

# Los Inmigrantes Aumentan La Influencia Politica Latina

By Ronald Sal Panuco

Latino voting power and the 21st century are arriving juntos - together - with immigrant voters leading the way.

This fact is accentuated by immigrant voter figures for 1996 released Aug. 17 by the U.S. Census Bureau. Fifty-three percent of Hispanics who are naturalized U.S. citizens of voting age cast ballots, it reported, while just 42 percent of voting-age, native-born Hispanics did so.

Among all groups, 59 percent of eligible native-born citizens voted, versus 53 percent of naturalized citizens. So what makes Latino immigrants different?

"The high voting level of Latino naturalized citizens is no surprise, considering the heated public debate during this decade over the contributions of immigrants to this nation," suggests Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Voter reaction to anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic attacks has benefited the Democratic Party most. For example, in Pete Wilson's California, Democrats have built a dramatic 65 percent-19 percent Latino registration edge over the GOP. Nationally, Republican strategists are openly warning their congressional and statehouse clients to tone down their anti-immigrant welfare and education reform rhetoric and legislation.

Half of the country's 26 million immigrants come from Latin America, and a third of that number are now naturalized citizens. The new census data reveal that both the number of Latinos registered to vote and the number who voted increased substantially between the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, while it decreased for all other groups.

Eligible Hispanics who voted, 45 percent, still trailed whites, 61 percent, and blacks, 53 percent, the report found. But, NALEO notes optimistically, the



La consecuencia más importante de la medida ahora en vigencia es que los mexicanos que han emigrado a los EE.UU. y que han decidido adoptar la ciudadanía ya no necesitarán renunciar a su condición de mexicanos.

gap narrowed from 18 percent to 15 percent. And every year, a million more Hispanics reach voting age.

Lisa Navarrete, spokesperson for the National Council of La Raza, emphasizes that Latino influence as a "swing vote" mounts with each new election.

Latinos now comprise huge chunks of the voting-age population in critical electoral-college states that could choose our next president. They are led by New Mexico at 37 percent, California at 28 percent and Texas at 27 percent. Others over 10 percent include New York, New Jersey, Florida, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada. With waiting lines two million long and growing, about 40 percent still aren't citizens.

Measured by percentage, the overall voter turnout for the 1996 presidential election was the lowest in at least half a century. From 1992 to 1996, turnout of non-Hispanic voters dropped 9.5 million, the report said. Yet the number of

Hispanics who cast ballots increased by 690,000.

Antonio Gonzalez, president of the San Antonio-based William C. Velasquez Institute, notes that since 1976, total voter registration increased by 30 percent, while for Latinos it increased 163.6 percent. Total votes cast grew by 21.1 percent, but by 134.9 percent for Hispanics during the same period.

Gonzalez says Latinos are recognizing more and more that voting is "an important path to progress." The challenge for Latino leadership, he adds, is to continue to mobilize Latino voters.

Juan Andrade, president of the Chicago-based United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, states it more emphatically. "I believe 1996 was a wake-up call for Latinos. The growth in voters was not just an aberration. It's a signal to the nation that we are prepared to fight."

(Ronald Sal Panuco is a reporter with the national Hispanic Link Weekly Report)

## News Briefs

### White House Could Appeal Census Decision

Washington, Aug 25 (EFE).- The White House plans to appeal a federal court ruling against plans by the Census Bureau to use statistical sampling to help conduct the year 2000 census.

The Census Bureau had hoped to use sampling to avoid repeating what happened in the 1990 census, when 8.4 million people were missed and 4.4 million people were either counted twice or in the wrong place, while relying exclusively on traditional head-counting, The New York Times reported on Tuesday.

Republicans reject supplementing the head-counting with statistical sampling.

"Republicans have been prepared to sacrifice the rights of the minorities time and again to benefit themselves politically," said Martin Frost (Dem.-TX). Census data are used to apportion House seats and draw boundaries for congressional districts, The Times reported.

The system's partisans allege that the Republicans oppose a more exact way of counting minorities and the poor because that would favor Democrats.

Republicans say that statistical sampling is not precise and implies making projections and "guessing."

"We have to count the real people, and not go around guessing," said the president of the National Republican Committee, Jim Nicholson. "The system proposed by Clinton and supported by congressional Democrats will produce inexact and useless data."

The federal court ruled on Monday that the Census Bureau's plans violated federal law.

### Bill Threatens Housing Rights

Bergen Record--A bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA) "would give state or local government a say in where group homes" for the mentally disabled can be located.

The bill "reasonably requires the dispersal of group homes," and "would restrict how the disabled could fight for their civil rights." Bilbray's proposal would delay federal-level challenges to state or local laws "restricting group homes" until "the challenger [has] exhausted every available state and local administrative procedure."

New Jersey state Sen. Gerald Zecker (R) supports Bilbray's bill, saying "such measures are needed to prevent the clustering of group homes in neighborhoods and communities." Zecker has introduced legislation in the New Jersey Legislature to help Clifton, NJ, residents fight the establishment of more group homes "in their neighborhood." But advocates for the disabled criticized the measure, saying it "would allow communities to routinely block group homes through zoning regulations."

Michael Allen from Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, HN1660@handsnet.org, called Bilbray's bill "the greatest assault of the bedrock civil rights law in 30 years." David Lazarus of Community Health Law Project, HN5536@handsnet.org, said "This bill focuses on a particular group of individuals and treats them differently from other folks."

### Court Rules on Medicare HMO Protections Right

Several recent editorials weigh in on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' recent ruling that guarantees certain rights for Medicare HMO members:

Miami Herald, 8/24: "This is the first ruling to tie beneficiaries' rights to the Constitution rather than to statutes, which Congress can change at whim. The ruling also requires HMOs to tell members how to appeal and support their claims. It gives HMOs five days - rather than 14 now -- to decide whether to cover the care sought. Most important, it directs Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to monitor compliance and to terminate Medicare contracts with HMOs that don't follow the directives. All in all, Judge Wiggins [of the 9th Circuit] delivered a slam-dunk for consumers. When the grandstand cheering is audible across the country in Florida, then surely it can be heard in Washington and inspire a dilatory Congress to act as well."

New York Times, 8/22: "The appeals court essentially found that Medicare benefit decisions made by HMOs, which are paid by the government to provide the coverage, amount to government action. In the field of health care, at least, the courts are finding that managed care organizations through which public benefits are distributed must now meet constitutional requirements that few considered before."

Seattle Times, 8/23: The editorial notes one "down side" to the ruling: "HMOs have one more reason to dread Medicare patients -- or not serve them at all. Inadequate reimbursement rates are transforming Medicare patients from cash cows into albatrosses. Medicare reimbursements have dropped, and annual increases to reimbursements now lag far behind inflation. Blizzards of paperwork and inflexible regulations make Medicare patients even more unappealing to efficiency-seeking HMOs."

### Health Advocate Blasts Pro-HMO Article

A consumer advocate takes issue with Washington Post reporter Howard Kurtz's recent article that reexamined several cases of alleged managed care abuses.

In his article, Kurtz reported that insurers believe reports about "HMO abuses" are often one-sided, neglecting the complex issues involved in managing patients' care.

But in a letter to the Post, Andrew Pontious of California-based Consumers for Quality Care notes that "[p]remium-paying, policy-holding consumers never have shared the same media leverage enjoyed by the insurance industry, which spends tens of millions of dollars annually on advertising."

Pontious writes that managed care consumers "have been forced to seek out advocates on their own in order to get their stories heard," and the "guerilla" tactics employed by poorly funded consumer groups "are the only responses available to patients competing against the astronomical advertising budgets of HMOs."

He concludes, "Reporter Howard Kurtz points out how the insurance industry believes 'the use of emotional anecdotes is unfair.' However, when patients are injured by their HMOs, emotions are, of course, going to run high. Mr. Kurtz and legislators would very much like to turn away from these emotions, but those of us working for patients' rights will not allow them to."

### Ballet Folklorico Aztlan

Invites you to come out & watch them perform at 4:00 p.m. - Saturday, Aug. 29th at the Arnett Benson Neighborhood Association "Gang Free" & "Drug Free" Rally Maggie Trejo Supercenter - 3200 Amherst

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."  
"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace."  
Lic. Benito Juárez

# EL EDITOR

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## Immigrants Boost Latino Political Influence

Por Ronald Sal Panuco

El poder electoral latino y el siglo XXI están llegando juntos -- con los electores inmigrantes abriendo el camino.

Este hecho queda acentuado por las cifras de los electores inmigrantes para 1996, publicadas el 17 de agosto por el Departamento del Censo de los Estados Unidos. El cincuenta y tres por ciento de los hispanos que son ciudadanos naturalizados de edad electoral votaron, según dicho informe, mientras que sólo el 42 por ciento de los hispanos nacidos aquí, de edad electoral, lo hicieron.

Entre todos los grupos, el 59 por ciento de los ciudadanos nativos elegibles votaron, en comparación con el 53 por

### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

No one denies that there is a problem with gangs in Lubbock and especially in Arnett Benson. At least one group, the Arnett Benson Neighborhood Association is trying to do something about it. Together with many friends and business, the organization will sponsor their annual Gang Free - Drug Free Rally this weekend at Rodgers's Park. The event will start at 11 am with a march that will start at Our Lady of Grace Church and will last until 7 pm. There have been dozens of marches held in Lubbock's eastside and led by Councilman Patterson. We have seen many dignitaries attend. Let's hope that the dignitaries will see fit to attend this march. If we get lucky, we might even see some of those workers and directors of programs that were given \$700,000 to work on the gang problem.



ciento de los ciudadanos naturalizados.

¿Qué es lo que hace distintos a los inmigrantes latinos?

"El nivel electoral elevado de los ciudadanos latinos naturalizados no es sorprendente, considerando el debate público acalorado durante este decenio acerca de los aportes de los inmigrantes a esta nación", sugiere Arturo Vargas, director ejecutivo de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Designados (NALEO en inglés).

La reacción de los electores a los ataques anti-inmigrantes y anti-hispanos ha beneficiado más al partido demócrata. Por ejemplo, en California, con el gobierno de Pete Wilson, los demócratas han construido un margen dramático del 65 por ciento contra el 19 por ciento de inscripción de latinos sobre el partido republicano. En escala nacional, los asesores republicanos le están advirtiendo abiertamente a sus clientes congresionales y estatales que moderen su retórica y su legislación contra los inmigrantes en los terrenos de la reforma a la asistencia económica pública y la enseñanza.

La mitad de los 26 millones de inmigrantes del país proceden de la América Latina, y un tercio de esa cifra son ahora ciudadanos naturalizados.

La nueva información del Censo revela que tanto la cantidad de latinos inscritos para votar como la cantidad que votó aumentaron considerablemente entre las elecciones presidenciales de 1992 y 1996, mientras que disminuyó para todos los demás grupos.

Los hispanos elegibles que votaron, el 45 por ciento, todavía era menos que los anglosajones, con el 61 por ciento, y de los afroamericanos, con el 53 por ciento, según el informe. Pero, según advierte NALEO optimísticamente, la brecha se cerró un poco, desde el 18 por ciento hasta el 15 por ciento. Y cada año un millón más de hispanos alcanza la edad electoral.

Lisa Navarrete, portavoz del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, hace énfasis en que la influencia latina como "voto decisiva" aumenta con cada nueva elección.

Los latinos forman ahora enormes proporciones de la po-

blación de edad electoral en estados críticos para el colegio electoral, que podrían seleccionar a nuestro próximo presidente. Los estados son Nuevo México con un 37 por ciento, California con un 28 por ciento y Texas con un 27 por ciento. Otros que sobrepasan al 10 por ciento incluyen a Nueva York, Nueva Jersey, la Florida, Colorado, Arizona y Nevada. Con el resago de espera para tramitar la solicitud de ciudadanía alcanzando los dos millones y aumentando, el 40 por ciento no son ciudadanos todavía.

Al medirse en porcentajes, el porcentaje conjunto de los que votaron en las más recientes elecciones presidenciales fué el más bajo en al menos medio siglo.

Desde 1992 hasta 1996, la asistencia a las urnas electorales de los no hispanos bajó por 9.5 millones, dijo el informe. Sin embargo, la cantidad de hispanos que asistió a las urnas aumentó en 690,000.

Antonio González, presidente del Instituto William C. Velásquez, con sede en San Antonio, hace notar que desde 1976 la inscripción de electores aumentó en un 30 por ciento, mientras que para los latinos aumentó en un 163.6 por ciento. El total de votos depositados aumentó en 21.1 por ciento, pero para los hispanos el aumento fué del 134.9 por ciento durante el mismo período.

González dice que los latinos están reconociendo, cada vez en mayor medida, que el votar es "un sendero importante para el adelanto". El reto para el liderazgo latino, agrega él, es continuar movilizándolo a los electores latinos.

Juan Andrade, presidente del Instituto de Liderazgo Hispano, en Chicago, lo dice más enfáticamente. "Creo que 1996 fué una llamada a despertar para los latinos. El aumento de electores no fué solamente una anomalía. Es una señal para la nación de que estamos preparados para luchar."

(Ronald Sal Panuco es reportero del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC.)



**Viewpoint:**

# Latinos A Sleeping Giant?

## True or False

by Juan Andrade, Jr

The most common characterization applied to the Latino community in recent years is "The Sleeping Giant". The characterization is perpetuated by and through an uninformed media, in remarks by ill-informed public figures, in commentaries by shallow political pundits, or in just routine conversations by ordinary people influenced by such people. A greater disservice would be hard to find because the characterization is false, yet the media, politicians and pundits collectively shape the general public's perception of today's Latino community.

The use and application of this mischaracterization has become so commonplace that even we Latinos have begun to use it in describing ourselves! The mischaracterization is not derogatory nor intended in a pejorative sense when applied to us by Latinos and non-Latinos, and that is why I do not take cultural umbrage. I do however take issue with its application to Latinos because the characterization is utterly false, and there is ample evidence to the contrary. We are a giant, but I would argue that the real sleeping giant in America is that body of people which has only recently begun to discover the phenomena of Latino exponential achievement. Incredible stories could be told of the phenomenal advances Latinos have been quietly making.

Every Latino household now has a choice of watching a regular television newscast in either Spanish or English. U.S. Spanish language viewers can be connected with 500 million Spanish speaking people in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Spanish language newspapers and radio stations now serve most Latino households in every major market in America. Latino children now out-number every other ethnic or racial group entering the first grade in our public schools. The number of Latino college graduates has tripled during the last 20 years. Latino astronauts in the NASA program have explored outer space. Latinos have been consistently singled out as Nobel Prize recipients for excellence in literature, the arts, and science.

The music of Latino entertainers is consistently ranked at the top of the charts. Latinos in the film industry have become national and international favorites. Latinos have excelled as Olympic athletes and comprise 25% of all baseball players in the major and minor leagues. Latinos have been quietly but effectively making their mark in every segment of American society.

The impact of Latinos on American society over the last two decades has been so profound that Henry Cisneros, the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, has appropriately characterized this period as "the Hispanization of America". The Hispanization of America is not intended to imply some sort of conquest, but merely the penetration of Latinos into American life, the implanting of Latino thought into American consciousness, the integration of Latino culture into the fabric of American society, and the fusion of emerging forces, i.e., population, business, money and politics. I would argue that the Hispanization of America phenomena is incompatible with the myth of the Sleeping Giant.

Only one characterization is correct. We are in the midst of the Hispanization of America. Latinos lead the nation in three of four major socio-economic categories, e.g., the rate of population growth, business development, and political empowerment. Consider the following facts, and then decide for yourself which characterization is correct.

**Population:**

The Latino population in the United States increased from approximately nine million in 1970 to fourteen million in 1980, to twenty-two million in 1990, and to thirty million in '96. And, increasing by more than one million per year, the Latino population is expected to reach 35 million by the year 2000! From 1990-1996, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Latino population grew at a rate six times faster than the general population, ten times faster than whites, and three times faster than blacks. During that same period of time the population of the United States

grew by only 5%, whites increased 3%, blacks increased 10%, and Latinos increased a whopping 31%! Experts predict that by the year 2015 the U.S. Latino population will exceed 50 million and, by the year 2040, will reach 100 million. At 100 million, Latinos will comprise one-fourth of the total U.S. population and will be twice the size of the black population. Now, how can we Latinos sustain such a consistent rate of growth in our sleep? It's inconceivable!! (pardon the pun)

**Business:**

Every ethnic or racial group in America has had to establish its own business community to survive, to thrive and prosper. The Latino community is no different. The June issue of Hispanic Business magazine estimated, based on Census data, that the number of Latino-owned companies increased from 489,973 in 1987 to 862,605 in 1992, and reached 1,467,164 in 1997, an increase of nearly one million new businesses established in just ten years! According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Latinos are creating businesses three times faster than the general population. The growth in Latino-owned companies during the last ten years can be attributed in large part to the proliferation of women entrepreneurs. Latinas established 350,000 new businesses since 1990, becoming the fastest growing segment among all ethnic or racial groups in the American business community! An article in the May issue of Hispanic Business magazine reported that Latino-owned businesses will generate \$160 billion in revenues this year, and that these businesses will invest nearly \$10 billion in informational technology in 1997.

According to Nick Douglas, chief economist of the HispanTelligence unit, the \$10 billion investment "is more than seven times Microsoft's 1996 net income of \$1.35 billion". I ask you, do these sound like the accomplishments of a sleeping giant?

**Money:**

Latinos today earn and spend \$300 billion each year in the United States. Yet, the general perception of Latinos today is

(Continued Page 6)

# Para Los Mexicoamericanos, Hay Una Fecha Mejor Que Celebrar

Por Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

Una mayoría de nosotros está todavía sorprendida por el saludo de Cinco de Mayo que hiciera el Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes -- y no podría hacerse ningún argumento mejor en favor de la enseñanza bilingüe -- pero ya el 16 de septiembre se nos está aproximando rápidamente.

Mas sin embargo, aunque su espíritu se necesita desesperadamente hoy, el 20 de noviembre no se encuentra por ninguna parte.

En el 5 de mayo, muy adecuadamente, la oficina del Sr. Gingrich sacó una nota de prensa en la cual se identificaba al Presidente de la Cámara como "el hablador de la casa". No se hacía referencia alguna a la Cámara de Representantes, el hogar político del Sr. Gingrich. La nota de prensa estaba indicada para "liberación inmediata", como si estuviera en rehenes en alguna parte, en vez de para "distribución (o publicación) inmediata".

No obstante, la intención de Gingrich era buena, una proyección que reconocía a un día festivo celebrado por los mexicoamericanos -- y quizás en menor medida también por los mexicanos. En verdad, la nota de prensa de Gingrich puede ser un símbolo extremadamente apropiado. Porque el Cinco de Mayo es un día festivo señalado por las buenas intenciones de todos, pero no por una gran cantidad de exactitud.

Muchos medios informativos de los Estados Unidos se refieren a ese como el "Día de la Independencia" de México, una fecha decisiva en la historia mexicana, "uno de los acontecimientos más importantes de la historia mexicana".

No es nada de lo anterior. El Cinco de Mayo señala el triunfo de un grupo valeroso y defectuosamente equipado de soldados mexicanos sobre las tropas francesas más poderosas en una batalla cerca de Puebla, México, en 1862. El resultado de aquella batalla fue revocado pronto en una guerra que México perdió y que llevó a la ocupación francesa hasta 1866, bajo la monarquía del Emperador Maximiliano y de su esposa Carlota.

Habermé criado en la Ciudad de México, aún como alguien cuya familia ha estado arraigada desde 1838 en Puebla (donde la pareja real recibió su primera bienvenida oficial y suntuosa a México), nunca vi ninguna celebración des-

lumbrante del Cinco de Mayo.

Las encontré por primera vez en los Estados Unidos, donde el día ha aumentado de importancia desde el movimiento de los derechos civiles hasta convertirse en un hito cultural, completo con capitalización, campañas de mercadotecnia hacia los hispanos encabezadas por Budweiser y Coors, y ahora hasta su propio sello de correos.

¿Cuánto más puede eso adelantarse en la mayoría de la población principal?

El 16 de septiembre tiene algo de un sabor parecido. Comienza aquí en mes de la Herencia Hispana -- esperanzadamente, un espacio de tiempo que inspira a una mayor reflexión sobre quiénes somos. ¿Qué mejor oportunidad para revisar nuestras mitologías favoritas, aunque algo confusas?

El 16 de septiembre, como el 4 de julio, es el día en que México (y otros países de Latinoamérica) celebran su independencia de la "madre patria" (España).

Pero esa fecha, también, a menudo está mal definida. Hace unos cuantos años, un concejal municipal aquí en Texas -- donde, si es que en algún lugar, deberíamos saber -- fue citado ampliamente

como que había dicho que el acontecimiento otorgó la igualdad y los derechos civiles a todos los mexicanos. Pero en realidad, igual que en la Independencia de los Estados Unidos, dió derechos civiles y privilegios a muy pocos.

En los Estados Unidos, esos derechos fueron otorgados a los hacendados anglosajones mayores de 21 años de edad. Desde entonces, todos los demás grupos de los Estados Unidos han tenido que luchar para compartirlos.

En México, la clase selecta española nacida allí en vez de haber nacido en España, pudo compartir el poder por primera vez con los "gabachos" (los nacidos en España). De ahí siguió un período de abuso y explotación organizados contra los mexicanos que no eran miembros de la clase selecta, o sean los "mestizos" y los "indios", en un sistema llamado "gobierno" que inspiró a la revolución de 1910.

Eso empezó oficialmente el 20 de noviembre de aquel año, cuando Francisco Madero y sus partidarios salieron de San Antonio, Texas, donde habían sido alojados por los mexicano-tejanos para una serie de reuniones secretas de organización. Del caos que siguió, surgió una de las consti-

tuciones más iluminadas del mundo (aunque todavía no se ha hecho cumplir plenamente) que extendía la igualdad y algunos derechos civiles aún no reconocidos en otras partes.

Aproximadamente dos tercios de los hispanos de los Estados Unidos son mexicoamericanos. Pero son raros entre ellos los descendientes de la clase selecta que se benefició de lo que resultara del "dieciséis". Los intereses de la mayoría están representados más considerablemente en la lucha de 1910, que se enfocó, por ejemplo, sobre los asuntos de la enseñanza pública y de los derechos laborales.

Hoy, en una época de resaca que procura racionalizar al elitismo contemporáneo y disminuir el acceso a la enseñanza, el trabajo y la movilidad ascendente, necesitamos un concepto mejor sobre qué es lo que celebramos. Nunca ha sido más necesaria una comprensión verdadera de la Herencia Hispana.

(Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, quien fué subeditora y escritora del periódico Los Angeles Times, es actualmente profesora de periodismo y estudios latinoamericanos en la Universidad de Texas. Escribe a menudo para publicaciones académicas y de interés general.)

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# For Mexican Americans, There's A Better Date To Celebrate

By Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

Most of us are still reeling from House Speaker Newt Gingrich's Cinco de Mayo greeting -- and a better argument for the value of bilingual education couldn't be made -- but already El Diez y Seis de Septiembre is hurtling toward us.

Alas, though its spirit is desperately needed today, 20 de Noviembre is nowhere to be found.

On, appropriately, May 5, Mr. Gingrich's office put out a press release in which the speaker was identified as the "talkative one of the house," as in residence (*hablador de la casa*). No reference was made to the *camara de representantes*, Gingrich's political home. The press release was marked for *inmediata liberacion* (as if held hostage somewhere) instead of for *distribucion inmediata*.

Nevertheless, Gingrich's intent was good, an outreach acknowledging a holiday celebrated by Mexican Americans -- and perhaps to a lesser extent, by Mexicans as well. In fact, Gingrich's press release may be a most appropriate symbol. For Cinco de Mayo is a holiday marked by everyone's good intentions, but not a whole lot of accuracy.

It is invariably referred to in the media and by orators in the United States as a Mexican "Independence Day," a turning point in Mexican history, "one of the most important events in Mexican history."

It is none of the above.

Cinco de Mayo marks the victory of a valiant, poorly equipped group of Mexican soldiers over more powerful French troops in a battle near Puebla, Mexico, in 1862. The outcome of that battle was soon reversed in a war that Mexico lost and that led to French occupation until 1866 under the monarchy of Emperor Maximilian and his wife Carlota.

Growing up in Mexico City, even as one whose family has been rooted since 1838 in Puebla (where the royal couple received their first official, and lavish, welcome to Mexico) I never saw any great razzle-dazzle celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

I found those first in the United States, where the day has grown in importance since the civil rights movement to become a cultural marker, complete with capitalization, consumer campaigns headed by Budweiser and Coors, and now even its

own postage stamp.

How much more mainstream can it get?

September 16 has something of a similar flavor. It ushers in Hispanic Heritage Month -- hopefully, a time that inspires greater reflection about who we are. What better time for re-viewing our favorite, if somewhat confused, mythologies? The 16th of September, like the 4th of July, is the day that Mexico (and several other Latin American nations) celebrate their independence from the "motherland."

But it, too, is frequently mis-defined. A few years ago, a city councilman here in Texas -- where, if anywhere, we should know better -- was widely quoted as saying that the event granted equality and civil rights to all Mexicans. But actually, just like U.S. independence, it gave civil rights and privileges to very few.

In the U.S., those rights were granted to propertied white males over 21 years of age. Since then, every other group in the United States has had to fight to share them.

In Mexico, the elite Spaniard born there instead of in Spain could for the first time share

# Sittin' Here Thinkin'

by Ira Cutter

## The Monica Thing

Loyal readers know that there is a semi-suburban New York diner where I can get a greasy breakfast and also get in touch with how real people think.

The folks at the diner are arrayed across the entire political spectrum of America, and maybe even stretched a little bit beyond the norm. Arthur Bupkiss, the intellectual leader of the group, could best be described as a Lapsed Republican. Arthur was a businessman who got downsized, you see, after he was found to be redundant in a big corporate merger. His life has never quite been the same. Connie, the only black waitress in the otherwise white diner, is politically complex as well and defies easy labels. Connie might be called a Rugged Individualist Liberal, which means that she favors public help for the disadvantaged and affirmative action for minorities, and would spit in your eye if you ever offered her either one.

Mel, by far the oldest man at the diner, is a Eugene Debs Socialist and no candidate in the past fifty years has even come close to satisfying his desire to see the government screw the rich in order to care for the poor. The last President Mel really liked was Truman who, although far too conservative for Mel's tastes, at least knew bullsh\*t when he saw it. Blanche is an older waitress, a sarcastic, chain smoking, foul mouthed dear who prides herself on being street smart. She thinks politics are a lot of crap altogether and people who are hopeful about politicians are suckers. Blanche voted for Nixon once and has not voted since.

Larry and Vinnie, the two younger members of the group, cannot tell politics from sports. They think in terms of touch-downs, knockouts and gutsy plays, and they like politicians who seem to them to be regular, stand-up guys. Neither has ever voted for a woman, a black, a Puerto Rican or a homosexual, at least not knowingly. Larry's favorite politician is General Colin Powell, even if he is a black guy, while Vinnie is attracted to the bulldog style of New York Senator Alphonse D'Amato, also known as The Ponz. Larry and Vinnie both like Howard Stern.

Yesterday, like all good Americans, the folks at the diner were discussing the Monica thing. The Monica thing is, of course, the best ever diner topic since the OJ trial. Like OJ, it takes no special skill, knowledge or preparation to participate and everyone is an expert. In an amazing, spooky coincidence, both the Monica thing and the OJ trial both seemed like they were going to be determined by DNA evidence and then Clinton, unlike The Juice, caved in and confessed on national television.

"It's sad, really," Connie was saying. "I thought he was going to be a great President and make a real difference. I kept wanting him to be better, I kept trying to hope, but now I have given up."

"I never thought I'd live to see the day," Mel said, "when a President of the United States would come on national television, on all the networks, live, and talk about his sex life. Used to be, when you saw the President on television like that you held your breath and you were nervous. You waited to hear what he had to say because it was important -- because it meant war or a hostage crisis or calling out the National Guard or something."

"No class," Vinnie said. "The guy has no class at all. Period." "Well, get ready for more of the same," Arthur said. "This thing will just go on and on until the day he leaves office. They smell blood."

"You think they'll impeach him, Arthur?" Larry asked. "I don't think so," Arthur said. "Even if they wanted to impeach him, I doubt they could get it done in the two years he has left in office. Those things move so slowly."

"The Republicans don't really want an impeachment," Mel said. "The Monica thing is just their way of keeping him constantly off balance. It's like a good stiff left jab in boxing -- it's not meant to knock you out, just meant to keep you so busy that you are on the defensive all the time."

"I didn't notice that he was doing all that much even before the Monica thing," Larry said. "For me this guy has always been a bust, on every level. Remember the gays in the Army thing, right in the beginning? First he comes up with the stupid idea, then he doesn't have the stones to make it stick."

"Listen, folks," Blanche said through a curtain of smoke. "This is all a bunch of crap. Kennedy, Johnson, even Roosevelt in his wheelchair, had women on the side and so do half the guys in Congress who are calling for Clinton's scalp. It's all just a way to bring him down because he was dumb enough to put his head in a noose."

"He sure put something somewhere," Larry said, laughing. "But I didn't hear about no noose."

"The thing that continues to amaze me," Arthur said. "Is how we always seem to bring down politicians for the wrong reasons. Nixon gets crucified for that little burglary, when he should have gone to jail for bombing Cambodia and keeping it a secret from his own country. Clinton is disgraced for something in his personal life, when he could much more fairly be attacked for selling out the Democratic Party and all it used to stand for in order to enhance his own popularity. It makes no sense to me."

"Kind of like how they wound up jailing Al Capone for tax evasion," Larry offered.

"The thing I don't get is this Hillary," Vinnie said. "If I so much as look at another woman, God help me it's a younger woman with a big chest, I get the deep freeze from my wife for a week."

"I'll bet they split up the day after they leave the White House," Arthur said. "By now this has got to be more about a political alliance than a marriage."

"I feel for her," Connie said. "This is the most public humiliation by a husband I can remember, except maybe the Charles and Diana thing, and she just keeps on keeping on. She's tough and stubborn, and she'll leave him when she wants to and for her own reasons, not because some right wingers have dug up dirt to get at him."

"It's sad," Mel said. "Just sad, what has happened to America."

And with that there was a silence, a long one by diner standards, twenty seconds or so while everybody thought about how things could ever get this way.

"Well, hey, so what about this Gore guy?" Vinnie asked. "Anybody know anything about him?"

power with the *gabacho* (or Spanish-born). There followed a period of organized abuse and exploitation of the non-elite Mexicans, or mestizos and indios, in a system called "government" that inspired the Revolution of 1910.

It officially began on Nov. 20 that year when Francisco Madero and his supporters left San Antonio, Texas, where they had been hosted by Mexican Texans for a series of secret organizational meetings. Out of the chaos that followed emerged one of the world's most enlightened (if as yet not fully enforced) constitutions extending equality and some civil rights not yet recognized elsewhere.

Approximately two-thirds of the Hispanics in the United States are Mexican-American. Yet rare among them are descendants of the elite who profited by the outcome of El Diez y Seis. The interests of most are more significantly represented

in the struggle of 1910, which addressed, for example, issues of public education and labor rights.

Today, in an era of backlash that seeks to rationalize contemporary elitism and reduce access to education, work and upward mobility, we need a better grasp on what it is we celebrate. A real understanding of Hispanic Heritage has never been more necessary.

(Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, formerly an assistant editor and writer at the Los Angeles Times, is now a professor of journalism and Latin American Studies at the University of Texas. She holds a Yale Ph.D. in American Studies and writes frequently for academic and mass media publications.)

Letters to El Editor just write to: EL EDITOR P.O. Box 11250 Lubbock, Tx 79408



**Por Favor, No Te Vayas'**

**Casa Cuna y Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita Prove Una Valiosa Labor Humanitaria**

Por Ivan Barrera

Casa de Cuna Católica es una Casa-Hogar para niños y niñas entre los cuatro meses hasta los seis años provenientes de matrimonios desintegrados, madres solteras o bien, niños y niñas huérfanos. Casa de Cuna se encuentra ubicada en el Fraccionamiento Cubillas en la ciudad de Tijuana, y es atendida por las religiosas Hermanas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.

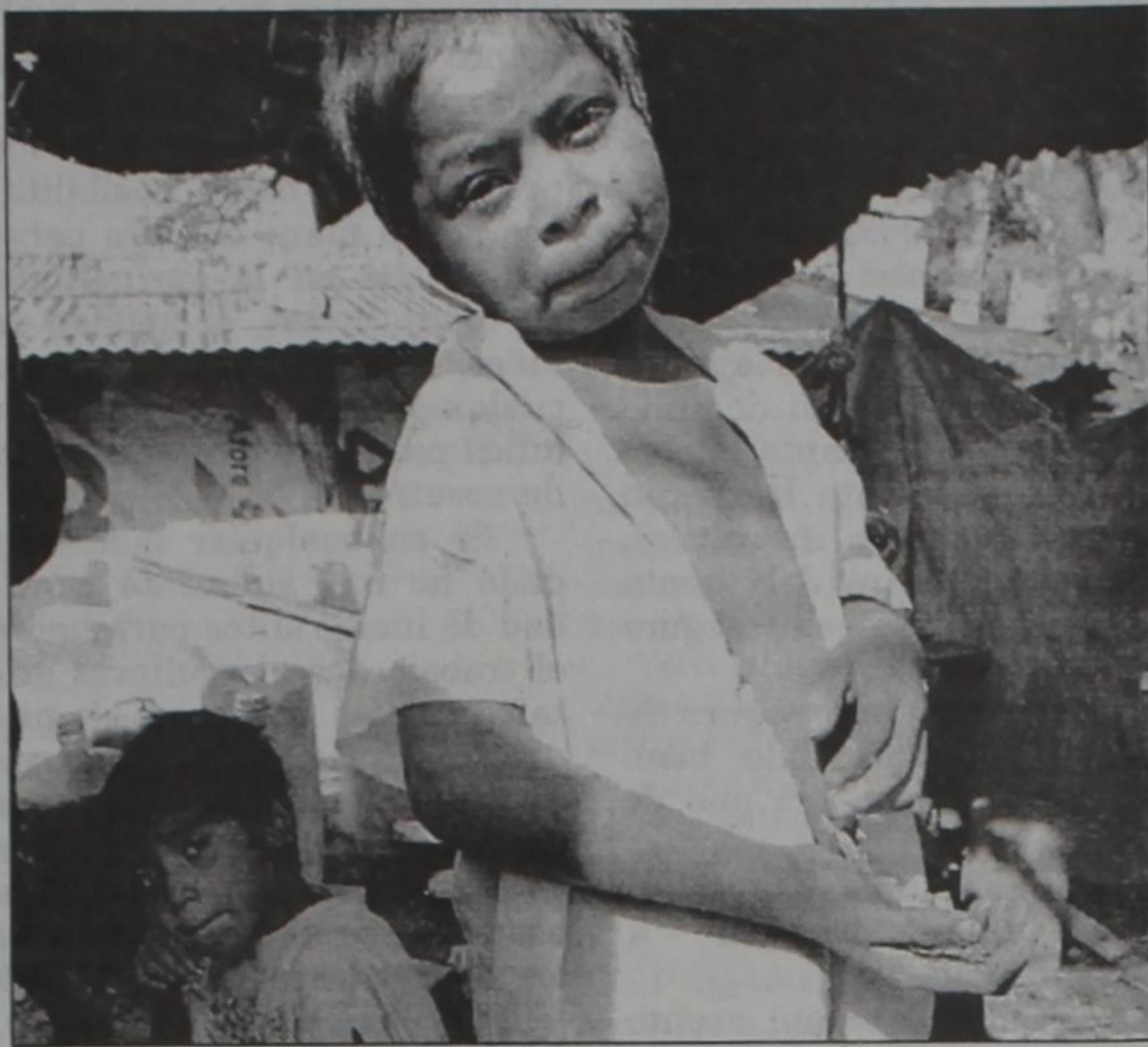
El Instituto de Hermanas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús cuya casa principal se encuentra en la Arquidiócesis de México, tuvo su origen en el mismo lugar, a principios de este siglo, por obra y celo del Padre José María Troncoso y Herrera de los Misioneros Josefinos de México, y también de Elisa Margarita Berruecos y Juvera del Espíritu Santo, con el fin de otorgar amparo cristiano a los niños y niñas principalmente huérfanos y abandonados.

"Contamos con aproximadamente veintidós casas para niños en la República Mexicana", comenta la Madre directora de Casa Cuna, María de la Paz Angeles Romero. "Tenemos casa en Mexicali, Guaymas, Querétaro, México, Pachuca, Puebla, Tamaulipas y en otras partes de México. También tenemos casas en Perú".

Casa Cuna en Tijuana atiende aproximadamente a 120 niños y niñas. La mayoría de los niños y niñas que asisten a Casa Cuna provienen de familias desintegradas por diversas razones: padre o madre alcohólico o drogadicto, madres solteras, o bien, niños abandonados por sus familiares.

"Nuestra función principal es la educación humana cristiana", afirma la hermana Angelina Porras Sánchez, una de las siete religiosas que atienden la Casa de Cuna. "Los niños están con nosotros de Lunes a Viernes. Aquí duermen, comen, se educan, y se les atiende en todo lo posible. Los fines de semana, se les pide a los familiares que se los lleven a casa, para que convivan con ellos. Muchos niños no quieren ir a sus casas. Se sueltan llorando los Viernes. Procuramos tener reuniones con las mamás por lo menos cada dos meses para motivarlas y orientarlas sobre la manera de cómo atender a sus hijos", comenta la hermana Angelina.

La mayoría de los niños y niñas que asisten a Casa Cuna carecen de padre, y por lo tanto



En una cuadra del Centro Histórico de la capital mexicana no es raro encontrar cinco o seis pedigüños, las "marías" (indígenas) rodeadas de niños famélicos, además de ciegos y minusválidos, que ocupan las aceras y esperan la caridad para sobrevivir.

las madres solteras deben de proveer todo el cariño, educación, afecto y apoyo económico para sus hijos. Lo cual, es muy difícil. Gracias a esta institución las mamás pueden trabajar tiempo completo para el sostenimiento económico de sus hijos, mientras que los niños son atendidos completamente, de Lunes a Viernes, por las religiosas del Sagrado Corazón.

Casa Cuna es dirigido por siete hermanas religiosas y por siete laicos comprometidos. También cuentan con la ayuda de dos doctores pediatras que asisten a las religiosas cuando alguno de los niños se encuentra enfermo. El próximo 22 de Agosto cumplirán 50 años de brindar este servicio tan importante a la comunidad Tijuanaense.

A pesar del edificio tan antiguo que cubre una cuadra entera, las instalaciones se encuentran muy limpias, los cuartos de los niños y niñas en perfecto orden y limpieza, al igual que los patios y comedores.

Todos los niños reflejan constantemente una sonrisa inocente y amable.

Son muy cariñosos con los visitantes. "Por favor no te vayas, quédate con nosotros!" comenta una pequeña de aproximadamente tres años de edad.

En un ambiente enternecedor, los pequeños rápidamente rodean a los visitantes y constantemente solicitan un cariño o algún gesto de amor.

La falta de afecto familiar es evidente.

"Uno de los recuerdos que más me han conmovido el corazón", recuerda la hermana directora, María de la Paz, "fué el del joven de aproximadamente veinte años de edad, que tocó a nuestras puertas pidiendo ayuda. Entre lágrimas y con una bebé recién nacido entre sus brazos, nos platicó que su joven esposa no quiso responsabili-

zarse de su hijita y que él no sabía que hacer ni cómo darle de comer. Fué un momento muy triste y con-movedor. Le ofrecimos cuidar y atender a la pequeña en Casa de Cuna; él aceptó", finalizó la Madre Paz.

En la ciudad de Tijuana, las religiosas del Sagrado Corazón han dividido

su apostolado en dos grupos. Por una parte, niños y niñas de seis años son atendidos y educados en Casa Cuna, mientras que niñas y adolescentes enter los seis y los quince años son aceptados en Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita. La única diferencia entre Casa Cuna y Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita es la edad de las muchachas y que en esta última aceptan solamente niñas.

"Esta congregación inicia en tiempos de la Revolución Mexicana hacia 1912", comenta la hermana Guadalupe Rodríguez, una de las cuatro hermanas religiosas del Sa-grado Corazón encargadas de Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita, ubicadas en el Fraccionamiento Villa Floresta en Tijuana.

"Nuestra madre fundadora inició su apostolado con Casa de Cuna en el Distrito Federal a principios de Siglo cuando el orfanatorio a cargo del gobierno federal cerró e iba a ser tomado por unas enfermeras protestantes. Nuestra Madre fundadora no permitió eso y tomó cargo de la casa. Así se inicio nuestro apostolado. En aquel entonces era prohibido vestir públicamente el hábito religioso y existían muchas prohibiciones hacia la iglesia Católica. Nuestra Madre fundadora también inició en México otra casa llamada "La 5ta Magdalena", donde se atendían a niñas y adolescentes que eran abusadas y maltratadas por los soldados federales", puntualizó la Madre Guadalupe.

Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita

fué iniciada por las religiosas Lauretanas en 1973, pero en 1977 no pudiendo atender la casa, dejaron la ciudad de Tijuana. Fué cuando el entonces Obispo de Tijuana, Monseñor Juan José Posadas Ocampo, solicitó a las Hermanas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús se hicieran cargo del apostolado con las jovencitas. Desde entonces muchas de las niñas de seis años que salen de Casa Cuna, ingresan a Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita hasta la edad de quince años.

"Quisieramos aceptar a más niñas pero no tenemos suficiente espacio en nuestros dormitorios", comenta la Madre directora de Casa Hogar Santa Teresita, Ana María Graciela Origel Zavala. "Muchas madres nos piden que aceptemos a sus hijas, pero desgraciadamente no podemos por falta de espacio. Algunas de estas niñas han sido abusadas sexualmente, otras han sido golpeadas por sus familiares o padrastos. Para algunas de ellas es muy difícil olvidar y sanar lo que ha sucedido", comenta tristemente la Madre Ana María.

Actualmente Casa-Hogar Santa Teresita hospeda a 36 niñas-adolescentes, de las cuales 18 se hospedan en un dormitorio para niñas entre los 6 y los 9 años y en otro dormitorio a jovencitas entre los 10 y los 15 años.

"Para recibir a las niñas en esta Casa-Hogar se necesitan algunos requisitos", comenta la Madre Ana María. "Primero, que la niña desee quedarse aquí. Segundo, que el papá o la mamá sean solteros, o sea que no reciban apoyo del otro cónyuge. Tercero, les pedimos acta de nacimiento, fe de bautismo, tarjeta de vacunas, certificado médico, cuatro fotografías (dos de la niña y dos de la madre o padre según sea el caso). Cuarto, que traigan sus utensilios y ropa de uso personal, y por último, quinto, les pedimos a los padres una cooperación monetaria al mes según sus posibilidades".

Madre Ana María comenta que en algunas ocasiones no tienen suficiente dinero para cubrir los gastos de comida y por lo tanto acuden constantemente en oración a la Divina Providencia. "En ocasiones no sé como le hacemos, pero El Señor nos socorre y los 17,000 pesos mensuales (US \$2000) que necesitamos para cubrir nuestros gastos mínimos son cubiertos de alguna u otra manera".

Para mayores informes puede dirigirse a: Casa Cuna Católica Avenida de las Rosas 441 Fraccionamiento Cubillas, Tijuana, BC, México teléfono (66) 86-1545 (Tomado de La Cruz de California, Año Dos, # 8, Agosto, 1998).

**La Temporada de la Sidra de Manzana Llega Con Inquietud**

News USA

(NUH) - Desde ahora hasta mucho después de la llegada de la primera helada del año, existe un motivo de inquietud sobre la seguridad del consumo del la sidra de manzana y otros jugos. La razón principal es la bacteria causante de enfermedades que puede estar presente en ellos debido a la falta de pasteurización.

La Administración de Drogas y Alimentos (FDA) aconseja a las personas en los siguientes grupos y con un alto riesgo a contraer enfermedades, beber sidra de manzana y otros jugos, únicamente si han sido previamente pasteurizados:

- Niños
- Adultos mayores
- Personas con sistemas de inmunización debilitados por HIV, SIDA o cáncer.

La FDA ha recomendado a los fabricantes, la rotulación voluntaria por medio de etiquetas de advertencia en los envases de sidra de manzana y jugos que no han sido pasteurizados. De esta manera los consumidores son informados sobre los jugos que no han sido elaborados para destruir la peligrosa bacteria, causante de serias enfermedades.

Busque las etiquetas de advertencia en los envases de sidras y jugos, sin olvidar que un producto sin la etiqueta, indica que no ha sido pasteurizado. En los mercados y tiendas de víveres, los jugos frescos sin pasteurizar normalmente se encuentran en la sección de alimentos refrigerados o sobre hielo en el departamento de vegetales o de frutas frescas. La sidra de manzana sin pasteurizar también se encuentra en los mercados al aire libre. Solamente un 2 por ciento de todos los jugos de fruta y vegetales no son pasteurizados.

Si un miembro de su familia pertenece a uno de los grupos con un alto riesgo de enfermedad y usted no

puede determinar si un jugo o uno de sus productos no ha sido pasteurizado, la mejor decisión que se debe tomar es la de no usar el producto. Otra posibilidad, según el producto, es haciéndolo hervir para eliminar cualquier bacteria peligrosa.

Los padres de niños al cuidado de guarderías infantiles y escuelas en donde se sirven sidras y jugos seguramente estarán ansiosos por saber si los productos que sus niños beben han sido pasteurizados. Igualmente, escolares en cortos viajes y excursiones a plantas manufactureras de sidra de manzana y otros jugos, deben evitar beber productos que no han sido previamente pasteurizados.

Además de la rotulación voluntaria, la FDA está considerando la propuesta de regulaciones requiriendo una advertencia en las etiquetas de sidra de manzana y otros jugos, hasta que los fabricantes de alimentos puedan aplicar un control como parte del programa de Análisis de Peligros y Punto Crítico de Control (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point — HACCP) para eliminar bacteria nociva durante la manufactura y envase de sidras y jugos.

Las acciones de la FDA, obedecen a un número de serias enfermedades, incluyendo la muerte de un niño, causada por un tipo de bacteria *E. Coli* en jugo de manzana y sidra que no habían sido pasteurizados. Otros microbios que también causan enfermedades han sido hallados en jugos sin pasteurizar. El peligroso tipo de bacteria *E. Coli* ha sido recientemente reconocido pero no es eliminado por la acidez natural del jugo de las frutas. Esta es la razón por la cual, la pasteurización u otro nueva medida de control es necesaria.

Para mayor detalles, llame a la Línea de Información de Alimentos de la FDA, al teléfono 1-800-FDA-4010.

**Gum Disease Linked to Heart Woes**

News USA

(NU) - Today, "prevention" is the key word in health care. Instead of waiting to treat problems that arise, the goal is to stave off those problems in the first place.

This raises a vital question: Did you realize that neglecting your teeth can lead to problems elsewhere in the body?

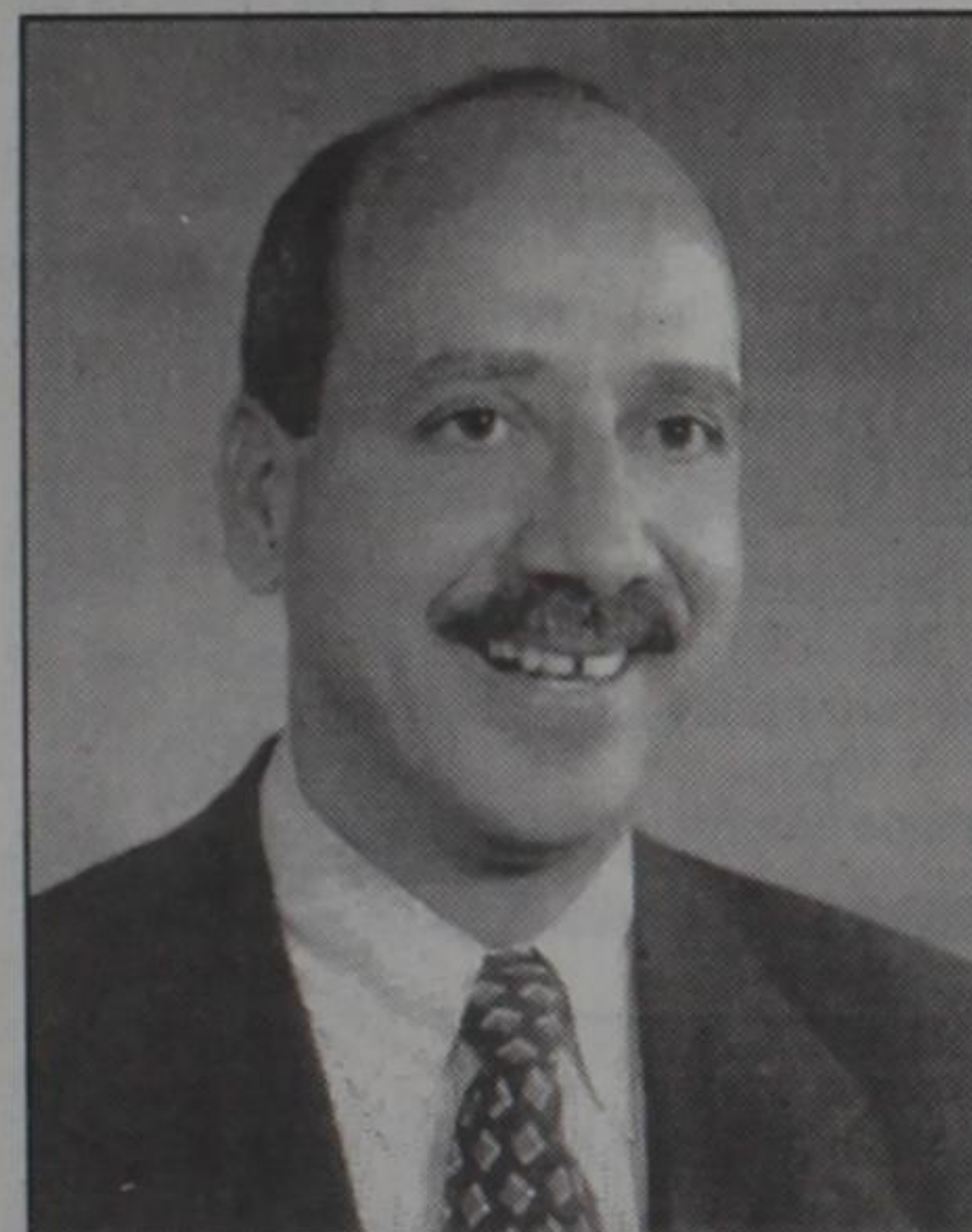
Recent research indicates that gum disease may go far beyond the gums. It may cause a host of other health maladies. Oral bacteria may

cause everything from heart disease to low birthweight in babies.

Periodontal problems can begin with infections beneath the gumline that you might not know exist because many times they are both painless and symptom-free. Your dentist may be the only one who can spot a potential problem.

"You're never too young to start to fend off the potential effects of age on teeth and gums," says Dr. Victor Pineschi, a Los Angeles periodontist.

Regular visits to the dentist and the use of specially formulated oral care products, such as Rembrandt Age Defying Toothpaste and Rembrandt Age Defying Mouthwash, target the problems that increase with age. Those problems include gum disease, bad breath and weakening of tooth structure.



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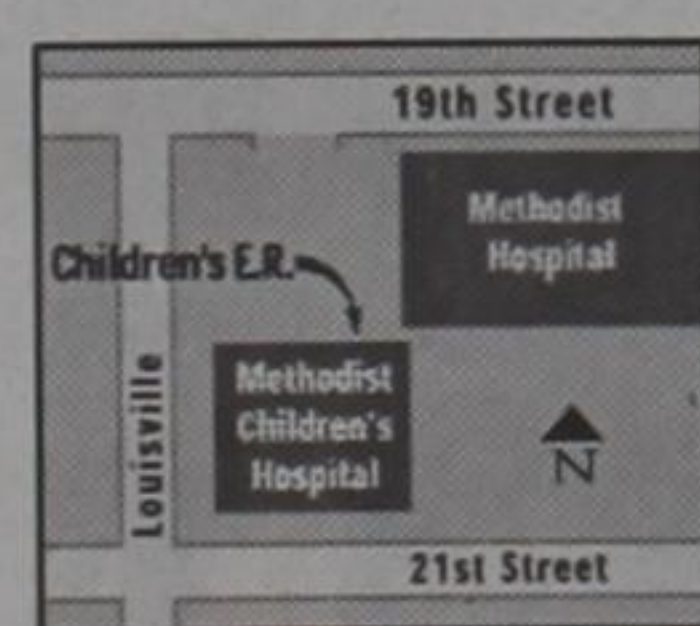
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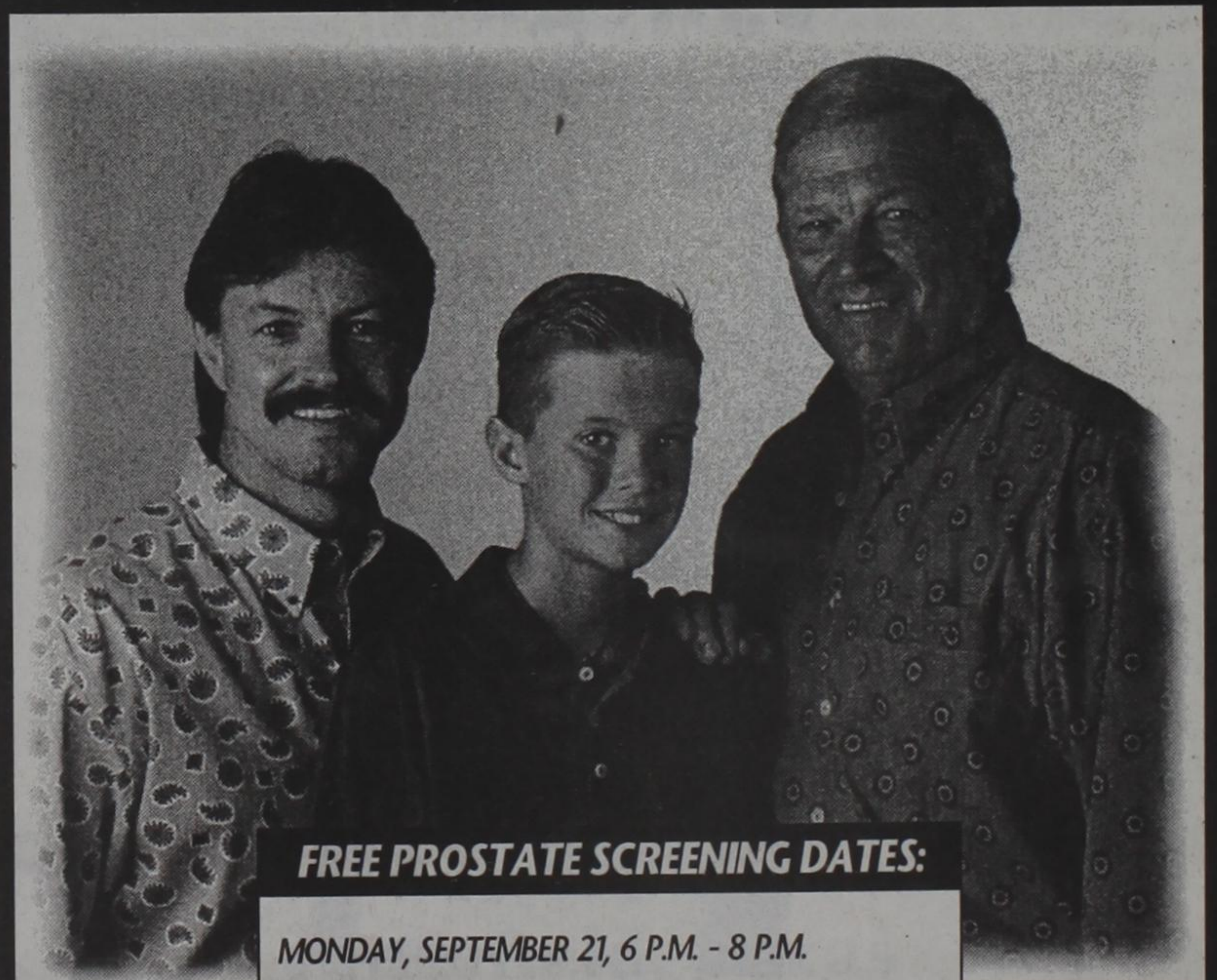
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# Smudging The Line Between 'Us' & 'Them'

By Domenico Maceri

"Pretty soon there will be more of them than us," my neighbor told me with serious concern.

"Us" meant native-born, United States Americans.

Her comment confused me. I wasn't born in the United States, and although a lot of hard work over the years has made my English pretty good, I think my accent still makes my origins unmistakable. I'll never get rid of the accent completely. I'm not sure I want to.

"Them?" I asked, certain I'd misunderstood. Surely I was one of "them."

Immigrants, my neighbor explained, invading "our" country.

Apparently my accent is not as obvious as I think, allowing me to pass, if I want to, as one of "us."

I've lived in the United States for 30 years -- two-thirds of my life -- and I consider myself more "American" than Italian. But the honor of being considered a native, which would have thrilled me when I was 15 and could barely wrap my mouth around English words, is starting to feel less than honorable. In or-

der to become a real American, must I also become a bigot? A few years ago, an acquaintance told my wife that she had given up trying to talk to a friend of ours who was born in Asia. It wasn't worth the effort it took to understand her, the acquaintance said.

Our friend speaks English with a heavy Chinese accent and her voice is barely above a whisper. It's true, she's difficult to understand. But she is also one of the kindest, most charming and intelligent people I have ever met. Is sitting down and paying attention too much effort to ask when the reward is not only a friendship with a wonderful person but the chance to learn more about a culture I will never experience firsthand?

The woman who won't make the effort to open up to another culture has lost more than she will ever know. And, I believe, as a culture, we are becoming more and more like that impatient woman.

Deep down, we all know that we need immigrants. Because they are paid less than what they should be, companies profit and eventually pass on some of those savings to

consumers. We all benefit from the lower prices made possible by cheap labor, whether in agriculture, restaurants, child care, or construction -- in any work too unpleasant for the rest of us to do.

If at any given moment there aren't plenty of immigrants available to do the work, farmers scream that crops will rot. Then the government steps in with a program designed to bring in guest workers on a temporary basis. But still farmers aren't happy. Too bureaucratic. Too costly.

Translation: Those programs require granting decent wages and benefits. Could it be that if decent wages were paid, more of us might be willing to do those jobs and there would not be a labor shortage?

Obviously, we need immigrants. We just don't want them. They look and speak different. They don't want to learn English. And we don't want to educate their children because, after all, they're here illegally. We're quite willing, however, to accept the work their parents do for us so cheaply, as long as they don't ask anything of us.

We want it all -- the immigrant's labor without the responsibility to deal with them as fellow human beings. We need them, but we don't want to pay for them, either in money or in the time and effort it takes to understand them. We wish they would disappear once they did our dirty work, stop bothering us with their strange customs and confusing accents.

But they won't. Ever. They keep coming, attempting to fulfill dreams, as generations before them have done. Just as the parents, or grandparents, or great-grandparents of all the bigots did. It would be nice if we recognized our own heritage in the immigrants' struggles.

For me, as an immigrant, it's easy, but I don't think it should be much of a burden for anyone. When you add it all up, "them" is really "us." That was always the dream. That's why I have never considered leaving my new home.

(Domenico Maceri is professor of foreign languages at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Calif.)  
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# Ensuciando La Linea Entre 'Nosotros' Y 'Ellos'

Por Domenico Maceri

"Muy pronto habrá más de ellos que de nosotros", me dijo mi vecina con grave preocupación.

"Nosotros" significaba los estadounidenses nacidos en los Estados Unidos.

Sus comentarios me confundieron. Yo no nací en los Estados Unidos, y aunque una gran cantidad de trabajo árduo ha hecho que mi dominio del inglés sea bastante bueno, creo que mi acento hace aún que mi origen sea inequívoco. Nunca me libraré del acento por completo. No estoy seguro de querer hacerlo.

"Ellos?" pregunté, seguro de no haber comprendido bien. De seguro que yo era uno de "ellos".

Los inmigrantes, explicó mi vecina, que invaden a "nuestro" país.

Aparentemente, mi acento no es tan evidente como yo pienso, permitiéndome pasar, si quiero, como uno de "nosotros".

He vivido en los Estados Unidos durante 30 años -- los dos tercios de mi vida -- y me considero más "estadounidense" que italiano. Pero el honor de ser considerado nativo, que me habría emocionado cuando tenía 15 años y podía difícilmente envolver mi boca alrededor de las palabras inglesas, está empezando a sentirse menos que honorable. A fin de llegar a ser un estadounidense verdadero, ¿debo también convertirme en un intolerante?

Hace unos pocos años, alguien le dijo a mi esposa que ella se había dado por vencida al tratar de hablar a una amiga nuestra que nació en Asia. No valía la pena el esfuerzo que se necesitaba para entenderla, dijo.

Nuestra amiga habla inglés con un acento chino marcado, y su voz apenas pasa de un susurro. Es cierto que resulta difícil de comprender. Pero ella es una de las personas más bondadosas, encantadoras e inteligentes que yo haya conocido. ¿Es el sentarse y prestar atención un esfuerzo excesivo que pedir, cuando la recompensa no es sólo una amistad con una persona maravillosa, sino la oportunidad de aprender más sobre una cultura que nunca experimentaré de primera mano?

La mujer que no quiere hacer el esfuerzo para abrirse hacia otra cultura ha perdido más que lo que ella sabrá alguna vez. Y, según creo, como cultura estamos llegando a ser cada vez más como esa mujer impaciente.

En nuestro interior, todos sabemos que necesitamos de los inmigrantes. Porque se les

paga menos que lo que debería pagarseles, las compañías realizan ganancias y eventualmente pasan algunos de esos ahorros a los consumidores. Todos nos beneficiamos de los precios más bajos posibilitados por la mano de obra barata, ya sea en la agricultura, los restaurantes, el cuidado de niños o la construcción -- en cualquier trabajo demasiado difícil para que lo haga el resto de nosotros.

Si en cualquier momento dado no hay suficiente cantidad de inmigrantes para hacer el trabajo, los agricultores gritan que las cosechas se pudrirán. Entonces el gobierno interviene con un programa destinado a traer "trabajadores invitados" a base temporal. Pero todavía los cultivadores no se sienten felices. Demasiado burocrático. Demasiado costoso.

Traducción: Esos programas exigen que se paguen jornales y beneficios decentes. ¿Podría ser que si se pagaran jornales decentes, una mayor cantidad de nosotros podríamos estar dispuestos a realizar esos trabajos, y entonces no habría escasez de mano de obra?

Evidentemente, necesitamos de los inmigrantes. Sólo que no los queremos. Para nada. Lucen y hablan de distinto modo. No quieren aprender inglés. Y no queremos educar a sus hijos porque, después de todo, están aquí ilegalmente. Estamos bastante dispuestos,

sin embargo, a aceptar el trabajo que sus padres hacen para nosotros a un costo bajo, siempre que no nos pidan nada.

Lo queremos todo -- el trabajo de los inmigrantes sin la responsabilidad de tratar con ellos como seres humanos iguales.

Los necesitamos, pero no queremos pagar por ellos, ni en dinero ni en el tiempo o el esfuerzo que se necesita para entenderlos. Sólo deseáramos que desaparecieran una vez que hubieran hecho nuestro trabajo sucio, que dejaran de molestarnos con sus costumbres extrañas y sus acentos confusos.

Pero no lo harán. Nunca. Ellos siguen viniendo, tratando de convertir sus sueños en realidades, como lo han hecho otras generaciones antes que ellos. Igual que lo hicieron los padres, o los abuelos, o los bisabuelos de todos los intolerantes. Sería bueno que reconociéramos nuestra propia herencia en las luchas de los inmigrantes.


Para mí, como inmigrante, es fácil, pero no creo que sería una carga excesiva para cualquier otra persona. Cuando se añade todo, "ellos" son realmente "nosotros". Ese fué siempre el sueño. Esa es la razón de que yo nunca haya considerado irme de mi nuevo hogar.

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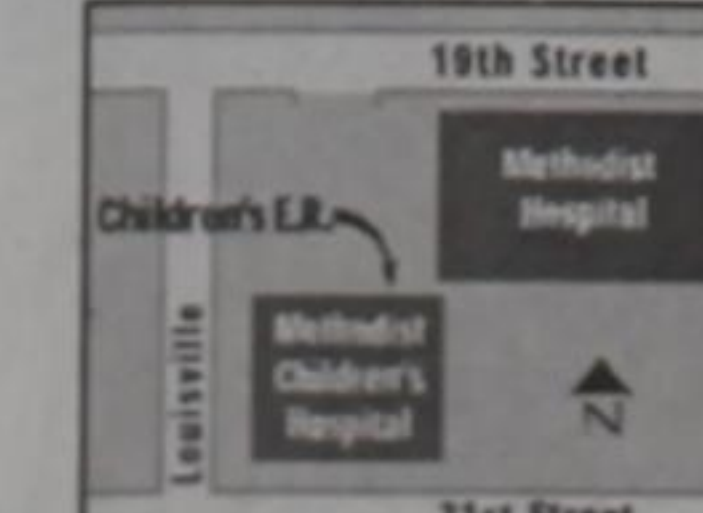
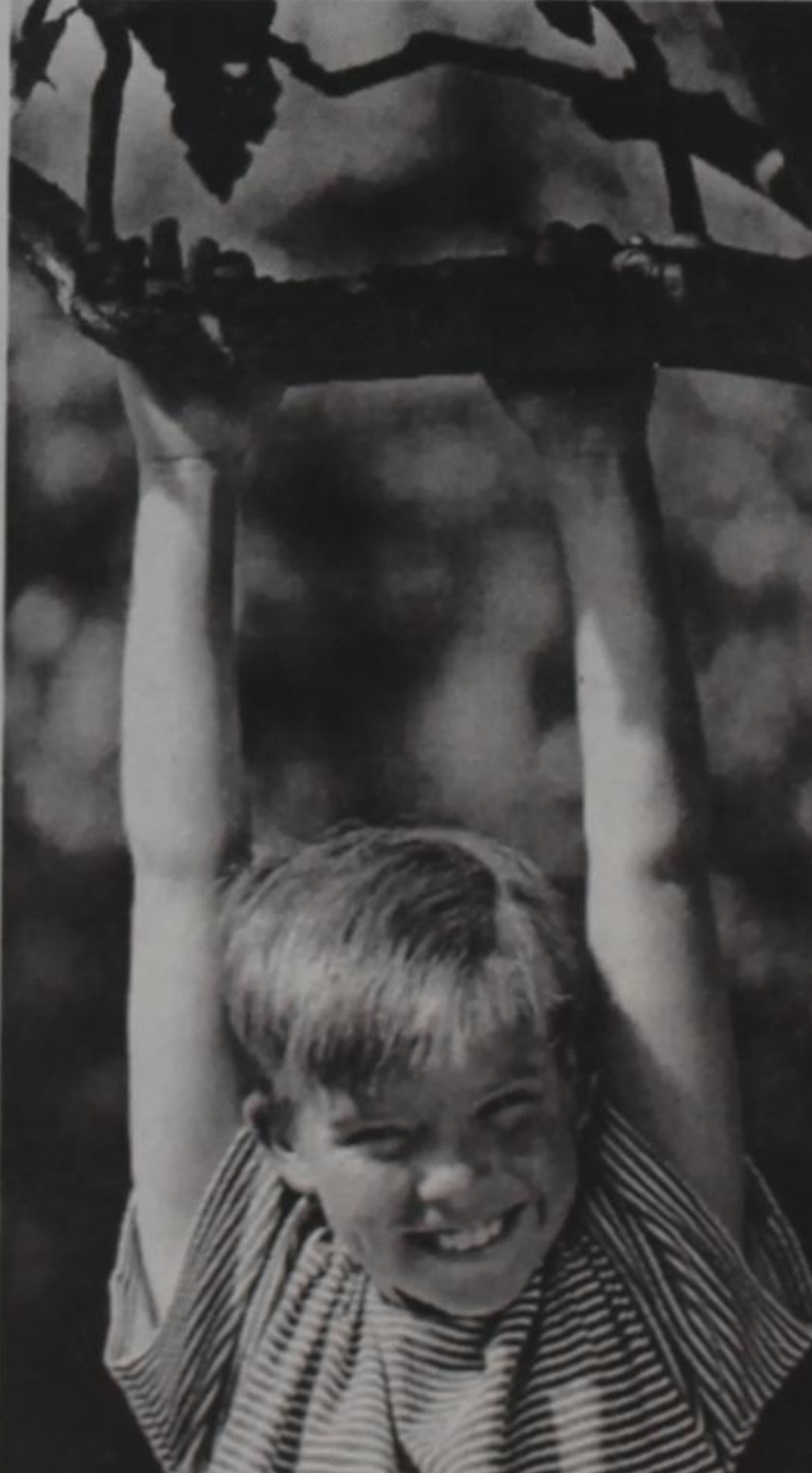
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# Para Julio César Chávez otra será la historia

# Raiders Should Break The Streak

# Dallas Cowboys The PSX Files



cirujano de Las Vegas quien fue seleccionado por la Comisión Atlética del Estado de Nevada para revisar a César y tras el chequeo declaró: " Julio está perfectamente bien. No ha tenido problemas en sus entrenamientos. La cortadita fue solamente de una pulgada y ha cicatrizado tan bien que para nada influirá en su combate contra De la Hoya".

También señaló: " No estoy preocupado, al contrario, estoy muy confiado y seguro en mi experiencia y mi pegada. Además recuerden que el que tiene la presión es él, no yo".

Por primera vez de que se tenga memoria, Julio César no entrenó en las montañas cercanas a Culiacán, Sinaloa. Ahora mismo se encuentra en Breckinridge, Colorado en donde la elevación y el clima son ideales para el que en esta ocasión irá como retador, lo que no es su costumbre.

Los que realmente conocen de boxeo han empezado a hacer sus apuestas convencidos de que, digase lo que se diga, no está claro aun en este caso si la juventud podrá derrotar a la experiencia.

Por cierto que los que no puedan



Julio César Chavez cumplió 36 años de edad el pasado 12 de Julio. Desde el combate en el que perdió el título con De la Hoya ha tenido cinco triunfos consecutivos, el último el 25 de Junio cuando acabó en tres rounds con Ken Siguranti en Mashantucket, Conn. Tiene el impresionante récord de 101 triunfos con solamente dos derrotas y dos empates. De sus victorias 84 de ellas terminaron por la vía de la anestesia.

" Yo se que De la Hoya es favorito, pero una cosa les quiero decir, habrá una gran diferencia entre la primera pelea y esta. Ahora, el hecho de que Oscar sea el favorito le pone presión a él no a mi. Créanme, ahora me he preparado como nunca para dar la sorpresa boxística del año" dijo el sinaloense considerado ya como el mejor boxeador mexicano de todos los tiempos.

Solamente había una duda. Siguranti le hizo a Chávez una cortada en el parpado derecho como consecuencia de un golpe accidental con la cabeza.

El encargado de despejar la duda fue el Dr. Barry Markman, prominente

asistir a Las Vegas para presenciar el espectáculo y realizar sus apuestas, bastará con marcar el número 1 800-531-5948 y la empresa ESB se encargará de brindarle toda la información que usted requiera. ESB tiene operadoras que hablan español las 24 horas del día, y se puede apostar para cualquier evento deportivo desde la comodidad del hogar.

But the news is not all bad. The schedule is easier, as the Raiders replace Tennessee, Nebraska and Kansas State -- top 10 teams to whom Tech lost in 1997 -- with UTEP, Iowa State and Colorado. And with the first three games of the season coming against UTEP, North Texas and Fresno State, Tech should break the streak of consecutive 1-2 starts.

Barring a collapse, Tech could be 5-0 before the schedule gets tough. That early boost of momentum could make the Raiders dangerous throughout the season.

Tech will be without some familiar faces in 1998, but some intriguing players return, including wide receiver Donnie Hart, tailback Ricky Williams and Montae Reagor, an All-American candidate at defensive end.

If the Raiders can be more consistent, they could be much better off than they were a year ago. Of course, with Texas Tech's inconsistent history, making any assumptions about this team is dangerous.

Trying to figure out Texas Tech is like interpreting the federal income tax laws. One moment, you think you have it figured out. A minute later, you're ready to pull out your hair.

Take last season, for example. The Red Raiders swept in-state rivals Texas A&M, Texas and Baylor for the first time since 1976, beat bowl-bound Oklahoma State on the road and narrowly missed beating top 10 finisher Kansas State. But the Raiders also lost home games to Oklahoma and -- for heaven's sake -- North Texas.

"There's no doubt that we have to find a way to be more consistent this year," said Spike Dykes, now entering his 12th season as Texas Tech coach. "We really went on a roller coaster ride last year. And the thing about those roller coasters is that sometimes they're a lot of fun, but sometimes they can make you feel sick."

An extended NCAA investigation, which was resolved after Tech issued a self-imposed bowl ban, was a nauseating element last year. Sickening, too, was



the Red Raiders' 1-2 start -- the eighth consecutive season Tech has started the year 1-2.

Still, the Red Raiders bounced back and probably would have gone to a bowl game had they not pulled their own plug.

Tech loses 12 starters -- including the winningest quarterback (Zebbie Lethridge) and two of the more dependable defensive backs (Tony Darden and Dane Johnson) in school history -- from last year's 6-5 team. Based on talent alone, there could be even more unsettling times in store.

The Big 12's other Ricky Williams should make some noise for Texas Tech.

### INSIDE SLANT

Nothing has changed since the Dallas Cowboys entered training camp nearly six weeks ago, when there was so much uncertainty surrounding a team with a new head coach, new offensive coordinator, new offense, changed-up defensive scheme and so many new assistant coaches.

This Cowboys team will be as good as its offense allows it to be, and the offense will be as good as the offensive line allows it to be. If anything, training camp and the first four preseason games have only accentuated these points.

The defense, ranked second last year, will be OK, despite having to employ two first-time starting defensive ends in Kavika Pittman and rookie Greg Ellis. They will at least match what last year's defensive ends were able to produce. And they might be improved, considering that Leon Lett is eligible to play for an entire 16 games and should make everyone else around him -- including nose tackle Chad Hennings -- even better. If the Cowboys do a better job against the run -- 12 teams rushed for more than 100 yards last year against them -- then last year's No. 2 defense might even improve.

But no matter how much this defense improves, the Cowboys still must average more than the 19 points a game they did last year to challenge for the division title. And it will be imperative they score more than the 20 points a game they did in just three of the final 12 games last year. The defense is good, but not good enough for this team to rely on for 16 games.

And no matter what you think, this offense still has talent. There still is not another team in the NFC East that can match Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin. The other teams in the division might have one player better than the Cowboys' trio at that particular position, but you'd be hard-pressed to argue a case for any threesome being better than the Cowboys' top skill players.

Now much will be made of the fact that a No. 2 receiver has not surfaced. This coaching staff doesn't mind. The Cowboys likely will alternate between Ernie Mills and Billy Davis, and don't be surprised to see Macey Brooks get some significant snaps. And, for sure, don't be surprised to see Deion Sanders out there when the Cowboys go to four wides. With Deion out-

side and Irvin in the slot, who are you going to double?

As for Smith, he showed last Saturday in St. Louis that he can still run with the young guys given the opportunity. And this new offense is giving Smith an opportunity to see the field a little better, which he did in the old system very well.

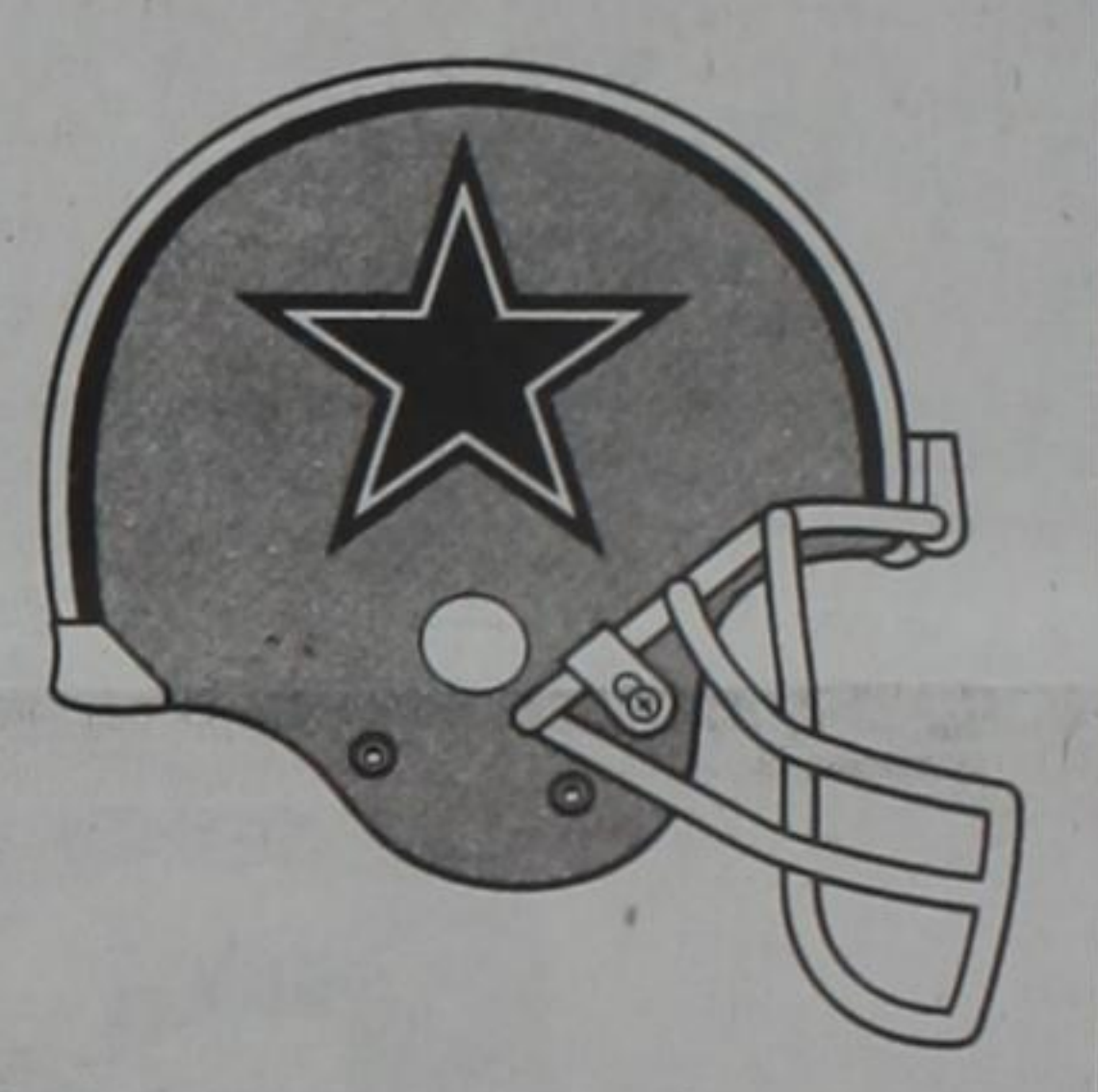
Aikman appears to be adapting well, too. His throws still are crisp, and he appears to be throwing the deep ball better than ever. He also has shown no problem working out of the shotgun formation.

So what does that leave you? The offensive line, one of the very evils that damned the Cowboys to their 6-10 record last season. The Cowboys made an effort to get younger and better. First, they moved Larry Allen from right guard permanently to left tackle. That's an improvement over last year, when George Hegamin had to fill in for the injured Mark Tuinei and then alternate with Allen on third downs. Left guard Nate Newton is in shape, at least giving himself a chance to be successful, and appears to be moving much better than last year.

The Cowboys brought in Everett McIver to play the right guard spot. Much of the line's success will depend on how much he improves, which goes for center Clay Shiver, too. Shiver needs to be stronger at the point of attack, and so far this preseason, he appears to be getting the job done, as does right tackle Erik Williams. If these guys don't, they know that second-round pick Flozell Adams is waiting in the wings. Adams showed the coaching staff that he can play both tackle and guard during training camp. They might have a hard time keeping him out of the starting lineup.

So count on this: If this unit is repaired, and it appears on its way, then so are the Cowboys.

### DALLAS COWBOYS



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**A Sleeping Giant (From Page 2)**

that we are basically poor, due largely to the fact that one-third of all Latinos live below the poverty level. I've been poor and I've been broke, and, I've learned to tell the difference. When I was poor, my low-income status did not change from one year to the next. My income level might change, but my status would remain the same. When I was broke, I merely ran out of money between paychecks. Two-thirds of us do not live below the poverty level, and, as a whole, Latinos are hardly broke. Not with \$300 billion in annual purchasing power! That's more money than it takes to run the Pentagon. Incredible as it may seem, Latino purchasing power is expected to surpass \$900 billion by the year 2015. That is almost one trillion dollars per year; more revenue than the combined budgets of all state governments in the nation; more revenue than the combined annual budgets of all major cities in America; more revenue than the annual budgets of most nations; and more revenue than most Fortune 500 companies generate. Yes, too many of us are poor, but Latinos are not broke. There's a lot of difference between being poor, or even broke, and having \$300 billion, or \$900 billion!

**Power:**

Latino voter registration has increased steadily from one presidential election to the next. The same can be said about voter turnout. Latino voter registration increased in steady increments of 500,000 - 800,000 in each consecutive presidential election from 1976-1992. The most spectacular increase from one election to the next occurred between 1992 and 1996 when Latino voter registration grew an incredible 1.5 million, an increase of 28%. Latino voter turnout also increased dramatically by 500,000 - 700,000 in each presidential election from 1980-1992, but nothing compared to the historic gain recorded between 1992 and 1996 when 1,000,000 more Latinos turned out to vote, an increase of 19%. Does this sound like we have been sleeping? Not hardly. Overall, ten million fewer Americans turned out to vote in 1996 than in 1992. Why? I don't know. But I do know that Latinos were the only ethnic or racial group in America that increased in voter turnout. Why? Because Latinos demand to be respected. Latinos have always had sufficient political power to reward friends, but have never had enough political power to punish enemies. But now we do. Latino political power now has two dimensions - reward and punishment, and now candidates can choose which dimension they would like to receive. There are over 5,000 Latino elected officials in America today. That number will grow to 50,000 by the year 2025. By the year 2025 most major cities in America will have Latino mayors; there will be 1,000 Latino state legislators; 10 states will have at least one Latino United States Senator; the Hispanic Congressional Caucus will have at least 50 members; 8-10 states will have Latino Governors; a Latino will have been elected President or Vice President of the United States; and at least two Latinos will have been appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

These are just some examples from a mountain of evidence which dispute the mischaracterization commonly applied to Latinos as the "Sleeping Giant". Arguably Latinos have been very busy, quietly preparing ourselves to lead this nation into and throughout the 21st Century. We have become teachers, preachers, bankers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, philan-

thropists, corporate CEOs, diplomats, elected officials, senior governmental appointees, academicians, film-makers, publishers, media executives, franchise owners, entertainers, developers, artists, professional athletes, union leaders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction workers, machinists, auto and steel workers, etc., experts in a whole host of occupations and professions. And we have created our own community-based institutions! Thirty years ago, as a junior in college, I decided to try out for a spot on the football team. As a small defensive end (too small would be more correct), my job was to help the bigger and more experienced players get better. I was essentially a live tackling dummy. We were all on the same team and we all had a role to play, so I accepted being almost killed on every play as part of the process of helping my team get better and preparing myself to play. I quietly endured the bruises and pain, knowing that everyday I was getting bigger and better, growing stronger, learning how to play the game, and getting ready for the day I would finally get a chance to play. That experience has helped me understand what has been happening in the Latino community for most of my adult life. We have been making America better, helping the more and experienced players get better, quietly enduring our bruises and pain, getting bigger and growing stronger, learning how to play the game, and preparing ourselves to play.

Recently I heard a story about an intra-squad game of football (both sides were on the same team), in which the bigger and more experienced players were enjoying considerable success over the smaller and less experienced players during the first half of the game. At the start of the second half, the momentum started to change. On the first offensive play the lion, the best player, was stopped cold at the line of scrimmage. On the second play the rhinoceros, the biggest player, was stopped dead in his tracks. On the third down the cheetah, the fastest player on the team, attempted a run around the end, also for no gain.

After three very frustrating downs, the lion, the rhino, and the cheetah called "time-out" to see who the new player was on the other side. They were very surprised when they discovered that along the defensive line of scrimmage was a centipede that had shifted the game's momentum.

Bewildered, they assumed the centipede had slept through the entire first half. They asked the centipede if he had been asleep throughout the first half and the centipede replied, "No, I wasn't asleep. I was tying my shoes!" Much like the centipede, we Latinos have been tying our shoes, getting ready to play, and we are now making our presence felt on the playing field. No one will ever run over or around the Latino community again.

The first two centuries in American history have been like the first half of that intra-squad football game. The 21st Century is going to be like the start of the second half. This is the dawn of the greatest century in modern Latino-American history. Latinos are clearly a giant on the playing field. We have been paying our dues, diligently educating ourselves, "tying our shoes", getting ready to play, preparing ourselves to lead this nation. As for non-Latinos, there is no cause for alarm because, after all, this is like an intra-squad game. And, as Americans, we are all on the same team. Latinos will just be making some tactical changes, such as, the game plan, who plays, who coaches, who owns the team, who is calling the plays, who wins, who loses, and things like that. Go Giants!

**Report: More Prison AIDS Programs Needed**

According to a U.S. government report, more effort is needed to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in the prison population.

The report, developed jointly by the Department of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, revealed that AIDS is almost six times more prevalent among inmates than in the total U.S. population.

"Because there is a strong likelihood that inmates will return to the community, collaborations between public health and correctional agencies may help fill gaps in programs for the prevention and treatment of these diseases," the report states.

While finding that in 1997, almost all correctional systems had some degree of collaboration with public health agencies, these joint efforts by and large did not extend to discharge planning and transitional services for those being released.

The study's key recommendations for improvement in this area are:

- Public health agency collection and dissemination of data on the burden of infectious disease in inmate populations;
- Correctional representation on all HIV prevention planning groups;
- Public health agency initiation or expansion of funding for services and staff in correctional facilities and other criminal justice settings;
- Public health and correctional agency recognition of the importance and potential benefits of interventions in correctional settings of the health for the larger community.

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