressed, Arthur thinks that he can make decisions to choose one of several paths before him and that his decisions will change the direction of his life. The job at Born Again Furniture came about because Arthur decided that he needed a job to be who he wanted to be.

The millions of welfare recipients in America, some would argue, have long been robbed of the opportunity to chart their own course and control their own lives. The argument is that by giving them financial assistance, in some cases for large parts of their lives, we robbed them of initiative and the opportunity and responsibility to determine their own destiny. Public assistance, if you believe this view, may have weakened the very people it was intended to help.

Well, we will get a chance to see. My life is substantially unchanged by both the welfare and Mars news, although I am interested in both, and Arthur Bupkiss is busy with other things. Bill Clinton will continue to run and probably win and Bob Dole will find something else to charge Clinton with and this little globe, one of the ones that has life on it, will keep spinning along as millions of poor families with children wait to find out what someone else has just done to their lives.

Ira Cutler says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irrelevant, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

know it," for which the conventional states can be exempted from most of those provisions. There is money allocated for child care and job training, but it isn't enough. The bill does nothing to aid the working poor, nor does it provide positive incentives to leave government dependency.

On the other hand, President Clinton has made an 11th-hour effort to deliver on his promise to "end welfare as we know it," for which the conventional states can be exempted from most of those provisions. There is money allocated for child care and job training, but it isn't enough. The bill does nothing to aid the working poor, nor does it provide positive incentives to leave government dependency.

On the other hand, President Clinton has made an 11th-hour effort to deliver on his promise to "end welfare as we will be limping off the stage.

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El Editor, Lubbock, TX, August 15, 1996

Pasos Equivocados En El Baile Congressional De La Asistencia Economica Publica

Por Victor Landa

La primera vez que sentí la mirada iracunda de la desaprobación femenina profundamente en mi alma fué en el quinto grado. Reconozco que fué temprano en mi vida. Por eso es que lo recuerdo tan vívidamente.

La escuela para varones a la que yo asistía se había asociado con la escuela para niñas, que estaba a varias cuadras de distancia de nuestro recinto, para formar un ballet folklórico. A mí me emparejaron con una niña bonita del tercer grado. Practicamos juntos durante meses en el sótano debajo del salón de música.

Cuando llegó el día de la función, bailamos como si estuviéramos sobre almohadas de aire; la multitud vitoreó e hicimos nuestras reverencias. Pero cuando me volví para mirar a mi pareja, la alumna bonita de tercer grado con ojos de coneja se había convertido en la hija de Belcebú. Sus ojos abrieron una brecha de fuego desde lo alto de mi sombrero hasta la suela de mis botas.

Aunque no dijo una palabra, yo sentí que había hecho algo equivocado. Me sentía lastimado en algunas partes de mí ser que ni siquiera había descubierto aún. Ella se volvió rápidamente, y antes de que sus crinolinas pudieran arreglarse, levantó la mandíbula en el aire y se alejó.

Yo creía que había bailado bien. Hasta el sol de hoy, creo que todo fué asunto de percepción. Es gracioso el modo de que pasamos la mayor parte de nuestras vidas ejecutando

distintos bailes, pensando que hemos bailado bien, cuando en verdad podemos haber estado pisándole los pies a alguien.

En Washington, el Presidente Clinton y los miembros del Congreso acaban de terminar su Vals de la Reforma de la Asistencia Económica Pública. El presidente, como lo prometió, ha promulgado la tercera versión del proyecto de ley de reforma de la asistencia económica pública que el Congreso le envió.

Por sus propias razones, estoy seguro de que cada uno de ellos siente que lo han hecho bien. Todos cumplieron sus promesas de arreglar lo que cada uno sabe que está roto.

Ahora están luchando por los derechos a jactarse.

El problema con la reforma de cualquier clase es que nadie sabe ciertamente cuáles serán los efectos. La relación de pronósticos de cada lado del debate puede llenar esta columna y otras que le sigan:

El ciclo de la dependencia de la asistencia económica pública terminará en cinco años. Las filas de los pobres aumentarán. Se desanimará a la inmigración. La tasa de embarazos de adolescentes disminuirá. Los niños sufrirán sin haber cometido ninguna falta. Los ricos obtendrán su rebaja de impuestos.

Pero al final sólo fué un baile de fantasía.

Una gestión noble al exterior para la reforma ha terminado sólo en un lavado de manos.

El problema le pertenece

ahora a los estados, algunos más ricos que otros, algunos más compasivos, cada uno con presiones e imágenes mentales direrentes.

¿Y a quién delegarán los estados el problema?

La forma de asistencia económica pública más noble es un empleo digno y una buena enseñanza. Pero esta llamada "reforma" de la asistencia económica pública, en verdad, no proporciona ninguna de éstas. Es la dirigencia en su peor forma.

Hay disposiciones en el proyecto de ley que fijarán límites al espacio de tiempo en que una persona puede recibir beneficios, pero los estados individuales pueden ser dispensados de la mayoría de estas disposiciones. Hay dinero asignado para atención a los niños y capacitación para el trabajo, pero no es suficiente. El proyecto no hace nada para ayudar a los pobres que trabajan, ni proporciona estímulos suficientes para salir de la dependencia del gobierno.

Por otra parte, el Presidente Clinton ha hecho una gestión de undécima hora para cumplir su promesa de "poner fin a la asistencia económica pública como la conocemos", por lo cual los conservadores del Congreso también están reclamando el crédito. Y Bob Dole ya no tiene por más tiempo a la asistencia económica pública como asunto de campaña para atacar al presidente.

El baile ha terminado por el momento, pero la banda está tocando aún. Políticamente, nuestros dirigentes han bailado bien y estarán haciendo sus reverencias, pero los más afectados por esta reforma saldrán del escenario cojeando.



Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofia Martinez

El sexto y el noveno mandamiento de la ley de Dios nos prohíben todos los pecados de impureza, tanto exteriores como interiores: Todo lo que puede manchar la hermosa y santa virtud de la pureza, en pensamientos, en deseos, en palabras, en miradas y en acciones. El sexto mandamiento prohíbe los actos exteriores, o sea de obra, y el noveno mandamiento prohíbe los actos interiores, como son los deseos y los pensamientos.

Pecan por pensamientos contra la pureza los que se detienen voluntariamente y se deleitan en ideas, recuerdos o representaciones deshonestas.

Siendo tan astuto y tan perverso el demonio y tan débil nuestra naturaleza, no hemos de extrañarnos que tengamos tentaciones impuras; ni siquiera los santos mayores se vieron libres de las tentaciones. Estas no deben, por tanto, acongojarnos; pues los que desechan la idea del mal, no pecan; antes bien esas luchas se convierten para los fieles servidores de Dios en ocasiones de verdaderos triunfos. Lo que hace el pecado es el consentimiento dado al pensamiento malo; es el acto de la voluntad que se complace deleitándose voluntariamente.

Pecan por deseos contra la pureza los que, además de pensar en cosas deshonestas, desean hacerlas, lo cual es un pecado más grande. Y pecan por palabras contra la pureza, los que dicen o platican con palabras deshonestas o de doble sentido o cantan canciones obscenas. También se peca contra la pureza con las miradas; pero si acaso detiene la vista sin necesidad y con deleite, en cosas deshonestas.

estas. Peca por acciones contra la pureza, solamente, los que se permiten actos deshonestos a solas, o con otras personas. Y, peca por pensamiento quién se detiene voluntariamente y se deleita en ideas, recuerdos o representaciones deshonestas.

Los pecados contra la pureza son generalmente mortales, sólo la advertencia o el consentimiento incom-

pleto pueden hacer que dichos pecados sean leves. San Pablo recomienda: que ni se nombre, siquiera, el pecado de impureza entre los cristianos, y después de haber enumerado las diferentes clases de pecados, declara formalmente que los impuros no entrarán en el reino de Dios; lo que quiere decir que se trata de pecados mortales. (Exodo 20, 14) (Gal. 5, 19-21). (Mat, 5, 27-31).

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El Editor, Lubbock, TX, August 15, 1996
Chavez Silent On Gamache Match

By JOHN NADEL
 LOS ANGELES - Julio Cesar Chavez has decided not to speak with reporters until after his next fight, against Joey Gamache in two months.

Gamache seems willing, and able, to speak for both of them.

When Chavez failed to appear at a news conference Tuesday, Gamache lamented his absence while charming the assembled media.

"I would have liked to have met him, I wish he would have been here," Gamache said. "I would have gotten his autograph for my son."

Gamache said facing Chavez on Oct. 12 is his chance of a lifetime. The 10-round bout is on the undercard of the Oscar De La Hoya-Miguel Angel Gonzalez WBC super lightweight championship bout at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Gamache said he has to fight the bout of his life to beat Chavez.

"That's what I plan on doing," he said.

But he also said Chavez is on the decline.

"Julio Cesar Chavez isn't Chavez anymore," Gamache said. "I've got the style to beat a Chavez. The guy is a legend. (But) the clock catches up with everybody. That's the problem with fighters in this game. They don't know when to say goodbye. I'll be happy to send him on his way."

Chavez, 34, of Culiacan, Mexico, was stopped on cuts by De La Hoya at 2:37 of the fourth round of their title bout June 7 at Caesars Palace. Chavez has a 97-2 record with

one draw and 79 knockouts.

Gamache, 30, of the United States, is 45-2 with 29 knockouts. He is the WBU super lightweight champion.

Promoter Bob Arum said he learned Monday night that Chavez would not attend the news conference and planned to take a vow of silence with the media until after the fight with Gamache.

"There's nothing I can do about it," Arum said. "Even at the press conferences, he will not speak."

Chavez needs a victory to earn a rematch with De La Hoya, assuming De La Hoya beats Gonzalez.

"I know that Julio deep in the back of his mind wants redemption," Gamache said. "(But) he's been struggling, he's not the same Chavez. I think it's obvious to everybody he's not the same fighter he used to be. Even if he hadn't gotten cut (against De La Hoya), I don't think the outcome would have been different."

"Chavez has a lot of pressure on him for this fight. The old get old, the young come in and take over."

American De La Hoya, 23, and Gonzalez, 25, of Mexico City bring perfect records into their fight. De La Hoya is 22-0 with 20 knockouts and Gonzalez is 41-0 with 31 knockouts.

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By DENNE H. FREEMAN

IRVING, Texas - The Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys seem to have the sky falling on them these days.

There are suspensions to be served by wide receiver Michael Irvin and defensive end Shante Carver.

There's worry over Jay Novacek's bad back and Tuesday's news that offensive tackle Mark Tuinei is out two to four weeks after rupturing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee in a 31-7 exhibition loss to New England on Monday night.

That's not to mention exhibition games in which the Cowboys have shown no offense, no defense and no special teams.

Quarterback Troy Aikman puts it succinctly.

"Pathetic," he said after the Cowboys were flogged by New England.

Dallas coach Barry Switzer called his team's performance "embarrassing" and described Tuinei's injury as devastating.

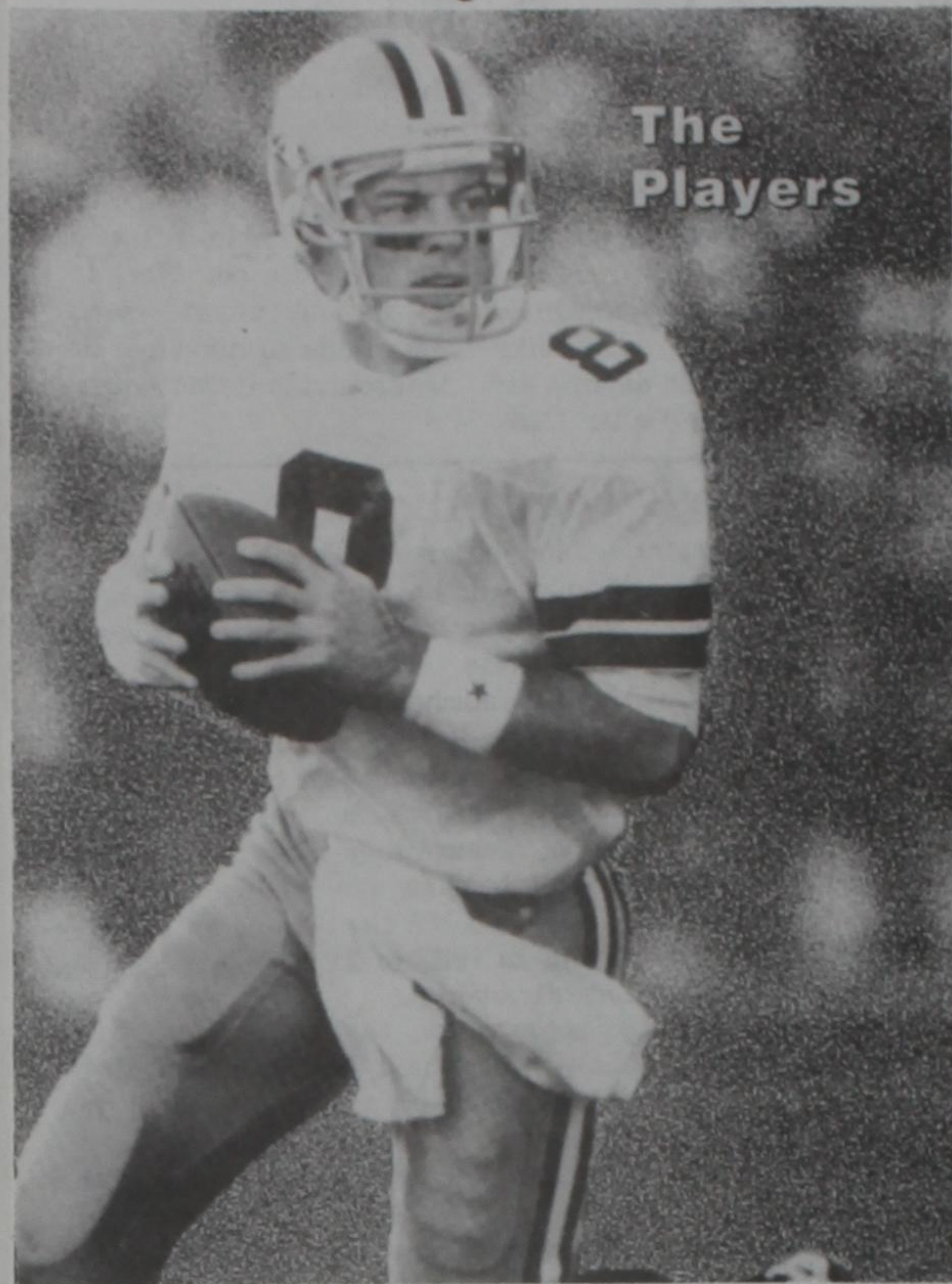
"We have no depth at all," Switzer said. "We are the thinnest team in football right now."

That the Cowboys are 1-2 in the preseason means little in the overall picture. In fact, the Cowboys are 11-19-1 overall in preseason during the 1990s, but have three Super Bowl rings to prove exhibition games are mere exercises for owners to make money.

Nevertheless, there's no getting around the fact that they don't look good.

"We haven't had a lot of our top guys in there, but there are no excuses for the way we've

Aikman: Cowboys Are 'Pathetic'



played," Aikman said. "I wish I had an answer on how we could improve our flat play."

One answer might be inserting the \$48 million man, Emmitt Smith, into the lineup. Smith hasn't played yet in the preseason, but he might on Saturday night against the Denver Broncos.

"I would expect the starters to see more time," Aikman said. "I'll play at least a half, and I would think the other starters will be in there with me."

Jason Garrett's play at quar-

terback has been the only preseason highlight. He starred in a 35-34 victory over Oakland with two touchdown passes in the last three minutes. He also had a touchdown pass against New England.

Personal accomplishments aside, the third-string quarterback is just as concerned as the rest. "The whole team has to get better," he said.

Another bright spot is that cornerback Kevin Smith, who missed the 1995 season because of a torn Achilles' tendon, played a quarter

against New England and reported no major problems.

"It was a short jump in the water, but it was a jump and that's good," Smith said.

Charles Haley also played a quarter at defensive end, and Herschel Walker, playing for the NFL minimum of \$275,000, continues to impress as a receiver, blocker and special teams player.

Smith's return at cornerback is vital because of Deion Sanders's experiment at wide receiver.

The more Smith can play cornerback, the more Sanders gets to play offense. Sanders needs the work. He dropped a perfect pass from Aikman against the Patriots.

Linebacker Darrin Smith said there's nothing wrong with the Cowboys that three solid weeks of hard work won't cure before they start the season Sept. 2 at Chicago.

"We've given the younger players their chance," Smith said. "Now we need to get better as a team."

Switzer said he was most concerned with special teams. The Cowboys gave up a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against New England.

"When you don't have defensive backs and depth and don't have specialists, it makes it difficult," Switzer said. "We have to find people who can cover and play."

The Cowboys don't have much depth. In fact, Switzer said, it's apparent "this team will have less depth than any returning Super Bowl champion the Cowboys have had."

"That's the facts of life because of the salary cap," he added.

GOP From First Page

public education for such children.

"Evidently, we've got different cultures between California and Texas because I feel very strongly that in my state the best thing we should do is educate the children of all Texas residents," Mr. Bush said.

STANDING UP

Armando Navarro coordinated a protest against the GOP and its policies before the convention started. He said that Republicans may be split over specifics of immigration policy, but he fears that California's crackdown is going to spread.

"We have to stand up and say we are not going to take this anymore," said Mr. Navarro, an associate professor in the department of ethnic studies at the University of California at Riverside.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Navarro led about 200 protesters over a winding dirt road along Spooner's Mesa, 20 minutes south of San Diego. They ended up at Imperial Beach, where the steel fence that Agent Ramirez patrols begins about 300 yards into the Pacific Ocean.

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Para El Expediente, Una Entrevista Que Tiene 21 Años De Edad

El 29 de agosto de 1970, mientras tomaba un descanso de su trabajo de informar sobre la marcha de la Moratoria Nacional Chicana contra la Guerra de Viet-Nam, el columnista del "Times" de Los Angeles, Rubén Salazar, fué alcanzado en la cabeza por una cánula de gas lacrimógeno en un café del Este de Los Angeles. La cánula fué disparada por un diputado del Alguacil Mayor del Condado de Los Angeles. Un jurado del forense halló, en votación de 4 contra 3, que Salazar, un crítico franco de las tácticas del cumplimiento de la ley en Los Angeles contra los hispanos, "murió a manos de otro", pero el Fiscal de Distrito de Los Angeles, Evelle Younger, se negó a proseguir el enjuiciamiento.

Mike Castro, reportero del "Times" entonces y ahora redactor del "Sacramento Bee", entrevistó a la madre de Salazar y escribió este artículo en agosto de 1975. La ocasión fué el viaje de la Sra. Salazar a Los Angeles desde Texas, para ver las cenizas de su hijo en el quinto aniversario de su muerte. El editor de Castro en el "Times" se negó a publicar la historia. Se presenta aquí, por primera vez, como parte de una cantidad de reportajes cada vez mayor sobre la vida y la muerte del periodista chicano precursor.

La Sra. Salazar murió en el 1979.

Por Mike Castro

Luz Chávez Salazar, madre del ex-periodista del "Times", Rubén Salazar, se sienta en la luz del crepúsculo vespertino que se desvanece en su casa de Lincoln Heights, fumando lentamente los cigarrillos que le da una amiga.

Ella tiene el cabello gris y es atractiva, y usa lentes de plástico con aro negro que alza, o bien para escuchar a lo que uno le dice, o para ponerle a uno en su lugar con una mirada como las madres acostumbra hacerlo. Su cara tiene muchas arrugas finas - casi imposibles de ver a no ser por el fulgor ocasional de un fósforo.

Ella viste inteligentemente un "sweater" pardo y negro a rayas y, hablando en su español nativo, es aguda en lo que tiene que decir.

"¿Por qué tuvo él que meterse en una situación que nos ha dejado una carga tal?" pregunta ella sobre la muerte de su hijo.

Ella no espera una respuesta en realidad, y no se considera tratar de dársela.

Otros dicen algunas veces cosas muy ásperas sobre él, agrega ella. "El mundo sigue siendo cruel. Nos dejó tristeza hasta la muerte."

Ella ha estado esperando cinco años para visitar las cenizas que son los restos de la cremación de Salazar. Su consuelo, explica ella, es que después de todos esos años de ansiedad, ella puede ver ahora donde quedó su único hijo, visitarlo, tocarlo y acompañarlo hasta el último momento.

Su voz se quiebra. Ella dice en una entonación larga: "No me resigno al haber perdido a Rubén de ese modo! Si yo pudiera decirle a usted cuán orgullosa me sentí el día en que dí a luz a un hijo."

Sus lágrimas se envuelven en la casi obscuridad y en el reflejo de la luz tenue en sus lentes, mientras ella vuelve la cabeza.

"Mi relato es muy personal."

Ella ha estado esperando durante cinco años para visitar las cenizas de su hijo porque no tenía a nadie que le ayudara, hasta que una amiga, Angela Ramírez, se dió cuenta de la importancia del viaje y decidió traerla aquí.

No es que ella hubiera pedido dinero, como lo hacen muchos en estos días, explica la Sra. Salazar. Ella tenía lo suficiente como para pagar. Lo que ella necesitaba era compañía, alguien que le enseñara el camino y la guiara en la ciudad enorme y desconocida, en busca de su hijo.

Ella nunca supo cuán famoso había llegado a ser su hijo hasta la hora de su muerte, revela ella.

Ella no sabía que él había muerto hasta que lo vió por tel-

evisión. Su corazón y el de su esposo nunca se han recuperado del golpe. Ella necesita de alguien que la atienda.

"Me gustaría saber por qué lo mataron y por qué lo dejaron allí," continúa diciendo ella. Con enojo, ella pregunta por qué lo dejaron en el piso del Silver Dollar Café

durante cuatro horas sin que nadie lo supiera. ¿Porque les falló el valor a otros? sugiere ella.

Ella no habla ni lee inglés. Está ansiosa por saber lo que se ha descubierto sobre la muerte de su hijo en el tiempo transcurrido desde aquel día.

Survey: Teen Abortions Down

Fewer teen-agers are having abortions, according to a survey of nearly 10,000 women who have had the procedures. Six in 10 of the women say they were using contraceptives that failed, reports Associated Press.

The study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, to be published Thursday, provides the most extensive look at who gets abortions since the nonprofit organization's last check in 1987.

The Guttmacher report confirms mostly white, middle-class women get abortions, because they make up the bulk of the nation's women of childbearing age. Young women still are most likely to get abortions - but the teen-agers' share has dropped, from 25.5 percent in 1987 to 21.5 percent last year, Guttmacher researchers discovered.

"We can't entirely account for that" drop, said study author Stanley Henshaw, who noted that the overall U.S. abortion rate has dropped about 10 percent in recent years while the rate of teen-agers who gave birth rose.

"Part of the reason is that they're continuing more of their pregnancies," he added.

The survey concluded women who are Hispanic or black, poor and live with someone they're not married to continue to have a statistically disproportionate share of abortions.

For example, nonwhite women make up 18.9 percent of the childbearing-age population, but accounted for 38.7 percent of the abortions, Henshaw reported.

Women with family incomes below \$15,000 accounted for 28.7 percent of abortions yet make up just 15.4 percent of the childbearing-age population. And unmarried women living with a man accounted for 20.2 percent of abortions, yet constitute just 5.8 percent of the population, the survey found.

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