

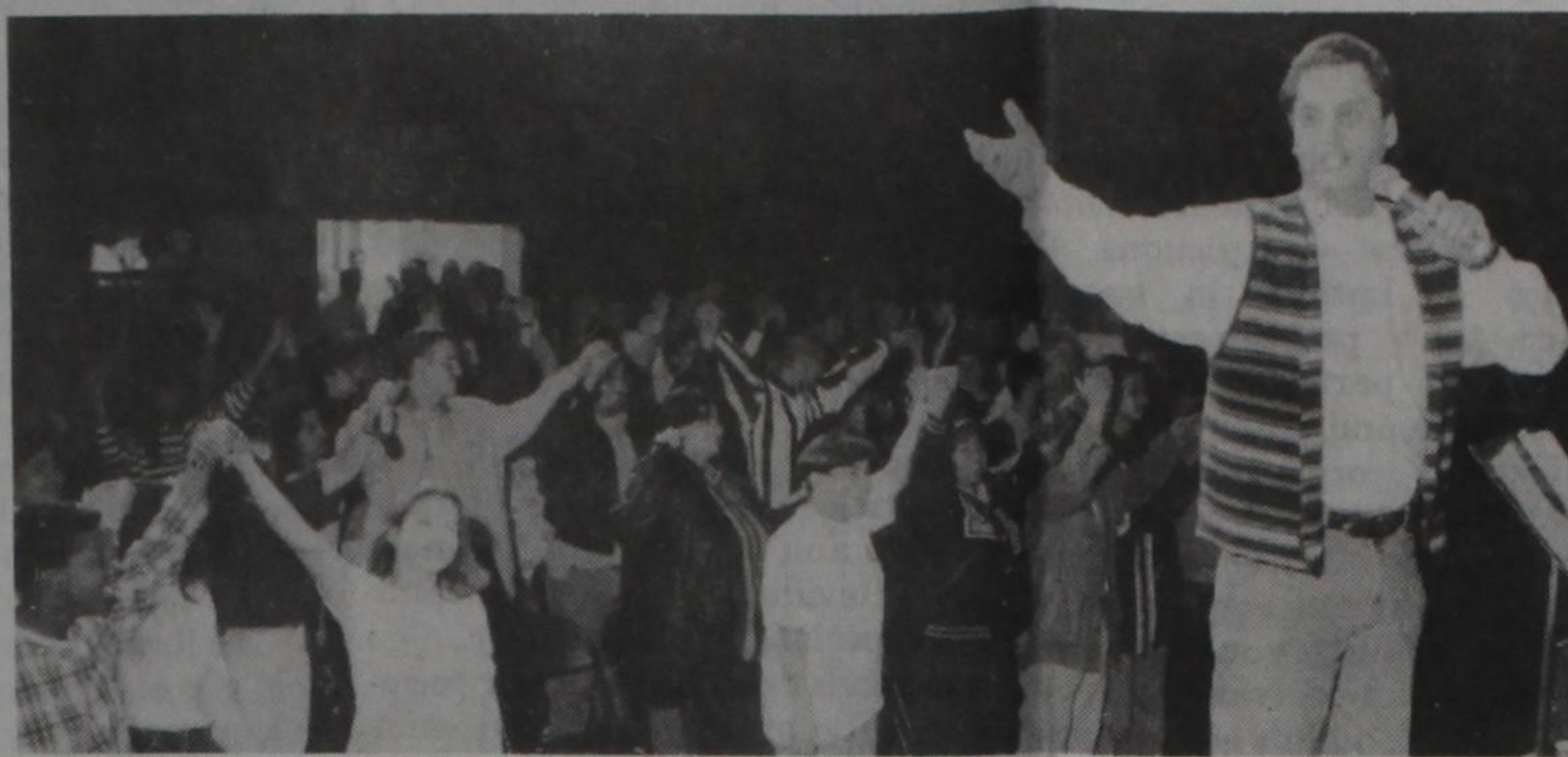
Over 3000 Expect to Attend Youth Rally

"The most exciting day you are ever likely to experience." This is the promise made to youth by organizers of this year's event scheduled to begin this Saturday at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

The Youth Rally is an annual gathering of Catholic youth from all over the Diocese of Lubbock. This year youth will be celebrating the 3rd phase of the preparation for the Third Millennium.

Special guests include the pop/rock band Sudden Impact, Mike Patin, director of the CYO/Youth Ministry Office for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Bruce Deaton a Catholic performing artist and minister.

Workshops will include Music, Abortion, Jesus, Prayer, Scripture, Self



Paul Florez will be the official coordinator for this year's Youth Rally '99

Image, Sexuality, Y2K, Sports Heroes, Colle, Vocation and Catholic Identity.

Registration is still being taken at the door on Saturday April 17, Registration is

\$25 and will include Rally materials, catered evening meal and the evening dance. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch for the noon break.

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajenos es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez

EL EDITOR

Vol XXII No. 29

Week of April 15 thru April 21, 1999

Lubbock, Texas

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Hispanic Caucus Planning Vigil for POWs in Yugoslavia

By Gary Martin

WASHINGTON — Texas lawmakers are joining colleagues in a "solidarity watch," or vigil, for three U.S. soldiers being held as prisoners of war in Yugoslavia, congressional Hispanic leaders said Monday.

The watch is being organized by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which is asking lawmakers to gather at the east steps of the Capitol on Wednesday to support the cap-

EDWARD JAMES OLMO PRESENTS MULTIMEDIA LATINO PROJECT

By Alberto Aguelo

Chicago, - Movie actor and film producer Edward James Olmos attempts to present a realistic version of the life of Latinos in the United States and alter stereotypes of Hispanics with his film "Americanos," shown this weekend in a private screening as part of the Latino Film Festival of Chicago.

"Americans are all those born in the Americas, not only the United States. This movie shows that we are all Americans, we want to capture the strength of that word so that people in this country understand that it not only refers to Americans from here," Olmos told EFE.

The documentary

"Americanos: Latino Life in the United States," was directed by Andy Young and Susan Todd, and produced by Olmos. It will open in U.S. theaters by late May.

"Americanos" depicts Hispanics in the United States and shows their involvement in art, politics, education and religion.

This film, which celebrates the best of Latino culture in the United States, was made possible by the contributions of Hispanics in Los Angeles, San Diego, New Mexico, New York, Chicago and Miami, as well as other cities and states in the country.

The movie was screened Saturday night in the Latino Film Festival of Chicago, which runs through Apr. 21. The festival is the most important for Ibero-American films in the United States, with more than a hundred productions from around the continent, according to its organizers.

Olmos' documentary profiles Latinos in politics, like Aida Alvarez, director of the U.S. Small Business Bureau, as well as proud Hispanics from a wide variety of life.

The film also focuses on a small Puerto Rican cultural center in New York, threatened by urban development, as well as a Chicago monument honoring Hispanic soldiers that died serving the U.S. Armed Forces.

"This is a very powerful film that taps into the subconscious. We show the core of our culture as well as of Latin contributions to the United States and the world," Olmos said.



tive U.S. Army scouts.

"What we are doing is calling for the immediate release of the POWs," said Loretta Gutierrez Nestor, a spokeswoman for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., the Hispanic Caucus chairwoman.

The caucus is asking Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to abide by the Geneva Conventions in the handling of the three soldiers and allow the Red Cross to examine and treat the men for any wounds they may have suffered in their March 31 capture.

Serb leaders have vowed to hold the three men captive until NATO airstrikes stop. President Clinton and leaders of other allied countries support

continued bombing to halt the violence to ethnic Albanians inside the Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

"We are in for a period of tense waiting and a lot of heartfelt prayers," said Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio.

Rodriguez will speak at the solidarity watch on behalf of Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich. Stone's wife, Tricia, and 4-year-old son, Ryan Christopher, live in San Antonio.

Spc. Steven Gonzales, 22, is from Huntsville. Rep. Jim Turner, D-Lufkin, will speak on Gonzales' behalf.

Also being held is Staff Sgt. Andrew Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles. Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., will represent the Ramirez family.

Other lawmakers are expected to attend the candlelight vigil on the Capitol steps from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"No matter what else happens in this conflict, we must always remain focused on the safe return of these three soldiers," Rodriguez said.

"They deserve proper medical attention, nutrition and safe keeping," Rodriguez said. "The United States and its friends abroad will continue to

urge the Serbians to treat the POWs properly and humanely."

The soldiers were seized while patrolling the tense border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia. Pentagon officials have dismissed Serb reports the men were inside Yugoslavia when captured.

Efforts to win their release failed last week when Milosevic spurned an offer by Spyros Kyriakou, a former president of Cyprus, to take the infantrymen out of the country.

But Milosevic sought a ceasefire in the NATO bombings in exchange for the release of the prisoners — a condition rejected by U.S. and NATO leaders.

President Clinton has warned the Milosevic government against harming the soldiers, who were part of a peacekeeping mission in Macedonia and not involved with the NATO action against Yugoslavia.

Democrat and Republican lawmakers support the president's efforts to free the POWs, even though many returning to Washington from a two-week Easter recess have begun to question U.S. policy in the Balkans.

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Continued on page 3

Low Hispanic Jobless Rate Sets Record

By Vanessa Colon

Hispanic unemployment has dipped to an all-time low. The U.S. Labor Department, which began tracking the Hispanic jobless in 1973, reports that, as of the beginning of this month, the Latino rate is 5.8 percent.

Over the past quarter century, the rate has bounced around mostly in the 8 percent to 12 percent range, peaking at 13.8 percent in 1982. But since 1992, it has decreased every year.

Bill Clinton was elected president that year. This fact

has not escaped the attention of the administration. White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste and U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman attribute the decline to a strong economy bolstered by several Clinton initiatives, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, allocation of additional funds for job training, and the minimum wage increase from an hourly rate of \$4.25 in 1991 to \$5.15 in 1997. The latter initiative helped make the job market more attractive to Hispanics,

Herman points out. While the Hispanic rate remains 1.6 percent higher than the overall rate of 4.2 percent, it's far better than the 5-point spread in 1992 -- 11.6 percent vs. 6.6 percent.

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Continued on page 3

Baja La Tasa Hispana De Desempleo A Niveles Jamás Vistos

Por Vanessa Colon

El desempleo entre los hispanos ha disminuido hasta su más bajo porcentaje desde que el gobierno federal comenzara a recopilar estas cifras. El Departamento federal del Trabajo, que empezó a llevar cuenta del desempleo hispano en 1973, informa que al comienzo de este mes, la tasa para los latinos era del 5.8 por ciento.

Durante el cuarto de siglo reciente, la tasa ha fluctuado primordialmente en la escala del 8 por ciento al 12 por ciento, llegando al máximo del 13.8 por ciento en 1982. Pero desde

1992, ha disminuido todos los años.

Bill Clinton fue elegido presidente en aquel año. Este hecho no ha escapado a la atención del gobierno federal. La jefa adjunta de personal de la Casa Blanca, María Echaveste, y la secretaria del trabajo, Alexis Herman, atribuyen la disminución a una economía fuerte reforzada por varias iniciativas de Clinton, tales como el Crédito Fiscal por Ingresos Ganados (EITC, en inglés) la asignación de fondos adicionales para la capacitación en el trabajo y el

aumento del salario mínimo desde \$4.25 por hora en 1991 hasta \$5.15 en 1997. La última iniciativa ayudó a hacer que el mercado de trabajo fuera más atractivo para los hispanos, señala Herman.

Mientras que la tasa de los hispanos permanece en 1.6 por ciento más alta que la tasa conjunta de 4.2 por ciento, es mucho mejor que la diferencia de 5 puntos en 1992 -- 11.6 por ciento contra 6.6 por ciento.

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News Briefs

Mexicans Flee to Their Country to Escape U.S. Justice

By Francisco Miraval

Denver, - Hundreds of Mexican citizens escaping U.S. justice could face trial in their own country for crimes committed abroad.

Although the Mexican Constitution prohibits the extradition of its citizens, Article 4 of the Penal Code permits them to be tried in their own country for crimes committed abroad.

That option always existed, but Mexican authorities are now collaborating much more with the United States to try these suspects that return to their country to elude U.S. justice.

"Personally, I know of a case in which someone caused a serious traffic accident and returned to Mexico that same day," said Enrique Garcia Fuentes, news director of a local radio station.

In the city of Denver, where 25 percent of the population is Hispanic, police are currently searching for 20 Mexican citizens considered prime suspects in different crimes.

In Texas, Arizona and California, there are another 400 similar cases. Authorities said that all suspects are living in Mexico, many of them in their hometowns.

"It is a real problem, and we recognize it," stated David Lorranca, spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in Denver.

Lorranca said that Mexican consular authorities are always in contact with U.S. police authorities and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The exchange helps U.S. authorities learn more about the Mexican penal code, as well as protect the rights of Mexican citizens arrested or wanted in the United States.

Denver's police department said that it has been 20 years since it last asked Mexico to investigate its citizens for crimes committed in the U.S. city.

Meanwhile, U.S. authorities complain of Mexico's slow judicial process. Of the more than 400 cases presented under Article 4 in the past few years, less than half - a total of 188 - have been resolved.

"The only thing I can do is pray that my daughter's murderer is brought to justice," Rosa Gonzalez, 76, told reporters.

Gonzalez's daughter was allegedly murdered 19 years ago by a Mexican citizen who now lives in Ciudad Juarez, on the Mexico-Texas border.

According to Gonzalez, she herself has reported the suspect's whereabouts to Denver authorities, but so far nothing has happened.

Governor Asked to Let

Anti-Immigrant Proposition 187

Anaheim, California, - Members of the California for Justice organization asked Gov. Gray Davis on Tuesday not to appeal the controversial Proposition 187, which denies health care and education services to illegal immigrants.

The members of California for Justice are making a series of phone calls to the offices of Gov. Davis in Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Francisco, Sacramento and Oakland, among other cities, asking him to drop the state's defense of the law.

Proposition 187 was approved in the 1994 elections, but the following day, a Los Angeles federal judge, Mariana Pfaelzer, struck down as unconstitutional major portions of the law, after two legal organizations claimed it was unconstitutional.

The Mexican Fund for Legal Defense and Education (MALDEF) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 187 in a state court in San Francisco, and since then the initiative has not gone into effect.

After several hearings in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the defense of the law is in the court of appeals, where former Gov. Pete Wilson, one of the main promoters of the law - is demanding its implementation in California.

The defense of the law should continue until late April in the San Francisco court of appeals, but Hispanic lawmakers from California asked Gov. Davis to drop the defense of the law, which they view as unconstitutional.

Davis asked to be given until late May to decide whether to continue the defense of the law, but said he wanted to respect the decision of the voters, who passed the law in California.

When the law was approved in 1994 by the voters, Davis was California's lieutenant governor, and said he was against it because it goes against federal laws.

State Assembly spokesman Antonio Villarreal and Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, both Hispanic Democrats, have requested that Davis drop the defense of the law in order to maintain harmony among California's ethnic groups.

California for Justice wants the governor to recognize the unconstitutionality of Proposition 187, and withdraw the state's costly defense of the law, which according to observers, will continue in the Supreme Court.

Don't Forget About Central America, Hispanic Groups Tell Congress

by Maria Peña

Washington, - Although U.S. attention is focused on the ongoing crisis in Kosovo and the possible deployment of U.S. troops to the region, several organizations continue to press Congress to expedite humanitarian aid for those stricken by Hurricane Mitch last fall.

In a meeting on Tuesday morning, a coalition of pro-immigrant groups called on Congress, just back from a two-week recess, to leave politics aside and send aid promised to help rebuild Central America.

"Everyone is focusing on Kosovo, because it is currently the most burning foreign policy issue (for the United States)," said Geoff Thale of the Washington Office for Latin America (WOLA). "Unfortunately, not much attention is being paid to the aid package for Central America."

"In January and February," he continued, "aid was promised for practical and humanitarian reasons - to forestall an expected influx of Central American immigrants caused by the hurricane. Now there is a dispute on where the money will come from and where cuts will be made to finance the aid."

On March 25, the House of Representatives approved an aid package - by 220 votes to 211 - for the victims of Hurricane Mitch.

The measure is similar to one approved by the Senate, but both are facing a presidential veto because they call for cuts in other government social programs that President Bill Clinton wants to protect.

Recently, Hispanic organizations such as the National Council of La Raza and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) appealed against the politicization of humanitarian aid for Central America, where Hurricane Mitch left an estimated 11,000 dead and billions of dollars in damage.

The Honduran health care system was already obsolete and the hurricane made the situation even worse, "leaving the country in an extreme situation," said Susana Reyes, LULAC's health program coordinator, who visited the region twice, accompanied by 85 doctors and nurses.

To date, LULAC has helped some 22,000 people in the region.

According to Reyes, the aid package, which will be the subject of negotiations between members of the House and Senate, would enable the victims of Mitch to receive the medical help they need, "as epidemics and problems of water pollution are still rampant."

In addition to the deaths, Hurricane Mitch left 3 million homeless in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Here Are Answers To A \$650,000 Study

By Victor Landa

A group of professors from UCLA are reviving a study done almost 30 years ago about the Mexican-American population in the United States.

Titled "The Mexican-American People: the Nation's Second-Largest Minority," the study was considered groundbreaking in 1970, partly because of its scope and partly because no study like it had ever been done before.

The idea behind the new project is to revisit some of the people interviewed in the original work, in Los Angeles and in San Antonio, and compare their answers and attitudes with those from three decades past. The people interviewed will be asked questions regarding specific issues such as ethnic identity, discrimination, education, work history and political involvement.

I'm anxious to read the results. But the study will take two years to complete, at a cost of \$650,000 -- which is both too slow and too rich for me. So it seems I'll have to be patient. I wish the UCLA professors Godspeed.

I've been thinking that maybe in the meantime I could conduct a highly unscientific

study of my own. You see, there's one thing about the original study that captured my attention and I'm wondering if the same holds true today.

In 1970, the Mexican-American population was referred to as the "invisible minority." My curiosity is in asking whether Mexican-Americans still consider themselves invisible.

In my impromptu study, I would ask people directly: "Do you feel invisible? And if so, why?"

Visibility is such a precarious thing. Just this month, a group of law professors at San Antonio's St. Mary's University, a very visible group of people in a very visible university, complained publicly that they had been purposely passed up for tenure. I'm sure they felt invisible in the eyes of the committee that decided their future.

In contrast, Sgt. Andrew Ramirez and Spec. Steven Gonzalez, two of the three U.S. soldiers captured in Yugoslavia, probably feel too visible at the moment. I'm certain that if they had a choice, they would turn down such visibility.

I'm pretty sure that my quick study would reveal many of the same answers that a short perusal of our turn-of-the-

millennium society would reveal.

In politics, people are beginning to take notice. Any candidate worth his or her weight in campaign contributions has mapped out a Latino vote-getting strategy. In the media, a loud cry is being heard, pointing out the conspicuous absence of Latinos in general market TV programming. We play the parts of criminals, hired help and ambiance.

Yet in corporate America, Mexican-Americans are almost non-existent. We've been steadily climbing corporate ladders, becoming entrepreneurs, risking and advancing, but there's still a club of very elite decision-makers that we're not allowed to join.

In my own recent experience -- the late summer of last year to be exact -- I took a stroll through the exhibit hall of the Radio and Television News Directors Association convention, held here in San Antonio.

My idea wasn't to see the latest gadgets, the smallest cameras or the newest weather computers with the most entertaining bells and whistles. I was there to see for myself who was making the decisions about hiring and content in the nation's local newsrooms.

What I saw were mostly men, vastly middle-aged and overwhelmingly white. Anything and everything else was invisible, pointless.

The debate about school vouchers is no different. When a specific interest group with deep pockets decides it will make a point in Texas or elsewhere about vouchers, renaming them "opportunity scholarships," students are reduced to pawns. Specifically, Latino students in poor school districts lose their individual identities and become nothing more than evidence in a trial of public opinion. This exercise can go through every facet of our society with pretty much the same result: in health care, in child care, in the lives of the elderly, in prison populations, in labor, in higher education.

My guess is that two years from now, the UCLA professors will find the same in their study. But there will be something left unsaid, a basic fact: visibility lies in the eyes of those in a position and with a willingness to see. Thirty years' time will not change that.

(Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo network station KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio.)

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He Aqui Respuestas Para Un Estudio De \$650,000

Por Víctor Landa

Un grupo de catedráticos de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles está reviviendo un estudio efectuado hace casi 30 años sobre la población mexicanoamericana de los Estados Unidos.

El estudio, titulado "El Pueblo Méxicoamericano: La Segunda Minoría Mayor de la Nación", fue considerado como precursor en 1970, en parte debido a su alcance y en parte porque no se había hecho antes ningún estudio semejante.

La idea detrás del nuevo proyecto es volver a visitar a algunas de las personas entrevistadas en el trabajo original, en Los Angeles y San Antonio, y comparar sus respuestas y actitudes con las de hace treinta años. A las personas entrevistadas se les preguntará con respecto a asuntos específicos, tales como identidad étnica, discriminación, enseñanza, historia de trabajo e involucración política.

Estoy ansioso por leer los resultados. Pero el estudio se tardará dos años en completar -- a un costo de \$650,000 -- lo cual es demasiado lento y demasiado oneroso para mí. De modo que parece que tendré que ser paciente. Le deseo buena suerte a los catedráticos de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles.

He estado pensando que, mientras tanto, yo podría efectuar un estudio altamente no científico por mi cuenta. Veán ustedes: Hay algo sobre el estudio original que captó mi atención y me pregunto si lo

mismo continúa siendo cierto actualmente.

En 1970 se hizo referencia a la población mexicanoamericana como la "minoría invisible". Mi curiosidad está en preguntar si los mexicanoamericanos ellos mismos se consideran todavía "invisibles". En mi estudio improvisado yo preguntaría directamente a las personas: "¿Se siente usted invisible? Y de ser así, ¿por qué?"

La visibilidad es algo muy precario. Justo este mes, un grupo de catedráticos de derecho en la Universidad St. Mary's de San Antonio, un grupo de personas muy visible en una universidad muy visible, se quejó públicamente de que se les había pasado por encima para plazas permanentes. Estoy seguro de que ellos se sintieron invisibles a ojos del comité que decidió su fútil.

Por contraste, el sargento Andrew Ramírez y el cabo Steven González, dos de los tres soldados estadounidenses capturados en Yugoslavia, se sienten probablemente demasiado visibles en este momento. Estoy seguro de que, si ellos tuvieran una alternativa, renunciarían a esa visibilidad.

Estoy bastante seguro de que mi estudio rápido revelaría muchas de las mismas respuestas que una revisión corriente de nuestra sociedad, a la vuelta del milenio, revelaría.

En la política, las personas están comenzando a prestar atención. Cualquier candidato que valga su peso en los

aportes de campaña ha esbozado una estrategia para conseguir los votos de los latinos. En los medios informativos, se está oyendo un clamor alto que señala la ausencia conspicua de latinos en la programación de televisión para el mercado en general. Representamos los papeles de los delincuentes, la mano de obra arrendada y papeles muy insignificantes.

No obstante, en las empresas estadounidenses, los mexicanoamericanos casi no existen.

Hemos estado trepando continuamente las escaleras empresariales, llegando a ser empresarios, arriesgándonos y adelantando, pero hay todavía un

"club" de elaboradores de decisiones muy selectos al cual no nos es permitido ingresar.

En mi propia reciente experiencia -- a fines del verano del año pasado, para ser exacto -- hice un recorrido por el salón de exhibiciones de la convención de la Asociación de Directores de Información de Radio y Televisión, llevado acabo aquí en San Antonio.

Mi idea no era ver los dispositivos más recientes, las cámaras más pequeñas o las computadoras meteorológicas más nuevas. Yo estaba allí para ver por mí mismo quiénes estaban tomando las decisiones sobre contratación y contenido en las redacciones locales de la nación.

Lo que ví fué primordialmente hombres, de mediana edad en gran medida y abrumadoramente anglosajones.

Cualquier otra cosa y todo lo

demás era invisible, sin sentido.

El debate acerca de los probantes escolares no es distinto. Cuando un grupo de interés específico que tiene bolsillos profundos decide que se manifestará en Texas y otros lugares sobre los vales para asistir a las escuelas privadas, volviendo a nombrarlos como "becas de oportunidad", los estudiantes quedan reducidos a peones. Específicamente, los estudiantes latinos en los distritos escolares pobres pierden sus identidades individuales y se convierten en nada más que evidencia en un juicio de la opinión pública.

Este ejercicio puede recorrer todas las facetas de nuestra sociedad con resultados muy semejantes: En la atención a la salud, las guarderías infantiles, las vidas de los ancianos, las poblaciones carcelarias, la mano de obra y la enseñanza superior.

Mi presunción es que de aquí a dos años, los catedráticos de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles hallarán lo mismo en su estudio.

Pero habrá algo que se quedará sin decir, un hecho cierto y fundamental. Que la visibilidad reside en los ojos de aquéllos que se hallan en situación de ver y con disposición para hacerlo. Un espacio de treinta años no cambiará eso.

(Victor Landa es director de noticias de la estación KVDA-TV60 de la cadena Telemundo en San Antonio.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1999. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

nuyendo. Lo mismo ocurre para las hispanas.

Así, mientras las encuestas económicas sobre la población de jóvenes latinos continúan enviando algunas señales mixtas, las nuevas cifras de alto empleo convalidan la noción de que los hispanos están llegando a ser, en verdad, una parte cada vez más crítica -- y próspera -- de la fuerza laboral de la nación.

(Vanessa Colón es reportera de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC. La reportera Carla Struck aportó a este informe.)

Hay información disponible sobre las estadísticas de empleo más recientes llamando a la Oficina de Estadísticas de Trabajo (Bureau of Labor Statistics) por el (202) 606-6378, o mediante el acceso al indicativo de Internet: <http://www.dol.gov>

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"Kosovo, Not Our War" say Republicans

By Ysidro V. Gutierrez

The leaderless Republicans are setting themselves up for another political threshing by President Clinton. So inept have they been at developing a unified policy against the President's air war in Kosovo that public perception of the Republicans is one of a mean-spirited heartless party whose sole purpose is to oppose the President and who are without any policies or ideas of their own.

The Republicans apparent position on Kosovo is that thousands are being killed in other countries around the world, therefore it's OK for thousands more to be raped, brutalized, and killed in Kosovo.

Initially the Republicans opposed any air strikes. Today, they are advocating the use of ground troops while at the same time they are warn that Kosovo may be a quagmire for ground troops. The President on the other hand is standing firmly behind his decision to conduct an air war alone and has stated that under no circumstances will ground troops be deployed for combat in Kosovo. The President wants all Yugoslavian military and police forces out of Kosovo, a NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo, and the return of all refugees to their homes.

The Republicans say that air strikes alone cannot achieve the President's goals. However, there are clear indications that a new paradigm of air power may be emerging in Kosovo. A paradigm that the Republicans refuse to acknowledge probably due to their sole strategy of "Oppose Clinton at all Turns and at all Costs."

Air superiority has taken on a new meaning in 1999 which may be lost to the leaderless Republicans. In the modern theater of war, control of the air must factor in AWACS, cruise missiles, standoff bombers, stealth aircraft, and satellite guided smart bombs. These technologies afford NATO an advantage that the Yugoslavian air defense net, formidable as it is, has yet to counter.

After three weeks of air attacks, the Yugoslavians have managed to shoot down only one Stealth aircraft. Most experts suggest it was a lucky shot on the part of the Serbs. Three Serbian radar sites simultaneously detected an obscure blip, the Serbs guessed it was a Stealth, fixed its vector using triangulation and fired the lucky shot. They have not been able to do it twice.

The new air power paradigm suggests a NATO victory is imminent. However, the Republicans are steadfastly refusing to accept that the President's strategy may work and that all his goals may be realized.

Another reason President Clinton's strategy appears to be working is that not one casualty has been inflicted against NATO despite vigorous efforts on the part of Serbian air defense batteries.

If President Clinton is successful, the Republicans will once again be on the losing side. They have once again miscalculated public support for the President's policies. And they have seriously miscalculated the humanitarian facets of the Kosovo situation. One thing the American people can't stomach is a bully dictator and Republicans who advocate appeasement and doing nothing to intervene. Republicans also failed to consider the effect national news reports of mass rape, murder, and the televised suffering of countless thousands of women and children has on Americans.

As before, the Republicans have seriously miscalculated President Clinton's political acumen. The President is a master campaigner and strategist. He is a brilliant orator whose skill at subduing and winning over a crowd is surpassed only by his skill at subduing interns.

As a NATO victory becomes imminent, so does another political shellacking of an already bludgeoned and leaderless Republican Party. They make it too easy for the President. I wonder how long it will be before the Republicans return for another serving of humble pie.

El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806-763-3841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

Editor/Publisher: BidalAguero -- Manager: Oleg Riojas Aguero
Subscription: Bob Craig -- Distribution: Joe Shelby
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Piden a Gobernador Que Deje "Perecer" Ley Anti-immigrante 187

Anaheim (California), - Miembros de la organización California por Justicia pidieron al gobernador del estado, Gray Davis, suspender la defensa legal de la polémica ley 187 que niega servicios básicos de educación y salud a los indocumentados.

Los miembros de California por Justicia están haciendo una serie de llamadas a las oficinas del gobernador Davis en Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Francisco, Sacramento y Oakland, entre otras ciudades, para pedir que el estado abandone la defensa de esa ley.

La ley 187 fue aprobada en elecciones en noviembre de 1994, pero al día siguiente de su aprobación una jueza federal en Los Angeles, Mariana Pfaeltzer, le impuso una restricción porque dos organizaciones legales denunciaron que la iniciativa era anticonstitucional.

El Fondo Méxicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y la Educación (MALDEF) y la Unión de Libertades Civiles de EEUU (ACLU) presentaron una demanda contra la legalidad de la ley 187 en una corte estatal de San Francisco, y desde entonces la iniciativa aún no entra en vigor.

Tras varias audiencias en Los Angeles y San Francisco, la defensa de la ley se encuentra ahora en la corte federal de apelaciones, donde el ex gobernador Pete Wilson -uno de los principales promotores de la 187- exige su implementación en California.

La defensa de la ley debía continuar a finales de abril en la corte de apelaciones en San Francisco, pero legisladores hispanos de California solicitaron al gobernador Davis que suspenda la defensa de esa ley al considerarla anticonstitucional.

Davis pidió un plazo hasta finales de mayo próximo para decidir sobre la defensa de esa ley, pero declaró que su interés es respetar la decisión del electorado que aprobó la 187 en California.

Cuando la ley fue apoyada por el electorado en 1994, Davis era el vicegobernador de California, y se declaró personalmente en contra de esa proposición que iba en contra de algunas leyes federales.

Esta vez el portavoz de la Asamblea Estatal, Antonio Villarraga, y el vicegobernador, Cruz Bustamante, ambos demócratas latinos, han pedido a Davis que suspenda la defensa de esa ley, para que cumpla con su propósito de alcanzar la armonía entre todos los grupos étnicos en California.

La campaña de California por Justicia quiere que el gobernador reconozca la anticonstitucionalidad de la ley 187, y retire una costosa defensa que, según observadores, tendrá que continuar en el Tribunal Supremo.

"El estado de California no debe gastar un solo dólar más en la defensa de esa ley anticonstitucional, que fue aprobada por el electorado pero no por eso pierde su carácter de contrapoderse a la constitución", dijo Villarraga.

De acuerdo con California por Justicia, luego de las elecciones de 1994 aumentó el registro de electores de las minorías étnicas que habían visto amenazados sus intereses por una serie de iniciativas de ley entre los años de 1995 y 1996.

"Cuando la ley 187 fue aprobada, cerca del 20 por ciento del electorado de California estaba compuesto por minorías, pero ahora uno de cada tres electores es de la minoría, y la proyección es que en los próximos años lo sea más de la mitad del electorado", dijo Rubi Fragoso, de California por Justicia, una coalición que se formó en respuesta a las iniciativas antiinmigrantes en ese estado.

¿Que Pasa?

Health and Safety Fair

In order to better educate parents and children in health as well as safety related issues, we are planning a health and safety fair at Neil Wright Elementary located at 1302 Adrian Street on April 22nd from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. There is no charge for attending and we would like to invite the neighborhood to attend.

We will have 16 different organizations represented for various health and safety information. One of the many organizations is from University Medical Center, they will have a mobile unit that will have free cholesterol and glucose screenings for those wishing to participate. Also, Covenant Health Care System will be here as well to provide information on cancer. There will also be a LISD police officer Darren Warren to do "stranger danger" for children. They will receive coloring books and color crayons.

Please join us on April 22, at 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm to learn information on how you can be more healthy and safe.

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YW CARE

YW CARE es un programa o cuidado de niños en la escuela de su vecindario. Es ayuda para padres de familia que trabajan y necesitan cuidado para sus niños.

El cuidado de niños es de las 3:15 hasta las 6:00 pm en los días de escuela. Este programa ayuda con la educación y recreación de su niños. Para registrar debe de estar su niño en los grados pre-K hasta el 6 grado.

El honorario administrativo es \$30 y #90 por mes (\$100 para el otoño). Hay apoyo financiero para las que califican. Por favor de llamar al 792-2723 para mas información y también pregunte por los camps para niños para el verano.

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From Page One

"The (U.S.-Mexico) border communities are a good example, and we are working on developing a greater number of job training programs and other initiatives so that they may reach those communities," she said.

Richard Santos, economics professor at the University of New Mexico, sees the Latino increase: "There have been more jobs created, and Hispanics are mostly employed in the service sector, retail and hotels, the areas of highest job growth."

But, he adds, many Hispanics who work in the service sector are not employed full-time and often lack health insurance and other benefits. And because Hispanics are the youngest and newest members of the U.S. workforce, they are usually the last hired, and consequently, the first fired.

"Latinos are the working poor. When a recession sets in, Hispanics are the first to feel it. Their hours are cut," he says.

Separate reports find this apparent contradiction: while median weekly earnings have risen overall in the past decade or so, hourly wages have dropped slightly.

The Labor Department reported this year that median weekly earnings for Hispanics have grown about 33 percent from 1986 to 1998.

Amalia Betanzos, president of the New York City-based Wildcat Service Corp., a non-profit job-training organization, offers the reason: "Since unemployment went down, people are being paid better." Additionally, she says, there has also been a vast increase of Hispanics seeking computer and other job skills as a result, in part, of welfare reform.

"Much remains to be done to elevate Hispanics' education and skill level so we can get better jobs," suggests Hugo Cardona, president of SER-Jobs for Progress, a national job training agency based in Irving, Texas. As more and more manufacturing jobs close in places like El Paso, he adds, Hispanics with low skills are migrating to some southern and northeastern states, where manufacturing and poultry processing plants have opened up.

The other recent report, by the Washington D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute, showed that the median hourly wage for male Hispanics fell from \$12.93 in 1989 to \$11.53 in 1997 and dipped from \$7.82 to \$7.43 for Hispanic females. For white males, it also dropped, from \$18.95 to \$18.20, while it rose from \$9.84 to \$10.02 for white females.

A 1998 report by the White House Council of Economic Advisors found that while the median wages of Hispanic men have fallen relative to white men, the wage gap between college-educated Hispanic and white men continues to narrow. The same is true for Hispanic women.

Thus, while economic surveys on the nation's young Latino population continue to send some mixed signals, the new high employment figures validate the notion that Hispanics are indeed becoming an increasingly critical -- and thriving -- part of the nation's workforce.

(Vanessa Colon is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reporter Carla Struck contributed to this report.)

Data on the latest labor statistics are available by calling the Bureau of Labor Statistics at (202) 606-6378, or on the Web: <http://www.dol.gov>

Noticias Breves

Legisladores Hispanos Piden

Libertad de Prisioneros

Washington, - El Bloque de Legisladores Hispanos y otras organizaciones latinas hicieron hoy un llamado para la liberación inmediata de tres soldados estadounidenses capturados por las fuerzas serbias en los Balcanes.

El sargento Andrew Ramirez, el soldado Steven González y el sargento James Stone permanecen detenidos en Yugoslavia desde hace dos semanas cuando las fuerzas serbias los capturaron en la frontera de Kosovo con Macedonia.

"Desde su captura, las familias de estos valientes soldados han demostrado una fortaleza increíble que merece el elogio de su coraje durante estos momentos de adversidad", dijo la presidenta del Bloque Hispano, la representante Lucille Royball Alford, demócrata de California.

"Queremos que las familias sepan que la nación entera está a su lado en estos tiempos difíciles y que continuaremos orando por la seguridad y pronta liberación de los soldados", agregó.

Al llamamiento se sumaron el American GI Forum, que agrupa a ex militares, la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Elegidos (NALEO) y otras organizaciones de alcance nacional.

El gobierno de Belgrado amenazó primero con someter a los prisioneros a una corte marcial, y luego indicó que serían tratados con decencia y serían liberados cuando concluya la guerra que la Organización del Atlántico Norte ha lanzado contra Yugoslavia.

El gobierno del presidente Bill Clinton ha reclamado que los tres soldados estadounidenses sean tratados como prisioneros de guerra y con todas las garantías que para tales casos establece la Convención de Ginebra.

Washington sostiene además que los tres soldados fueron "secuestrados" por las fuerzas serbias mientras realizaban patrullas dentro del territorio de Macedonia. Belgrado afirma que los tres estadounidenses habían entrado al territorio yugoslavo.

Sin embargo, ni Estados Unidos ni la OTAN han declarado la guerra a Yugoslavia, por lo cual la situación de los tres prisioneros deja abierta numerosas cuestiones legales.

Republicanos Mantienen Críticas Contra Acuerdo de Libre Comercio

Washington, - Líderes republicanos volvieron hoy a denunciar el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC) de Norteamérica, en una audiencia en el Senado de Estados Unidos en la que se analizaron los cinco primeros años de este acuerdo comercial.

El presidente del Comité de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado estadounidense, Jesse Helms, indicó que el TLC, que entró en vigor el 1 de enero de 1994, ha provocado la pérdida de 200.000 empleos a nivel nacional.

El senador Helms, ultraconservador y autor de la ley que enderezó el embargo económico contra Cuba, está principalmente preocupado por la pérdida de unos 20.000 empleos en su estado de Carolina del Norte, a causa del traslado de algunas industrias textiles a México.

Según Helms, los efectos del acuerdo comercial regional confirman la teoría del ex senador estadounidense Sam Ervin de que Estados Unidos "nunca ha perdido una guerra ni ganado un tratado".

Patrick Buchanan, aspirante a la candidatura presidencial estadounidense y uno de los ponentes de la audiencia, indicó que "mientras la gente está perdiendo sus puestos de trabajo (a causa del TLC), el Gobierno sigue diciendo que está funcionando bien".

"Estamos exportando puestos de trabajo hacia México", no productos, sostuvo Buchanan, quién como Helms defiende el proteccionismo comercial.

El subdirector de la Oficina del Representante Comercial de Estados Unidos, Richard Fischer, por su parte, tuvo a su cargo la defensa del TLC, uno de los triunfos del presidente Bill Clinton que todavía está sujeto a fuertes críticas del Congreso.

"Como nación estamos mucho mejor hoy con el TLC que lo que estaríamos si hubiésemos permitido que México y Canadá mantuvieran sus fronteras cerradas para los productos y bienes de servicio de Estados Unidos", agregó Fischer.

Recordó, por ejemplo, que el desempleo se ha reducido del 7,4 por ciento al 4,2 por ciento, el nivel más bajo en la historia de Estados Unidos.

Fischer dijo que en los primeros cinco años del TLC Estados Unidos ha aumentado en un 66 por ciento sus exportaciones hacia México y Canadá, que ahora totalizan 235.000 millones de dólares.

Con México, las exportaciones han aumentado en un 90 por ciento, de 37.000 millones de dólares a 79.000 millones de dólares.

Fischer dijo que Canadá importa de Estados Unidos más productos que todas las naciones del este de Asia, mientras que desde este país se exporta a México cinco veces más que hacia China.

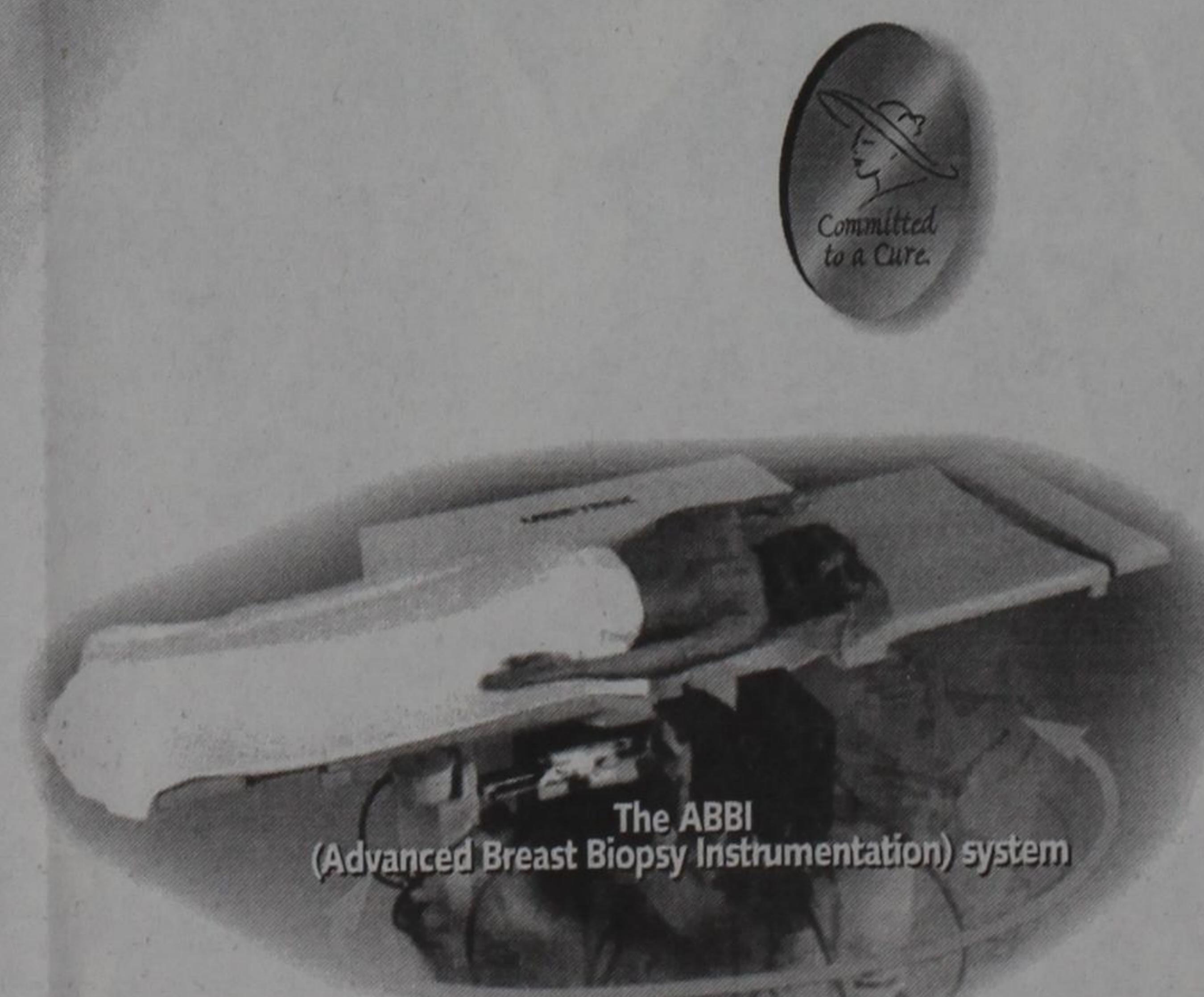
Patrick Buchanan, sin embargo, sostuvo que el gobierno de Clinton, cuando habla a favor del TLC, evita decir que en este momento el déficit comercial estadounidense es el mayor de su historia. "Para ellos el déficit comercial no importa", sostuvo.

Para Buchanan, además, el libre acceso de productos procedentes de México ha ayudado a los carteles mexicanos a introducir grandes cantidades de droga en Estados Unidos.

Los republicanos que defienden el proteccionismo comercial estadounidense y los demócratas vinculados a los grupos sindicales han hecho causa común en contra del TLC.

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Entretenimiento Ahora

Television EEUU Refuerza Segregación Racial, Dicen Productores

Los Angeles. - Un grupo de productores y actores criticó la escasa presencia de las minorías étnicas en programas televisivos estadounidenses y advirtió que los estereotipos podrían influir en el punto de vista de futuros ciudadanos.

La presidenta de Entretenimiento de la cadena Telemundo, Nely Galán, dijo que los programas televisivos se alejan de la realidad de la comunidad en el país, pues en general presentan producciones con personajes en su mayoría blancos y en menor proporción afroamericanos.

"Eso no es lo que vivimos en Estados Unidos", aseveró el lunes Galán en una conferencia de prensa durante una mesa redonda de la Sociedad de Radio y Television de Hollywood, realizada en Los Angeles.

Las producciones multiraciales son importantes, particularmente para niños y jóvenes que serán los próximos ciudadanos, opinó Galán, quien también advirtió que la ausencia de minorías produce pérdidas para las principales cadenas televisivas del país.

"Parte de la autoestima de nuestros niños latinos depende en gran parte de que sean presentados de manera clara, justa y positiva en el medio de comunicación más importante en la sociedad", dijo Galán.

El conocido productor y conductor hispano Geraldo Rivera opinó que la televisión estadounidense en general "refuerza la segregación racial", por los papeles y estereotipos que proyecta.

La actriz afroamericana Whoopi Goldberg presentó por su parte cifras que demuestran también la escasa participación de actores y conductores de las minorías en la televisión estadounidense.

Goldberg mencionó que entre un total de 115 programas en las seis cadenas televisivas más importantes del país, solamente 18 producciones tenían personajes y actores afroamericanos.

El Instituto Tomás Rivera divulgó a fines de marzo un estudio que revela que más de la mitad de los hispanos siente que su grupo étnico es presentado como

violento en los programas televisivos que se transmiten en inglés.

Gran Exito del Ciclo Sobre "Mujeres en el Cine"

por Oscar Peyrou

Chicago. - Una de las secciones que concita más el interés de los espectadores que abarrotan las salas donde se proyectan las películas que integran la XV edición del Festival de Cine Latino de Chicago es la dedicada a la relación de la mujer con el séptimo arte.

De este ciclo -denominado "Mujeres en el cine" e inaugurada este año en el marco de la muestra- se proyectó hoy "Paulina", una coproducción de México, Canadá y Estados Unidos dirigida por Vicky Funari.

Entre otras películas, integran esta sección la brasileña "Como ser solteiro en Rio", de Rosane Svartman; la española "Me llamo Sara", de Dolores Payás; la cubano-holandesa "Lágrimas negras", de Sonia Herman Dolz; la mexicana "El cometa", de Marisa Sistach; la estadounidense "Ellas vienen de noche", de Lindy Laub y "Doña Bárbara", coproducción hispano-argentina dirigida por la venezolana Betty Kaplan.

"Paulina", que combina las técnicas narrativas del cuento con las convenciones del documental, narra la historia real de Paulina Cruz Suárez, una mujer que a lo largo de su vida y desde muy temprana edad tuvo que soportar situaciones dramáticas y traumáticas desde un punto de vista físico y psicológico.

Paulina regresa a Veracruz para enfrentarse a sus padres quienes, siendo ella niña, la entregaron al "cacique" del pueblo a cambio de unos bienes inmuebles.

A los 13 años la niña es violada y sometida a todo tipo de malos tratos y dos años mas tarde, a los 15, puede escapar a la ciudad de México.

En la cinta -y en la realidad- al enfrentarse con sus padres y con el pasado, Paulina recupera su historia y puede reivindicar su sentido de la identidad.

Otras cintas que se proyectaron hoy fueron la mexicana "Cilantro y perejil", de Rafael Montero, y la portuguesa "O rio do Ouro", de Paulo Rocha.

La primera es una comedia romántica que muestra las dificultades del amor desde la perspectiva de tres generaciones.

Después de diez años de matrimonio y de dos hijos, una pareja parece haber perdido el sentimiento amoroso inicial debido a la rutina que los envuelve.

Deciden separarse para comprobar si de este modo y a través de nuevas relaciones, pueden capturar nuevamente la pasión de los primeros años.

La cinta, que es una reflexión sobre si el amor puede conducir a la felicidad, está eficazmente protagonizada por Demián Bichir, Arcelia Ramírez, Alpha Acosta, Juan Ramón Bernal y Germán Dehesa.

El filme portugués del veterano Paulo Rocha -su undécima película- mezcla la realidad y la fantasía en una historia de envidias y pasados ocultos que pugnan por salir a la luz.

Los protagonistas de la obra son Isabel Ruth, Lima Duarte, Joana Barcia, Joao Cardoso y Antonio Capelo.

En el certamen, que está considerado el más importante en su especialidad de los Estados Unidos, se proyectarán hasta el próximo 21 de abril más de cien películas de Iberoamérica y Estados Unidos, entre largometrajes, cortos y documentales.

La muestra ha organizado asimismo homenajes al brasileño Glauber Rocha, a los españoles Carlos Saura y Ricardo Franco y al actor mexicano Ignacio López Tarso.

Stereotypes Persist on U.S. Television Networks

By Santiago Tavares

Washington. - The chihuahua that asks with a heavy Spanish accent for Taco Bell in television commercials has become a negative stereotype for 31 million Hispanics living in the United States, the president of a publicity and communication company in Washington said Monday.

"Big networks like NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox need to interview Hispanic experts on their newscasts, whether it be for trade, foreign policy or the war in Yugoslavia," said Luis Vasquez, president of Maya Communications. Vasquez's concerns are shared by the Tomas Rivera Institute of Claremont, California, which recently released a study about Hispanics' viewing habits in the United States.

The study concludes that Hispanics are almost completely absent from English-speaking programs, except when it comes to playing the villain or victim. According to the study, more than half of Hispanics feel that such television programs portrayed them as violent. While Latin men are frequently presented in English-speaking newscasts as illegal immigrants or criminals, Latin women are given the role of victims, the Tomas Rivera Institute study says. Most Latinos prefer to change channels when they see a negative portrayal of their community, according to the study released late March and based on 1,000 interviews of Hispanics in Florida, California, New York, Illinois and Texas. The study emphasized that English-speaking networks tend to portray Hispanics negatively rather than as professionals, athletes, elected officials and teachers. News programs are the most sought after by Latinos in the U.S., who in fact prefer to see them in Spanish to stay informed about their community and current events in Latin America.

"Si No Canto Me Muero", Afirma Galardonada Celia Cruz

Por Alberto Aguelo

Chicago. - La cantante cubana Celia Cruz dijo hoy en Chicago que sigue más activa que nunca, algo que se demuestra por su apretada agenda de próximos conciertos por EEUU, Latinoamérica y Europa.

"Si no canto, me muero", dijo a EFE Celia Cruz, horas antes de recibir el premio por su trayectoria artística durante la gala de apertura del XV Festival de Cine Latino de Chicago, que se celebra del 19 al 21 de abril.

Celia Cruz nació en Santo Suárez, La Habana. En 1950, sacó al mercado su primera obra discográfica después de la cual grabó más de 70 álbumes y obtuvo 20 disco de oro.

De 1951 a 1959, realizó varias giras con su grupo Sonora Matancera, cosechando un gran éxito en EEUU y Latinoamérica. En 1961, se trasladó EEUU y colaboró en numerosas ocasiones con el afamado Tito Puente.

"La salsa murió un poco cuando apareció el merengue, pero ha vuelto a recuperar su nivel", dijo Celia Cruz.

En la actualidad, además de su gira, la salsera cubana se encuentra promocionando su álbum "Mi vida es cantar", en donde ofrece una serie de ritmos musicales, como salsa con

estilo brasileño y folclor español.

Además de sus discos de oro, la "reina de la salsa" ha recibido más de 100 premios de prestigiosas instituciones y publicaciones alrededor del mundo.

Entre estos reconocimientos, cabe destacar el doctorado honoris causa de la Universidad de Yale y una estrella en el famoso bulevar de Hollywood.

Cruz se sintió halagada con el nuevo premio, el cual, según recordó, es el primero que le entregan en Chicago.

"Cada premio que me entregan es como el primero, todos los estimo por igual ya que es importante que den reconocimiento a mi música", señaló.

"Supuestamente, mi carrera debería estar en declive y el hecho de que me den un premio a estas alturas, me da mucho placer", dijo Cruz.

El Festival Latino, considerado el certamen iberoamericano más grande de Estados Unidos, presenta este año más de 100 producciones de Latinoamérica, España, Portugal, Brasil y EEUU.

Durante la gala de apertura, además del homenaje a Celia Cruz, se proyectará la película "Doña Bárbara", una co-producción de Argentina y España, dirigida por Betty Kaplan.

Otros atractivos del festival serán la noche mexicana, en la que se ofrecerá el filme "La otra conquista", de Salvador Carrasco; y la noche española con la película "Abre los ojos", de Alejandro Amenabar.

En la noche de clausura se rendirá tributo al consagrado actor mexicano Ignacio López Tarso.



Hollywood, realizada en Los Angeles.

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'Rest' Isn't In Mosley's Vocabulary

By Joe Skrec

"Sugar" Shane Mosley, the undefeated International Boxing Federation lightweight champion and one of boxing's most active beltholders, can't be accused of resting on his past accomplishments.

Focused on his next title defense -- against the very tough John "The Eastern Beast" Brown, of Atlantic City, on April 17 -- Mosley elected not to leave training camp to accept one of boxing's most prestigious awards.

When the Boxing Writers Association of America convened for its annual dinner April 9, a gala affair expected to attract between 400 and 500 to Broadway, Mosley was 3,000 miles away, in Big Bear, Calif., getting ready for his next fight.

JACK MOSLEY, SHANE'S FATHER, trainer and manager, who'll be on the dais to receive the BWAA's "Trainer of the Year" trophy, will accept the "Fighter of the Year" Award for his son. Shane's presence will be felt through a videotaped message.

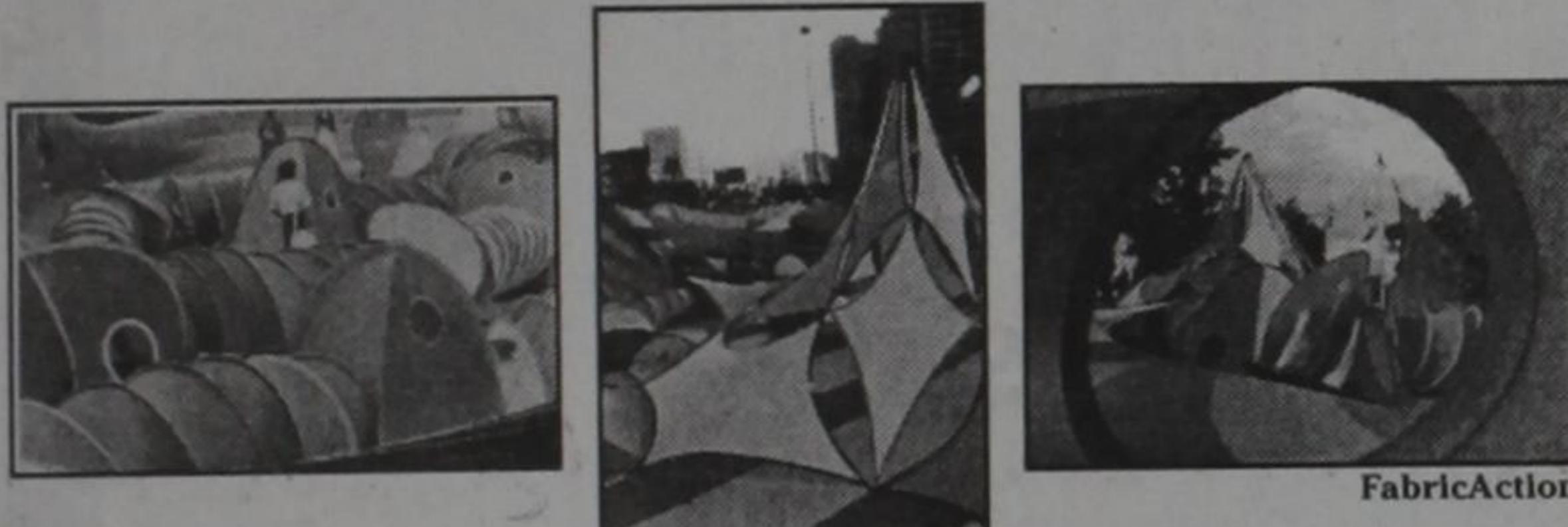
"I was real sad when we decided I couldn't attend because I consider winning that award a major accomplishment," said Mosley, who defeated runner-up Floyd Mayweather, the 1996 Olympian and undefeated WBC 130-pound champion, in the final voting 45-24.

"We were afraid the jet lag would get to me," Mosley said. "I've been doing a lot of traveling when I haven't been boxing and it's gotten me real tired ... We know John Brown is a real tough fighter and don't want to do anything that might give him an advantage. I don't want to lose any fights."

While his 1998 accomplishments are being rewarded -- "Sugar" stopped all five of his 135-pound challengers last year -- Mosley (31-0, 29 KOs) will be getting ready to retain his position near the top of the rankings that list the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world.

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"Gabe Ruelas and Angel Manfredy might've taken him lightly, but not me. I want to do everything possible to prove I'm a dominant force in my division."

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Ayala comeback

Former junior middleweight contender Tony Ayala, who's never lost a prizefight, is expected to be released from a New Jersey prison this month and launch a comeback at age 36. Ayala has been jailed for 15 years following a rape conviction.

"I KNEW FROM THE FIRST DAY I signed "Sugar" Shane Mosley that I was getting involved with a special talent," promoter Cedric Kushner said.

The Pomona, Calif.-based Mosley was originally scheduled to fight in May, but an injury to Mayweather forced HBO to move Mosley's bout to April 17.

The premium cable network will also show a 10-round between lightweights Angel Manfredy (25-3-1, 20 KOs) and Ivan Robinson (27-2, 10 KOs), both of whom defeated Arturo Gatti last year, from Indio, Calif., on its Boxing After Dark program (11 p.m.). The Manfredy-Robinson winner might get the next shot at Mosley if he doesn't leave the lightweight division for the 140-pound ranks.

Brown (19-5, 10 KOs), who dropped a narrow decision to Manfredy on a Mosley undercard at Madison Square Garden last year, defeated former world champion Gabriel Ruelas to earn the shot at Mosley.

"I never take any fighter lightly and I'm not going to take John Brown lightly," said Mosley, who stopped Golden Johnson in Florida on Jan. 9.

Tapia to Top Rank

After a brief stint with promoter Don King, undefeated World Boxing Association bantamweight champion Johnny Tapia signed a promotional contract with Bob Arum, president of Top Rank Inc. Tapia (45-0-2, 24 KOs) left Arum and Tapia for King after his contract expired in 1997.

Tapia, who's 20-0-1 in world title bouts, is slated to fight Sergio Liendo in Albuquerque on April 24 (Univision). If he wins that contest, Arum is expected to try to match Tapia in a pay-per-view bout in the spring or summer.

Short jabs

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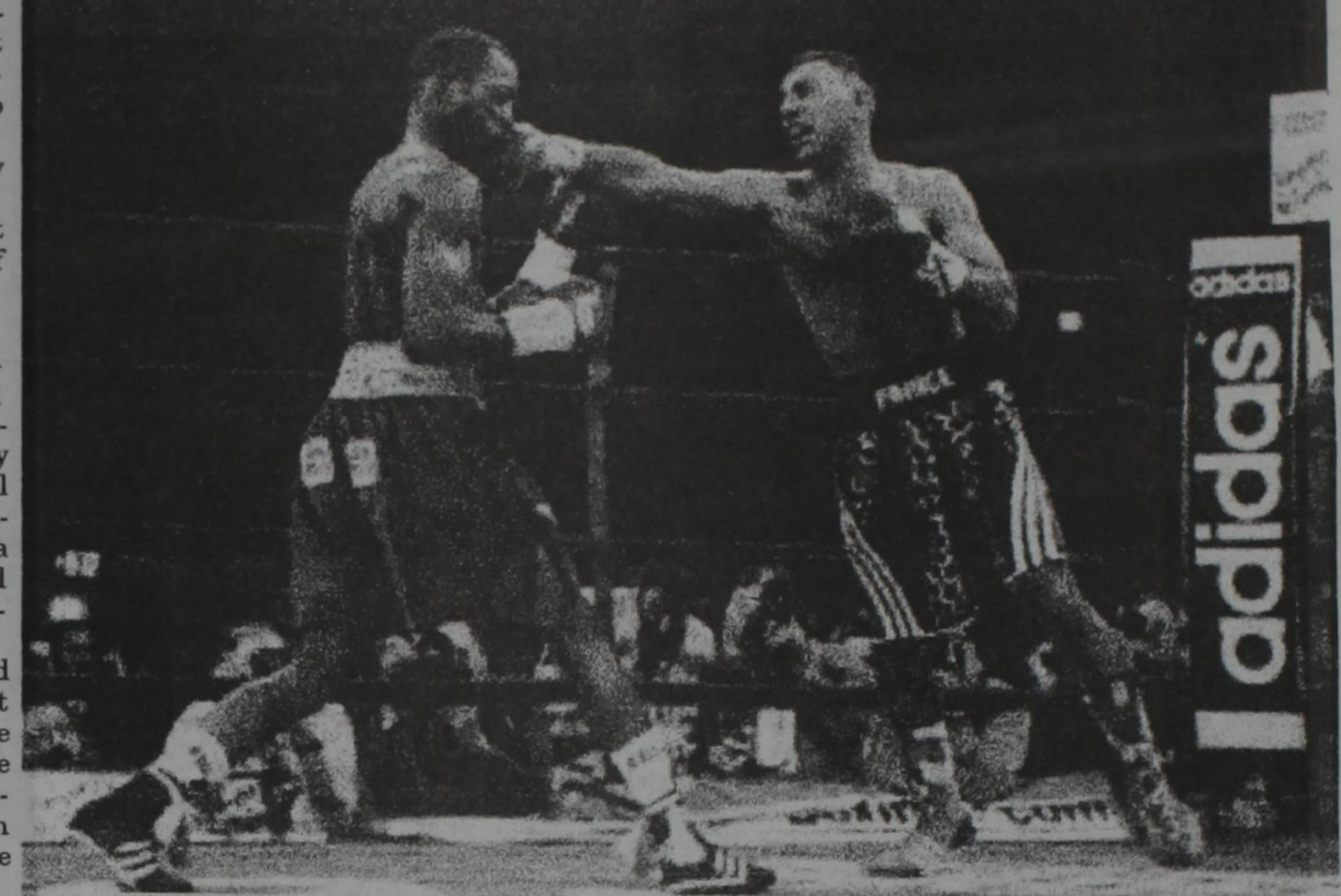
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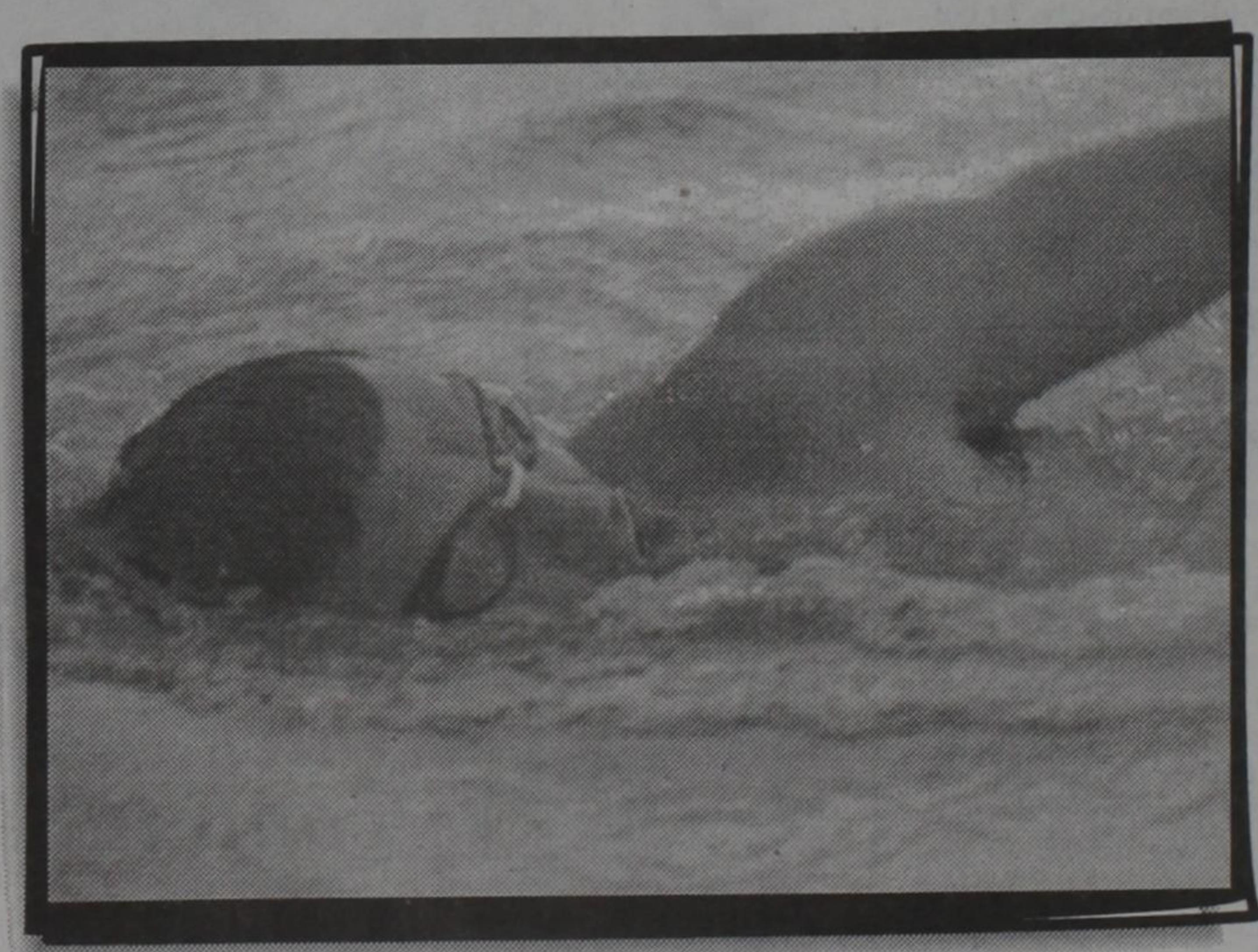
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El Editor The Best Sports



19 Dec. 1997 - Prince Naseem Hamed delivers the knockout punch to defeat Kevin Kelley in the fourth round of their WBO Featherweight bout at Madison Square Garden, New York. Photo by Al Bello of Allsport.

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El Cultivador Que Lo Hizo Suceder

Por Dick Meister

Pocos empleadores han sido tan importantes en la lucha interminable de los trabajadores agrícolas estadounidenses en busca de justicia social y económica como Leonel Steinberg, el cultivador influyente de Cali-

Steinberg rápidamente acordó un contrato con el UFW, como lo hicieron virtualmente todos los otros cultivadores del Valle de Coachella y tres de los cultivadores más prominentes del Condado de Kern, hacia el



fornia que murió a los 79 años de edad el mes pasado en Palm Springs, California.

Steinberg, que administraba tres de los mayores viñedos del Valle de Coachella, fué el primer cultivador de uvas de mesa en acordar un contrato con el incipiente Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas (UFW en inglés), dirigido por César Chávez. Aquel convenio de 1970 llevó rápidamente a los contratos del UFW con virtualmente todos los colegas cultivadores de Steinberg y al final de cinco años de huelgas y boicots que habían atraído apoyo del público en escala mundial.

Aunque el boicot del UFW contra las uvas estaba costando a los cultivadores millones de dólares, ellos se habían negado resueltamente a negociar con el sindicato -- o siquiera a reconocer sus pérdidas.

Steinberg, un demócrata nombrado como miembro de la Junta Estatal de Agricultura, era uno de los pocos políticos liberales entre los cultivadores. Pero no fué el liberalismo lo que lo movió.

"Está costándonos más el producir y vender nuestras uvas que lo que nos están pagando por ellas", dijo él a los cultivadores. "Estamos perdiendo posiblemente el 20 por ciento de nuestro mercado ... El boicot es ilegal e immoral, pero es también un hecho y debemos reconocerlo y tratar de hacerle frente de un modo justo para ambas partes ... No podemos continuar poniendo este asunto debajo de la alfombra".

Nueve cultivadores se unieron a Steinberg para procurar negociaciones de contratos con el UFW en 1969, pero la mayoría de los cultivadores rechazaron inicialmente sus alegatos. Su asociación de comercio, la Liga de Uvas y Arboles Frutales de California, publicó un informe alegando que el boicot había sido un "fracaso total".

El UFW acordó rápidamente efectuar negociaciones con los 10 cultivadores encabezados por Steinberg. Pero esas pláticas, efectuadas bajo los auspicios del Servicio Federal de Mediación y Conciliación, fueron infructuosas. Steinberg trató entonces, sin éxito, de lograr un acuerdo que comprendiera solamente sus viñedos.

Steinberg estimó que los cultivadores perdieron \$3 millones durante la cosecha de 1969. Pero el retraining continuó hasta sólo antes del comienzo de la cosecha del año siguiente, cuando la fuerza incansable del boicot y las gestiones de mediación de un comité de la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos Católicos llevaron a Steinberg y al UFW de regreso a la mesa de negociaciones.

El sindicato estaba ahora especialmente ansioso de llegar a un acuerdo, ya que otros cultivadores habían dicho en privado al comité de los obispos que si Steinberg pudiera llegar a un acuerdo, ellos lo seguirían antes que tener que pasar otro año de pérdidas.

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The Grower Who Made It Happen

By Dick Meister

Few employers have been as important in the never-ending struggle of U.S. farmworkers for social and economic justice than Lionel Steinberg, the influential California grower who died at 79 last month in Palm Springs.

Steinberg, who ran three of the Coachella Valley's largest vineyards, was the first grape grower to agree to a contract with the fledgling United Farm Workers union headed by Cesar Chavez. That 1970 agreement led quickly to UFW contracts with virtually all of Steinberg's fellow growers and the end to five years of strikes and boycotts that had drawn worldwide public support.

Although the UFW's grape boycott was costing the growers millions of dollars, they had adamantly refused to negotiate with the union -- or even acknowledge their losses.

Steinberg, a Democratic appointee to the state Board of Agriculture, was one of the few political liberals among the growers. But it wasn't liberalism that moved him.

"It is costing us more to produce and sell our grapes than we are getting paid for them," he told the growers. "We are losing maybe 20 percent of our market... The boycott is illegal and immoral, but it also is a fact and we must recognize it and try to deal with it in a manner fair to both sides... We cannot continue to sweep this problem under the rug."

Nine growers joined Steinberg to seek contract negotiations with the UFW in 1969, but most growers initially rejected his pleas. Their trade association, the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, actually issued a report claim-

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Annette Garcia

ing the boycott had been a "Total Failure."

The UFW readily agreed to negotiations with the 10 growers led by Steinberg. But those talks, held under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, got nowhere.

Steinberg then tried but failed to reach an agreement covering just his vineyards.

Steinberg estimated that growers lost \$3 million during the 1969 harvest. But the standoff continued until just before the start of the next year's harvest, when the unrelenting force of the boycott and the mediation efforts of a committee from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops brought Steinberg and the UFW back to the negotiating table.

The union was now especially eager to settle, since other growers had told the bishops' committee privately that if Steinberg could reach an agreement, they would follow him rather than face another losing year.

Steinberg soon agreed to a contract with the UFW, as did virtually all of the Coachella Valley's other growers and three of the most prominent growers in Kern County to the north, the state's major vineyard area.

Within a few months, the rest of California's grape growers were calling for peace. Finally, all the state's vineyard workers got the union contract protections they and their millions of supporters had so long fought for.

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The UFW would face many other arduous battles in the years to come, some of the roughest against those very grape growers, and some which continue to this day.

But the initial contracts signalled that the farmworkers' movement was here to stay. They provided the foundation the UFW and its allies had to have if they were to carry on effectively their struggle for justice.

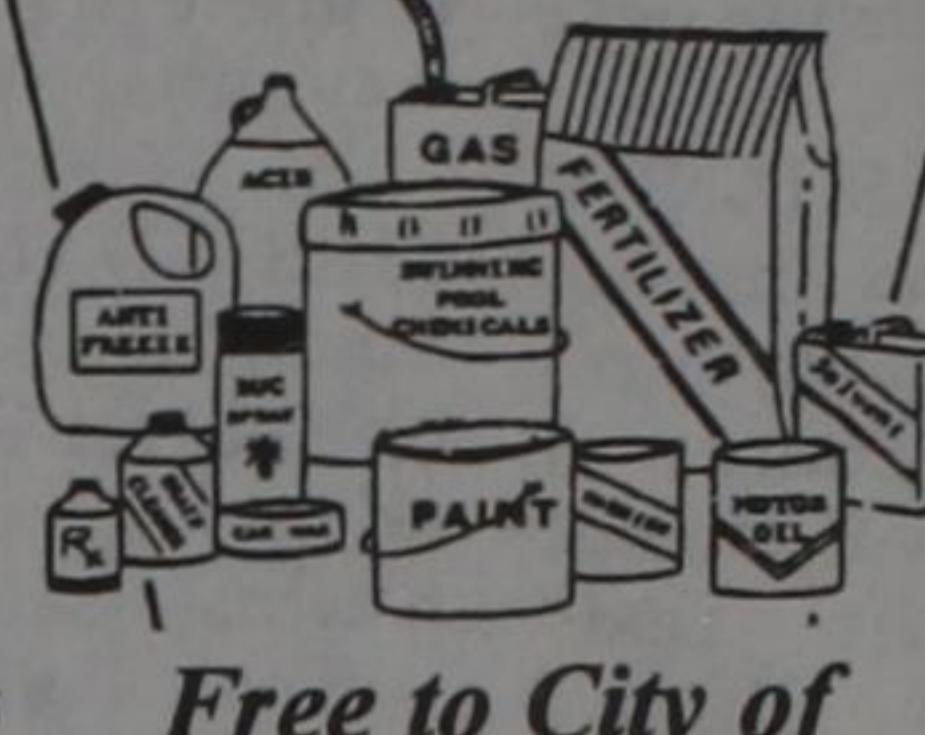
Dick Meister, a freelance columnist in San Francisco, is co-author of "A Long Time Coming: The Struggle to Unionize America's Farm Workers" (Macmillan).

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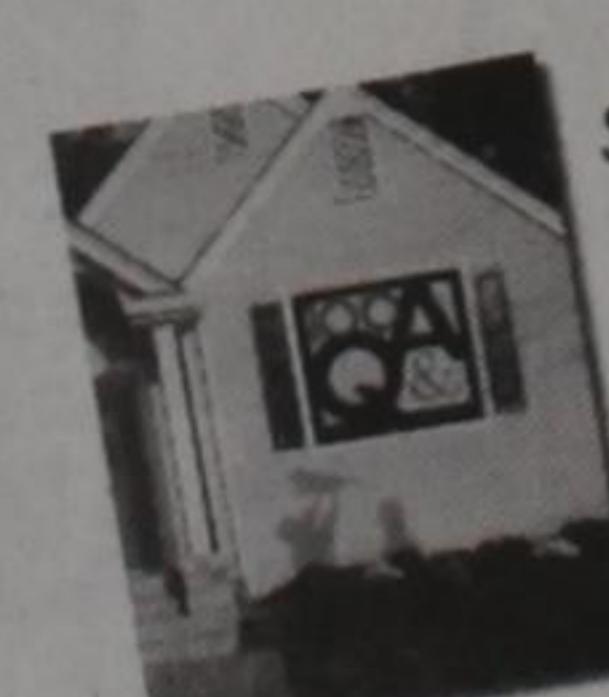
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