

(The following is an interview that appears in this month's Lubbock Magazine reprinted by permission of the author.
by Jason Lee

"America's most beautiful whore is pop culture."
It was the first and most direct statement he made to me of the central idea of his play. It was not said angrily, ironically, or pitifully. It was simply stated. Stated as though it were one of the enduring truths.

According to Solis, his play Santos & Santos is about culture and assimilation, "what it means to be an American." It is the panoramic drama of a Mexican-American family attempting to "make it" in the improvisational culture of the contemporary United States-Texas, to be exact. Solis says, "There are very few works that actually... are about that... immigrant experience of how much do I respect the past, how much does the past have a hold on me, how much can I sacrifice for America?"

Santos & Santos portrays three Latino brothers, all attorneys, each of whom has his own approach to the question of how to attain the "American Dream." The interactions, conflicts, and betrayals of their various visions set this often funny play upon its tragic trajectory.

While he accepts that this work has aspects of classical tragedy, Solis does not set out to write in any particular genre.

The story he tells has tragic elements, but, like life itself, the laughter creeps in at the most unexpected moments. According to Solis, Santos & Santos is not an unrepentant tragedy. "One of the ways in which I use comedy or humor is to... undercut the most serious, searing, gutwrenching moment in the play. I can't take myself that seriously." This tragicomic or serio-comic vision is one trait which Solis shares with one of his favorite playwrights, William Shakespeare.

He also shares a high lyricism of language and the unfettered ability to shift

Octavio Solis's play Santos & Santos will be performed by the Texas Tech University Department of Theatre and Dance, under the direction of the Department Chair Norman A. Bert, Ph.D. The play will run February 27-28 and March 1-2 and 6-9. For reservations and information, call 742-3601, 12-5:30pm, Monday through Saturday.



Octavio Solis

place and time as needed without extended preamble and "realistic" scenery. "...I have telescoped time and space, something that I think that people don't usually talk about or discuss when they're looking at this play in particular. I'm not sure they're aware of the way things are moving so fast, and... the kind of acting style that is required in order to move the scenes quickly from place to place, universe to universe, time zone to time zone, in seconds; with no set changes, no transitions, no blackouts... it all happens on a dime!"

There has been some culturally sensitive criticism about Solis's portrayal of the Santos brothers as ethically and morally corrupt Latinos. It must be noted, however, that the Anglos in the play are equally distorted, at least. One of the Anglo characters is "totally amoral," while one of the Latino women actually achieves some measure of redemption.

Solis says, "I don't view any of my characters with contempt; I love'em." He also said, "If you want positive role models, don't look

continued on page 5

Budget Amendment Fencesitter Decides

A previously uncommitted Democrat has tentatively decided to support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, reports Associated Press.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who campaigned in support of the amendment but has since expressed reservations, has decided to vote for it. Her expected support would bring supporters within one vote of the 67 - or two-thirds majority - needed for Senate passage of the amendment.

That would leave Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey as a lone undecided Democrat and would increase pressure on him from both sides. Torricelli said today he was not ready to announce his position but would have something to say Wednesday.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, D-Miss., said he expects a final vote on the measure next Tuesday.

The amendment is supported by all 55 Republicans and 10 other Democrats.

Before Landrieu's expected support was disclosed, opponents of the amendment said momentum appeared to be going their way because of growing concern the proposal could undermine Social Security.

Clinton Unveils Anti-Drug Plan

President Clinton outlined a massive, \$16 billion anti-drug strategy amid signs that his administration would give Mexico a slap on the wrist for its government's ties to drug traffickers, reports Associated Press.

Clinton unveiling his drug-fighting budget, which the White House touted as the largest in history. It represents an \$800 million increase over the fiscal 1997 drug budget.

Mexico was embarrassed earlier this month by the arrest of its top anti-drug official on charges he had links to drug traffickers. The arrest came as Clinton administration officials were ready to rubber stamp Mexico's re-certification for the State Department aid program that assists foreign governments in fighting drugs.

Vice President Al Gore noted that drug use among teens has doubled over the past five years, and one-third of new AIDS cases are linked to intravenous drug use.

The president's drug-control plan relies heavily on an unprecedented \$350-million ad campaign that would - if the private sector antes up half of the money - bombard young people with anti-drug messages during prime-time television.

Otherwise, the package contained no new initiatives; they were first proposed last month as part of the president's fiscal 1998 budget. It includes a 150 percent increase, to \$75 million, for "drug courts" that offer nonviolent drug criminals voluntary alternatives to jail.

Another \$42 million would help pay for drug-testing those arrested on federal, state and local charges.

Clinton also announced the release of \$16 million in previously appropriated Justice Department funds to 115 communities planning drug courts.

Rosalind Brannigan, vice president of Drug Strategies, said her non-profit research institute was disappointed that the lion's share of the new money would pay for television ads and the "Safe and Drug-Free Schools" program that uses slogans and activities to teach kids the dangers of drugs.

"They are not enough. The majority of programs that are funded are not the programs that research has shown are efficacious," said Brannigan. "You have to have a skill-building campaign along with an information campaign."

College Tax Plans Don't Help Poor

An analysis released Tuesday says tax-based proposals by the Clinton administration and Congress to help families pay for college fail to reach poorer families, reports Associated Press.

Though praising the administration for devoting more money to higher education, two educational research organizations said tax credits and deductions need to be balanced with more direct aid. The analysis looked at current tax benefits and those being proposed, including the tax credits and deductions offered by President Clinton.

"Tax policies improve college affordability, but student aid policies improve both affordability and access to higher education," said Jamie Merisotis, president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy. "If we are to succeed, our policies must reflect both approaches."

The institute, based in Washington, and the Educational Resources Institute, based in Boston, did the analysis.

Using Census figures and other data, the groups said middle-class and wealthy families send more children to college and are more likely to use tax breaks.

The administration acknowledges that it has targeted the breaks for middle-income families. It has also proposed raising the grant amounts available to poorer students.

Family Planning Clears Senate

The administration scored a major success for its international family-planning policy Tuesday when the Senate voted to release funds without imposing new restrictions on groups involved in abortion activities, reports Associated Press.

The 53-46 vote in the Senate guaranteed that on March 1 the government can begin releasing \$385 million slated for overseas family planning. Previously that money had been frozen until July 1.

"It was a critically important vote because it was the first on the family-planning issue in this Congress," said Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Opponents sought to make the funding contingent on restoration of the so-called Mexico City policy in place during the Reagan and Bush administrations but stopped by President Clinton. That policy barred funding for private groups that use their own funds to perform or promote abortions. Federal funding for abortions overseas has been banned since 1973.

Advocates of family planning estimate that a 35 percent cut in the planning budget since fiscal 1995 has resulted in 2 million more abortions worldwide, and that premise appeared to win over some strong anti-abortion lawmakers.

Food Stamp Cutoffs for Unemployed Begin

Jobless adults who have been on food stamps for three months lost them Saturday - the first cutoff date under a new welfare law, reports Associated Press.

The reformed rules say childless adults, under age 50 and able to work, can get food stamps for just three months out of every three years.

Continued on Page 3

"El Respeto Al
Derecho Ajeno
Es La Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez
ESTABLECIDO 1977
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EL EDITOR

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Lubbock, Texas

Texas Case Mulls Absentee Voting

By KELLEY SHANNON

DEL RIO, Texas - Something strange happened on Election Day in this dusty border county: The Hispanic candidates for sheriff and county commissioner who were leading all night ended up losing when absentee ballots came pouring in for two whites, one of them a former Ku Klux Klansman.

A closer look at the 800 mail-in ballots revealed that almost all were cast by military members and their dependents - most of them, whites who were once stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base but hadn't lived in Val Verde County for years. Val Verde County is 70 percent Hispanic.

"We all thought that this was a fraud and that democracy was not being respected," said Jovita Casarez, who filed a federal lawsuit over the election. "When this type of fraud is committed, it's embarrassing for all the nation."

But the winners said they only took advantage of a long-standing policy that allows military families to vote in the

place they call home, no matter where they live.

"This election system and absentee balloting has been in place for years," said Republican Murry Kachel, who won his county commissioner's seat by 113 votes. "Whether a candidate knocks on your door in person or with a 32-cent stamp should not make any difference."

However, the feud has opened up debate on the fairness of the military voting system. The lawsuit could have far-reaching effects, determining once and for all what military families on the move can list as their legal residence and where they can mark their ballots for local elections.

Military families retain residency in one place for the sake of convenience, so that they don't constantly have to get new driver's licenses and registrations.

Texas, with 18 military bases, is particularly attractive as a place of residency because there is no state income tax and because public college tuition for residents is among the

cheapest in the nation. Even George Bush claimed a Houston hotel suite as his official residence while he was president.

The "phantom voters," as some people in Val Verde County call those who reside here on paper only, helped bring about Republican sheriff candidate D'Wayne Jernigan's 267-vote victory over Democratic interim sheriff Oscar Gonzalez Jr., and Kachel's victory over Democrat Frank Coronado for county commissioner.

A federal judge has barred Jernigan and Kachel from taking office until residency questions are settled in a separate state lawsuit filed by the Democratic losers. That case is set for April 21.

Lawyers for Kachel said he and Jernigan were the only candidates who campaigned among federal mail-ballot voters, and that Democrats had the same opportunity.

The Republicans' victory would give the GOP its first majority on the commissioners court in the 111-year history of Val Verde County, a place of 42,000 residents, 2,900 of them at the Air Force base.

"I followed the law," said Val Verde County Clerk Maria Elena Cardenas, who oversaw the November election.

Texas has a "flexible definition" of residency that largely depends on the voter's intent, said Ann McGeehan, deputy assistant secretary of state for elections.

The Texas Secretary of State's Office says service members can apply for a ballot by supplying a Texas address for a place the voter plans someday to return to. The voter doesn't actually have to have a home at that address.

"We are allowed legally to do this," said absentee voter Carol Belongia, 44, of Colorado Springs, Colo., whose husband is an Air Force attorney and had his first assignment at Laughlin.

They moved away in 1988, but still keep all three cars registered in Val Verde County and maintain it as their address on their driver's licenses.

"It's kind of tough being in the military," she said. "One of the few benefits is we can maintain our state residency like that, to give us some sense of permanence, of continuity."

According to court papers, another absentee voter was a man who spent three days at his grandmother's home in Val Verde County during his honeymoon 25 years ago. He still

maintains that as his address.

"What happens to your representation when you have phantom voters?" candidate Gonzalez asked. "What happened to the one-man, one-vote principle?"

Texas Rural Legal Aid claimed virtually all of the 800 votes in question were military officers and their dependents and that 95 percent were white and 85 percent were Republican. TRLA questionnaires to the out-of-town voters found that 457 had last resided in Val Verde County more than four years ago.

Meanwhile, Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, both Texas Republicans, have complained that Texas Rural Legal Aid is trying to keep military members from voting. They also contend TRLA - which receives most of its budget from the federally funded Legal Services Corp. - should not have involved itself in an election dispute.

TRLA eventually withdrew from the federal lawsuit but denied it did so for political reasons.

Fueling the dispute is Kachel's membership in the KKK while he was in the Air Force in Germany in 1981.

Kachel, who retired from the military last year to run for office, denied under oath in court papers that he had been a member. But he acknowledged to the Del Rio News-Herald - and to The Associated Press on Friday - that he was a KKK member but dropped out and later denied his involvement because he was embarrassed.

"I admit and regret that I fell in with a crowd whose mystery, secrecy and security seemed real 'cool' at the time," Kachel told the newspaper. "During the two years I was a member of that group, I knew deep in my heart that I didn't possess the same ideas or ideals they did."

David Hall, executive director of Texas Rural Legal Aid, which filed the lawsuit on Ms. Casarez's behalf, called Kachel "a poster child for the need to enforce residency requirements."

"It re-emphasizes the basic principle - you vote where you live," Hall said. "You're more likely to know who you're voting for."

Ms. Casarez said that since the controversy arose, callers have harassed her and people have cased and photographed her home.

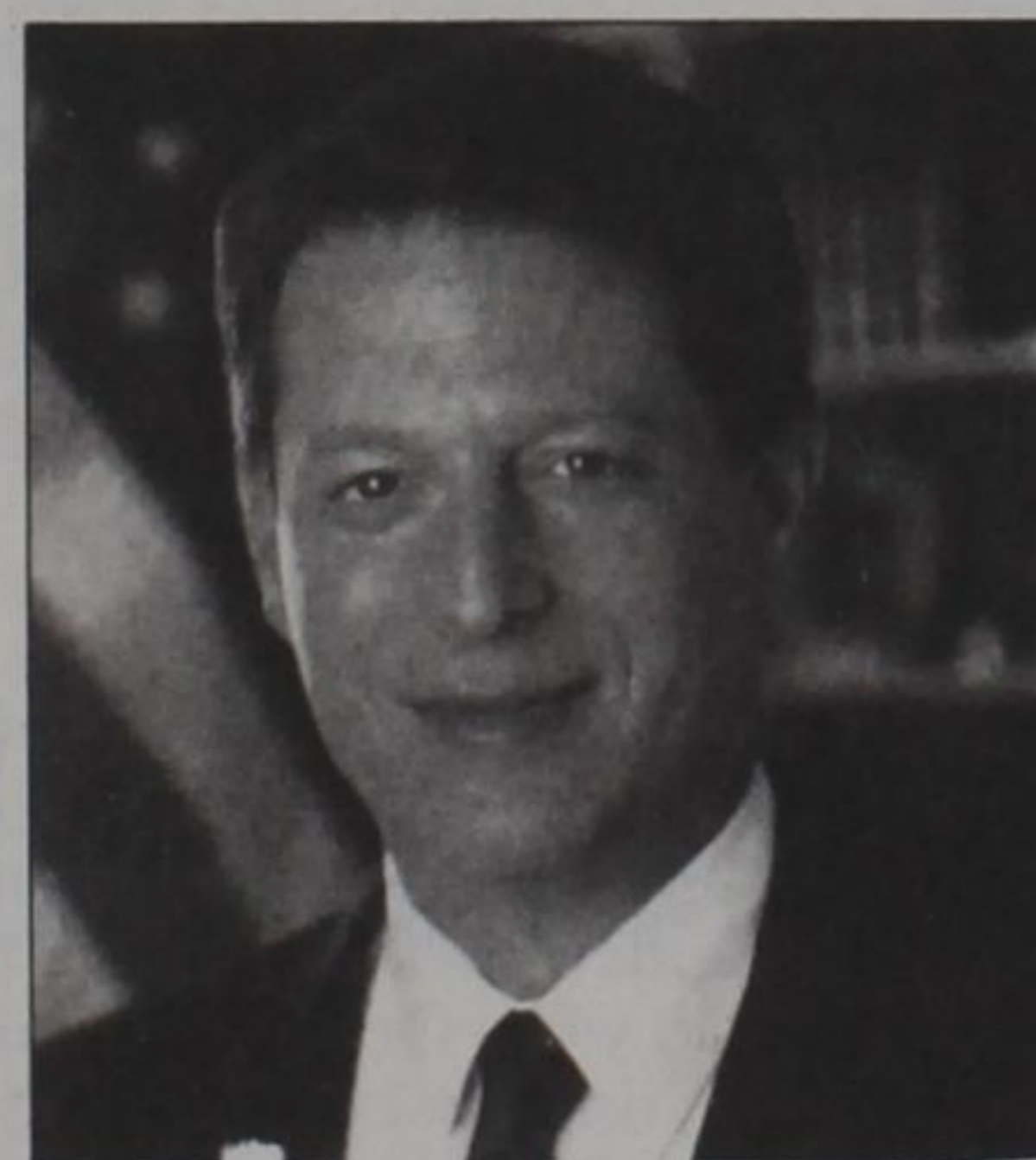
"I'm disillusioned," she said. "But this does not take away my enthusiasm. I go forward."

Por CARLOS CONDE

El Vice-Presidente Al Gore puede lucir rígido y aburrido, pero nadie lo ha acusado de ser tonto.

El Presidente Clinton estaba a dos días aún de prestar el juramento para su segundo término, y aquí estaba Gore atendiendo y saludando al público en el Baile de Gala Hispano Inaugural en la Estación Central de Washington, D.C., como si fuera una convención política en vez de una celebración. Y, ¿por qué no? El acontecimiento, para el cual se vendieron todas las entradas, atrajo cerca de 4,000 hispanos. Muchos eran jugadores políticos importantes en sus comunidades, de modo que no había mejor oportunidad ni lugar para echar a rodar la pelota para el año 2000.

Es de conocimiento general que Gore será el postulado del Partido Demócrata. Nadie lo aceptará oficialmente, pero el gesto lució un poco programado. Se suponía que el Presidente Clinton llegara, pero este se disculpó, alegando tener la garganta irritada. Hillary apareció del brazo del saliente secretario de vivienda, Henry Cisneros, seguidos por el ex-secretario de transportes y ahora de energía, Federico



Peña. Ellos dijeron poco y se fueron rápidamente, pero eso es lo que se supone que hagan los "actos de calentamiento."

Una hora después, Gore, luciendo una elegante corbata negra, apareció con su esposa Tipper. Tampoco dijo mucho, en realidad: un saludo corto en español chapurreado, algo sobre "ustedes hicieron la diferencia" y, desde luego, sus usuales bromas sobre sí mismo. No obstante, no es lo que dijo, sino el tiempo y la atención que prestó en saludar a la gente y el aura presidencial que proyectó.

Puede ser que en el ambiente y el estado de ánimo que caracterizaba el evento cualquier héroe político de renombre habría deslumbrado

continued on page 5

The Zacatecas Cafe Survives A Language Crisis

By WILLIAM O. MEDINA

When the clanging of dishes in our family's Zacatecas Cafe suddenly stopped, I realized something had gone wrong in the kitchen. Unattended, the bubbling pots of chile colorado were overflowing, causing flames to flash on the stove. Production had come to a halt because of a standoff between the cooks and the waitresses. They were arguing about a taco plate that had been taken to the wrong customer.

"It's all her fault. She ought to learn English if she's going to live in the United States," shouted the guilty waitress.

To the kitchen workers -- all of them Spanish-speakers -- this statement amounted to a declaration of war. One's language is to be defended at all costs.

Fortunately, I was able to soothe rattled nerves, and once again tacos flowed from the kitchen. Although the cooks agreed to embrace peace, the truce was as fragile as a wet tortilla.

I played the role of shuttle diplomat, bouncing between the kitchen and the water station where the waitresses always gather. With some cajoling, the warring factions agreed that a non-violent resolution was in the best interest of everyone.

To avoid another conflict, however, the issue of language had to be resolved. My task was to weigh the arguments and make a decision about which language would be the official language of the cafe.

My mother Josephine and father Oscar opened the Zacatecas Cafe in Riverside, Calif.,

in 1963. They built both a Spanish- and English-speaking clientele. Despite the popularity in California of the English-only movement, Spanish continues to dominate in the restaurant's kitchen. It was my mother's primary language and without her, there would never have been a cafe.

Insisting that she learn English would have been akin to asking a successful diplomat like Henry Kissinger to extinguish his accent. Speaking English isn't a prerequisite for making tortillas, she once reminded me.

Until she passed away last year, Mom, although disabled, regularly monitored the kitchen and offered unsolicited criticism whenever necessary. Space is restricted, but somehow she managed to steer her wheelchair between stoves, tables and refrigerators.

Cooking was an art which she could never abandon. I can't imagine her talking about Mexican food in any other language. What words in English could express (ital) sabroso? (unital) The (ital) chile verde (unital) wouldn't taste right if Spanish were banned. It's possible that, if pressed, Mom would have shut down the business to protest language tyranny.

Even today, in the dining room on Sunday after mass, sometimes only Spanish is heard. If the waitress on duty can't speak Spanish, then chaos is likely to occur. To the untrained ear, an order of arroz (rice) sounds like the customer wants "a rose" brought to the table. "Pan" means one thing in English, something totally dif-

ferent in Spanish.

Frustrated patrons don't return if their stomachs are disappointed. Then profits diminish. My father believes a business must accommodate the customer or become extinct. If a majority of your customers speak Arabic, you learn Arabic.

Some of our suppliers specialize in Mexican products. Their drivers function well without being fluent in English. Fortunately, the cafe is language-friendly for them and transactions normally unfold without a hitch. But imagine trying to explain, if you can't speak Spanish, that the (ital) carne asada (unital) was too tough and that a refund is due.

Occasionally the drivers offer discounts that cannot be utilized if one can't decode the message. I always read the invoice when deliveries are made. I must be able to read Spanish as well as English to detect any overcharges.

Clearly, in our business, not knowing Spanish can be costly.

To insist that the cafe's work-

ers speak only English might please the proponents of the Official-English movement. But how could I expect people who prepare tortillas and frijoles with such professional skill and love to converse in a language that fits like a tight shoe? How would my mother ever have expressed her displeasure whenever the beans were too salty or the chile too mild? Such restrictions would surely have ruined the cafe.

In defiance of the English-only movement, I have refused to implement a harsh language policy. Employees can converse in whatever language they choose.

Now having analyzed the role language plays at the cafe, I will encourage the waitresses to take a course in conversational Spanish. Additionally, the cooks might benefit from the English-as-a-Second-Language classes offered at the local community college.

(William Medina of Riverside, Calif., helps manage his family's restaurant there.)

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Sittin' Here Thinkin'

What's Cool

by Ira Cutler

Most things are a lot less complicated than the experts would have us believe. For example, I spend a fair amount of time in the company of experts on the subject of changing the behavior of young people. Their goal, by and large, is to get young people to stop doing things like crime, drugs, getting pregnant and dropping out of school. They hope, instead, to find ways to get young people to do things like study, work hard, obey the law and resist various temptations.

The experts have developed enormously complicated theories and models about how to do this, including discussions about life options, leadership and youth development. Some of this thinking, particularly in recent years, is clouded by the sappy but popular notion that adolescents, deep down, are actually rational people with enormous innate wisdom and capability. The politically correct position today is to call for adults to stop practicing age-ism and to turn significant power over to these young people. To, for example, include them in the process of running schools and cities and other things that no one else seems to know how to run, anyway.

The evidence in real life, however, is that most adolescents are so overwhelmed by the changes in their bodies, so driven by raging hormones, so lacking in practical experience and plain good judgment, that it takes an act of supreme courage to let them use the car, much less run the government. This is not a fault of theirs, by the way. This is how adolescence is and has always been -- it is more about nature than about social justice.

To change the behavior of adolescents you have to understand how they think and how they make choices. And the truth is that at 13, 14 or 15 these people are not really very smart yet. Certainly they are not nuanced, subtle thinkers who see a lot of gray areas and who carefully consider and weigh their options in making choices. To the contrary, the key to understanding adolescents is to understand that, in their still developing minds, there are really only two categories into which everything in life falls: cool and un-cool, which is also sometimes known as gross.

These categories -- cool and gross -- are not, as adults might imagine, along some sort of continuum. Things are not a little cool, moderately cool and very cool. Remember, these are not subtle thinkers. Things are cool or gross and those designations, for as long as they last, are absolute and, from the adolescent's point of view, self-evident. They frequently cannot tell you why something is cool or is gross but they are certain which is which and they cannot imagine why you cannot see it.

Adolescents want to do cool things, and not do gross things, because they want to be accepted and, if possible, admired by other adolescents. Cool people do cool things, you see. This is an enormously powerful driving force, not to be underestimated. Most kids, most times, will talk, dress, think and act in the ways that they believe will make them look the coolest. They will drive ornamental metal objects into their faces and bodies to be cool, as you can see today on any city street. They will do drugs, get pregnant, fail in school and commit murders if, in the group where they get their identity, doing so will cause them to be considered cool.

The trick then, obviously, is to figure out how to get them to think a) what you want them to do is cool and b) what you want them to refrain from doing is gross. Pretty much everything else is missing the point.

If that is the trick, and I think it is, then the first thing we ought to do is stop going to the social scientists for answers. Social scientists have never succeeded in making Social Science very cool, so why would we think that they have much to offer? And what about the Child Advocates, who would suggest that we have as much to learn from these kids as we have to teach? It seems to me that they are hopeless as well -- too caught up in ethical struggles about whether our adult ideas are inherently the better ideas, too worried about being judgmental.

Instead, it seems to me that the people we ought to be learning from is NIKE. NIKE took athletic shoes and built an industrial empire on making them cool. They, more than anyone else, know how to do this "making things cool" thing. Most social programs, I fear, are selling plain old, smelly sneakers like Keds.

There are, of course, limits to the impact of the "make it cool" approach. For one thing, we cannot expect to reach everybody. However successful we are with the general population, we cannot hope to reach the small fraction of kids who are forever interested in being un-cool, as a matter of principle and style, because it is their way of being a different kind of cool.

But, with its limitations, I strongly advocate a national campaign to control and mold the minds of adolescents into thinking differently about what is cool. One cannot, of course, actually announce such a thing -- if they know they are being manipulated they will resist. Rather, we need a subtle and secret campaign that quite purposely sets out to glamorize certain behaviors over others.

Unlike Bill Bennett, who has similar notions, I would not suggest that morality be at the heart of this -- I think that may be too tough a sell if the market is kids on the edge of deep trouble. Instead, I would try to sell a vision of cool-ness that is built on personal characteristics such as carefully thinking things through, being selective about associates and actions, not allowing others to push you too fast or to take control away from you. The flip side, the gross behavior, would be characterized by impulsiveness, by following a herd mentality, by carelessness and ignorance.

My slogans would be about knowing what you are getting into, not being a fool, not getting taken. It is, I think, a kind of a capitalistic, rugged individualism, cowboy sort of cool. I think NIKE could go somewhere with it.

Oh, and by the way, we should acknowledge that pretty much all of the above could be said about adults and their need to be cool as well. Or do you think anyone actually likes playing golf, wearing neckties and mowing the grass?

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'.

in Southern California, he states, knowing Spanish can provide an important advantage.

A program at the University of Arizona at Tucson sends students who are preparing to become bilingual education teachers to a Central American country to help them pass the state boards.

To improve her Spanish writing skills in a hurry, Elsa Fimbres, a Tucson elementary school teacher, went to Costa Rica in 1994 through the university's program. Living and studying there allowed her to appreciate a Hispanic culture that's different from the Mexi-

Read It First In El Editor

'Cafe Zacatecas' Sobrevive Una Crisis Idiomática

Por WILLIAM O. MEDINA

Quando cesó de repente el ruido de tapas y ollas en nuestro Café Zacatecas, el restaurante de la familia, me di cuenta de que algo había pasado en la cocina.

Faltas de atención, las cazuelas en ebullición de chile colorado estaban derramándose, provocando llamas en la estufa. La producción se había detenido por completo mientras se desarrollaba un altercado entre los cocineros y las meseras. Estaban discutiendo sobre un plato de tacos que se le había servido al cliente equivocado.

"Ella tiene la culpa. Debería aprender inglés si va a vivir en los Estados Unidos," gritaba la mesera culpable.

Para los trabajadores de la cocina -- todos ellos de habla hispana, ése argumento equivale a una declaración de guerra. El idioma propio ha de ser defendido a toda costa.

Afortunadamente, pude suavizar los nervios dislocados, y una vez más fluyeron los tacos desde la cocina. Aunque los cocineros acordaron abrazar la paz, la tregua era tan frágil como una tortilla mojada.

Yo desempeñé el papel de un diplomático ambulante, viajando entre la cocina y la fuente de agua donde las meseras suelen reunirse. Con algunas lisonjas, las facciones en conflicto acordaron que una solución no violenta era la mejor solución para todos.

Para evitar otro conflicto, sin embargo, el asunto del idioma tenía que resolverse. Mi tarea

era sopesar los argumentos y adoptar una decisión sobre cuál sería el idioma oficial del café.

Mis padres Josefina y Oscar abrieron el Café Zacatecas en Riverside, Calif., en 1963. Desarrollaron una clientela de ambas lenguas, español e inglés. A pesar de la popularidad del Movimiento del Inglés Solamente en California, el español continúa dominando la cocina del café. Es el primer idioma de mi madre y, sin ella, no habría un café.

Insistir que ella aprendiera inglés sería como pedir a un diplomático exitoso como Henry Kissinger que extinguiera su acento. Mi madre me recordó una vez que el hablar inglés no es un requisito para hacer tortillas.

Hasta el momento de su muerte hace un año, Mamá, aunque impedida, vigilaba periódicamente la cocina y ofrecía críticas no solicitadas siempre que fuera necesario. El espacio de la cocina era limitado, pero ella se las arreglaba para conducir su silla de ruedas entre las estufas, las mesas y los refrigeradores.

Cocinar era un arte que ella no podía abandonar. No puedo imaginármela hablando sobre comida mexicana en ningún otro idioma. ¿Qué palabras en inglés podrían expresar el sentido de "sabroso"? El "chile verde" no sabría bien si se prohibiera hablar español en la cocina. Es posible que, de haber sido presionada, Mamá hubiera cerrado el negocio en protesta contra la tiranía idio-

mática.

Muchos de nuestros clientes no hablan inglés. Algunas veces, los domingos después de Misa, sólo se oye español en el comedor. Si la mesera no puede hablar español, el caos es más probable. Para el oído no adiestrado, una orden de "arroz" suena como si el cliente quisiera que le trajeran una rosa a su mesa. "Pan" significa una cosa en inglés y algo completamente distinto en español.

Los clientes, frustrados, no regresan si sus estómagos se desilusionan. Entonces, las ganancias disminuyen. Oscar, mi padre, cree que un negocio debe complacer siempre al cliente, o, de lo contrario, desaparecerá. Si la mayoría de sus clientes hablan árabe, usted debe aprender árabe.

Algunos de nuestros proveedores se especializan en productos mexicanos. Sus choferes funcionan bien sin tener el dominio del inglés. Afortunadamente, el café es idiomáticamente amistoso para ellos y las operaciones se desenvuelven normalmente sin problemas. Imagínese tratar de explicar que la carne asada estaba demasiado dura y que el dinero se tiene que reembolsar si usted no puede hablar español.

A veces, los conductores ofrecen descuentos que no se pueden recibir si uno es incapaz de descifrar el mensaje. Siempre leo las facturas cuando se hacen las entregas. Debo ser capaz de leer español tanto como inglés si quiero descubrir si me están cobrando de-

mas.

Es claro que, en nuestro negocio, el no conocer el español puede resultar costoso.

La otra alternativa sería insistir en que los trabajadores del café hablen inglés. Eso complacería a los que avanzan el Movimiento del Inglés Solamente, pero, ¿cómo podría yo hacer cumplir esa ley?

¿Cómo podría yo esperar que las personas que preparan tortillas y frijoles con tanta habilidad profesional y amor conversaran en un idioma que les queda como un zapato apretado?

¿Cómo manifestaría mi madre su descontento siempre que los frijoles estuvieran demasiado salados, o el chile demasiado suave? Tales limitaciones de seguro arruinarían al café.

A diferencia del Movimiento del Inglés Solamente, me niego a poner en práctica una política idiomática áspera. Los empleados pueden hablar en cualquier idioma que elijan. Tras haber sopesado el papel que el idioma desempeña en el café, animaré a las camareras a tomar un curso en el español conversacional. Además, los cocineros también podrían beneficiarse de las clases de Inglés como Segundo Idioma (ESL) que se ofrecen en la escuela superior comunitaria local.

(William Medina ayuda a administrar el restaurante de su familia.)

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Language Schools Booming

By JOSEPH TORRES

As many U.S. Hispanics struggle to maintain cultural ties to their parents' native lands, an increasing number are strengthening their Spanish skills by attending language schools in Latin American countries and Spain.

Mike Wittig, director of the National Registration Center for Study Abroad in Milwaukee, Wis., estimates that Hispanics now make up as many as 8 percent to 10 percent of the 150,000 to 200,000 U.S. residents attending such schools annually. The overall rate of increase is about 15 percent a year, he says.

John Rosales, a federal executive who grew up in a bilingual San Antonio home, says his attendance at a language school in Mexico 12 years ago gave him a double reward. While sharpening his Spanish for use on the job, he learned

much more about Mexican culture and history, gaining new pride both in being a Chicano and a U.S. citizen.

U.S. language experts worry that Hispanics are steadily losing their ability to speak Spanish due to pressures of assimilation. The public educational system does little to encourage language retention by native speakers, they say.

Such Latin American countries as Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico house Spanish-language schools listed by the National Registration Center. Most of them offer programs that plunge students into their environment by placing them to live in families' homes.

Classes generally range from 2 to 4 hours a day, but some, for executives who want to learn Spanish at an accelerated pace, go up to 12 hours daily.

A class can cost as little as \$100 to \$150 a week in Guatemala to as much as \$4,000 a week in Mexico for intensive programs for executives.

Wittig estimates that 80 percent of the students pay the full cost themselves, with the average stay lasting about a month. At least 60 percent of U.S. residents who attend such schools choose Mexico. The figure is higher for Mexican Americans because they have close ties to their native land, he adds.

"It has always been a dream of my parents that I spend some time in Mexico in order to appreciate my culture more," says Teresa Cisneros, daughter of former U.S. Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. A third-year law student at New York University, she traveled to Guadalajara as a Yale undergraduate through a University of Arizona summer

program.

Reynaldo Macias, director of the University of California's Linguistic Minority Research Institute, reports that a quarter of U.S. Latinos are monolingual English speakers, 20 percent monolingual Spanish speakers, and 55 percent bilingual to one degree or another.

Steve Padilla, city editor of the San Fernando Valley edition of the Los Angeles Times, recalls growing up understanding Spanish but being hesitant to speak it -- an experience shared by many first- and second-generation Latinos. In 1984, Padilla applied for and won a fellowship from the National Press Foundation to study at a language school in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Attending the school allowed him to conquer any linguistic fears. Now he uses both languages in his personal as well as his pro-

Florece Las Escuelas De Idiomas

Por JOSEPH TORRES

A medida que muchos hispanos estadounidenses luchan por mantener sus vínculos culturales con los países natales de sus padres, un número cada vez mayor de ellos viene fortaleciendo sus habilidades en el español, asistiendo a las escuelas de idiomas en países de América Latina y en España.

Mike Wittig, director del Centro Nacional de Inscripción para Estudios en el Extranjero, de Milwaukee, estima que los hispanos forman ahora tanto como entre el 8 por ciento y el 10 por ciento de los 150,000 a 200,000 residentes de los Estados Unidos que asisten a dichas escuelas anualmente. La tasa de aumento es de 15 por ciento anual, dice él.

John Rosales, un ejecutivo federal que creció en un hogar bilingüe de San Antonio, dice que su asistencia a una escuela de idiomas en México hace 12 años lo recompensó doblemente. Mientras perfeccionaba su español para usarlo en su empleo, aprendió mucho más sobre la cultura y la historia de México, obteniendo un nuevo orgullo tanto de ser chicano como de ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.

Los expertos lingüísticos de los Estados Unidos se preocupan porque los hispanos están perdiendo continuamente su capacidad de hablar español, debido a las presiones de la asimilación. El sistema público de enseñanza hace poco para alentar la retención del idioma entre los hispanoparlantes, dicen ellos.

Naciones de la América Latina, tales como la Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ecuador y México, albergan escuelas de idioma español según el Centro Nacional de Inscripción.

La mayoría de ellas ofrece programas que sumergen a los estudiantes en su ambiente, ubicándolos para vivir en casas de familias.

Las clases fluctúan por lo general entre 2 y 4 horas diarias, pero algunas -- para ejecutivos que quieren aprender español a un ritmo acelerado, llegan hasta 12 horas diarias. Una clase puede costar tan poco como de \$100 a \$150 a la semana en Guatemala, y hasta \$4,000 a la semana por

los programas intensos para ejecutivos en México.

Wittig estima que el 80 por ciento de los estudiantes pagan todo el costo ellos mismos, y que us está promedio dura un mes.

Por lo menos el 60 por ciento de los residentes de los Estados Unidos que asisten a dichas escuelas eligen a México. La cifra es mayor para los mexicanoamericanos, porque ellos tienen nexos más estrechos con su tierra natal, agrega él.

"Siempre ha sido un sueño de mis padres que yo pasara algún tiempo en México, a fin de apreciar más mi cultura", dice Teresa Cisneros, hija del ex-Secretario de Vivienda de los Estados Unidos, Henry Cisneros. Ella, estudiante de derecho de tercer año en la Universidad de Nueva York, viajó a Guadalajara como sub-graduada de Yale mediante un programa de verano de la Universidad de Arizona.

Reynaldo Macías, director del Instituto de Investigación Lingüística Minoritaria de la Universidad de California, informa que la cuarta parte de los latinos estadounidenses hablan solamente el inglés; el 20 por ciento son monolingües en español y el 55 por ciento es bilingüe a un nivel punto u otro.

Steve Padilla, editor para la ciudad de la edición del Valle de San Fernando del Los Angeles Times, recuerda haber sido criado entendiendo el español, pero dudando sobre hablarlo -- una experiencia que comparten muchos latinos de primera y segunda generación. En 1984, Padilla solicitó y obtuvo una beca de la Fundación Nacional de Prensa para estudiar en una escuela de idiomas de Cuernavaca, México.

El asistir a la escuela le permitió conquistar cualesquiera temores idiomáticos. Ahora él usa ambos idiomas tanto en su vida personal como en su vida profesional. Para un periodista en el sur de California, dice él, el conocer español puede suministrarle una ventaja importante.

Un programa de la Universidad de Arizona en Tucson envía a estudiantes que están preparándose para llegar a ser maestros de enseñanza bilingüe a una nación centro-

americana para ayudarles a pasar los exámenes de las juntas estatales.

Para mejorar sus habilidades de escribir en español apresuradamente, Elsa Fimbres, maestra de escuela elemental de Tucson, fue a Costa Rica en 1994 con el programa de la universidad.

El vivir y estudiar allí le permitió apreciar una cultura hispana que es distinta a la cultura

méxicoamericana en que ella creció en Arizona. "Es probablemente la experiencia más maravillosa que haya tenido alguna vez", concluye.

(Joe Torres, anteriormente reportero y editor con el Hispanic Link News Service, está asistiendo actualmente a la escuela de idiomas en Cuernavaca, México, con una beca de la Fundación de la Prensa Nacional.)

Foreign Language Schools

Want to learn Spanish in a hurry? Here are some useful contacts in the United States, Latin America and Spain. If you want general information on the seven countries with language schools listed by the National Registration Center for Study Abroad, addresses and telephone numbers for their embassies are included.

MAJOR LANGUAGE SCHOOL CONTACTS IN U.S.

Foreign Language Study Abroad Service. Contact: Louise Harber, P.O. Box 903, South Miami, Fla. 33143, (305) 662-1090.

National Registration Center for Study Abroad. Contact: Mike Wittig, P.O. Box 1393 Milwaukee, Wis. 53201, (414) 278-0631.

Center For Bilingual Multicultural Studies. Contact: Richard Simmons, 1301 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale, Calif. 91207, (818) 242-5263.

EMBASSIES

Argentina -- 1600 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-939-6400.

Chile -- 1732 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 785-1746.

Costa Rica -- 2114 S St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, 202-234-2945.

Ecuador -- 2535 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 234-7200.

Mexico -- 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 728-1650.

Paraguay -- 2400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, (202) 483-6960.

Spain -- 2375 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 452-0100.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Argentina -- Instituto de Lengua Espanola. Location: Buenos Aires. Cost: \$1,650 for four weeks. Class: 10 hours per week. Housing: homestay.

Chile -- Linguatéc. Location: Santiago. Class: 20 hours per week. Cost: \$1,775 for four weeks. Private tutoring: \$785 a week. Housing: homestay.

Costa Rica -- Conversa Linguístico. Location: Santa Ana. Class: 4-6 hours per day. Cost: \$1,751 for 4 weeks. Housing: homestay.

Ecuador -- Academia de Espanol. Location: Quito. Class: 25 hours per week. Cost: \$1,474 for four weeks. Housing: homestay.

Paraguay -- Instituto de Espanol. Location: Asuncion. Class: 20 hours per week. Cost: Not available. Housing: homestay.

Mexico -- Cemanahuac Educational Community. Location: Cuernavaca. Class: 30 hours per week. Cost: \$2,450 for four weeks. Housing: homestay.

Mexico -- Spanish-language School in Guadalajara. Location: Guadalajara. Class: 20-25 hours per week. Cost: \$1,045 for five weeks. Housing: homestay.

Spain -- Eurocentre. Location: Barcelona, Madrid and Salamanca. Class: 20 hours per week. Cost: From \$1,030 to \$1,215. Housing: homestay.

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News Briefs

As of this weekend, nearly 100,000 people have used up those benefits, which amount to \$120 a month for groceries. Before the year is out, their ranks are expected to swell to 1 million unemployed Americans no longer eligible for nutritional aid.

Olivia Ivy, the director of Martha's Table, which serves meals and distributes canned goods to about 1,500 poor and homeless people in Washington each day, said she has seen rising fear about the food stamp cuts for some time.

"For the last two months our lines have been growing longer and longer," she said. She added that without training or affordable housing, many won't be able to.

Indeed, there is concern in many economically depressed areas of the country that people who want work but can't get it will be unfairly punished. The new food stamp law allows states to request federal exemptions in places where unemployment is particularly high.

The White House has said it will try to convince Congress to temper cuts to the 35-year-old food stamp program. President Clinton has proposed continuing benefits for people who can prove they are job hunting. And in his 1998 budget, he has included \$280 million for states to create government "workfare" programs in which the unemployed could earn food stamps and other benefits.

However, Republicans on Capitol Hill - including Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, chairman of the Budget Committee, who was a sponsor of the food stamp overhaul - have vowed not to re-open debate on welfare reform.

More \$ for New Prisons than Colleges

An analysis of state and federal budget priorities released yesterday says more money is being spent in this country building prisons than building universities, reports The Washington Post.

From 1987 to 1995 state government expenditures on prisons increased by 30 percent while spending on higher education fell by 18 percent, said the study, which was conducted by the Justice Policy Institute, a research and advocacy organization based in Washington.

The report argues that "prisons are not only costly and ineffective for most nonviolent offenders, they also siphon funding from vital programs such as higher education." The report recommends a moratorium on new prison construction and a 50 percent reduction in the nonviolent prisoner population over the next five years.

From 1980 to 1994 the number of adults in prison nationwide tripled from 320,000 to 992,000, according to the Justice Department. During this period lawmakers across the country enacted longer sentences for many crimes, including nonviolent drug offenses, and police agencies increased the number of people they arrested for selling drugs, particularly during the crack epidemic of the late 1980s.

Over the same period, enrollment in institutions of higher education increased from 12 million to 14.7 million people, marking a 22 percent increase overall and a small but steady increase in the proportion of the college-age population that was enrolled, according to the Department of Education.

Taking construction spending as a measure of governmental priorities, the Justice Policy Institute study noted that California has built 21 prisons since 1984 and only one new university.

Looking at overall budgets, the study found that both California and Florida state governments now spend more on their prison systems than on their public universities, while a decade ago higher education budgets were considerably larger than those for correctional institutions. In both those states and many others public universities have increased tuition to make up for losses in state funding, so students now pay a larger share of the cost of their education.

Study: More Black Women Students

According to data gathered by the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, a sharp increase in college enrollment by black women has helped narrow the overall gap between black and white attendance, reports Associated Press.

The research arm of the College Fund-United Negro College Fund said the black women more often come from poorer families than black men and nearly half the black women college students of the '90s are from first-generation college students, compared with one-third of black men.

Many more black women are seeking professional degrees than before, though Seavers' choice of engineering is still a rarity.

Blacks accounted for 10 percent of undergraduates in 1994, up from 8.8 percent a decade earlier, the institute said. Blacks account for 14.3 percent of the college-age population.

By contrast, whites account for 73 percent of students yet 68.2 percent of the college age population.

The data book, bringing together figures from a variety of sources, found a 55 percent rise in bachelor's degrees awarded to black women between 1976 and 1994, compared with 20 percent increase for black men. Combined, degrees among black students increased 40 percent.

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from your friends at El Editor

The O.J. Trial As Race Entertainment

By TERESA ORTEGA and RICHARD FOX

In the frenetic hours of broadcast leading up to the delivery of the verdict in the O.J. Simpson civil court case, Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. spoke with ABC's Peter Jennings about the significance of the verdict and its potential conflict with the airing of President Clinton's State of the Union address. In a somewhat testy exchange, Jackson referred to the coverage of the Simpson trial as "race entertainment."

Vague though disturbingly evocative, the term "race entertainment" suggests something populist yet distinctly offensive, like an old-fashioned minstrel show.

Stepping away from the term's clearly pejorative connotations, what might it actually mean to assert that the networks are broadcasting "race entertainment"?

A clue can be found by studying "the forgotten jurors." Looking back on the trials, what is significant about the jury in the civil case is not that one black juror was dismissed, but that three other non-white jurors -- an Asian male, a Hispanic male and a mixed-race black and Asian male -- suffered dismissal as well, at least in a figurative sense.

In television coverage of the

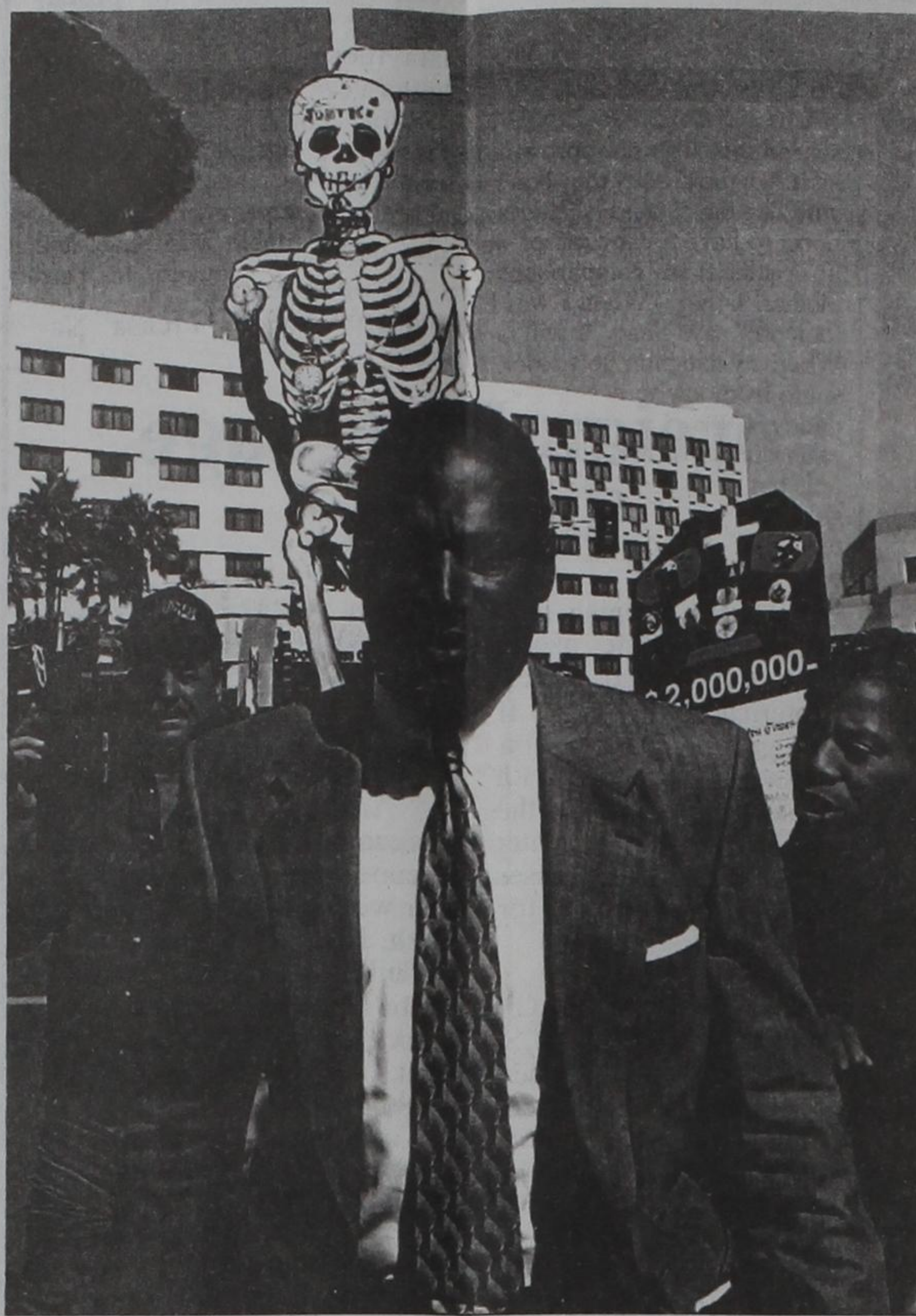
verdict, white and black commentators -- from Peter Jennings and Jeffrey Toobin to Milton Grimes and Leo Terrell -- repeatedly referred to the civil case's "all-white jury," despite the fact that three human beings serve as indisputable evidence to the contrary.

Given that there have been so many contentious discussions in the media about what one race finds believable as evidence, it is curious that black and white commentators alike have been unable to interpret correctly for the public these living proofs of the actual racial composition of the jury.

Sadly, the media has all along perpetrated a view of the trial and of the city of Los Angeles in which blacks and whites are the only players. Post-verdict, cameras switched back and forth between interviewees in well-heeled and mostly white Brentwood to those on the predominantly black Southside, ostensibly to show reactions from typical Angelenos.

National audiences probably never registered that, together, Asians, and Hispanics make up roughly 50 percent of the racial composition both of the city and the county of Los Angeles.

In a trial in which individuals of diverse racial and ethnic groups played prominent roles,



why did we not hear about how Hispanic Americans' feeling were engaged by the passion play of Rosa Lopez's testimony, how Japanese Americans received the performances of judges Lance Ito and Hiroshi Fujisaki, or how Indian Americans greeted Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran's nine days on the witness stand?

Instead, for two years the networks continuously aired the results of their own nationwide polls, constructed to show statistical differences in opinion between blacks and whites only.

The fiction of the all-white jury in the civil trial and the all-black jury in the criminal case highlights the way in which the trial coverage was offered to the public as race entertainment.

The television media urged its audience to become hooked on the drama of the trial and take sides in the case by presenting the complex details of the trial in a Hollywood-style formula format of good versus evil. Only in this epic-scale battle the sides weren't cops and robbers, or space cowboys and Indians, or even O.J. versus Nicole and Ron, but diminished stereotypes of two racial groups.

The inflammatory conclusions regarding the long-term impact of the trial that have

been proffered by so many TV anchors and commentators seem less inevitable once the distortions surrounding the so-called "all-white" and "all-black" juries have been exposed. African Americans and white Americans appear less polarized as a more nuanced picture of the Simpson case is allowed to develop -- a picture in which many races took part in, watched, and sorrowed at the spectacle of these trials.

In the wake of this regrettable entertainment, let's take a moment to remember the input of the forgotten jurors, as well as the millions of non-white, non-black and mixed-race viewers who watched and interpreted the trial over the past two years -- but who were treated by television, commentators and spokespersons as though their thoughts and reactions to the case didn't exist.

As television audiences fret over the prejudices of the U.S. legal system, we can only hope that in the future the prejudices of the network will be addressed as well.

(Teresa Ortega is a freelance writer on entertainment and the arts. Richard Fox is an assistant professor of political science at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.)

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El Juicio De O.J. Simpson Como Diversion Racial

Por TERESA ORTEGA y RICHARD FOX

En las horas frenéticas de la transmisión que culminaron en la declaración del veredicto en el caso judicial civil de O.J. Simpson, el Representante Jesse Jackson, Jr. habló con Peter Jennings, de la cadena televisora ABC, sobre la importancia del veredicto y la posibilidad de su anuncio con la transmisión del discurso del Presidente Clinton sobre el Estado de la Unión. En un intercambio algo cargado, Jackson se refirió a la cobertura del juicio de Simpson como "entretenimiento racial."

La frase "entretenimiento racial," ambiguo aunque per-

turbadoramente evocativo, sugiere algo populista aunque distintivamente ofensivo, como un programa anticuado de cantantes cómicos con las caras pintadas de negro.

Alejándose de las connotaciones claramente despectivas de la frase, ¿qué podría realmente significar la afirmación de que las redes televisoras estén transmitiendo "entretenimiento racial"?

Se puede hallar una idea al estudiar a los "olvidados miembros del jurado." Al observar los juicios retrospectivamente, lo importante acerca del jurado en el caso civil no es la partida de un miembro negro, sino que otros tres miembros

no blancos fueron despedidos también -- un hombre asiático, un hombre hispano y un hombre de raza mixta negro-asiático, al menos en un sentido figurativo.

En la información televisada del veredicto, los comentaristas blancos y negros -- desde Peter Jennings y Jeffrey Toobin hasta Milton Grimes y Leo Terrell -- se refirieron al "jurado completamente blanco" del caso civil, a pesar del hecho de que tres seres humanos sirven como evidencia indiscutible de lo contrario.

Dado que hubo tantos debates disputables en los medios de comunicación sobre lo que una raza halla verosímil como

evidencia, es curioso que los comentaristas negros y blancos por igual hayan sido incapaces de interpretar correctamente para el público a estas pruebas vivientes de la verdadera composición racial del jurado.

Es triste que los medios informativos hayan perpetuado todo el tiempo un punto de vista del juicio y de la ciudad de Los Angeles en el cual negros y blancos son los únicos jugadores. Después del veredicto, las cámaras cambiaban alternadamente entre los entrevistados en Brentwood, blancos y bien acomodados, y los de la Sección Sur, predominantemente negra, ostensiblemente para mostrar las reacciones tí-

picas de los angelinos.

Las audiencias nacionales probablemente nunca se enteraron de que, en conjunto, los asiáticos e hispanos forman aproximadamente el 50 por ciento de la composición racial tanto de la ciudad como del condado de Los Angeles.

En un juicio donde individuos de grupos raciales y étnicos diversos desempeñaron papeles prominentes, ¿por qué no escuchamos cómo los sentimientos de los hispano-americanos fueron capturados por el drama de la pasión del testimonio de Rosa López, de qué modo recibieron los japoneses americanos los desempeños de los Jueces Ito y Fujisaki, o

cómo los hindúes americanos vieron los 9 días del Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran en el estrado de los testigos?

En vez de eso, las cadenas transmitieron por dos años continuos los resultados de sus propias encuestas nacionales, preparadas para mostrar las diferencias estadísticas de opinión entre negros y blancos solamente.

La ficción de un jurado totalmente blanco en el juicio civil y de uno completamente negro en el caso criminal destaca el modo en que se ofreció al público la información del juicio como entretenimiento racial.

Los medios televisados insta-

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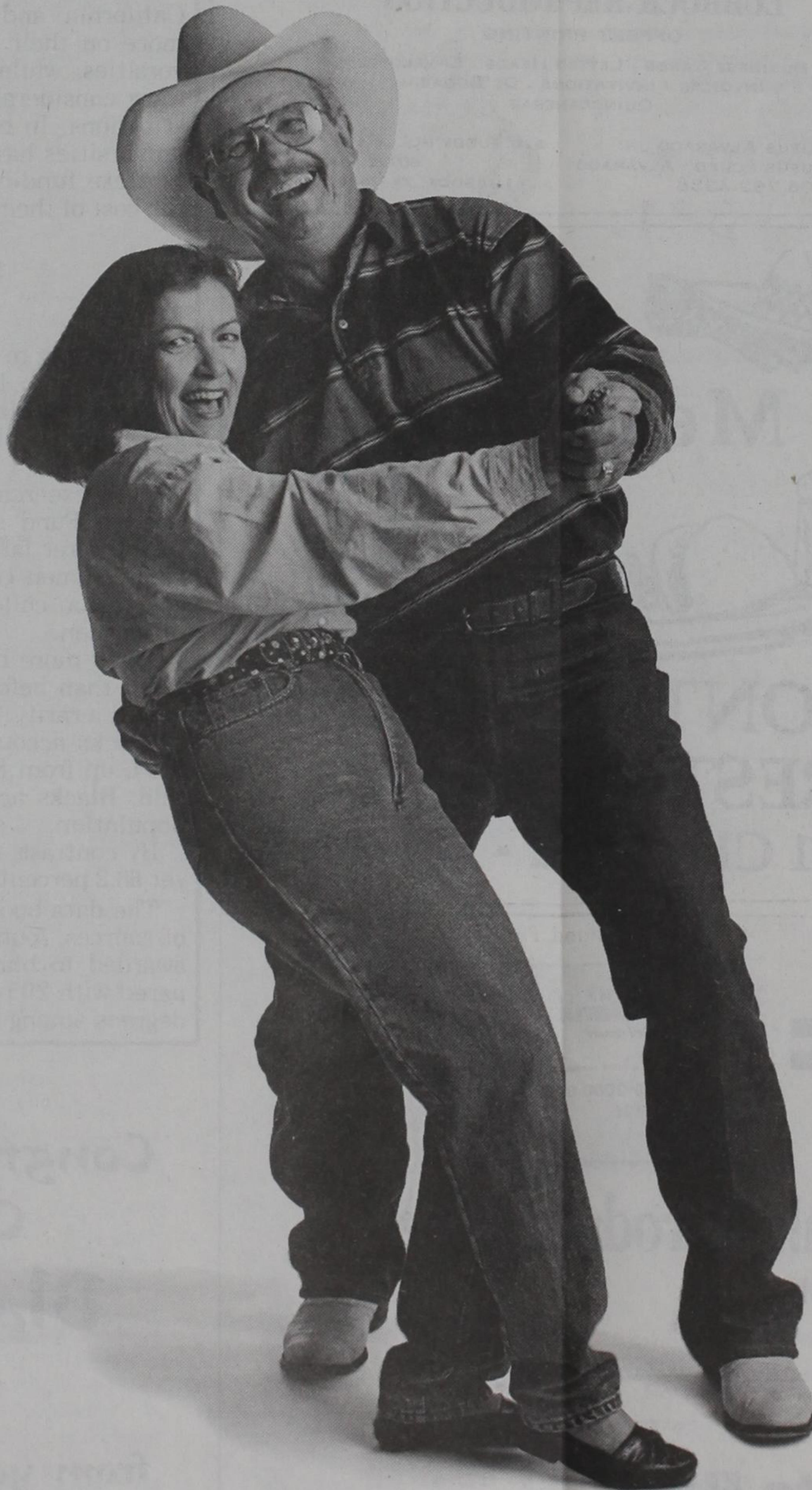
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El Boleto Ganador:

"Luego luego lo firmé y llegando a la casa lo guardé en una bolsita de plástico sellada".

*Se pagarán durante 20 años.



"Cuando vi que tenía los seis números ganadores, me puse a bailar de felicidad".

SUE CLEMENTS



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TÚ PODRÍAS SER EL PRÓXIMO.

From Front Page

a la multitud. Unos pocos republicanos que estaban allí también se encantaron. Le tomó 30 minutos a Gore recorrer un cordón de 20 pies, a medida que estrechaba un millar de manos que se le tendían. La multitud, vestida elegantemente, fue lo suficientemente discreta como para no cantar "Gore para el 2,000", pero la cortesía no los detuvo de organizarse en grupos, hablando y gritando efusivamente al vice-presidente que reciprocó las atenciones.

Su equipo de seguridad se tornó en un grupo de villanos ante esta accesibilidad, pero

Gore los pasó por alto. Dado, la mayoría de los hispanos que estaban allí eran demócratas de 14 kilates, pero si se toma este sentimiento temprano hacia Gore como augurio para el 2,000, puede que los republicanos enfrenten muchas dificultades con el voto latino. Al lado de Clinton, Gore proyecta la personalidad de alguien embalsamado.

Por su cuenta, sin embargo, y en una multitud política, él se porta como un evangelista de televisión. Su elocuencia, sorprendentemente, le rodea de carisma. Aún tiene que dominar el "compadrismo" de un latino, pero está aprendiendo.

Gore es un oriundo de Tennessee "de cuchara dorada" y hay que preguntarse cuánto él se relaciona directamente con la agenda latina. No hay nada en su historia política que le muestre como portavoz de las causas hispanas, excepto en un sentido genérico. Sin embargo, John F. Kennedy, de Boston, tenía los mismos antecedentes y se convirtió en un ídolo para los latinos.

Cuatro años es un espacio de tiempo largo con muchas oportunidades para tropezar, y hay otros demócratas ambiciosos, tales como el dirigente de la minoría de la Cámara, Richard A. Gephardt, esperando en el trasfondo.

Gephardt ha expresado activamente sus ambiciones presidenciales anteriormente y está en mejor posición para propiciar legislación agradable a los hispanos, aunque no vaya a ninguna parte en un Congreso bajo el control de los republicanos.

Gore puede ser presidente del Senado, pero ese trabajo involucra solamente tareas de "cuidador". Entre la asistencia a funerales, él tiene que encontrar maneras de defender los proyectos legislativos de gobierno, y eso puede hacerse solamente con la bendición de su jefe, a quien, como a la mayoría de los presidentes, no le gusta que lo desplacen del escenario. Clinton, no obstante, ha hecho saber que él reconoce substancia cuando la ve y recompensa la lealtad. El va a hacer todo lo que pueda para preparar a su vicepresidente para la contienda del año 2,000.

En el primer término, la obligación más importante que el presidente puso en manos de Gore fue la de "volver a inventar el gobierno," la cual significaba la modernización del sistema federal. Esa es una misión de proporciones hercúleas, que hasta Dios y sus ángeles tendrían dificultad lográndola.

En el segundo periodo, el presidente aún tiene que señalar proyectos de realce para Gore.

En una entrevista con el Washington Post el fin de semana de la inauguración, Clinton dijo que Gore "ha sido, por mucho, el vice-presidente más eficaz de la historia." Este es un respaldo enorme.

Pero esperen, hay más.

El rumor en la ciudad entre los latinos es que, si se quiere obtener un empleo en el segundo gobierno de Clinton, hay que ir a ver a Gore. La interpretación de esto es que, puesto que Clinton no puede volver a postularse, él está dando en herencia a su socio el padrino. Eso puede ascender a mucha influencia, al llegar la época de las elecciones. Sobre esto, Gore tiene su trabajo hecho a la medida para con los hispanos. Según la Oficina de Administración de Personal, hay 3,268 posiciones de designación política, es decir, "de confianza", en el gobierno federal.

De éstas, el 80 por ciento son ocupadas por blancos; el 11 por ciento por negros y el 6 por ciento por hispanos. Posi-

blemente Peña será el único latino en el gabinete del segundo periodo. El senado todavía tiene que ratificar su nominación, así como las nominaciones de los otros dos hispanos en plazas a nivel de gabinete: Para Embajador ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, Bill Richardson; y para cabeza de la Administración de Pequeños Negocios, Aida Alvarez.

Así es que todavía puede ser que Gore tenga que hacer mucho más por los hispanos que bailar la macarena.

(Carlos Conde de Washington, DC, ha trabajado en el gobierno y el periodismo en Texas, Washington, DC, y la América Latina. Él fue funcionario de prensa de la Casa Blanca en el gobierno del Presidente Richard Nixon.)

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

Santos & Santos

THE COMPELLING AND DEVASTATING STORY OF THREE MEXICAN-AMERICAN BROTHERS,

TRYING TO CARVE OUT A PIECE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM!



by Octavio Solis

Santos & Santos

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Santos & Santos

in my plays, but look at me." As opposed to his characters who are (largely) fictional, he distinguishes himself as a real, honest, hard-working person. All in all, Solis is an equal-opportunity social critic.

Solis is a graduate of Trinity University's (now defunct) Resident Theatre Program at the Dallas Theatre Center. Most recently, he was back at the DTC overseeing a workshop production of his newest play, Dreamlandia, a "modern interpretation" of Life Is A Dream by 17th century Spanish playwright Pedro Calderón de la Barca. Solis's new work deals with what he describes as the surreal aspects of existence on the Texas/Mexico border.

His writing has been honored by the National Theatre Conference, the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Now a resident of San Francisco, he has received the Will Glickman Award for Best New Play in the Bay Area and the Goldie Award as Outstanding Artist in the Bay Area. In addition to Santos & Santos and Dreamlandia, Solis is also the author of Prospect, El Paso Blue, Scrapers, La Posada Magica, and Man of the Flesh. His works have been produced at the Magic Theatre (San Francisco), South Coast Repertory Theatre (Costa Mesa, California), El Teatro Campesino, San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Latino Chicago Theatre Company, Teatro Dallas, La Compania (Albuquerque, New Mexico), and he is currently working on a commission for the Dallas Theatre Center. The Texas Tech Department of Theatre and Dance is the first college or university theatre to present this contemporary (1995) and controversial play by the Texas native.

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From Page 4

ban a sus audiencias a quedarse enganchados al drama del juicio y a tomar partido en el caso, al presentar los detalles complicados del juicio en una fórmula de formato al estilo de Hollywood, del bien contra el mal. Sólo que en esta batalla de proporciones épicas las partes no eran policías y ladrones, ni vaqueros e indígenas, ni siquiera O.J. Simpson contra Nicole y Ron, sino estereotipos disminuidos de dos grupos raciales.

Las conclusiones inflamatorias referentes al efecto del juicio a largo plazo que han sido proferidas por tantos "anclas" y comentaristas de televisión parecen menos inevitables una vez se exponen las distorsiones que rodean los jurados llamados "completamente blanco" y "completamente negro." Los afroamericanos y los estadounidenses blancos parecen menos polarizados a medida que se permite que se desarrolle un cuadro del caso de Simpson con más matices -- un cuadro en el cual muchas razas participaron, observaron y se

entristecieron por el espectáculo de estos juicios.

En la estela de este lamentable entretenimiento, tomemos un momento para recordar las impresiones de los miembros olvidados del jurado, así como las de los millones de televidentes no blancos, no negros y de razas mezcladas que observaron e interpretaron el juicio durante los dos últimos años -- pero que fueron tratados por los "anclas", comentaristas y portavoces de la televisión como si sus pensamientos y reacciones sobre el caso no existieran.

A medida que las audiencias de televisión se irritan por los prejuicios del sistema legal de los Estados Unidos, sólo podemos esperar que, en el futuro, los prejuicios de las redes televisoras sean enfocados también.

(Teresa Ortega es una escritora por cuenta propia sobre diversiones y artes. Richard Fox es profesor auxiliar de ciencia política en el Union College de Schenectady, Nueva York.)

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

Seguridad Contra El fuego En Su Casa

(NAPS)—La manera más segura de combatir fuegos es preveniéndolos. Combata fuegos en su propia casa con estos consejos. Pueden salvarle la vida:

1. Instale detectores de fuegos correctamente, examine mensualmente y cambie las baterías anualmente.
2. Ponga un extintor de fuegos cerca de la cocina y recargue periódicamente.
3. Use cenizeros grandes y hondos en la casa.
4. Vacíe la colilla de cigarrillos en una lata de metal. No la ponga en nada que puede cojer fuego.
5. No deje la cocina desatendida mientras cocina.
6. No cuelgue estantes de saciones ni agarradores de ollas sobre el horno.
7. Si se empieza un fuego de grasa en una olla sobre el horno, pongale la tapa para cortar el oxígeno y apague el quemador.
8. En caso de un fuego de horno/parilla, sierra la puerta del horno o la parilla y apague el horno.
9. Cuidadosamente siga las instrucciones de la unidad de calentura y prestele atención a las etiquetas de advertencia.
10. Antes de acostarse, busque encima y detras de los sofás y las sillas por cigarrillos caídos.
11. Nunca fume si esta cansado, tomando medicamentos fuertes, tomando alcohol o reclinandose en una cama o un sofá.
12. Cuando seleccione sus muebles, busque el sello de oro UFAC. Esta etiqueta indica que los muebles son mas resistentes al cigarrillo caliente. La industria de



Esta pequeña etiqueta puede salvarle la vida o la de alguien que ama. Un sello de oro UFAC indica que los muebles que compra son resistentes al cigarrillo.

muebles ha trabajado por mas de veinte años para contruir muebles mas resistentes al cigarrillo.

Desde el principio del Programa de Consejos para Accion para los Muebles Tapizados, los fuegos a causa de cigarrillos encendidos han declinado un setenta y cinco por ciento. Casi el 91 por ciento de los muebles tapizados son hechos de acuerdo con el criterio de UFAC.

Aunque los muebles resistentes al fuego son mas seguros, no son a prueba de fuego. Es muy importante practicar maneras más seguras de fumar.

El Programa de Consejos para Accion para los Muebles Tapizados es una asociación de fabricantes de muebles, detallistas, y suministradores que continuan la investigación de metodos para construir muebles resistentes y animan la conformidad industrialmente.



Hispanic Association of Women

PRESENTS

**"Adelante Mujer, Hispana"
"Help Along the Way"**

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1997
St. John Neumann Catholic Church (Gym)
5802 22nd Street, Lubbock, Texas

Registration	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Luncheon and Round Table Discussion	
Keynote Speaker	9:00-9:30 a.m.	" "	12:00-1:00 p.m.
Session I	10:00-10:45 a.m.	Fun Activities	1:00-2:30 p.m.
Session II	11:00-11:45 a.m.	Full Day	8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

TOPICS

Session I

- A. Domestic Violence - Understanding the Dynamics of Violence
- B. Breast Cancer and Hispanic Women
- C. Diabetes in Hispanic Women/Family
- D. Home Health Care for Hispanics
- E. True Colors - "What color is your personality?"
- F. Parenting - "Padres Con Poder"
- G. All About Date Rape (Sessions for Young Women/and Mothers)

Session II

A, B, C, D, E, F, G

Don't miss this opportunity to hear some of Lubbock's finest speakers on these very critical issues that affect each and every one of us. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Chavez (806) 793-8672.



Whitaker peleará con De la Hoya

Sólo el mejor sobrevivirá

SEMANA de lucha

■ Por Francisco Zúñiga

Houston.- ¡Para que no haya dudas!

De una vez por todas, Oscar de la Hoya y Pernell Whitaker van a decidir a punta de golpes quien de los dos es el mejor peleador del mundo, cuando se enfrenten en el Caesar Palace de las Vegas, Nevada, por el título welter que ostenta el último.

Los dos boxeadores, libra por libra considerados los mejores del mundo conocido, estuvieron en Houston para promocionar la pelea que sostendrán el próximo 12 de abril.

De la Hoya, originario de Los Angeles, hijo de inmigrantes mexicanos, tiene 23 años de edad, marcha invicto con una foja de 23 peleas, 20 de ellas definidas por el sistema del clorofor-

mo. Actualmente es campeón súperligero del Consejo Mundial de Boxeo, CMB.

Maestro y alumno

Pernell Whitaker, apodado Sweet Pea -lo que en castellano sería algo así como Chicharo Verde- fue considerado, junto con Julio César Chávez y Buddy McGirt, los mejores peleadores libra por libra.

Al vencer a McGirt y empatar con JC Chávez, Whitaker considera que se quedó como el único ganador, pues tiene una foja de 40 combates en los que salió victorioso, 17 veces durmiendo a sus rivales. Una vez perdió, y otra empató, frente a la leyenda mexicana.

Fue precisamente el nombre de Julio César Chávez el que más se oyó durante la conferencia de prensa, pues en su calidad de invencible enfrentó a los dos gladiadores que ahora se verán las caras.

Whitaker, como dijimos antes, empató, pero De la Hoya lo venció por knockout técnico, el 7 de junio de 1996. Un punto a favor del latino. Pero el Chicharo Dulce cree que no es suficiente. "Yo soy el maestro, y espero que De la Hoya, el día del combate, me traiga una manzana roja", dijo Whitaker al hablar sobre el combate.

Promete buena pelea

En cambio, De la Hoya fue más mesurado. Se limitó a decir que era una pelea mucho más difícil de las que ha tenido antes, incluso la que hizo contra Chávez y la última, cuando enfrentó al invicto Miguel Angel González. "Es una pelea emocionante, y les prometo que voy a estar bien preparado. Gracias por el apoyo que me han dado", fueron la palabras textuales del muchacho de oro.

Comentó que se va a encerrar dos meses en las montañas de California, a ocho mil metros de altura sobre el nivel del mar, para prepararse para el combate del 12 de abril. Es, en su opinión, muy difícil porque Whitaker es un gran peleador, y por su condición de zurdo, complicado de descifrar al momento del ataque.

En cambio, consideró que al subir de peso para entrar a la división de los ligeros, estará más fuerte.

El mejor

Ambos peleadores se han distinguido porque siempre han exigido ser lo mejores. De la Hoya lo describe al decir que "Para ser el mejor, tú debes pelear con el mejor.. y yo quiero ser el mejor del mundo".

Su curriculum indica que va en camino de serlo. Venció en cuatro asaltos a su ídolo de la niñez, el legendario Julio César Chávez, otro de los considerados grandes en el boxeo, y que en esa ocasión subía por centésima vez a un ring.

Luego derrotó al mexicano Miguel Angel González, quien iba invicto con 41 peleas. El siguiente paso en la escalera de la

excelencia boxística, es Pernell Whitaker.

"Yo aprendo todos los días, soy un boxeador joven, y hay muchas cosas por aprender, todos los días entiendo más, pero me falta aún", dice De la Hoya.

El maestro...

Pernell Whitaker prometió darle una buena lección al Muchacho de Oro, cuando se enfrenten en Las Vegas, Nevada.



El aspirante...

Más que ganar el campeonato Welter, lo que quiere Oscar de la Hoya es ser considerado el mejor peleador del mundo.

Heavyweight Champ Predicts Win

NEW YORK - Heavyweight champion Michael Moorer says Vaughn Bean doesn't belong in the same ring with him to fight for his International Boxing Federation crown next month.

"I'm on a totally different level than what he is," Moorer said. "He has never fought the guys that I have."

Bean has a 27-0 record, but is ranked only fifth by the IBF. Moorer is 39-1 and is in his second reign as heavyweight champion.

The southpaw beat Evander Holyfield to become champion three years ago, only to lose the title in the next fight to George Foreman on a 10th round knockout. Last year Moorer beat German Axel Schulz to win the vacant IBF title and made a successful defense against South African Francois Botha last November.

"People who don't give him much of a chance, know the type of fighter I am," Moorer said of Bean at a news conference Tuesday to officially announce the March 29 bout in Las Vegas. "He has to step up to my level, which he has never done before and I'm going to put him right back down to the level where he belongs," Moorer said.

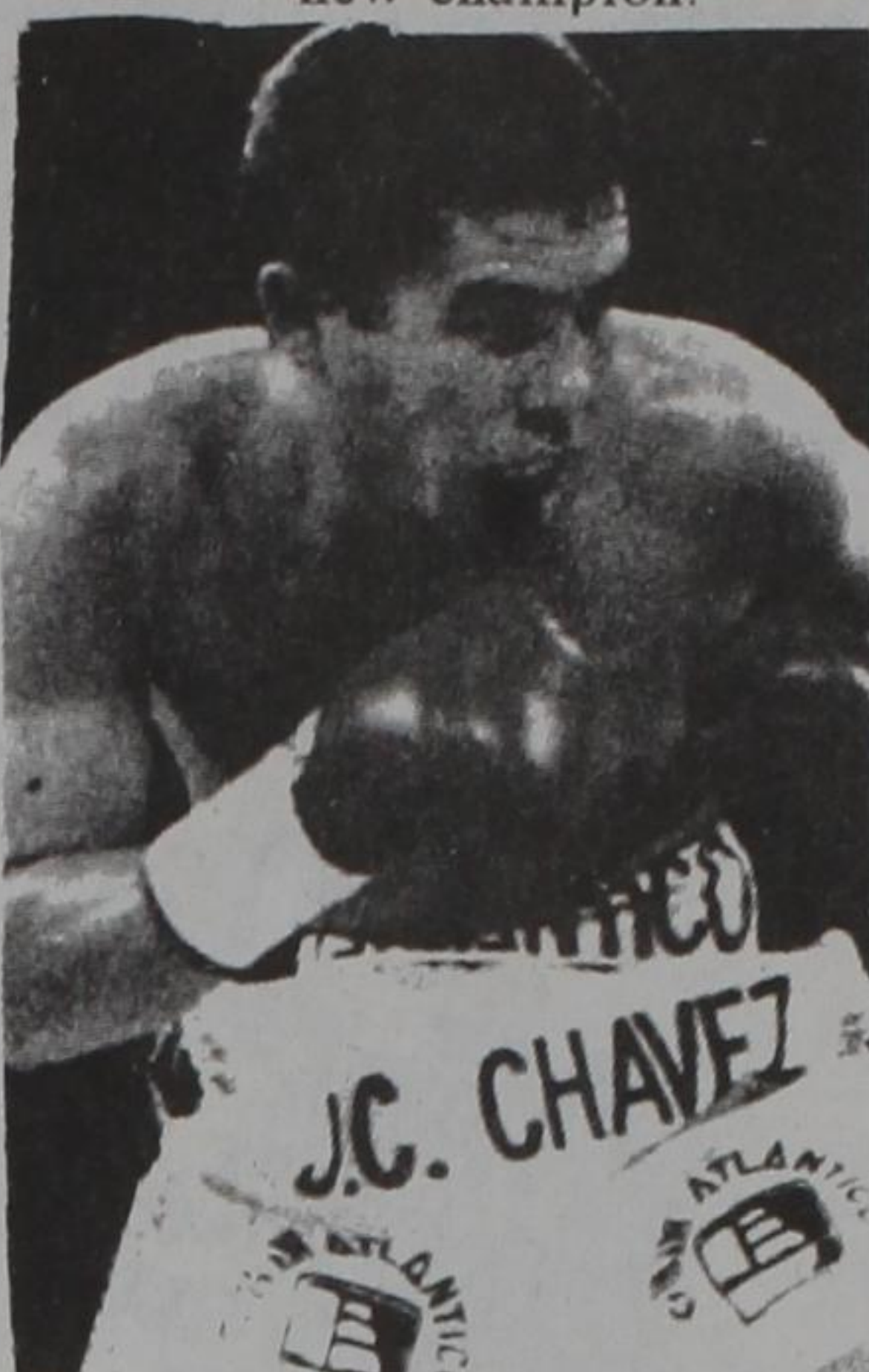
Moorer's trainer Teddy Atlas is not taking for granted that Bean's inexperience will guarantee victory, but sees it as a huge disadvantage for the 23-year-old challenger.

"It's big step up for him. It's like going from the wading pool to the ocean," Atlas said.

Bean knows that he has an uphill fight.

"I don't think he is going to respect me," Bean said. "I haven't been heard of and he thinks, 'oh this guy is just an opponent.'"

"But you can't underestimate nobody in this business, especially when you are a heavyweight, Everybody has got the knockout power and that's all it takes, one punch to change the fight and next thing you know you got a new champion."



Also on the card is former six-time champion Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico, 98-2-1. He will meet Gary Kirkland, 28-1, in a non-title bout.

World Boxing Council strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez of Mexico, 44-0, will defend against Mongkol Lg Gym of Thailand, 17-1 and World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion Laurent Boudouani of France, 34-2, will defend against Carl Daniels, 38-2.

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Networks Try For Boxing Comeback

By JOHN NELSON Sports Writer

With CBS and ABC renewing commitments to the sport, boxing is trying to make a big comeback in a small way on network television.

"That's the battle we're always fighting," said CBS Sports programming vice president Rob Correa. "Do you want the marquee fighter in a one-sided fight, or the lesser-known fighter in a more competitive fight."

For sure, broadcast networks usually aren't going to get two big names in a great fight. They just can't pay like the casinos, and they just can't make the kind of money from advertising that pay-per-view makes from home sales.

On Monday, CBS announced an eight-fight series sponsored by Budweiser. CBS' first show features former world champion Buster Douglas on the afternoon of Sunday, March 30.

"Fortunately we have a sponsor this year, which we didn't have last year," Correa said.

At the same time, ABC has vowed to show at least 10 fights on its "Wide World of Sports" anthology as it flashes a little of the footwork that helped make the anthology so popular in the first place.

"We got away from it a little in the past three years," said ABC boxing analyst Alex Wallau.

ABC will televise its first boxing show on Saturday, featuring two lesser-known fighters, WBC lightweight champion Jean-Baptiste Mendy against Steve Johnstone of Denver. With Sugar Ray Leonard making his comeback the same day in Atlantic City, ABC also plans to showcase two of his greatest fights of the past - against Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns.

Why the interest in boxing again?

As popular as figure skating has become, it doesn't deliver the young, male demographic that boxing provides advertisers like Budweiser. With the possible exception of Tonya Harding, figure skaters don't do well with the beer-guzzling set.

"It's an audience that's become increasing hardly to reach," Wallau said, "and that's a good analysis of why this is happening."

As the network that introduced American audiences to Leonard, Hagler, Roberto Duran, Alexis Arguello, Oscar De La Hoya and many of the other greats, ABC's return to boxing seems particularly appropriate. Wide World did just three boxing shows last year.

"We've just had an awful lot of boxing tradition on Wide World, and it's great to be getting back to our roots," Wallau said.

Either network should be happy with ratings in the mid-2s to low 3s.

"You can do ratings in the mid-2's with boxing on a weekend afternoon, which, if you looked at ratings 10 years ago, would be low, but in the age of cable competition, it's a pretty good number," Correa said. "There are not a lot of anthology type programs that will do much better than that."

OUT TAKES: Actor-comedian Jon Stewart, syndicated sports writer Mike Lupica and ESPN's Fabulous Sports Babe will trade barbs March 12 on the first installment of Comedy Central's "Town Hall" series, entitled "What's Wrong With Sports In America?"

Put your money on the Sports Babe. She could take out a whole room, just buying a vowel. ...

ABC and ESPN, both owned by Disney, continue to strengthen their corporate ties.

On Saturday, March 1, ABC will rebroadcast the ESPY Awards, which aired originally on ESPN on Feb. 10. ...

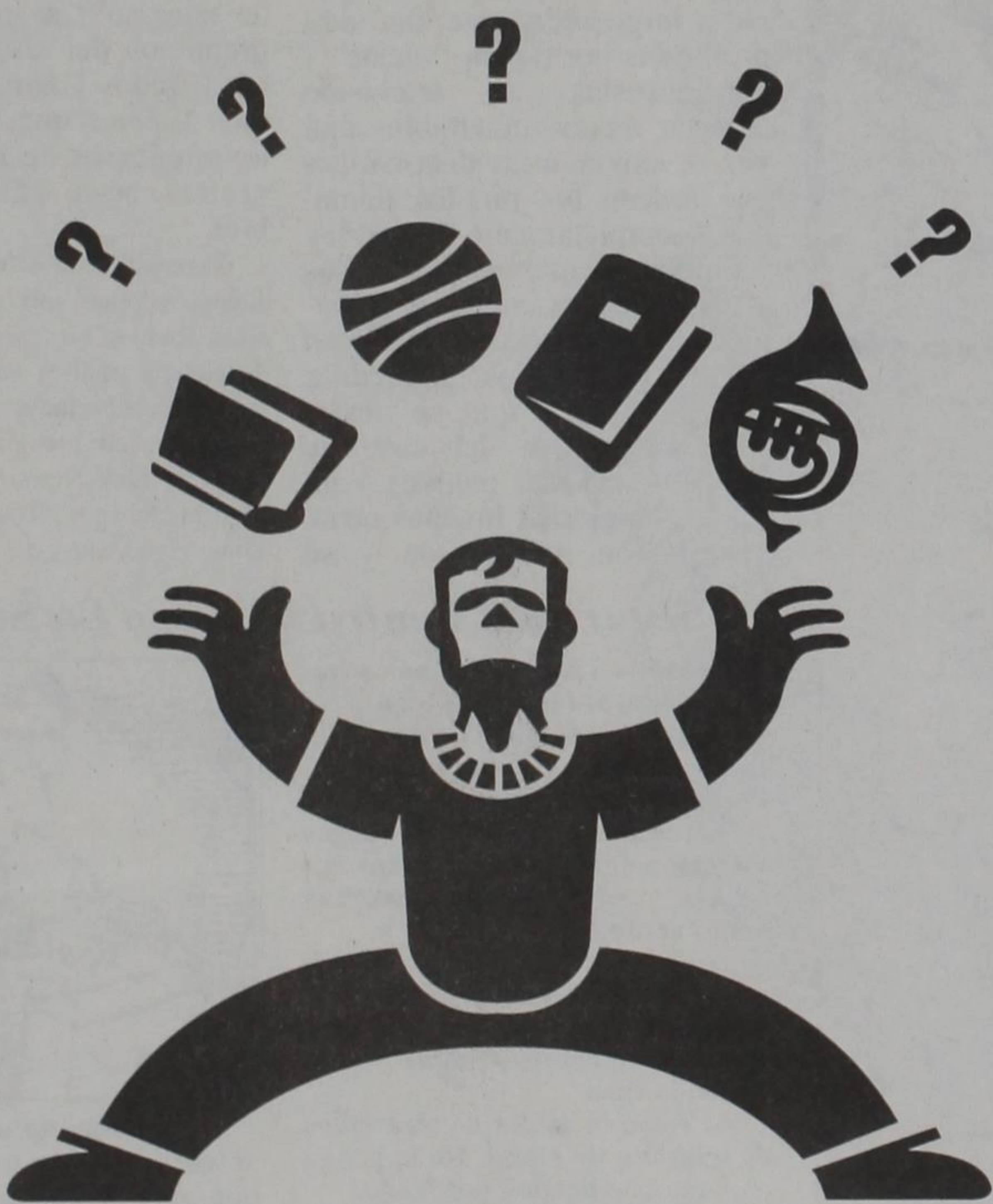
First Robert Goulet, now Arretha Franklin.

Arretha will sing her own version of "Hi-Heel Sneakers" for an on-air promotional spot that ESPN will use in connection with its coverage of the NCAA women's basketball championships March 14-30.

"This is becoming a college basketball tradition for ESPN," said ESPN marketing veep Judy Fearing. "With top music personalities lending their creative talents, we've been able to promote this tremendous sport in an entertaining and lasting way."

For the past two seasons, ESPN has used Goulet to do promotional spots for its college basketball coverage. The song "Hi-Heel Sneakers" originally was recorded by Tommy Tucker and later was done by Jerry Lee Lewis, Stevie Wonder and Jose Feliciano.

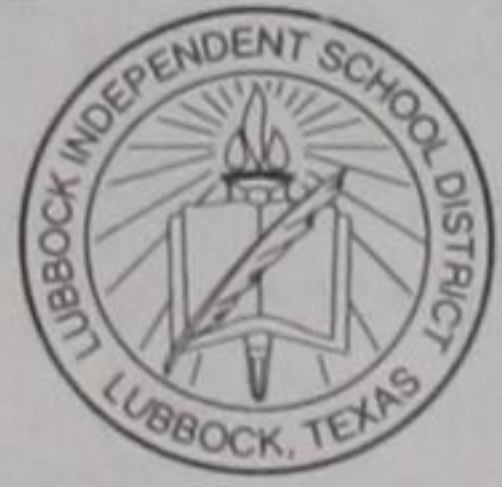
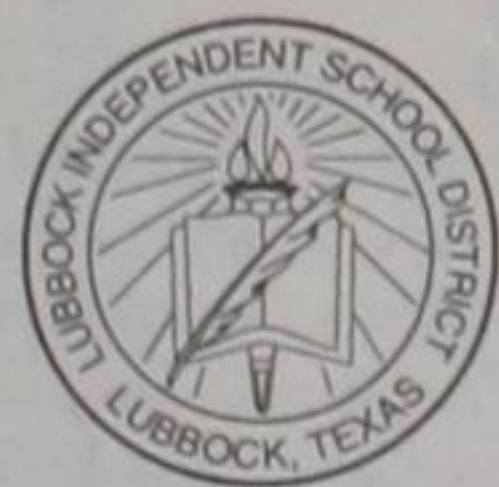
Decisions...decisions!



March 1, 1997 is the deadline

for all LISD school transfer requests and magnet school assignments.

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