

# Alegatos Contra La Policia Reviven Preocupaciones

Por Peter Olivera Nicks

Cuando Amnistía Internacional publicó en este mes su informe sobre la violencia policiaca en la ciudad de Nueva York, dió al público un atisbo rápido de la división entre los latinos urbanos y aquéllos a quienes se contrata para defenderlos contra la delincuencia.

El grupo de observación internacional de los derechos humanos dijo que su investigación fué impulsada por un aumento dramático de las quejas por abusos de la policía presentadas contra la ciudad - desde 977 en 1987 hasta más de 2,000 en 1994.

Su documento de 72 páginas acusaba que, entre enero de 1990 y abril de 1994, murieron 20 hispanos porque los agentes del Departamento de Policía de Nueva York usaron fuerza excesiva al detenerlos, o no se percataron que los detenidos tenían condiciones que perjudicaban sus vidas si sufrían algún trauma físico.

Amnistía Internacional examinó 55 casos en que murieron personas mientras se hallaban bajo la custodia de la policía. La misma informó que el 89 por ciento de las vícti-

mas eran latinos o afroamericanos. La mayoría de los agentes involucrados eran angloamericanos.

La reacción al informe reflejaba una creciente polarización que se refleja a nivel nacional:

Un portavoz de la Policía de Nueva York lo describió a Hispanic Link News Service como "selectivamente anecdótico", diciendo que "no representa al departamento o a su relación con los neoyorquinos".

Los autores conjuntos del informe, Angela Wright y David Marshall, que se reunieron con el Departamento de Policía de Nueva York el 28 de junio para tratar de los hallazgos, argumentan que los agentes "ni siquiera consideraban que la brutalidad policiaca sea un problema serio en su departamento".

El ex-director de la Junta de Civiles para la Revisión de Quejas de Nueva York, Héctor Soto, calificó al informe de "otra indicación de los modales abusivos y la arrogancia" del departamento. El recordó a Hispanic Link que renunció a su plaza en la junta de revisión a principios

de este año, cuando el Alcalde Rudolph Giuliani dejó de cooperar con dicha junta para actuar sobre los casos de brutalidad de la policía.

Juan Figueroa, asesor legal general del Fondo Puertorriqueño para la Defensa Legal y la Enseñanza, elogió también al informe. El dijo que muchos latinos han sido víctimas de estos "mal llamados" arrestos por la calidad de la vida.

Un estudio y una encuesta recientes, efectuados en California, la Florida, Nueva York y Texas por el Centro Tomás Rivera, con sede en California, halló que la mayoría de los latinos discordan de sus colegas angloamericanos en que la policía trata a los grupos de igual modo. En Nueva York, sólo el 25 por ciento de los respondientes latinos dijeron que se les trataba igual.

El informe de Amnistía Internacional hizo notar que la mayoría de los agentes de la policía municipal viven en los suburbios y puede que no comprendan las complicaciones culturales de las vecindades que patrullan.

Un estudio realizado por la

Junta de Civiles para la Revisión de Quejas halló esta discrepancia entre los agentes de policía y la población a la que prestan servicios.

Susan Karten, abogada de la familia de Anthony Báez, que murió mientras se hallaba bajo la custodia de la policía de Nueva York en 1994, en un caso que atrajo la atención de la prensa local, instó a dar mejor capacitación de sensibilidad para eliminar a las "actitudes racistas" que tienen los agentes angloamericanos hacia las personas de color.

Iris, la madre de Anthony, dijo a Hispanic Link que ella ha llegado a estar activa para que la policía sea responsabilizada por sus acciones, después de la muerte de su hijo. "Ellos (la policía) están matando a nuestros hijos y nadie está haciendo nada acerca de eso", dijo ella.

El Jefe de Policía de Sacramento, California, es Arturo Venegas Jr. Cuando Hispanic Link se comunicó con él, sostuvo que los cuerpos de la ejecución de la ley han hecho "gestiones importantes" para eliminar a los agentes cor-

Continued Page 6

## News Briefs

### Protesters Clash Over Immigration

Nine people were injured and one was hospitalized after supporters and opponents of a ballot measure restricting services for illegal immigrants clashed at a demonstration Thursday, reports The Chicago Tribune.

About 150 police officers wearing helmets and wielding batons separated the groups - representing both sides of the volatile debate over Proposition 187 - and the demonstrations were allowed to proceed.

Los Angeles police Lt. Anthony Alba said demonstrators on both sides of the illegal immigration issue committed violence, but it was not clear who hit first.

Approved by voters in 1994, Prop. 187 would deny public education, non-emergency health care and social welfare services to illegal immigrants.

The measure has not been implemented because of court challenges.

### Clinton: Zero Tolerance for Truants

In a speech to the National Education Association on Wednesday, President Clinton urged "zero tolerance" for students who skip class, declaring, "The street is not an accepted alternative to the classroom," reports Associated Press.

Clinton also announced \$10 million in federal grants to 25 school districts for truancy-prevention programs. The action follows similar election-year initiatives by Clinton to encourage the wearing of school uniforms, to allow silent classroom prayer and to begin teen curfews.

The Clinton administration also issued a 12-page "Manual to Combat Truancy" for parents, educators and law enforcement workers. The manual showcases truancy-reduction plans in Milwaukee; Rohnert Park, Calif.; New Haven, Conn.; Atlantic County, N.J.; Oklahoma City; Norfolk, Va.; Marion, Ohio; Peoria, Ariz., and Bakersfield, Calif.

Education Secretary Richard Riley said the \$10 million would be issued in the form of \$300,000 to \$500,000 grants to 25 school districts or communities with programs to combat truancy and other school discipline problems.

At a White House briefing, Riley cited a "lack of national data" on the topic - so that he couldn't even say whether truancy was on the rise or decline. But, he said, "I think we know it's a very serious problem."

The manual recommends that states give parents incentives to make sure their children go to school. Some states, for example, deny public assistance to families with truants, the manual says.

The manual also calls for firm sanctions against truants, such as lower grades, loss of driving privileges and daytime curfews that would allow police officers to question children about why they aren't in school.



### Senate OKs Minimum Wage Hike

The Senate has approved a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage Tuesday, potentially affecting the paychecks of more than 10 million Americans, reports Associated Press.

Lawmakers voted 74-24 to raise the minimum from the current \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 initially and to \$5.15 by next July, and rejected a Republican proposal proposed by Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., to exempt newly hired employees and workers in businesses grossing less than \$500,000 a year.

Bond's measure would have allowed employers to wait six months before meeting the minimum wage. It would also have delayed until Jan. 1 the date for raising the wage to \$4.75 and until Jan. 1, 1998 for instituting the full \$5.15, both six months beyond the House-set dates.

The bill, was part of a package of tax breaks aimed mainly at business that passed the House by 281-144 in a similar version on May 23. The two chambers still must work out differences in the tax section of the legislation.

Sen. Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., said he might try to block the House-Senate negotiating conference until Democrats give ground on stalled health care legislation. But Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Republicans would obstruct final passage "at their own peril."

Americans overwhelmingly support the increase and Nickles "would be held responsible should he decide to pursue that course," Daschle said.

### Who Earns the Minimum Wage?

Workers earning the minimum wage tend to be young: Just over half of those earning \$4.25 or less are under 25 years old and one-third of them are teen-agers. Among teen-agers paid by the hour, about 20 percent earned the minimum or less - some workers are exempt from the law's provisions - compared with only 3 percent of workers 25 and over who earned the minimum or less, reports The New York Times.

In all, 3.7 million workers earn \$4.25 or less and additional millions would presumably benefit from an increase because they earn between \$4.25 and the proposed \$5.15. The highest concentration is in retail trade, where 55 percent of minimum-wage workers are employed.

Among full-time workers, women are more likely to be at the minimum than men, with 5 percent of whites, 6 percent of blacks and 7 percent of Hispanic workers earning \$4.25 or less.

Geographically, the South had the highest proportion of minimum-wage workers and the Northeast the lowest.

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# EL EDITOR

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## Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

I had the opportunity to attend the American GI Forum State Convention 2 weeks ago which was held in San Angelo.

The Convention was not attended as well as it should have been but the Lubbock Chapters, which include a Men's, Women's and Youth Chapters were well represented. Our congratulation to Rodriguez who competed for GI Forum Queen and can in 2nd place. Another friend of ours Robert Narvaiz was elected to State Sgt.-at-Arms. Congratulation to him.

Another candidate for a State Position, our friend Pete Garza did well but not as well as he had planned.

Pete was running for the post of State Commander, the highest position in Texas in the group. Pete was beat out by the candidate from San Antonio in a not too close election. He later went on to will the position of 2nd Vice Commander and will represent Lubbock and West Texas on the State Executive Committee.

I was rather saddened and maybe even mad that three of our delegates from Lubbock, one being our present Lubbock commander did not support Pete in his effort.

My madness came from having to hear other delegates from different parts of the State that were supporting Pete saying that the Lubbock delegation didn't have it all together. They couldn't as a matter of fact, I couldn't, understand way these delegates could not support a person who obviously has been active unselfishly to promote the Forum.

Two weeks ago, you read about another incident at the State Democratic Convention where Lubbock Chicanos didn't stick together either. Maybe there's a bad bug going around. Some people would call it envy.

## Hispanic Kids Face Health, Education, Poverty Woes

Hispanics have become the largest group of children in the country after non-Hispanic whites, the Census Bureau reported Monday, in an announcement that indicated that what has long been true for California is now true for the nation, reports the San Jose Mercury News.

According to the bureau, there are 12 million Hispanic children living in the United States, up from 9.8 million in 1990. That compares with 50.8 million non-Hispanic whites and 11.4 million non-Hispanic blacks.

Hispanic children are more likely than whites or blacks to lack health insurance, more than twice as likely as whites to drop out of school, and more likely than blacks or whites to live in poverty when someone in the household works, federal statistics show.

In response to the study, Jane Delgado, president and CEO of the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations, says her organization has formed six Growing Up Hispanic Policy Centers, which will gather information on the serious needs of Hispanic children.

The centers, in Los Angeles; Denver; Miami; New York; Albuquerque, N.M., and San Antonio, Texas, will assess and track needs of Hispanic children, and hope to release data by the end of this year, Delgado said.

The needs of Hispanic children were vividly highlighted in a study sponsored by the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations:

- Hispanic children have a higher death rate from injuries and accidents than either non-Hispanic blacks or non-Hispanic whites.
- More Hispanic high school children say they fear attack when going to and from school than blacks or whites.
- A far larger share of preschool Hispanics suffered measles infections than non-Hispanic blacks or non-Hispanic whites.

Nationwide, Hispanic children also face greater health challenges. Approximately 31 percent of the children of working Hispanic adults are uninsured, compared with 20 percent of black children and 12 percent of white children. Also, Hispanic children are least likely to see a physician, according to National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations, a national group of Hispanic health-care and social service providers.

Delgado noted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta found in 1995 that Hispanic teens - especially girls - were most likely to attempt suicide.

Also, a soon-to-be released report by the Rand Corp. documents alarming educational and dropout rates for Hispanic children.



## HUD Wants Hispanic Homeowners

By MARTIN FINUCANE

BOSTON - The federal government is making a new push to help Hispanics buy homes, with plans for a \$4 million advertising campaign as well as other initiatives, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said Friday.

Cisneros said the Clinton administration hopes to increase the overall rate of

homeownership from 65.1 percent to 67.5 percent by the year 2000. To do that, they must reach out to minorities, said Cisneros, who has already announced a campaign to help women buy homes.

At the beginning of this year, 41.4 percent of Hispanic households were homeowners. The goal is to raise that to 47 percent during the next four

years, adding 900,000 Hispanic households to the ranks of homeowners.

"The white rate is 70 percent," Cisneros said. "How much higher are you going to get?"

Cisneros said the program was a "win-win-win situation: a win for the families who become homeowners, a win for the communities in

which they live, and a win for America."

The Department of Housing and Urban Development plans a \$4 million ad campaign in Spanish and English explaining homeownership opportunities. That's 33 percent increase from last year, but still only a small part of HUD's total ad budget, Cisneros said.



# Por Que El Presidente Clinton No Necesita De Una "Estrategia Hispana"

Por Henry G. Cisneros

Como nieto de inmigrantes, me sentí muy orgulloso al entrar al hemiciclo de la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos en enero último como miembro del gabinete del Presidente Clinton para escuchar su discurso sobre el Estado de la Unión.

Crecí en el lado oeste de San Antonio. Cualquiera que me vea puede decir que soy latino. Cuando yo iba creciendo, los presidentes no tenían a nadie en sus gabinetes que lucieran como yo.

Porque soy latino, recibí llamadas de la prensa después del discurso del presidente, preguntándome si me sentía desilusionado porque él no incluyó un mensaje explícito para los latinos o las minorías.

Respondí que no es necesario tener una estrategia latina explícita cuando el presidente está hablando sobre cosas que afectan a las vidas de las personas. No hay necesidad de subdividirnos por raza o clase u origen étnico cuando el presidente habla a nuestra humanidad, a lo que nos define como estadounidenses.

Cuando el presidente habló de la importancia de la familia, de que los padres permanezcan unidos, de recordar el situar las necesidades de los niños primero si los padres se separan -- él nos estaba hablando sobre los valores que orientan a nuestra nación.

Empero, él estaba hablando directamente a los latinos. Ningún segmento de la población estadounidense comprende el valor de los niños y

la importancia de las familias más que los hispanos. Nuestra cultura y nuestras tradiciones dan una gran importancia a la familia, a la fe, a la adhesión al lugar.

Nosotros, los latinos, definimos ampliamente a la familia. Incluimos a los abuelos, las tías y los tíos, los primos, las sobrinas y los sobrinos, los compadres y las comadres y a sus familias también. Damos la bienvenida a la sabiduría de las generaciones anteriores y a la energía y el entusiasmo de los niños y de todos los que hay entre ellos. Nuestra noción de la familia es expansiva, no exclusiva.

A medida que aumentamos en cantidad e influencia -- y las proyecciones dicen que llegaremos a ser el grupo minoritario mayor del país tan temprano como en el año 2005 -- nuestra noción de la familia puede ayudar a unos Estados Unidos extraviados para que vuelvan a descubrir la importancia de la comunidad, de estar conectados a otros, como cimientos de vidas saludables. Y eso podría ser un aporte tan vital como el que haga cualquier pueblo a la supervivencia y al fortalecimiento de la sociedad estadounidense.

Siempre que el presidente habla de la enseñanza, está hablándonos directamente a nosotros. No hay sector de la población de los Estados Unidos que tenga en juego tanto con respecto al adelanto de la enseñanza como lo tenemos los latinos. La edad promedio de la población latina es de 21 años. El promedio nacional es de 31 años. Por tener un promedio de edad que está en

un decenio por debajo del promedio nacional, eso significa que tenemos una población inmensamente grande que es menor de 15 años de edad. Debido a que nuestra población es tan joven, tenemos mucho en juego respecto de la enseñanza, del programa Head Start, de los programas que contrarrestan al abandono de los estudios.

Pero el gobierno federal no puede resolver por sí solo los problemas de la enseñanza que tienen los latinos. Los resolveremos en las escuelas con maestros preocupados; con padres que hablen periódicamente con los maestros de sus hijos, que desconecten los televisores para que los jóvenes puedan estudiar.

Debemos recordar los valores que nuestros padres nos enseñaron: Estudien árdamente, lean todo lo que puedan, escuchen a sus maestros y a sus mayores, hagan todo lo que puedan para instruirse. De ese modo podrán subir la escalera del logro y la oportunidad en los Estados Unidos.

Esos valores son latinos y estadounidenses. Los latinos están al mismo paso que los valores estadounidenses tradicionales.

Cuando el presidente habla de empleos, capacitación e ingresos, está hablándonos a nosotros. Cuando habla de mantener el Crédito Fiscal por Ingresos Ganados -- que devuelve impuestos a las familias pobres que trabajan -- y de elevar el jornal mínimo, está hablándonos a nosotros. La población latina de los Estados Unidos es una población que trabaja, carac-

terizada no por una tasa elevada de desempleo, sino por una tasa elevada de subempleo.

Nuestra gente trabaja! Sólo que no gana lo suficiente. Nuestros niveles de enseñanza son insuficientes como para obtener empleos que paguen bien. La discriminación también ha evitado que subamos. Trabajamos con nuestras manos en industrias pequeñas, en plantas de elaboración de textiles, en tiendas de las esquinas. Pero no ganamos suficiente dinero.

De modo que cuando el presidente habla de proteger a un programa fiscal que ayuda a las familias pobres que trabajan, que las mantiene por encima del nivel de la pobreza, él está hablando a los latinos y a nuestras familias.

Mi punto es éste: No necesitamos de una estrategia hispana explícita. Estamos más allá del punto de ser comunidades de un sólo asunto. Nuestras preocupaciones incluyen a aquéllas que fueron de la mayor importancia para nuestros antecesores inmigrantes, pero hoy están todavía en línea con las preocupaciones de nuestros vecinos, que pueden ser de cualquier raza o procedencia étnica. Más que en cualquier época pasada, nuestras preocupaciones son preocupaciones estadounidenses. De modo que cuando el presidente Clinton está hablando sobre los desafíos a que se enfrentan los estadounidenses, está hablándole a los latinos.

(Henry G. Cisneros es Secretario del Departamento Federal de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano.)

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## Politics As Usual

by Todd Klein

To say that China has violated just about every international law and every international standard of decency wouldn't be too far off the mark. The Communist-authoritarian government flagrantly abuses its people and openly violates human rights standards virtually accepted globally.

The government is guilty of infanticide, forced abortions, gross brutality directed at women, and horrible treatment of its prisoners, many of whom are guilty only of saying something the government did not like. Then there is their sale of nuclear materials and the build up of military might around Taiwan. And the risk that as China goes through a drawn out and difficult transition of power the military is gaining power from the party leaders.

There is also the aggravation at the high tariffs placed against American products exported to China, and the difficulties U.S. firms have doing business inside China. Including the loss of what is referred to as intellectual property such as copy rights which cost American businesses estimated billions annually. All this while we continue to see a trade deficit between the two countries. But to list, let alone describe, every transgression would be an article in itself. Let it suffice to say that China is a nasty place for its citizens and the world community.

So why then should we bestow Most Favored Nation Status on China? For one, MFN is really nothing more than symbolism, and the right to do trade with the U.S. like any other country. The problem, however, is that China is *not* just like any other country. It is an emerging economic superpower. It is estimated that by the year 2025 China will have an economy one-and-a half times the size of the U.S.

Sometimes trade sanctions serve the purpose of forcing certain standards of human rights on a government, witness the case of South Africa, but in some cases those practices as tempting as they are simply don't yield the desired results. And China is just such a case.

Commonsense dictates that we look at each country in context. China is a country of formidable military and economic power, and that power is only projected to grow with time. To risk serious isolation with China is to risk economic opportunities of our own, and as China grows these opportunities will haunt our economy for years if not decades.

To confront China more than we ready have is to risk the same missed opportunities as the isolationist approach, as well as increase the anti-American attitude already growing in the government. A government capable of making life in Taiwan, one of our major trading partners, severe at best. Such a strategy is also detrimental to the general hope of quietly, but essentially, containing China from any further aggression against Taiwan and preparing for the fact that it will take over control of Hong Kong in '97. China is positioned to be a great influence over the area; perhaps even more than its neighbor to the North, Russia.

This isn't to say human rights cannot be a consideration when dealing with China. Clearly there are opportunities within the relationship to exert our views. The U.N. has been a good arena for this, such as when China played host to the International Conference on Women. We can't strategically choose our moments to pressure China. We can show China what the world expects of them by tying international expectations to their membership in the World Trade Organization, a membership they want badly. But in trading with China it will be more beneficial, and certainly more practical, to allow the two countries to do business unimpeded by political issues. Not only is this in our economic and national interest, but maybe even in our moral interest.

From this bleakness some hope still exists. If history is any guide, capitalism leads to democracy. Not too many years ago Taiwan looked a lot like China. They too were ruled by dictatorship. But as their markets began to open up to the freedom of economic enterprise so did their political system. In those counties where people have been exposed to the freedom of commerce in capitalism they soon want such freedom to conduct their political affairs as well.

By engaging China we stand a much greater opportunity of influencing their future, and how they will treat their people. And that gives reason to believe that in several years mainland China may look more like Hong Kong and Taiwan than the other way around.

## Why President Clinton Doesn't Need A "Hispanic Strategy"

By Henry G. Cisneros

As the grandson of immigrants, I was very proud to walk into the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives last January as a member of President Clinton's Cabinet to hear his State of the Union speech.

I grew up on the West Side of San Antonio. Anyone who sees me can tell I'm Latino. When I was growing up, presidents didn't have anyone in their Cabinets who looked like me.

Because I am Latino, I received calls from the press following the President's speech asking if I was disappointed that he didn't include an explicit message to Latinos or to minorities.

I responded that it's not necessary to have an explicit Latino strategy when the President is speaking about things that affect people's lives. There is no need to subdivide us by race or class or ethnicity when the President speaks to our humanity, to what defines us as Americans.

When the President spoke of the importance of family, of parents staying together, of remembering to place the needs of children first if the parents separate -- he was talking to us about the values that orient our nation.

Yet he was talking directly to Latinos. No population in the United States understands the value of children and the importance of families more than Hispanics. Our culture and our traditions place great importance on family, on faith, on attachment to place.

We Latinos define family broadly. We include grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, *compadres* y *comadres*, and their families, too. We welcome the wisdom of past generations and the energy and enthusiasm of children and all those in between. Our notion of family is expansive, not exclusive.

As we grow in numbers and influence -- and projections



have us becoming the largest minority group in the country as early as 2005 -- our notion of family may nudge a wandering America to rediscover the importance of community, of being connected to others, as foundations of healthy lives. And that could be as vital a contribution that any people make to the survival and strengthening of American society.

Whenever the President talks about education, he is talking directly to us. There is no population in America that has as great a stake in educational progress as Latinos do. The average age of the Latino population is 21 years. The national average is 31 years. Having an average age a full decade below the national average means that we have an immensely large population under 15 years. Because our population is so young, we have a big stake in education, in Head Start, in anti-dropout programs.

But the federal government alone can't solve the problems of Latino education. We'll solve them in schools with concerned teachers; with parents who talk regularly with their children's teachers, who turn off the TV so youngsters can study.

We must remember the val-

ues our parents taught us: study hard, read all you can, listen to your teachers and elders, do all you can to educate yourself. That's the way you climb the ladder of achievement and opportunity in the United States.

Those values are Latino and American. Latinos are in step with traditional American values.

When the President talks about jobs, training and income, he's talking to us. When he speaks about preserving the Earned Income Tax Credit -- which rebates taxes to poor working families -- and raising the minimum wage, he's talking to us. The Latino population in the United States is a working population, characterized not by high unemployment, but by high underemployment.

Our people work! They just don't make enough. Our educational levels are insufficient to get good-paying jobs. Discrimination, too, has prevented our climb. We work with our hands in small industries, in textile plants, in corner stores. But we don't make enough money.

So when the President talks about protecting a tax program that helps poor working

families, that keeps them above the poverty level, he's talking to Latinos and our families.

My point is this: We don't need an explicit Hispanic strategy. We're beyond the point of being single-issue communities. Our concerns include those that were foremost for our immigrant ancestors, but today they are often in line with the concerns of our neighbors, who may be of any race or ethnic background. More than at any time in the past, our concerns are American concerns. So when President Clinton is taking about challenges Americans face, he's talking to Latinos.

## Writing From The Roots

By Marie Arana-Ward

(This column is drawn from remarks by Marie Arana-Ward introducing four leading Hispanic authors at a plenary panel on "Writing from the Roots" at the recent National Association of Hispanic Journalists' convention in Chicago.)

Each of us has a theme. Sometimes we have to seek it, going back over events carefully in order to understand that there is subtle logic to our lives. Sometimes those themes are obvious -- thrust upon us -- by the circumstances of our births, or by exile, or by a family history that holds and defines us.

As Hispanics, we all share a theme. We may be scrambled and sliced in different ways, but we are Hispanics all the same, a distinct group. Unlike other ethnic segments in our country, however, our one defining bond is not necessarily a physical one. We are speakers of Spanish, and we are as marked and molded by that language as individuals can be by the color of their skin or the history of their people.

You may not be able to peg us by race. We are sometimes Asians. (The president of my native country, Peru, for

example, is 100 percent Japanese.) We can be black. (According to the current census, Cuba's population is 58 percent black.) We can be Indian, as many of us most certainly are. We can, as the word "Hispanic" implies, trace our heritage to Spain. We might be Middle-Easterners from Lebanon or Jews from Eastern-European borderlands, people who came to the New World to start afresh.

We can be any combination of these, mestizos, in whom all these worlds ally to create something new. But the Spanish language and its attendant culture is what holds us together. We are the only large minority group in the United States classified by our tongue, even when we don't speak it very well anymore.

Imagine an African American, a Native American and an Arab American all defining themselves as the same ethnic group because they grew up speaking English. I guess they would have every right to call themselves Anglo Americans.

That gives you an idea of the stretch many Hispanics have

to make when they take on the label. Yet it's precisely what we do.

Language may be the only thing that holds us together. Hispanics represent a wildly diverse group of people. Our themes are at great variance with one another. The Mexican-American experience is not the Cuban-American experience -- Mexico and Cuba are very separate places with very distinct histories and populations. The Peruvian-American experience is not the Puerto Rican experience -- Puerto Rico's relationship to the hemisphere is not the same as that of Peru.

Whereas our language most assuredly unites us, it may fool others into believing that we are more alike than we are. Each one of the writers you will meet has a different story to tell, a different theme that drives his or her life and work. Each represents a different fragment of the Hispanic mosaic.

Judith Ortiz Cofer writes from Puerto Rico roots, Rudolfo Anaya from Chicano roots, Cristina Garcia is Cuban American, Victor Per-



# News Briefs

## Jobless Rate Hits 6-Year Low

The nation's unemployment rate fell to a six-year low as the economy created thousands of new jobs in June, reports Associated Press

The Labor Department reported the jobless rate at 5.3 percent, down from 5.6 percent in May, with 239,000 new jobs created. Hiring was exceptionally strong at restaurants and bars, and analysts said preparations for the summer Olympics in Atlanta helped boost the total.

But Rep. John Boehner, head of the House Republican Conference, argued about the quality of jobs being created, citing government statistics showing that 7.9 million Americans are now working two or more jobs, up 10.2 percent since 1994.

The gain of 239,000 jobs last month followed increases of 365,000 in May and 191,000 in April. For June, the strength was concentrated in the service sector with retail stores adding 75,000 jobs, almost half of them at restaurants and bars.

Temporary help firms added 38,000 jobs while construction employment rose by 23,000. Manufacturing suffered a decline of 7,000.

The 5.3 percent jobless rate marked the lowest unemployment level for this recovery, which is now in its sixth year. The rate fell to 5.2 percent in June 1990, the peak month in the long recovery that had begun following the 1981-82 recession.

## Government to Trace Youth Gun Buys

President Clinton is setting up a new federal program to allow local police to track gun sales to young people, reports Associated Press.

The president was to announce the program Monday in a White House ceremony with police chiefs and prosecutors from 17 cities. They will pledge to provide information on every gun they confiscate from a juvenile during a crime.

That information will be entered into the federal computer system run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. Each gun will be traced to its original seller through documents and serial numbers, and the gun traffickers will then be prosecuted. The eventual goal is to have all cities in the nation join the program.

It is already illegal under federal law and the laws of most states to sell handguns to juveniles, a factor that makes the president's program easier to implement because it does not require the passage of new legislation that could lead to a debate on gun control.

The 17 cities involved in the program were selected in part to have participation from cities of various sizes and from various regions. The Times identified the cities involved as: New York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Birmingham, Ala., Bridgeport, Conn., Inglewood, Calif., Memphis, Cleveland, Jersey City, N.J., Milwaukee, Richmond, Va., St. Louis, Salinas, Calif., San Antonio, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

## Roaches a Cause of Asthma in Urban Poor

A team of researchers undergoing a five-year study on growing rates of asthma in urban areas has found cockroaches to be a major cause, reports Associated Press.

The surprising result is likely, in time, to change the way the medical world thinks about childhood asthma.

The researchers studied the worst neighborhoods in seven big cities and spent \$17 million vacuuming up dust, administering allergy tests and poring over the medical records of poor children. "There were huge levels of cockroach antigens, much higher than has ever been reported," said one of the researchers, Dr. Peyton Eggleston of Johns Hopkins University. "Almost every house had detectable levels."

Dr. Richard Evans, an asthma specialist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, said the single most urgent step he would take to prevent asthma "help people eliminate cockroaches."

Researchers acknowledge other problems besides roaches contribute to asthma among the poor - decrepit housing, inadequate quality of doctoring at some Medicaid clinics, fragmented families where no one adult takes charge of children's health care. And asthma certainly isn't restricted to urban areas.

Yet the disease takes its greatest toll in the nation's poorest locales. In New York City, for instance, 8.6 percent of children in the Bronx have asthma, double the rate for urban residents nationally.

Children's asthma usually is caused by an allergic reaction to a substance that makes them wheeze, called an antigen. After testing 1,528 children under age 10 and visiting half of their homes, the leading antigen by far was proteins in the droppings and carcasses of *Blattella germanica*, the German cockroach.

With little air exchange, antigens from bugs, molds, cats and dogs build up indoors. As the indoor air gets worse, those who spend much time inside breathe more antigens.

"In the inner cities, children who used to be outdoors are now indoors because parents are afraid to let them outside," said Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills of the University of Virginia.

# Escribiendo Desde Las Raices

Por Marie Arana-Ward

(Esta columna está redactada con observaciones por Marie Arana-Ward al presentar a cuatro autores hispanos principales en un grupo plenario de "Escribiendo Desde las Raices" en la convención reciente de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos en Chicago.)

Cada uno de nosotros tiene un tema. Algunas veces tenemos que buscarlo, retrotrayéndonos cuidadosamente sobre los acontecimientos a fin de comprender que hay una lógica sutil para nuestras vidas. Algunas veces esos temas son evidentes -- lanzados sobre nosotros -- por las circunstancias de nuestros nacimientos, o por el exilio, o por una historia familiar que nos sostiene y define.

Como hispanos, todos compartimos un tema. Puede que estemos revueltos y rodajados de distintas maneras, pero somos todavía hispanos, un grupo diferente. A diferencia de otros segmentos étnicos de nuestro país, sin embargo, nuestro vínculo singular que nos define no es necesariamente físico. Hablamos español, y estamos tan señalados y formados por ese idioma como puedan estarlo las personas por el color de su piel o la historia de su pueblo.

Es posible no ser capaz de clasificarnos por raza. Algunas veces somos asiáticos. (El presidente de mi país, el Perú, es 100 por ciento japonés.) Podemos ser negros. (Según el censo actual, la población de Cuba es negra en un 58 por ciento.) Podemos ser indígenas, como muchos de nosotros lo somos en verdad. Podemos, como lo infiere la palabra "hispano", rastrear nuestra herencia a España. Podemos proceder del Medio Oriente,

del Líbano, o ser judíos de las tierras fronterizas de la Europa Oriental, personas que llegaron al Nuevo Mundo para empezar de nuevo.

Podemos ser cualquier combinación de lo anterior, mestizos, en quienes se reúnen todos estos mundos para crear algo nuevo. Pero el idioma español y su cultura inherente es lo que nos une. Somos el único grupo minoritario grande clasificado por nuestro idioma, aún cuando ya no lo hablemos muy bien.

Imagínense a un afroamericano, a un nativo norteamericano y a un árabe-americano definiéndose todos a ellos mismos como el mismo grupo étnico porque crecieron hablando inglés. Me imagino que ellos tendrían todo derecho a llamarse a ellos mismos anglo-americanos.

Eso les da una idea del estirón que muchos hispanos tienen que dar cuando adoptan su clasificación. Sin embargo, eso es precisamente lo que hacemos.

El idioma puede ser lo único que nos mantenga juntos. Los hispanos representamos un grupo extremadamente diverso de personas. Nuestros temas varían en gran medida entre ellos. La experiencia mexicana americana no es la experiencia de los cubano-americanos -- México y Cuba son lugares muy separados con historias y poblaciones muy diferentes. La experiencia peruano-americana no es la experiencia puertorriqueña -- la relación de Puerto Rico con el hemisferio no es la misma que la del Perú.

Mientras que nuestro idioma es muy seguramente lo

que nos une, puede hacer a otros pensar que somos más parecidos que lo que realmente somos. Cada uno de los escritores que usted conozca tiene una historia distinta que contar, un tema diferente que impulsa a su vida y su trabajo. Cada uno representa un fragmento distinto del mosaico hispano.

Judith Ortiz Cofer escribe desde sus raíces puertorriqueñas; Rudolfo Anaya desde sus raíces chicanas; Cristina García es cubano-americana; Víctor Perera nació en Guatemala y tiene antecesores sefarditas.

Mi propio tema particular es lo que me gusta llamar la Gran Línea Divisoria. Soy hija de padre peruano y madre norteamericana. Nací en Lima y crecí en el seno cálido de una familia peruana grande y ferozmente insular. Durante el primer decenio de mi vida o algo así, mi idioma predominante fué el español, y mi madre, tenazmente heterodoxa, de habla inglesa y ojos azules, era un rareza dentro del paisaje peruano típico.

Cuando nos mudamos a los Estados Unidos y yo decidí ser una adolescente completamente estadounidense, fué mi padre, igualmente porfiado, heterodoxo, de habla hispana y ojos pardos el que resultaba ser lo extraño.

Mi identidad fluctuaba tenuemente entre oscilar y pertenecer -- entre Desi y Lucy, hasta que aprendí de cada uno de ellos cuán valiosa, interesante y verdaderamente notable era la otra parte. Y cómo, quizás, ya era menos una línea divisoria que una

"tercera cosa", una fusión de los Andes con los Estados Unidos. Como a mi madre le gusta llamar los potajes que contienen criaturas marinas no identificadas, soy "una sinfonía".

Eva Hoffman, autora de un libro memorable titulado "Perdido en la Traducción", lo dice así -- y aquí usaré la palabra "español" donde quiera que ella usa la palabra "polaco". Ella querría que yo lo hiciera así. Y dice:

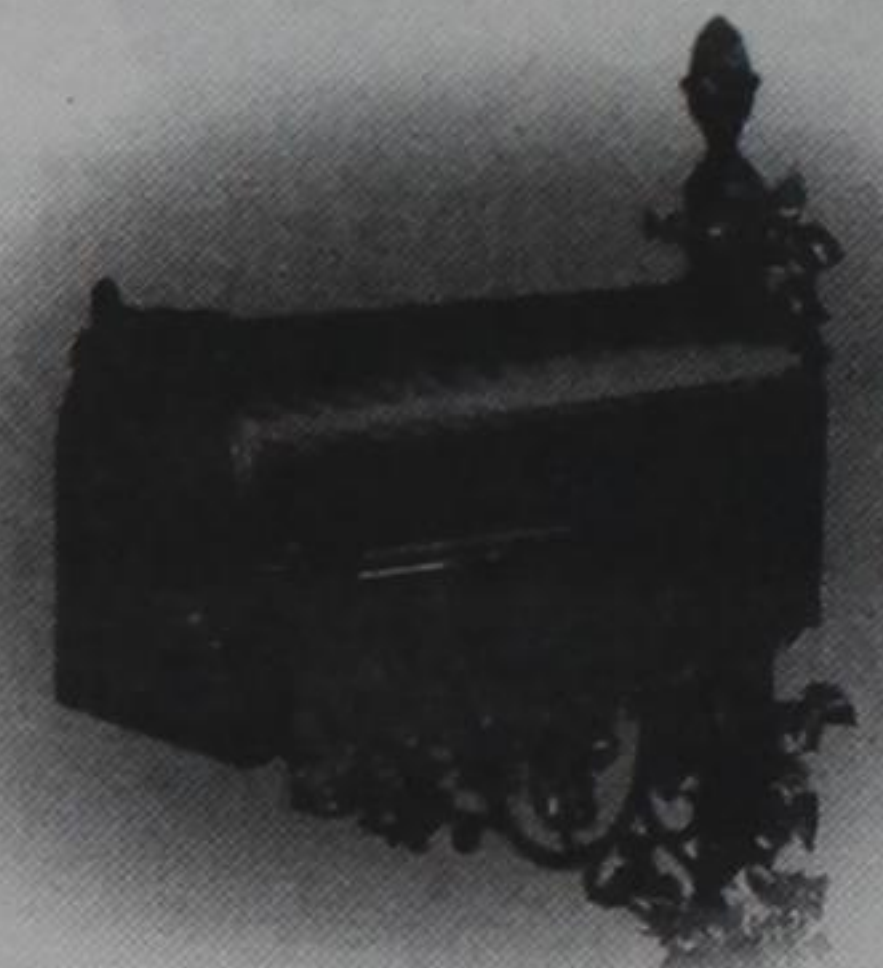
"No hay regreso al punto de partida, no se puede recobrar la unidad de la niñez. El español ya no es el idioma singular y verdadero; hay algo que sé también en inglés. Cuando hablo español ahora, está infiltrado, permeado y con inflexión del inglés en mi cabeza. Cada idioma modifica al otro, se entrecruza con él, lo fertiliza. Como todos, soy la suma de mis idiomas -- los idiomas de mi familia y de mi niñez, de mi enseñanza y amistad, y del amor, y del mundo mayor que cambia".

Me aventuraré a decir que cada uno de nosotros se identifica con ese pasaje. Todos somos productos de la fusión, o del exilio, o del trasplante, y todos estamos en una misión para sondear las delicias y dilemas de una posición elevada entre dos culturas.

Esa búsqueda de una identidad cultural y ese ansia de señalar de qué modo figura en nuestras vidas, nuestros trabajos y nuestras palabras, es lo que trae a estos escritores aquí para hablar de sus raíces. Es precisamente ese

Continued Page 4

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# N.Y.C. Police Brutality Claims Revive Hispanic Concern

By Peter Olivera Nicks

When Amnesty International released its report this month on police violence in New York City, it gave the public a fleeting glimpse of the expanding rift between urban Latinos and those who are hired to defend them from crime.

Amnesty International, an international human rights surveillance group, said its investigation was prompted by a dramatic rise in police-abuse claims filed against the city -- from 977 in 1987 to more than 2,000 in 1994.

Its 72-page document charged that between January 1990 and April 1994, 20 Hispanics died because NYPD officers either used excessive force in apprehending them or failed to address life-threatening conditions among their captives.

Amnesty International examined 55 cases in which people succumbed while in police custody. It reported that 89 percent of the victims were Latino or African American. The majority of the officers involved were Anglo.

Reaction to the report reflected a polarization that is growing nationally: A NYPD spokesperson described it to Hispanic Link News Service as "selectively anecdotal," saying it doesn't "represent the department or its relationship with New Yorkers."

Report co-authors Angela Wright and David Marshall, who met with the NYPD June 28 to discuss the findings, contend that officers "do not even consider police brutality

a serious problem in the NYPD."

The former director of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) in New York City, Hector Soto, called the report "another indication of the abusive manner and arrogance" of the department. He reminded Hispanic Link that he resigned from the review board earlier this year when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani failed to cooperate with the CCRB in acting on police brutality cases.

Juan Figueroa, general counsel for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, also praised the report. Many Latinos have been victimized by "these so-called" quality-of-life arrests, he said.

A recent study and poll conducted in California, Florida, New York and Texas by the Claremont, Calif.-based Tomas Rivera Center found that the majority of Latinos disagree with their Anglo counterparts that police treat the groups equally. In New York, only 25 percent of Latino respondents said they were treated the same.

The Amnesty International report noted that most city police officers live in the suburbs and may not understand the cultural intricacies of the neighborhoods they patrol.

A New York CCRB study found this disparity between police officers and the population they serve.

Susan Karten, lawyer for the family of Anthony Baez, who died in NYPD custody in 1994 in a case that drew local

press attention, urged better sensitivity training to screen out the "racist attitudes" Anglo officers have toward people of color.

Anthony's mother Iris told Hispanic Link that she has become active in making police accountable for their actions following her son's death. "They (police) are killing our kids and no one is doing nothing about it," she said.

Contacted by Hispanic Link, Sacramento, Calif. Police Chief Arturo Venegas Jr. maintained that law enforcement has made "major strides" to weed out corrupt officers. It is difficult to get citizens to trust the police, he said, when law enforcement is being criticized for locking up Latinos and people of color who commit a disproportionate percentage of crimes.

Manuel Guillot, vice president of community education

and public policy at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Los Angeles, labeled the New York cases part of an "overall context of hate" in the United States.

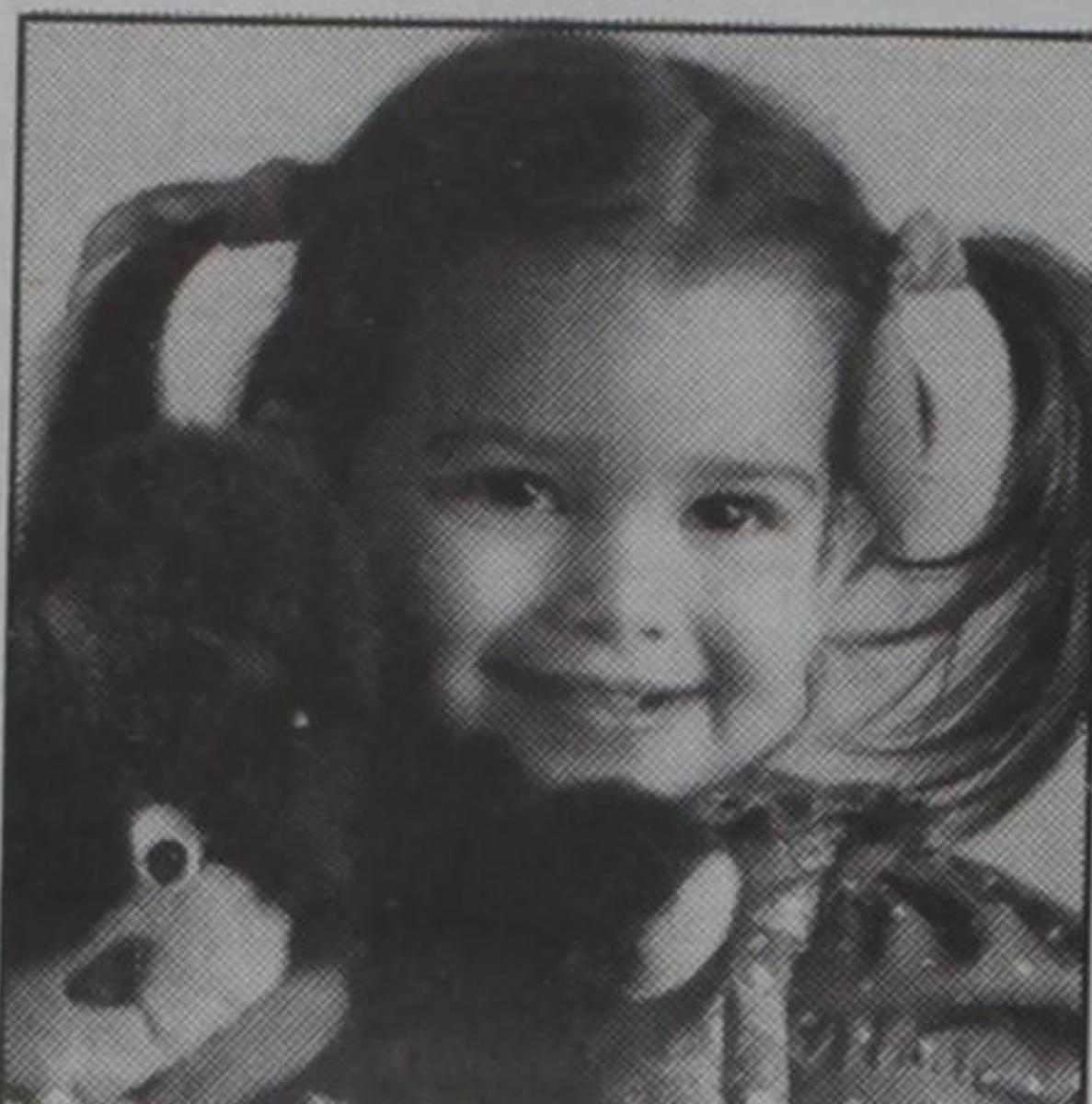
Last October, a six-member delegation of Los Angeles lawyers met with U.S. Department of Justice officials concerning 30 incidents that have resulted in 23 deaths since 1987. The bulk of the incidents involved Los Angeles police officers and Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies.

In Philadelphia last May, the city's police commissioner and mayor rejected the city's own Police Advisory Commission report that accused officers of misconduct in the death of a Latino youth, Moises DeJesus.

Every urban center in the nation has been impaired by incidents of police brutality against people of color in recent times. Sporadic attempts to address the issue have yet to resolve the problem.

Now, under a provision of the federal crime bill, the U.S. Department of Justice is tracking national data on such use of excessive force.

Maybe the facts and numbers it reveals, when collected and presented, will provide incentive by the year 2000 to seek real and lasting safeguards against a civil rights wrong that has infected our democracy throughout our history.



There are no small victories in the fight against heart disease.

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### From Page 3

rompidos. Es difícil obtener que la ciudadanía tenga confianza en la policía, dijo él, cuando se critica a la misma por encerrar a los latinos y otras personas de color que cometen una cantidad desproporcionada de los delitos.

Manuel Guillot, vicepresidente para enseñanza comunitaria y cursos de acción públicos del Fondo Méxicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y la Enseñanza, en Los Angeles, calificó a los casos de Nueva York como parte de un "contexto general de odio" en los Estados Unidos.

En octubre último, una delegación de seis miembros de abogados de Los Angeles se reunió con funcionarios del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos con referencia a 30 incidentes que han resultado en 23 muertes desde 1987. El grueso de los incidentes involucraba a los agentes de la policía de Los Angeles y a los diputados del Sheriff del Condado de Los Angeles.

En Filadelfia, en mayo último, el comisionado de policía de la ciudad y el alcalde rechazaron al informe de la propia Comisión Asesora de la Policía de la ciudad, que acusaba a los agentes de conducta impropia en la muerte de un joven latino, Moisés de Jesús.

Todos los centros urbanos de la nación han sido perjudicados por incidentes de brutalidad policiaca contra personas de color en las épocas recientes. Las tentativas esporádicas de enfocarse sobre el asunto todavía no han podido resolver el problema.

Ahora, a tenor de una disposición del proyecto de ley federal sobre la delincuencia, el Departamento Federal de Justicia está rastreando la información nacional sobre el uso de fuerza excesiva.

Puede que los hechos y las cifras que revele, al ser acopiados y presentados, proporcionarán un estímulo para el año 2000 a fin de procurar salvaguardas verdaderas y duraderas contra una falla de los derechos civiles que ha infectado a nuestra democracia a través de toda nuestra historia.

(Peter Olivera Nicks es reportero de H.L.N.S. en Washington, D.C.)  
Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1996. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

# Hispanic Immigrants Fall Back

SANTA MONICA, Calif. - Hispanic immigrants enter the United States with less education and earning power than immigrants from other countries and then continue to fall behind, according to two new studies.

The RAND Corp. studies, released Tuesday, painted an otherwise positive picture of immigrants' experiences in the United States, with immigrants overall faring as well or better than native Americans over time.

"We have an economy that increasingly is asking for more educated people," but Hispanic immigrants are moving in the opposite direction, said Georges Vernez, director of Rand's Center for Research on Immigration Policy and one of the reports' authors. "That is not a good sign for the future."

Immigrants from Asian countries did especially well, entering the country with lower wages than natives but then surpassing them over time. Asian immigrants also do as well or better in schools than native-born students, the studies showed.

"Immigrant students and their parents hold more positive attitudes toward schooling and have higher expectations for a college education than native students and their parents," according to one study, "How Immigrants Fare in U.S. Education."

Those positive attitudes are true for recent Hispanic

immigrants too, but they still enter the country lagging in educational abilities, and, most troubling to the study's authors, don't tend to improve over time.

In 1990, only 74 percent of Mexican immigrants between the ages of 15 and 17 were in school, compared with 95 percent of natives and other immigrants. The problem, Vernez said, is not that the students drop out, but that they often don't enroll.

In addition, the study found that Hispanics' educational goals decline the longer they live in the United States. This "aspiration gap" between immigrants and American-born Latinos is three times greater than for any other ethnic group, the study found.

The second study, The Mixed Economic Progress of Immigrants, found more discrepancies among immigrant groups in income, with Hispanic immigrants again behind other groups.

European immigrants enter the United States with wages comparable to American natives, and maintain that level, while Asian immigrants enter the country with lower wages but quickly catch up.

The education study was based on results of a 1980-1986 survey of 21,000 high school sophomores and seniors and census data from 1970, 1980 and 1990. The economic study was based on census data from 1970, 1980 and 1990.

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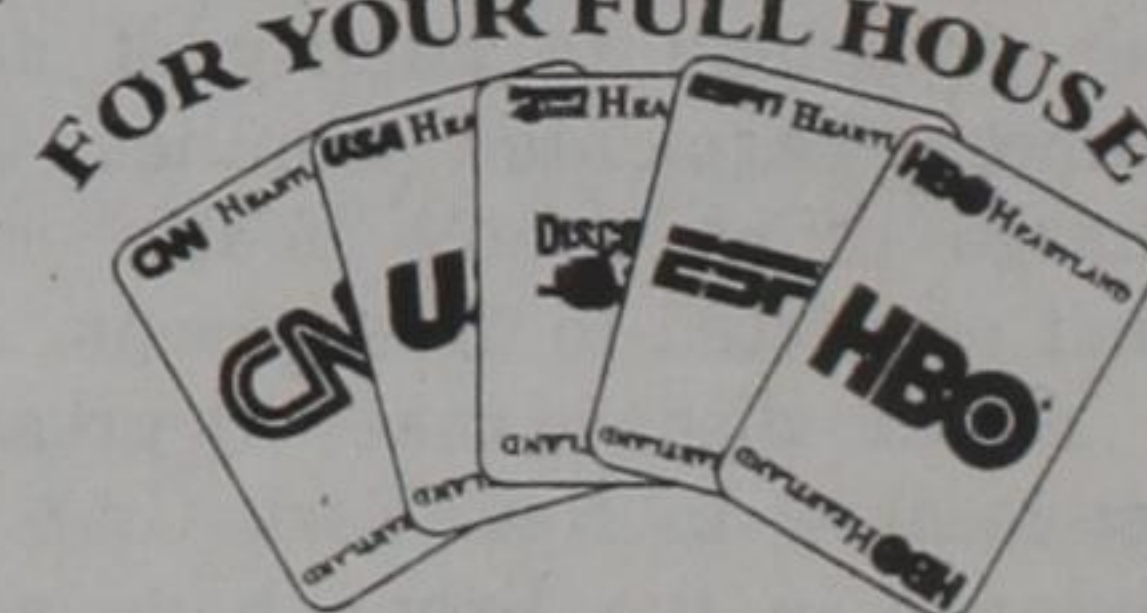
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# THE SOFTBALL FANATIC

BY MIKE "MSM" MEDRANO

I'm Back! Hey Hey What do you say Softball fans, This is M&M again, the softball fanatics shouting at you directly from Billy's Auto Sales on 19th and Ave. Q. It's been a long summer and we're sorry that we hadn't started the line sooner in the season but here we are, and we're glad to be here. Softball has been exciting and fun and most players have managed to withstand the heat and lack of rain. The first season just finished in Lubbock with the new season starting on July 15th. Deadline for entering has passed but there is going to be a good bit of tournaments. According to Jerry, every weekend is booked including the upcoming Menudazo and the Class D championship.

The tournament scheduled for this weekend is being held at Littlefield. That's if the fields aren't flooded. It's for Class D and Co-Ed teams. Call Peter to enter at 744-0445. Los Yaquis won their division the first session but according to Bidal aren't doing too good in tournaments coming up second only once and fourth in another.

Several teams will be heading toward Ruidoso next weekend including Los Yaquis and Bam from Plainview. I bet they'll be so busy gambling on the horses and the slot machines that it's going to be hard to get their boys to the field to play. Check out El Editor for more upcoming tournament in beautiful Ruidoso.

A important date to remember is July 26, 27 and 28th for our Menudazo Tournament. It promises to be the biggest ever. This year it's a State and World Hispanic Qualifier. The State tournament will be held in mid August in El Paso and the World will be held in September in Pheonix. Call 763-3841 to enter El Menudazo and get a special discount if you mention you heard it on the softball line from your friend M&M, the softball fanatic. More details on prizes next week.

Another important date will be August 2nd through the 4th for the USSSA State Tournament for Class D teams. Call Jerry today at 767-2672 to enter. I guess that's all for now. If your teams wants to put news in this column call El Editor at 763-3841. This column is updated every Tuesday. This is M&M. Come buy a car from me at Billy's on 19th and Q. It's been a long hot summer and I need the money. See you at the ball game.

# Cuban Baseball Star Eyes Bigs

By EDDIE DOMINGUEZ

MIAMI - Cuba's No. 1 baseball pitcher was in seclusion Wednesday, recovering from the ordeal of his defection and awaiting word on his legal status and his prospects for playing in the major leagues.

"You can imagine what he feels like today after the defection," said Rene Guim, a spokesman for the sports agent who helped Rolando Arrojo flee the Cuban Olympic team in Georgia and drive to Miami.

Guim said the pitcher was mentally exhausted after leaving his wife and two children, ages 9 and 1, in Cuba.

Arrojo left the Albany, Ga., hotel Tuesday, where the champion Cuban team was staying while practicing for the Olympics.

Guim declined to name the teams that have called about Arrojo, who is 28, according to Guim. Earlier reports had put his age at 32.

"There is definitely some interest out there already, but negotiations cannot begin until the legal status is resolved," Guim said. "He'd like to become a free agent in a week if he can."

Arrojo and his agent Joe Cubas were not speaking to the media Wednesday, Guim said.

But Cuba's spokesman in Washington criticized Arrojo, saying he was motivated by money and not politics.

"If the major leagues didn't pay money, he wouldn't want to play in the major leagues," said Jose Ponce from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington. "He wants to make several millions."

Immigration and Naturalization Service officials in Washington and Miami said Arrojo had not contacted them as of Wednesday. And it was not clear if he had violated terms of his Olympic visa.

"One must come to the United States for the purpose on the visa," said INS spokesman Russ Bergeron in Washington. "But if they violate the terms of that visa, they are basically not entitled to remain in the U.S. under that visa."

Bergeron said asylum applicants would not necessarily violate the terms of their visas and he refused to comment specifically about Arrojo.

Guim said Arrojo was not planning to apply for political asylum in the United States.

"Plans are to go to a third country, more than likely the Dominican Republic," Guim said. "He can then become a free agent."

Guim said it would take between a week and a month for Arrojo to get his Dominican residency and become eligible as a free agent. He said Arrojo already has several immigration lawyers working on his case.

An official at the Dominican consulate in Miami said any residency application would have to be filed in the Dominican Republic following strict requirements.

Arrojo led the Cubans to victory over the U.S. Olympic team in an exhibition game in June. He arrived in Miami on Tuesday night after about a 10-hour drive from Georgia.

"It was a very hard decision, but I had to make it to achieve my dream of gaining freedom and playing in the major leagues," Arrojo told The Miami Herald by telephone from Cubas' car Tuesday.

Cubas, who has signed a streak of Cuban defectors in recent years, is representing Arrojo as well as the two Cuban boxers, Ramon Garbey and Joel Casamayor, who defected in Mexico recently.

The boxers deserted their teammates during a training camp in Guadalajara, claiming they feared persecution because of their refusal to support Cuba's communist government.

Arrojo said he noticed no increase in vigilance over Cuba's Olympians following the defections. And Ponce said there were no plans to increase security around Cuban athletes, adding any who wanted to leave could just walk away.

Arrojo became the team's starting pitcher after the defection of pitchers Osvaldo Fernandez and Livan Hernandez last year. Cubas is also representing them.

Hernandez received a \$4.5

million contract with the Marlins and Fernandez got a \$3.9 million deal with Giants. Arrojo, a 6-foot-4 right-hander, dominated the U.S. Olympic team in the June 29 game in Zebulon, N.C.

Arrojo pitched seven innings, unsettling the Americans with a fastball that topped 90 mph as well as a variety of off-speed pitches.

"The first two times around the order, guys couldn't catch up to the ball," U.S. coach Skip Bertman said.

# Bowe Prepares For Golota

By ED SCHUYLER JR.

NEW YORK - Riddick Bowe says he doesn't think about losing, but trainer Eddie Futch wants the former undisputed heavyweight champion to be aware of the consequences of defeat.

"He can't afford to lose to anybody, and I told him this," said Futch, who will be 85 next month.

A championship loss to Evander Holyfield in 1993 already has cost Bowe in the Mike Tyson sweepstakes. Another defeat might not cost Bowe a fight against Lennox Lewis or Tyson, but it probably would cost him dearly in negotiations.

While Bowe has sometimes displeased Futch with his physical and mental approaches to fights, the trainer is happy with the Bowe who will meet unbeaten Andrew Golota in a 10-round match Thursday night in Madison Square Garden.

"I can assure you I have Riddick Bowe as ready as he's ever been, and when he's that way nobody can beat him," Futch said. "The fans will get their money's worth. He's sharp and he has the desire. He wants it very badly because there have been so many negative comments about his desire."

"I'm ready, I feel good,"

said the 6-foot-5 Bowe. "There is no question, the motivation is back again."

However, he weighed in Tuesday evening at 252 pounds, the highest of his career and 12 pounds more than he weighed in his last fight, when he stopped Holyfield in the eighth round of their rubber match last Nov. 4.

Bowe is a 10-1 favorite over the 243-pound Golota, who has gone past three rounds only six times and boxed 10 rounds only once in compiling a 28-0 record, with 25 knockouts. Bowe's record is 38-1, with 33 knockouts.

"I've got to fight good fighters," Golota said.

Bowe is by far the best opponent Golota has faced since turning pro in 1992, a year after he emigrated from Poland to Chicago. He was a bronze medalist as a heavyweight in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul, while Bowe was a silver medalist as a super heavyweight.

The fight will be televised by HBO at about 10:15 p.m. EDT. The telecast will begin at 9:45 p.m.

Fighting on the undercard will be Arturo Gatti, the IBF junior lightweight champion; Montel Griffin, a light heavyweight contender; and Hector Camacho.

# Castro: Deserters Are Traitors

MEXICO CITY - Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Wednesday denounced Cuban athletes who have deserted their teams as "traitors" and urged the rest of the Olympic squad to remain true to the country.

In a speech reported by the official Cuban news agency, Castro addressed 170 Cuban athletes who will participate in the Atlanta Games beginning July 19.

Cuban boxers Joel Casamayor and Ramon Garbey and star pitcher Rolando Arrojo recently deserted their teams.

The Prensa Latina news agency, monitored in Mexico, said Castro called the deserters mercenaries, willing to sell out to "those who want to defeat us by spending millions."

He said Cuba's athletes will have to compete in Atlanta not only against rivals on the field but also against the temptation of riches in the United States.

"More than medals of gold, silver or bronze, what interests us are the medals of moral and honor worn by our athletes," Castro said. "Building the muscles of the soul is more important than building the muscles of the body."

Cuba, an international sports power, won 31 medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Its 14 gold medals were fifth best of the games.

Cuba's national pride will be at stake in Atlanta in a year in which its always-tense relations with the United States have worsened.

In February, Cuba shot down two civilian aircraft carrying four Cuban-American exiles, leading the United States to tighten its embargo against the island-nation.

On Wednesday, the Clinton administration took steps to punish firms that invest in property in Cuba that was confiscated from Americans. It said it will bar entry into the United States to officers and shareholders of a Canadian mining company that has investments in Cuba.

## EL EDITOR

### Softball Calendar MENUDAZO '96

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## Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

Una "blasfemia" es una expresión que ofende a Dios o a los Santos, y también es la profanación del Santo Nombre de Dios.

Hay personas que apenas creen en Dios, y no se ocupan del El en la riqueza, y luego, en la pobreza hasta llegan a blasfemar, diciendo que Dios no es justo, y que nos tiraniza, etc. Eso, son faltas o pecados muy graves y nosotros nunca debemos de pronunciarlas, debemos de evitarlas, recordando la historia de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo; y recordando la vida y los hechos del Santo Job, y de tobías, etc.



### PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA  
Lubbock, Texas

#### OJO POR OJO; Y DIENTE POR DIENTE

"Yo pues os digo; Amad a vuestros enemigos:

Benedicid a los que os maldicen;

Hacer bien a los que os aborrecen,

Y orad por los que os calumnian y os perseguen"

Mateo 5:44

#### HE AQUI LAS REGLAS CRISTISNAS

He aquí las reglas ordenadas por nuestro Señor Jesu-Cristo para nuestra conducta los unos para con los otros. El que quisiera saber cómo debe sentir y obrar para con sus semejantes, debería estudiar frecuentemente estos versículos. Esto versículos merecen estar escritos en letras de oro. Porque han evocado alabanzas aun de los enemigos de los cristianos.

#### NOTEMOS BIEN LO QUE CONTIENEN

El Señor Jesús prohíbe todo lo que sea semejante a un espíritu implacable y vengativo. El ser pronto a vengar injurias... el ser ligero a ofenderse... un genio rabioso y contencioso, el ser demaciado agudo en demandar nuestros derechos etc. Porque todo esto es opuesto a la voluntad de Cristo. Y pueda ser que el mundo no vea ningún mal en estos hábitos de la mente. Pero lo cierto es que no corresponden al carácter del cristiano, porque nuestro Maestro dice: "No resistais al mal."

#### ESPIRITU DE AMOR Y CARIDAD

El Señor Jesús nos manda cultivar un espíritu de amor y caridad, y debemos echar a un lado toda malicia. Y que es preciso que volvamos el bien por el mal, y bendición por maldición. Porque tenemos que amar aún a nuestros enemigos. Además, debemos amar no tan solo en palabra, sino que tenemos que hacer sacrificios personales y empeños molestos para poder ser bondadosos y afables. Porque dijo el Señor: "Si alguno te esforzare a ir una milla, vé con él dos." Entonces, preciso es tener mucha paciencia y hay que soportar mucho.

#### LIBRES DE EGOISMO

En todas las relaciones de la vida, tenemos que libres de egoismo. Por lo tanto, nuestra pregunta nunca debe ser "¿De qué modo se portan otros para conmigo?" Sino que nuestra pregunta debe ser, ¿Qué quiere Cristo que yo haga? Un modelo de conducta como éste pueda parecer, a primera vista, de una altura extravagante. Sin embargo, nunca debemos de contentarnos con el esfuerzo de alcanzar algo más inferior. Consideremos los dos argumentos poderosos con que el Señor establece esta parte de su enseñanza.

#### CONSIDEREMOS QUE:

Si no nos empeñamos en alcanzar el espíritu y genio aquí recomendado, no somos todavía hijos de Dios. Porque "Nuestro Padre que está en los cielos," es bondadoso para con todos. Y envía la lluvia sobre los malos como sobre los buenos. Y hace brillar "su sol" para todos sin distinción. Y porque un hijo debe asemejarse algo a su padre.

## Writing

anhelo de explorar al espíritu híbrido que ha producido una literatura nueva y vibrante -- que habla directamente a la experiencia hispana en este país. Los acontecimientos como éstos nos permiten un atisbo dentro de la comunidad de escritores verdaderamente dotados que están canalizando esta "nueva ola" de las letras estadounidenses.

Nuestros autores abarcan a una cantidad de culturas a las que se considera tradicionalmente como las más incrustadas en la experiencia de los inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos: Puerto Rico, Cuba, México, la América Central y la América del Sur. Cada voz es intrépida, energética, matizada de un eco al que todos reconocemos, y sin embargo singular en su conjunto.

Tenemos mucho de qué hablar. Adelante.

(Marie Arana-Ward es editora adjunta de Book World, suplemento dominical del Washington Post.)

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## From Page One

era was born in Guatemala and has Sephardic ancestors.

My own particular theme is what I like to call the Great Divide. I am the daughter of a Peruvian father and a North American mother. I was born in Lima and grew up in the warm bosom of a large and fiercely insular Peruvian family. For the first decade or so of my life, my dominant language was Spanish, and my stubbornly unorthodox English-speaking, blue-eyed mother was an odd blip in an otherwise typical Peruvian landscape.

When we moved to the United States and I determined to become an all-American teenager, it was my equally stubborn, unorthodox, Spanish-speaking, black-eyed father who was the oddity.

My identity wavered tenuously between blipping and belonging -- between Desi and Lucy, until I learned from each of them how valuable and interesting and truly remarkable the other side was. And how, perhaps, I was less of a divide than a "third thing," an Andean-American fusion. As my mother likes to call casseroles that contain unidentified sea creatures, I am *una sinfonia*.

Eva Hoffman, author of a memorable book called "Lost in Translation," put it this way -- and here I will use the word "Spanish" wherever she uses the word "Polish." She would want me to. She says: "There's no returning to the point of origin, no regaining of childhood unity. Spanish is no longer the one, true language; there's something I know in English, too. When I speak Spanish now, it is infiltrated, permeated and inflected by the English in my head. Each language modifies the other, crossbreeds with it, fertilizes it. Like everybody, I am the sum of my languages -- the languages of my family and childhood, and education and friendship, and love, and the larger, changing world."

I would venture to say that each of us identifies with that passage. We are all products of fusion, or exile, or transplantation, and we are all on a mission to fathom the delights and dilemmas of a perch between two cultures.

That search for a cultural identity and that longing to pinpoint how it figures in our lives and works and words is what brings these writers here to talk about their roots. It is precisely this hunger to explore the hybrid spirit that has produced a vibrant new literature -- a literature that speaks directly to the Hispanic experience in this country. Events like this allow us a glimpse into the community of truly gifted writers who are plumbing this *nueva ola* in American letters.

Our authors span a number of cultures that are traditionally regarded as the most embedded in the American immigrant experience: Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Central America, South America. Each voice is bold, compelling, tinged with an echo we all recognize, and yet altogether unique.

We have much to talk about.

Adelante.

(Marie Arana-Ward is deputy editor of Book World, a Sunday supplement to the Washington Post.)

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### What's Michael Jordan's Worth?

By RICK GANO

CHICAGO - Time to pay up for the Chicago Bulls. Michael Jordan's worth it, right? So how much does the free agent of all free agents deserve?

"I don't know what worth is in this game," the Bulls' Zen-influenced coach Phil Jackson said this spring before he himself signed a one-year deal worth about \$2.5 million.

"If Sylvester Stallone is worth \$20 million for a movie, I can't imagine why Michael won't get \$20 million for a season."

Jordan's value goes beyond the four NBA titles he's helped the Bulls win, the eight scoring titles, the four regular-season Most Valuable Player Awards and four more MVPs in the playoffs.

He, more than anyone, has made the NBA a global league. From Bombay to Buenos Aires, from Rome to Reykjavik, the league's popularity has soared, much like its greatest player does when he takes off for the basket for a double-clutching, tongue-wagging dunk.

During the NBA Finals, Commissioner David Stern said the league had no plans to kick in and help with the contract of players, like Jordan, who have done so much for the league by enhancing its worldwide appeal.

But with a giggle, Stern joked that he wouldn't mind representing Jordan during the upcoming negotiations.

At home, Jordan is the most adored figure in a city that revels in its sports teams and heroes.

"Jordan is Chicago," said Jason Caffey, a rookie last season who had one of the best seats in the arena every night to watch the world's most incomparable basketball player.

"Losing him would be like waking up one morning and there's no sunlight, just darkness. He is the NBA."

To see Jordan in another team's uniform would be like taking the White House out of Washington, D.C., which happens to be where Jordan's powerful agent, David Falk, runs his business.

Jordan said earlier it would take at least \$18 million a season for him to return to Chicago.

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go. Another Falk client, Patrick Ewing, made \$18.7 million last season.

Falk said Jordan's asking price should be higher and figures like \$20 million and \$25 million per season, maybe for one year, maybe for two, have been banded.

Falk wants to negotiate, not with Bulls general manager Jerry Krause, but with the head man himself, Jerry Reinsdorf, known for his tough bargaining stances as chairman of both the Bulls and baseball's Chicago White Sox.

It will be a negotiation between two of the most powerful

figures in sports among those who don't actually play the game. Falk represents 14 free agents in this summer's frenzy.

The negotiations were delayed two days this week by a three-hour lockout and now can't begin until Thursday afternoon.

Falk and Reinsdorf will be talking about what's fair for an athlete who makes an estimated \$40 million a season in off-court endorsements but who, by current league standards, has been grossly underpaid at about \$4 million a season.

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