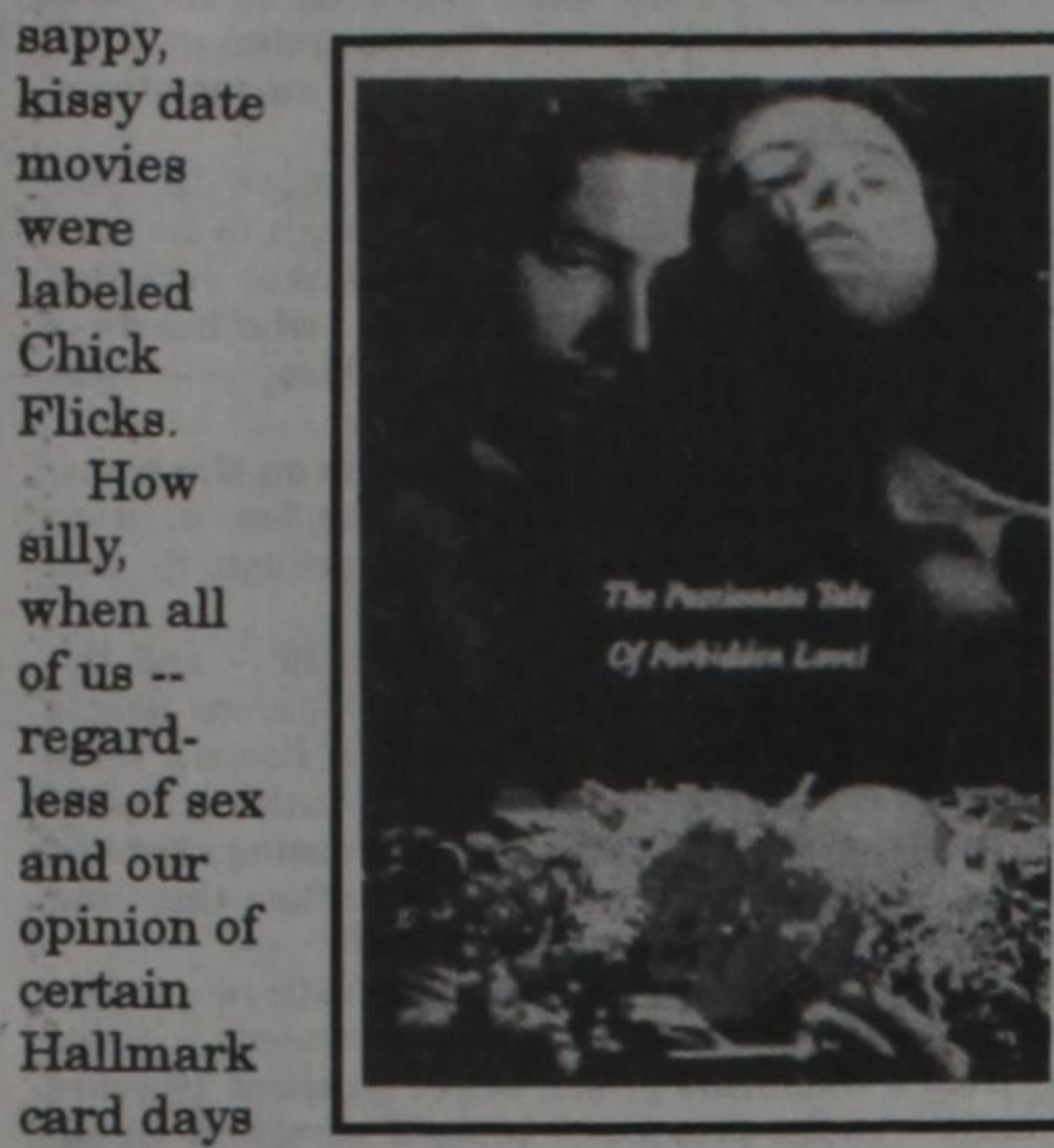


10 Good Movies To See

By Melanie Feliciano
What's love got to do with sex?
Some time back in the 20th century, someone assigned gender roles to movies. The violent, action-packed, in-your-face flicks became the preferred choice for guys. The sappy, kissy date movies were labeled Chick Flicks.



How silly, when all of us -- regardless of sex and our opinion of certain Hallmark card days -- possess that soft spot in our hearts that makes us capable of loving someone else. And there's nothing like a good romantic film to bring out the Rudolph Valentino in all of us.

The following are some of our choices for two-hour romantic "excursions" to enjoy with your honey. All feature Latino actors, from Penelope Cruz to Andy Garcia. Some are sappy, some are sexy, some are simply sorrowful. Whether male, female, dog, or iguana, these films are bound to make anyone feel something, maybe even love.

Jamón Jamón



Like Water For Chocolate

Adapted from the novel by Laura Esquivel, the combination of food and love makes for a tasty, passionate flick that might leave you and your honey feeling kind of hungry...

When A Man Loves A Woman

Wife and mother of two is forced to deal with the fact that she's an alcoholic... but her husband soon learns that he has as much to deal with as she does. Ryan gives a standout performance in this surprisingly frank exploration of the trauma this kind of disease can cause to a family.

The Loves of Carmen

Rita Hayworth stars in this hot-blooded tale of passion and prophecy. Soldier Don Jose falls hard for a morally bankrupt Gypsy girl named Carmen and suffers heartache. The wicked woman leads a life brimming over with savage friends and debauched relationships. Her horrific fate will apparently be carried out by the one man who really cares for her.



I Like It Like That

Fresh, vibrant little film about a Latino woman from the Bronx whose tumultuous, love/hate relationship with her husband and three kids is rocked when she stumbles into a job -- an exciting one, no less -- in the record business.

My Family/Mi Familia

A Mexican American writer (Edward James Olmos) looks back at his family's colorful history since immigrating to L. A. in the



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

EL EDITOR

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Bilingual Latinos Earn More Than Those That Speak English Only

Hispanics in the United States who are fluent in both English and Spanish earn more money than those that just speak English, a study by the University of Miami and the University of Florida reveals.

are less likely to live in poverty than those who speak only English," according to the study, released Tuesday. In Miami, the Florida city where bilingualism offers the greatest advantages... Fully bilingual Hispanics earn nearly 7,000 dollars per year more than their English-only counter-

parts," the report, titled "Creating Florida's Multilingual, Global Workforce," said. "Think about what 7,000 dollars means in a household of two or more wage earners -- over a couple of years, the earning differences really add up," Sandra Fradd, co-author of the study, said.

Hispanic population comes mainly from the Caribbean and Central and South America. In San Antonio, the Hispanic population is primarily Mexican in origin. In California, however, the study demonstrated that bilingual Hispanics earn less than those that speak only English.

New York Latinos Back Clinton in Senate Race

By Ruth E. Hernandez Beltran
NEW YORK - Hispanic community leaders in New York praised first lady Hillary Clinton's decision to run for a New York U.S. Senate seat as the candidate they say will make a difference toward solving their problems.

According to Hispanic politicians in the Democratic party, the first lady best represents the interests of the Hispanic community, a community plagued by high rates of dropouts, teenage pregnancies, unemployment, inadequate health care and housing problems.

According to Fradd, people are generally opposed to bilingual education because "they are unaware of the economic importance of being able to communicate in more than one language."

Two years ago, California voters approved a proposition that banned bilingual education programs in California public schools, ending bilingual education programs.

Although Clinton will need the Hispanic vote to win the election - as proven by last year's election of Charles Schumer to the U.S. Senate - her failure to mention the Hispanic community in her announcement did not worry Hispanic community's leaders.

Fradd, the program chair of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program at the University of Miami, said "such opposition may not make good sense when the financial benefits of being bilingual are considered."

Just like in Miami, in other U.S. cities like San Antonio, Texas, and Jersey City, New Jersey, bilingual Hispanics earn more than someone who speaks only English, the study found.

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Hispanic Affairs Rosa Sufrañes told EFE.

"For me, she said enough. I heard her talk about education as a topic of high priority. That's one of the areas where we have the greatest needs," Dominican Councilman Guillermo Linares told EFE.

The study revealed that despite the differences in origin among the Hispanic population of the 10 cities studied, the results were the same.

"These findings show that this is not a 'Cuban' thing, it's about economic development, not ethnicity," Fradd said, adding that it is her hope the study will promote bilingual education programs in Florida and elsewhere in the nation.

For six years, Sufrañes has promoted the "English Plus One" program, designed to support bilingual education programs in Florida's public schools because of the difficulty Florida's business sector has in finding employees that speak both English and Spanish.

According to Linares, the Hispanic population has already begun to rally behind Clinton, the Democratic party candidate.

"These findings show that this is not a 'Cuban' thing, it's about economic development, not ethnicity," Fradd said, adding that it is her hope the study will promote bilingual education programs in Florida and elsewhere in the nation.

"There is no doubt that bilingualism is a priority here in every sense. We recognize its importance," Miami-Dade County School Board member Demetrio Perez, a strong supporter of bilingual education, told

Clinton Asks for Increased INS Budget

Bronx borough head Fernando Ferrer, the only Hispanic candidate running for mayor of New York City, said Hillary's message "was good for everyone."

"She talked about jobs, education, health care and children... heart-felt issues for minority communities. But, unfortunately, you can't include all the details in a 20-minute message," said Ferrer, who said his role in the first lady's campaign would be that of a "friend and advisor."

In Miami, the majority of the Hispanic population is of Cuban origin, while in Jersey City, the

President Bill Clinton asked Congress Monday to increase funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and reauthorize Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which benefits thousands of people seeking green cards.

According to Ferrer, Councilwoman Margarita Lopez and Linares, the issues concerning the Hispanic community will be addressed throughout the course of Clinton's campaign, which officially began with Sunday's announcement.

On Monday, Mrs. Clinton made her first official campaign stops in visits to several different towns in northern New York.

Condena de una abuela

proceso y tampoco evocó la legítima defensa.

Soon Mrs. Clinton plans to visit upper Manhattan, home to the city's greatest number of Dominican immigrants, where she intends to ask for the community's support on reforming several Republican-passed laws, including the controversial 1996 immigration law "to end the wrongs committed after its implementation."

J.D. RIVIERE / AFP AUSTINN
"Va a haber mucha emoción. En esta oportunidad, el público podrá identificarse con la acusada, mucho más que en otros casos".

Richard Dieter, líder de la agrupación Centro de Información sobre la Pena de Muerte, con sede en Washington. "En esta oportunidad, el público podrá identificarse con la acusada, mucho más que en otros casos".

Beets presentó varios recursos argumentando que tuvo una defensa ineficaz. Los tribunales federales rechazaron sus apelaciones y la Corte Suprema desestimó el pedido de clemencia de Betty Lou Beets.

Councilwoman Lopez, who has already had several meetings with Mrs. Clinton, also said she "has absolute faith" that the candidate Clinton will discuss specific issues dealing with the state's Hispanic community.

La programada ejecución para el 24 de febrero de una abuela de 62 años, condenada en 1985 por haber asesinado a su quinto esposo, ha reavivado el debate sobre la pena capital en Texas, un estado acostumbrado a un ritmo constante de condenas a muerte. Si no obtiene clemencia hasta el día de su ejecución, Betty Lou Beets se convertirá en la segunda mujer ejecutada en Texas desde 1863 y la décima en la historia de este Estado.

La última fue Karla Faye Tucker, cuya ejecución dio la vuelta al mundo al ocupar los titulares de la prensa internacional en 1998.

Dianne Clements, presidente de la agrupación Justicia para Todos, en favor de la pena de muerte, recuerda que Betty Lou Beets nunca aludió a los malos tratos de su marido durante el

The first lady favors an immediate Navy withdrawal from the island, the councilwoman said.

At this point, polls show that New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani - the unofficial Republican party candidate - has a narrow lead over Mrs. Clinton. Giuliani has yet to declare his official candidacy.

Los abogados de la defensa entregaron una petición de clemencia a la Comisión del

Pardón de Texas y pidieron al gobernador George W. Bush, quien lucha actualmente por convertirse en el candidato republicano a la presidencia del país, que mostrara compasión por Betty Lou Beets.

Political analyst Juan Figueroa, the president of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, said neither of the candidates have focused their messages on issues affecting the Hispanic community - in either the city or the state.

"There hasn't been anything about bilingual education, work development in Hispanic neighborhoods or public policies that could improve that situation. Nor have they explained the positions they will take regarding the issues that affect immigrants," he complained.

La anciana fue condenada a muerte por asesinar a su quinto marido, Jimmy Don Beets, un bombero de Dallas, y haber enterrado su cadáver en 1983 en el patio delantero de su casa. También fue acusada, pero no condenada, por la muerte de su cuarto esposo, quien desapareció en 1991.

Los abogados de la defensa entregaron una petición de clemencia a la Comisión del

News Briefs

Hispanic Receives Belated U.S. Medal of Honor

By Rafael Cañas
Washington, - Thirty-four years after his feat of heroism that saved the lives of several fellow soldiers during a Vietnam War battle, Alfredo Rascon was finally awarded the Medal of Honor on Tuesday by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

At the ceremony, Clinton highlighted Rascon's "unusual heroism, displayed so long ago, in 1966, and his long and patient wait for acknowledgment." Rascon is now 54 years old.

The ceremony rewarded the courage of Rascon while he was a paramedic in the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

In a March 16, 1966, clash in the province of Long Khanh, Rascon protected two wounded fellow soldiers with his own body and was himself wounded in the process.

By that time, he had already sustained several wounds, first as he was tending to a dying soldier and afterwards, on his way to bring ammunition to another soldier.

Subsequently and despite his injuries, he took over a machinegun that was about to be captured, and fired at the enemy, helping to repel the onslaught.

In his own words, it was "10 minutes of pure hell." After refusing medical attention until his comrades had been treated, Rascon was in such poor condition that he was even given the final sacrament.

During a White House ceremony, Clinton recalled that at the time, Rascon was only 21 years old and was not even a citizen of the United States.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Rascon came with his parents to the United States and he was brought up in Oxnard, north of Los Angeles. He did not even speak English when he started going to school.

"This man gave everything he had, utterly and selflessly and the nation he was still not yet a citizen of," the president said, thanking Rascon's parents "for teaching their son the virtues of citizenship."

Clinton said that one fifth of the 3,400 U.S. soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor since 1861 were immigrants, and he added that there are currently 60,000 immigrants in the U.S. military.

The president also recalled that for his buddies, Rascon was not an immigrant, but a fellow soldier whom they called "Doc."

Rascon insisted that this was "common valor that was done every day" and that the "honor was too great for me, and it is not really mine... It is for the soldiers who were with me that day, because if it had not been for them, I would not be here today."

"I am very proud of my Hispanic roots," said the former soldier, who is currently an inspector general for the U.S. Selective Service

Hispanic Coalition Questions Congress's Actions

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition formed by 32 Hispanic and Latino activist groups, published on Tuesday an assessment questioning the actions of the 106th Congress on issues of interest to the Hispanic community.

In its report-card-type assessment, the coalition noted that, of the 18 Latino-related bills discussed by both houses of Congress, only two had benefited Hispanics.

"This report card is aimed at reporting on and strengthening the Hispanic community to help it participate in the political process and to make their elected officials responsible for it," said National Council of La Raza Vice President Cecilia Muñoz.

This year, NHLA will monitor essential human rights aspects and equal legal treatment, as well as legislative action on the "racial profile" practices followed by the police to arrest people who look Latino.

Also, it will also seek the restoration of benefits to legal residents - under welfare legislation - as well as changes to the 1996 immigration law.

Another important issue is congressional action on the reinstatement of the elementary and high school education and expanded income tax credits bills, promoted by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"In a time of unprecedented prosperity for most Americans, we must ensure that nobody is left out," Muñoz said, who is also working for the allocation of more funds to education, health and work training.

Among issues left pending by the 106th Congress, NHLA noted more funds for education and the confirmation of several Latino judges.

The report card also included the evaluation of representatives and senators based on their votes on issues such as education, budget and income, as well as their support for the family and for civil rights.

Under its rating system, the NHLA gave Democrats percentages in excess of 70 percent, while most Republicans never exceeded 30 percent, except for a few exceptions.

Before voting on a given issue, congressmen would be notified of the NHLA's position on it, unanimously adopted by its members.

The coalition, working on another similar report to be released shortly, represents major Hispanic sub-groups, such as Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, as well as people from the Caribbean and South and Central America.

"We hope that our report card will provide an important tool to get Congress to respond to the soon-to-be largest minority in the United States," Muñoz concluded.

Clinton Asks for Increased INS Budget

President Bill Clinton asked Congress Monday to increase funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and reauthorize Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which benefits thousands of people seeking green cards.

In his eighth and final budget proposal to Congress, Clinton asked Congress to dole out 4.8 billion dollars for the INS, whose budget has increased by 219 percent since 1993.

Latinos Elusivos A Contrataciones De La Patrulla Fronteriza

Por Oswaldo Zavala

Cuando Ricardo Lucio tomó la decisión de unirse a la Patrulla Fronteriza hace 11 años, no todos pensaron que era una buena idea. "Mi familia me apoyaba, pero algunos tíos y amigos dijeron que yo iba a arrestar a los de mi propia familia," recuerda Lucio. "Es una cuestión difícil."

El dilema no lo disuadió de convertirse en agente. Tampoco detuvo a su esposa, Melissa, cuatro años después.

Ahora, dice Lucio, "sólo digo que nací aquí y que estoy ayudando a mi país. Todo hispano debería estar orgulloso de eso."

El congresista demócrata de Texas, Silvestre Reyes, ex-jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza, tuvo una experiencia distinta cuando se unió a la organización. El ya tenía familiares que trabajaban para el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, la dependencia matriz.

"La Patrulla Fronteriza y el INS han sido siempre parte de las comunidades fronterizas," dice Reyes. "No fue controvertido para mí."

La Patrulla Fronteriza se ha convertido en la dependencia federal con el más alto porcentaje de hispanos -- 37.8 por ciento -- en su fuerza de trabajo. Sin embargo, la patrulla no logró cumplir una orden del Congreso para contratar a 1,000 nuevos agentes para el año fiscal de 1999. Sólo consiguió reclutar 369 agentes para septiembre, el último mes del año fiscal federal.

Un trámite de selección prolongado, sueldo y beneficios comparativamente bajos, condiciones de trabajo a menudo llenas de tensión, junto con un mercado de trabajo de competencia extrema, no han

hecho que el reclutamiento y retención sean fáciles. Las barreras culturales, tales como las que Lucio menciona, pueden ser otra obstáculo que la Patrulla Fronteriza debe enfrentar para atraer a los hispanos a la agencia.

La portavoz del INS, Nicole Chulick, considera que el principal problema que encara la mayoría de las dependencias estadounidenses es que "hay muchas otras oportunidades de empleo." Abunda: "Los nuevos agentes deben estar dispuestos a mudarse a lo largo de la frontera suroeste, someterse a una capacitación intensa y aceptar las condiciones de trabajo."

En su primer año de trabajo los agentes ganan en promedio entre \$30,000 y \$40,000 al año, dependiendo del nivel de la plaza en que comiencen. La mayoría trabaja 40 horas por semana además de 9 a 10 horas de tiempo extra. El 92 por ciento de la fuerza está concentrado en la línea fronteriza del suroeste.

El alto valor que dan ahora muchas profesiones a las habilidades bilingües contribuye a frustrar los intentos de la patrulla para atraer y retener latinos.

"A nuestros agentes se les exige que hablen español. No pagamos adicionalmente por eso," dice la portavoz de la patrulla en San Diego, Gloria Chávez. "Otras dependencias ofrecen estímulos de sobresueldos a los trabajadores que hablan un segundo idioma."

El INS anunció recientemente un fondo de \$2.2 millones destinado sólo para reclutamiento. Capacitó a cerca de 200 agentes para que buscaran solicitantes y ofrece actualmente una bonificación de \$2,000 a cada nuevo agente que ingrese a

la fuerza de trabajo.

Lucio, quien entrena a nuevos agentes asignados al sector de El Paso, Texas, dice que la sensibilidad es un rasgo que debe ser tomado muy en cuenta.

"He reportado a algunos agentes por maltratar a las personas. La mayoría de ellos reciben una suspensión. Algunos son despedidos," explica. "Algunos de ellos son hispanos."

Los críticos dicen que muchos agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza, y la propia institución, representan una imagen negativa.

"La sensibilidad podría significar también el tolerar abusos," sugiere Fernando García, coordinador del Proyecto de Observación del Cumplimiento de la Ley de Inmigración, ubicado en la frontera suroeste. El programa es parte del American Friends Service Committee. "La realidad es que la mayor parte de las comunidades fronterizas viven con temor a la violencia oficial."

Delia Sáenz, catedrática de psicología en la Universidad de Arizona en Tempe, percibe el conflicto entre los mexicano-americanos, especialmente aquellos criados en el ambiente bicultural de la frontera: "Cada uno de nosotros tiene múltiples identidades." Sáenz explica que la identidad cultural mexicana está en conflicto con el papel de aplicación de la ley que los latinos deben desempeñar como miembros de la Patrulla Fronteriza. "Eso puede crear una incomodidad extrema," dice. "Como agentes oficiales del gobierno, su papel es, en efecto, 'librar una guerra' -- capturar al enemigo y privarle de la entrada."

El congresista Reyes

argumenta que la mayor parte de la crítica va más allá de la realidad.

"Cuando yo era jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza, elaboré personalmente programas para trabajar con la comunidad y explicar lo que estábamos haciendo, de qué modo y por qué era importante para nuestra comunidad," dice. "Siempre hay problemas, pero nunca como los que señalan los críticos."

Los aspirantes deben aprobar un examen escrito y una entrevista verbal después de una revisión de sus antecedentes personales. Después asisten a 19 semanas de capacitación, que incluye lecciones intensas de español. Se exige tener dominio del idioma antes de empezar a trabajar.

Chulick reconoce que se pierde a muchos candidatos en el trámite. El año pasado, de 15,506 solicitudes recibidas, 1,126 fueron aceptadas por la Patrulla Fronteriza, pero al mismo tiempo ésta perdió a 757 agentes que se jubilaron o renunciaron a sus plazas, llevando al aumento neto de 369.

Todos los observadores coinciden en algo, no obstante. El comprender el idioma y la cultura de las personas con quienes se trata en el trabajo diario no sólo hace que el contacto sea menos tenso para todas las partes, sino que también hace que la fuerza de trabajo sea más eficaz.

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PUBLIC SUPPORT WEAKENING BUT THE DEATH PENALTY WILL BE SLOW TO DIE

BY Michael Kroll
Illinois Governor George Ryan's decision to suspend the death penalty -- while affirming his belief in capital punishment -- represents America's own schizophrenia. We believe in the death penalty but shrink from it as applied.

But Ryan's action also represents a public shift. While he is the first governor to take such a stand since the death penalty's resumption in 1977, cities as disparate as New Haven, Conn., and Mt. Rainier, Md., among others, are on record as favoring a moratorium.

The New Hampshire primary also suggests a shift in public mood. In 1992, Bill Clinton felt compelled to leave New Hampshire long enough to be seen presiding over the execution of a severely brain-damaged and retarded prisoner. This year, Republican Governor George W. Bush -- who boasts of presiding over more executions than any governor in history -- was overwhelmingly trounced in his primary bid in the same state.

There are other signs that our love for the death penalty is on the wane. Last year, the number of death sentences meted out was the fewest in six years. The number of commutations also rose to a six-year-high in that period.

There are many reasons for the shift but first among them -- and the immediate cause of Ryan's announcement -- is the rash of innocent people recently released from death row, often after many years. In Illinois, more people (13) have been freed than executed (12) since 1977. Anthony Porter spent 15 years on death row, and was only two days away from being executed when a group of committed college students convinced authorities they had proof of his innocence. New Hampshire legislators heard Paris

Carriger testify about the 21 years he spent on Arizona's death row before being exonerated. On the day of Governor Ryan's announcement, a judge released Dwayne McKinney from a California prison where he spent 19 years for a murder he did not commit -- as the prosecutor himself admitted. In all, 84 people have been freed from death row since capital punishment was restored.

Further undermining the public's faith in the fairness of the process is the use of jailhouse informants to obtain a conviction in exchange for significant favors like a reduced sentence.

Other events and facts may be moving the public to see the death penalty as the ultimate abuse of human rights:

- At the end of 1998, Pope John Paul unequivocally called for the end of capital punishment

- Worldwide, the U.S. is ever more isolated -- even Russia has abolished the death penalty and we stand alongside Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen as the only countries in the world executing juvenile offenders

- Corrupt police and prosecutors have undermined trust in the criminal justice system -- in Los Angeles, for example, investigators have found about 100 convicted "criminals" (so far) who were framed by cops who planted evidence and intimidated witnesses

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has set process over justice by ruling that even actual innocence is not necessarily grounds for relief and an overreaching federal government has imposed a federal death penalty even in states that have rejected it, like Vermont and Hawaii.

Signs of change are clearly reflected in the popular media. Sister Helen Prejean's immensely popular book "Dead Man Walking," and the film based on it, clearly touched an emotional nerve. This year, "The Green Mile" and "Hurricane" cannot fail to have a profound impact.

Virtually every major show on television has dramatized the issue of capital punishment in the last season or two -- almost always in a way that provokes deep second thoughts about the death penalty.

All this has some effect on public opinion -- a February Gallup poll finds support of the death penalty at 70 percent, the lowest level in 13 years. Nearly one-fourth of entering college freshmen agreed the death penalty should be abolished, a noticeable increase over the preceding year.

Support for the death penalty declines dramatically -- below 50% in California with the country's largest death row -- when people are asked about life without parole as an alternative. Polls in Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, New York and Kentucky produce similar responses. Change will not occur overnight. The legal process is slow to respond -- last year, for example, this country carried out the most executions (199) in nearly fifty years.

But Governor Ryan's decision is not the beginning of a process, it is the continuation of one that will certainly culminate in the end of capital punishment in this country. Politicians, ever fearful of endangering their electoral chances, are the last to change. That Ryan has crossed that barrier is the true significance of his courageous act.

A Smooth Road to the Death House

By STEPHEN B. BRIGHT
Regardless of the extent of compassion in his "compassionate conservatism," Gov. George W. Bush of Texas could show some concern for justice by following the example of his presidential campaign chairman in Illinois, Gov. George Ryan, who last week announced a moratorium on executions in his state.

Governor Ryan is concerned that an innocent person might be executed. There are now 161 people on death row in Illinois. Since the death penalty was reinstated there in 1977, 13 people who were condemned to die have been exonerated. Twelve have been put to death, and there were serious questions of innocence in the case of one of those 12.

Three people were freed from death row in Illinois after a journalism class at Northwestern University established their innocence and proved that someone else had committed the crimes. One condemned man came within two days of execution.

Mr. Bush, who has presided over more than 100 executions, has never expressed a doubt about the assembly-line process by which Texas courts dispatch people to its execution chamber. But because the system to provide lawyers for the poor is so weak in Texas, there is reason to be even more concerned about the risk of wrongful executions there than in Illinois.

And although an investigation by the CBS News program "60 Minutes" contributed to the release of a man under a death sentence in Texas in 1990, and the documentary film "The Thin Blue Line" won the release of another in 1989, there are too many cases -- more than 450 -- moving far too fast for most of them to get the attention of journalists or journalism classes.

In Illinois, many people facing the death penalty are represented by public defenders like those working in Chicago for the highly respected homicide unit of the Cook County Public Defender, which specializes in the defense of capital cases. Texas has no public defender system. Instead, the presiding judge in a case assigns a lawyer to represent the accused. Judges have sometimes chosen lawyers with an eye toward getting cases disposed of quickly, and in a survey of judges for the Texas bar association last year, more than half agreed that lawyers' contributions to judges' election campaigns at least sometimes influence the appointments.

The lawyers are compensated at far below what attorneys can make for less demanding work. They are often denied the assistance of investigators and experts necessary to make an independent determination of a defendant's guilt.

The Texas courts do not even require that defense counsels remain awake during trial. The lawyer representing a defendant named George McFarland, who is now on death row, repeatedly fell asleep and snored during his trial in Houston.

Texas' highest criminal court -- made up of judges chosen in partisan elections, some of whom ran on platforms supporting the death penalty -- upheld the death sentences in Mr. McFarland's trial and two others in which defense attorneys fell asleep. One of those defendants, Carl Johnson, was executed in 1995.

Snoring through trials is only the most visible example of the Texas system's problems. Yet last year Governor Bush vetoed a bill, passed unanimously by both houses of the Texas legislature, that would have taken a few modest steps toward creating public defender offices in Texas counties.

Besides lacking these offices, which pay lawyers a salary to specialize in defending the poor, Texas, unlike Illinois and most other states, also has no office that specializes in representing those sentenced to death in the later stages of appeal, a process called post-conviction review. Texas had such a program, but it was shut down five years ago when Congress eliminated its federal financing. Texas judges have appointed lawyers who have missed deadlines, costing the death row inmates they represent the review of their cases. Other lawyers failed to investigate the cases and filed documents that failed to identify any issues that should be reviewed.

As one Texas judge observed, dissenting in a case in which a condemned man was assigned an inexperienced lawyer with serious health problems, the lawyer's failure to recognize and present any issues "certainly makes it easier on everyone -- no need for the attorney, the state, or this court to consider any potential challenges to anything that happened at trial."

Nationwide, more than 80 people have been released from death rows after their innocence was established. There is no reason to think that Texas makes life-or-death mistakes in capital cases less frequently than other states, and good reason to think the risk is higher there.

Whether this risk is acceptable is a separate question from whether one supports the death penalty.

As Governor Ryan recognized, it is a question of fundamental fairness, of ensuring that the guilty are punished, not the innocent.

The president of the United States has no greater responsibility than to protect the fairness and integrity of our justice system. Governor Bush, who has expressed his approval of the process in Texas and refused to intervene or support reform, has failed to provide leadership in this critical area, raising troubling doubts about his ability to carry out that responsibility.

Stephen B. Bright lectures at Yale Law School and is director of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta.

Manifestantes Continuará Protestas Contra Marina

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Representantes de los grupos que están ilegalmente ocupando propiedad federal en Vieques dicen que seguirán con planes de viajar a Washington el 16 de febrero para cabildar en contra de los planes de la Marina estadounidense de usar la isla para prácticas de bombardeo y otras maniobras militares, a pesar del acuerdo entre Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico de permitir una reanudación de bombardeos -- no obstante con bombas inertas.

"El acuerdo es una farsa y completamente inaceptable," dijo Flavio Cumpiano, director de la oficina en Washington del Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques. "Hemos dicho desde un principio 'ni una bomba más.' Ni una. Estas personas (los manifestantes en Vieques) vienen para cabildar directamente con legisladores y la Casa Blanca en contra del acuerdo." Cumpiano y otros que se oponen al acuerdo añaden que porque el acuerdo no lleva el peso y autoridad de una orden ejecutiva, el que se siga a Clinton en la Casa Blanca pudiera descartarlo todo.

El acuerdo pactado el 30 de enero entre la administración Clinton y el gobierno de Puerto Rico incluye el que los casi 10,000 residentes de la isla municipal de Vieques -- al sureste de Puerto Rico -- participen en un referéndum que se llevaría a cabo en los próximos dos años que pudiera

dejar que la Marina reanude maniobras y prácticas con bombas "vivas" o requeriría que la Marina saliera de Vieques a más tardar el 1ro. de mayo del 2003. Hasta entonces, la Marina puede reanudar prácticas con bombas inertas.

"El acuerdo es una solución que permite la posibilidad de llegar a una paz para Vieques," dijo el gobernador de Puerto Rico Pedro Rosselló, quien apenas la semana pasada había rechazado un propuesta similar. Si los residentes votan a favor de que la Marina permanezca en Vieques, la isla pudiera recibir 90 millones de dólares en ayuda económica del gobierno federal, lo que líderes de la oposición política califican de "chantaje económico" y acusan Rosselló de "venderse" por haber aceptado el acuerdo.

Ya se habla de incluir en el referéndum sobre Vieques el infame "ninguna de las anteriores," la opción que dejó a la administración Rosselló profundamente avergonzada cuando saliera en primer lugar en un plebiscito hace dos años.

Con este acuerdo, Rosselló rompió un importante y raro consenso que se estableció hace casi diez meses cuando un accidente de bombardeo en Vieques matara a un civil. Líderes de todos los partidos se unieron para insistir en "ni una bomba más" y que la Marina debería salir de inmediato.

El gobernador, quien

encabeza los esfuerzos en la isla de la campaña presidencial del vice presidente Al Gore, no explicó por qué había cambiado de parecer e insiste que no hubo ningún trato de dar una cosa por otra, pero críticos no obstante lo acusan de caer bajo presión de la Casa Blanca y funcionarios de la campaña de Gore.

"El (Rosselló) ha regresado a su vieja manera de solamente pensar en qué le conviene políticamente," dijo Anibal Acevedo Vilá del opositor Partido Popular Democrático. "Es una falta de respeto llamarnos para una reunión cuando el acuerdo ya estaba firmado y enviado y nunca nos consultó."

Opositores del acuerdo también se preguntan la disponibilidad de los fondos ofrecidos por la administración Clinton. La ayuda económica para Vieques no forma parte del presupuesto del año 2001, y los fondos tendrían que estar incluidos en un pedido suplementario de fondos apropiados, o de fondos ya designados para otros programas, algo que pudiera resultar en una gran batalla congresional. Politizando el tema aún más, varios diarios han reportado que los fondos provienen de programas del Departamento federal de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, en español). De esa manera HUD, según los diarios, asistiría a Puerto Rico y

eso ayudaría al secretario Andrew Cuomo con el voto puertorriqueño en Nueva York si se postula en un futuro para gobernador de ese estado.

Obviamente, la Casa Blanca y funcionarios de HUD desmienten lo reportado.

Quizá la situación más delicada para todas partes es qué hacer con los centenares de manifestantes protestando en el campo de tiro de la Marina en Vieques desde que se suspendieron las maniobras el pasado abril. Los manifestantes aseveran que actuarán como "escudos humanos" en contra de la reanudación de actividades. Como parte del acuerdo, Rosselló aceptó no seguir con acciones legales en contra de la reanudación de las prácticas, y también asintió a no interferir con esfuerzos para sacar los manifestantes. "Esto se va a poner bien peligroso porque nosotros no nos vamos," insistió Fernando Martín del Partido Independiente Puertorriqueño. "Vamos a continuar la desobediencia civil porque cualquier propuesta que permita la reanudación de bombardeos no es aceptable."

Se espera que la Marina reanude sus maniobras el mes que viene.

(Patricia Guadalupe es editora de asuntos políticos para Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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MENACE OR VICTIM? BLACK MALE ANGER HAS STRONG ROOTS AND MANY BRANCHES

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

Rap star-tycoon Sean "Puffy" Combs has been indicted on gun charges stemming from a shootout at a Manhattan night club.

Whatever happens in this case, we must ask why men such as Combs, rich and famous beyond their wildest fantasies, act like thugs rather than gentlemen. And why -- despite white fears that young blacks are America's ultimate menace -- almost all their victims are other young blacks?

These questions can't be answered by indignant finger pointing at the oft-times violent and self-indulgent world of rap music. During two centuries of slavery and a century of legal segregation, blacks were forbidden, often under pain of death, to strike back or vent their anger at whites. This, and the fact that black-on-black violence was often ignored or lightly punished by the authorities, left deep psychic scars on many black men.

Their internalized anger was transformed into violence against other blacks.

The consequences have been deadly. In the last two decades, murder has consistently ranked high among the leading causes of death of young blacks -- and their assailants were not white racist cops or Klan nightriders but other black males. The death toll has soared also because far too many Americans still don't get too excited about black violence as long as it doesn't spill over the borders of

the ghettos. But pent-up anger is only one cause of black-on-black violence. Many black males are engaged in a seemingly eternal search for identity and self-esteem. Their tough talk and swagger are defense mechanisms.

They measure their status by demonstrating proficiency in physical fights or by sexually abusing black women. An accidental bump, an ill-spoken word, a prolonged stare from a stranger is often taken by insecure black males as an ego challenge or an affront to manhood and so often escalates into violence.

Many black men feel life is futile and that violence is both honorable and redemptive. Whether its pro basketball's ex-clown prince Dennis Rodman brazenly announcing in his best-selling book that he is "bad as I wanna be" or Combs just as brazenly naming his record company Bad Boy Records, their message is "don't mess with me if you want to stay healthy."

Combs comes from a middle-class background, successfully clawed his way to the top, lives in a pricey million dollar home, enjoys a jet-set lifestyle, possesses a colossal bank account and dates superstar movie celeb Jennifer Lopez -- but this does not transform him. The internal rage still lays dangerously close to the surface. Anything -- an insult, personal challenge, criticism or rejection that happens on the street, in a corporate record

executive's office or in a Manhattan night club -- can trigger that rage.

Just as galling as the violent acting out of Combs and his associates is the litany of excuses recited reflexively by some blacks -- such as poverty, broken homes and abuse -- to excuse their violence. For a brief moment some blacks stretched reality to the outer limits by claiming that black communities are urban jungles where violence is permissible as an ordinary means of survival.

These explanations for the mindless violence that sometimes racks poor, black neighborhoods are phony and self-serving. And whoever is foolish enough to buy these excuses gives a tacit green light to a handful of young men to commit aggressive violence.

Combs hired Johnnie Cochran to defend him. He almost certainly expects Cochran to massage the evidence as he did in the O. J. Simpson case. But even if Combs does get off, there's still a price to pay. The most immediate is that Bertelsmann Music Group, the company he has a joint marketing venture with, may cut him loose.

But the far bigger price is that when men such as Combs commit violent acts, or surround themselves with those who do, they leave a long trail of victims, cast shame and disgrace on themselves and, perhaps worst of all, reinforce the notion that young black males are indeed menaces to society.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Seeks \$28 Million More for Minority Colleges

By Andrew Mollison
 WASHINGTON - Commerce Secretary William Daley announced Friday that he will ask Congress to double the funds available next year for his department's work with colleges and universities that serve minorities.

"We should be doing more to help these schools produce the scientists and engineers who are in demand today" for jobs in his department and private businesses, Daley said.

He said that approach would be better for the economy than increasing the number of visas for computer programmers and scientists from other countries.

The budget President Clinton will send to Congress on Monday will request \$28 million for new programs designed to help historically black, Hispanic-serving and tribal colleges to convince more of their students to work toward and obtain doctoral degrees in mathematics, science and engineering.

That would be added to the \$24 million in grants now awarded annually by the department to the minority-serving schools. But Daley conceded that it is less than the \$100 million increase that he had suggested to the White House.

"It's a tremendous step in the right direction," said Earl Richardson, president of Morgan State University and chairman of Clinton's advisory board on historically black colleges and universities.

But, while \$28 million "sounds like a lot," it doesn't go far "when you spread it around," he said at the Commerce Department.

Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, agreed in a telephone interview from San Antonio.

"We would encourage Congress and the president to come up with real money in future funding cycles," Flores said. "We also are concerned that Hispanic-serving institutions are not getting an adequate proportion of the funds" set aside for minority-serving institutions.

At last count, the nation had 111 historically or predominantly black institutions of higher education with 275,000 students, 32 tribal colleges in which almost all 26,000 students are American Indians, and 175 to 195 Hispanic-serving institutions with 1.3 million students, of which more than half are Hispanics.

Yet the Department of Education reported that in the 1995-96 school year, the latest for which complete data is available:

- The 6,396 persons who earned doctoral degrees in engineering included only 89 Hispanics, 74 blacks and 12 American Indians.

- The 1,209 who earned doctoral degrees in mathematics included only 9 Hispanics, 9 blacks and 1 American Indian.

- Foreign visitors earned 3,117 doctoral degrees in engineering and 545 in mathematics that year.

"Something is very wrong when Americans of African and Hispanic descent and Native Americans are 24 percent of the population, but they account for only 8 percent of the Ph.D.'s," Daley said.

The minority-serving institutions that would compete for the \$28 million enroll about 42 percent of all Hispanic college students, 24 percent of all African American students and 16 percent of all American Indian students, according to the Washington-based Alliance for Equity in Higher Education.

At least four of the institutions would be chosen to host new research centers set up in partnership with the department for graduate-level research into measurement, the ocean, the atmosphere and the environment.

Their students could also compete for scholarships, internships, graduate fellowships and jobs with paid time off for study in those fields.

The Alliance for Equity in Higher Education lists six Colorado institutions in which more than one-fourth of the students are Hispanic.

The six are Adams State College, Community College of Denver, Otero Junior College, Pueblo Community College, the University of Southern Colorado and Trinidad State Junior College.

Census Releases Information on Hispanics

The Commerce Department's Census Bureau today released annual estimates, from 1990 to 1998, of the population by race, Hispanic origin, age and sex for the nation's 50 states, the District of Columbia and 3,142 counties.

"These estimates show that the number of Hispanics, and the number of Asians and other racial groups living in the United States has increased substantially during the 1990s," Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt said. "However, Census 2000 will provide more precise information on the demographics of America. We need a good snapshot from next year's census to document the increasing diversity of the country. That is why the Census Bureau is moving full-steam-ahead in its efforts to count every person residing in this country, assuring that next year's Census 2000 is the most complete and accurate census ever."

The following are highlights from the estimates available on the Internet:

Hispanic Population (may be of any race) Nationwide, the Hispanic population increased from 22.4 million in 1990 to 30.3 million in 1998, a gain of 35.2 percent or 7.9 million people. At 10.1 million, California's Hispanic population was the largest of any state in 1998. Since the 1990 Census, California's Hispanic population increased by 2.4 million, the largest numerical gain of any state. The other big gainers in Hispanic population over this period were: Texas (1.5 million), Florida (669,000), New York (411,000), and Arizona (345,000). New Mexico led all states with the highest concentration of Hispanics (40.3 percent) in its overall population.

Asian and Pacific Islander Population Nationwide, the Asian and Pacific Islander population increased from 7.5 million in 1990 to 10.5 million in 1998, a gain of 40.8 percent or 3.0 million people. California had both the largest population and the largest numerical increase in the Asian and Pacific Islander population of any state. The increase in this population in California between 1990 and 1998 (990,000) was larger than the total Asian and Pacific Islander population of any other state in 1990. The other big gainers in Asian and Pacific

Islander population over this period were: New York (285,000); Texas (225,000); New Jersey (176,000); and Florida (115,000). Hawaii had the highest concentration (63.4 percent) of Asians and Pacific Islanders in its population in 1998.

African American Population Nationwide, the African American population increased from 30.5 million in 1990 to 34.4 million in 1998, a gain of 12.8 percent or 3.9 million people. The state with the largest African American population in 1998 was New York, with 3.2 million. Between 1990 and 1998, Florida registered the largest numerical increase (495,000) in this population, followed by Georgia (430,000), Texas (382,000), Maryland (232,000) and North Carolina (204,000). In 1998, 62.3 percent of the District of Columbia's total population was African American -- the largest percent among any state or state equivalent.

American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut Population Nationwide, the American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut population increased from 2.1 million in 1990 to 2.4 million in 1998, a gain of 14.3 percent or 295,000 people. California's 1998 American Indian population of 309,000 was the largest of any state. The largest numerical increase among states for the American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut population over the 1990-1998 period occurred in Arizona (42,000). Rounding out the top five gainers in this category were New Mexico (25,000), Texas (23,000), California (23,000) and Florida (21,000). In 1998, 16.2 percent of Alaska's population was American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut, the highest percentage among all states.

Other Information The data for states and counties include estimates by single year of age (to age 85 and over), race (White, Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut, and Asian and Pacific Islander), Hispanic origin and sex.

Additional tables provide rankings by race and Hispanic origin for states and counties in 1998.

The state data are available on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/statepop.html> and consist of:

- 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of State Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin;
 - 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of State Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin; and
 - 1998 State Population Estimates Ranked by Race and Hispanic Origin Population.
- The county data are available on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html> and consist of:
- 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of County Population Estimates by Age and Sex;
 - 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of County Population

- Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin;
 - 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of County Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin;
 - 1990 to 1998 Annual Time Series of County Population Estimates by Selected Age Groups; and
 - 1998 County Population Estimates Ranked by Race and Hispanic Origin Population.
- The estimates presented in these products are based on a method that is still in a developmental stage and should be used with caution since individual data cells may not be accurate in every case.

Valentine From Page 1

1920s. Evocative, well-cast, multigenerational saga indulges in melodrama at times, but never seems false, and redeems itself with a healthy sense of humor. Stars Jennifer Lopez, Jimmy Smits and Jacob Vargas.

Belle Epoque

Set in 1931, a time of promise and optimism in pre-Franco Spain, this delightfully earthy, cheerful comedy tells of a hearty young army deserter (Sanz) who's befriended by an elderly recluse, and enchanted by his four beautiful daughters. A multi award winner in Spain; won Best Foreign Film Oscar.

Strawberry & Chocolate

David, a heterosexual and devoted Communist who knows nothing of the arts, befriends Diego, a homosexual who is full of life and doesn't care much for politics. Controversial in its home country, but notable too as the first Cuban film ever nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar.

Out Of Sight

Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney steam up the screen in this romantic thriller that should keep both him and her engaged. Very hot, unique sex scene even with clothes kept on...

Fools Rush In

This movie actually debuted on Valentine's Day because it's the ultimate, cheesy date movie. Not the best movie in the whole world, but it'll warm your heart. And Salma looks lucious.

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**"QUE BUENO QUE DECIDIERON PONER EL TALLER POR ACA.
 POR FIN PUEDO DEMOSTRAR MI TALENTO."**

La comunidad estaba creciendo, pero lo que hacía falta eran más opciones de trabajo; mis habilidades no se estaban aprovechando. Ahora que se corrió la voz, ya están abriendo más negocios.

El Censo 2000 revela las necesidades de su comunidad con estadísticas que usan las compañías para decidir en dónde deben establecer su negocio. Por eso es importante. Además, el Censo es para todos, ciudadanos o no, y la ley asegura que es confidencial; nadie tiene acceso a su información. Cuando reciba el formulario, llénelo y envíelo. Hay que vencer el miedo, por el beneficio de todos.

United States
**Census
 2000**

ES NUESTRO FUTURO. HAGASE CONTAR.

Killing Buddha, Killing Myths Ana Castillo's, Peel My Love Like An Onion

by Ivelisse Rodriguez

No matter how many times we hear or read a love story, women always want and expect the same ending. No matter how much we may deny it, we expect a heterosexual tale where the man loves the woman, leaves her but returns to her in 'el grand fin'. Despite being scorned, the protagonist will accept and acquiesce, with just enough of a fight to save her dignity. And while we may at times scoff at Homer's Penelope, we too would wait 5, 20, 30 years or a lifetime for our Odysseus.

However, author Ana Castillo does something wondrous in her latest novel, Peel My Love Like An Onion, Castillo presents us with a woman that waits but changes the end to the myth, and oft times reality, of the waiting women by stripping love of its clichés and seeing the men in her life as responsible beings for their actions. And most importantly, Carmen learns to see these men as men and not as myths at the end of this novel.

The novel spans 20+ years of a woman's life, as we are witness to series of personal miracles and triumphs. Our protagonist Carmen la Coja, crippled early with polio, is inspired later in life by her dance teacher at a special school for the handicapped to learn the flamenco. He convinces her that she can dance professionally, and believing him, she eventually goes on to become a world-renowned dancer falling in love with two men. However, when her love for these two men isn't returned, all her accomplishments seem worthless and she returns to her previous rough life.

Carmen la Coja is in love in every cliché way possible, first with one man, Agustín, and then a second, Manolo. But Castillo plays with clichés by often pointing them out, and busting them open. Women, Castillo suggests, are fed

notions of what love is and with these notions are taught to wait and suffer. Love is crazy, out of control; I would die for you and I would wait for you too. We are taught to love in clichés and it becomes a universal experience of suffering. Who knew that it could be another way?

And Carmen la Coja, once a vibrant flamenco dancer, waits. And while we want to tell Carmen to "get over it," how many of us would or have? So we also wait an interminable number of pages with Carmen as she goes from menial job to menial job. You can feel her wasting away as she watches soap operas with her mother and thinks about what her life used to be. Not in a melodramatic way but in an everyday way. The way so many people give up their lives to thinking about and recreating their past or the way so many people hand their lives over to the memory of a beloved.

Eventually through the course of the novel, Carmen learns that one should only give as much power to another human being as one would grant oneself and begins to see all the flaws of the men she once idolized. When both Agustín and Manolo reappear towards the end of the novel, she has demythologized them both to ordinary men that belong on the same plane as she. The result is that Carmen la Coja, like Erica Jong's heroine in Fear of Flying, does not end up with the man at the end. She instead ends up with them both, on her terms - a lesson that can also serve the reader well. If Carmen has waited, or rather wasted, all these years for man, why should we do the same?

Castillo debunks the notion of the waiting woman and creates a woman that makes her own way through the world. She even resists to temptation to succumb to even this author's expectation of a "happily ever after" ending. Instead, we get an ending that is priceless to real women. An ending that hopefully will outlive the myths we currently use as the blueprints for our lives; an ending that is much more exhilarating.



Los Cupones Se Abren Paso Hasta Mi Pueblo

Por Andy Porras

Bilingüe, bicultural y junto al río. Así es mi antiguo pueblo. Y cada semana, los diarios más leídos de todo el país mencionan su nombre. No una vez, ni dos, sino por lo menos entre 25 y 30 veces.

Los Angeles Times, el Washington Post, el Philadelphia Inquirer, en cualquiera que usted mencione, el nombre de mi pueblo está en alguna sección muy especial.

Ustedes la han visto. La próxima vez que se sumerjan en la edición dominical de su diario favorito, sin importar dónde vivan en Estados Unidos, saquen esas páginas de cupones a todo color, brillantes, que ahorran dinero.

Fijense en las pequeñas letras negras al lado de los códigos de barras del cupón que indica a los comerciantes del producto anunciado dónde pueden canjear sus cupones. Allí, en toda su gloria minúscula, se muestra a vista de todos el nombre de Del Río, Texas, 78840.

"Del Río," lo que sería lo mismo que "junto al río." Bacon escribió: "La fama es como un río," y era sólo cuestión de tiempo antes de que la fama llegara flotando a mi pueblo, porque tres ríos - el Río Grande, el Río del Diablo y el Río Pecos - convergen en sus cercanías.

En las épocas más húmedas, el enorme depósito Amistad, donde los ríos llegan a una represa, es un lugar nacional de recreo que atrae a los turistas. El nombre de Del Río fue conocido también por todo el país cuando una estación independiente con muchos kilowatts de potencia, cuyas siglas eran entonces XERA y después fueron XERF, vendía todo lo habido bajo el sol del suroeste a la mayor parte del país. Wolfman Jack comenzó allí sus famosos aullidos.

La base Laughlin de la Fuerza Aérea, que fue alguna vez el hogar secreto de los famosos aviones U-2 de espionaje, es también propiedad de Del Río. Ahora es una base para capacitación aérea.

Me imagino que ustedes podrían decir que Del Río ha recorrido un largo camino desde sus orígenes - el lugar de una Misa celebrada por misioneros españoles y nativos Tex-Mex. El acontecimiento tuvo lugar el Día de San Felipe, tomando de ahí el nombre de San Felipe del Río o

San Felipe junto al Río. El largo nombre era aparentemente confuso para fines oficiales. Fue acortado a Del Río en el decenio de 1800. "San Felipe" continuó siendo el nombre del barrio chicano de Del Río.

En cuanto a la parte de los cupones en la historia, Del Río es sólo una escala para los millones de pedacitos de papel recortados.

Sigamos el rastro del papel de los cupones. De modo que usted encuentra un cupón que se ajusta a su estilo de vida. En el super-mercado de su preferencia, usted puede hasta duplicar su valor. Usted se lo da a la cajera, quien a su vez le acredita a usted una cantidad específica.

De ahí en adelante, el cupón será colocado en una caja o una bolsa y enviado a - usted lo adivinó - Del Río, TX. 78840, a fin de que la tienda o la sucursal de una cadena pueda obtener crédito por él, un pequeño valor en efectivo. Tenga en cuenta que millones y millones de estos pequeños certificados están circulando diariamente. Hay ganancias para el cliente, el comerciante y el fabricante del producto.

En Del Río, los cupones nunca se procesan. Esto es correcto, nunca. En vez de eso, se transportan a la ciudad fronteriza hermana de Del Río, Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila. ¿Se acuerdan del TLC (el Tratado de Libre Comercio norteamericano)? Según los residentes de Ciudad Acuña, dos o tres camiones llenos de cupones llegan diariamente. Más de 200 empleados trabajan en planta de Indiana Data Processing Company, firma que maneja el conteo de los cupones.

Es aquí, en un edificio de una cuadra de largo, que hombres, mujeres y jóvenes trabajan por \$20 a \$25 dólares a la semana clasificando y contando los cupones. Otros anotan la cantidad de cada cupón en particular para el canje de los supermercados.

Y eso es lo que sucede con los cupones y con el nuevo roce de fama de mi pueblo. Después de todo, la fama se acepta en cualquier forma que llegue.

Hasta con una fecha de caducidad.

(Andy Porras, de Sacramento, es periodista para varias publicaciones de la zona.)
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Noticias Breves

Gobierno Restituye Instalaciones De La Unam a Sus Autoridades

México. - El Gobierno de México entregó hoy las instalaciones de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) a las autoridades académicas, tras cerca de diez meses de huelga es protesta a la subida de cuotas de inscripción.

El subprocurador general de la República, Everardo Moreno, entregó las instalaciones de la UNAM a su director General Jurídico, Fernando Fernández, y se ordenó la salida inmediata de los cerca de mil policías que mantenían bajo vigilancia el campus.

Cerca de 2,500 efectivos de la policía habían ocupado el campus de la universidad el domingo pasado en cumplimiento de una orden de un juez, y arrestaron a 745 estudiantes que mantenían una huelga desde el 20 de abril de 1999.

El director General Jurídico de la UNAM informó de que hoy mismo los 270,000 estudiantes podrán reiniciar sus clases y hacer uso de todas las instalaciones de la universidad.

"Restituimos hoy las instalaciones de Ciudad Universitaria, colegios institutos a sus autoridades dando cumplimiento a la orden de un juez el pasado domingo", explicó el funcionario.

Una juez mexicana decretó ayer el inicio del proceso penal en contra de 85 de los huelguistas de la UNAM detenidos durante el enfrentamiento de la Escuela Preparatoria Número Tres, donde resultaron heridas 37 personas.

Las autoridades mantienen aún detenidos a otros 264 huelguistas que fueron arrestados en la UNAM el pasado domingo y han liberado a un total a 579 jóvenes debido al desistimiento de las autoridades universitarias de las acusaciones.

En las instalaciones del Consejo Tutelar de menores permanecen detenidos otros 77 jóvenes menores de edad por su participación en la huelga de la UNAM.

El ministro de Gobernación, Diódoro Carrasco, afirmó ayer que no se aplicará una amnistía para los infractores de la ley a quienes se les compruebe la responsabilidad en delitos penales graves.

El conflicto que afectó a la UNAM comenzó el 20 de abril del pasado año como una protesta por la subida de tasas académicas y se transformó de inmediato en un movimiento en demanda de la educación universal y gratuita.

Los Jueces Se Pronunciarán A Medios De La Próxima Semana

Londres, (EFE).- Los tres jueces del Tribunal Superior de Londres que se ocupan del Caso Pinochet anunciaron hoy, terminada la vista, que darán su veredicto a mediados de la semana próxima.

Durante esta tercera y última sesión, Bélgica y los seis grupos pro derechos humanos litigantes han pedido formalmente que el informe médico sobre la salud del ex dictador chileno sea divulgado y que todo el proceso sea revisado judicialmente.

El ministro británico del Interior, Jack Straw, interpretó que el informe médico en cuestión, elaborado por los cuatro especialistas que reconocieron a Pinochet el 5 de enero, indica que el acusado no está en condiciones de afrontar un juicio.

Por ello, Straw se inclina a denegar la extradición del acusado a España y, por tanto, a ponerlo en libertad.

Tanto el abogado del ministerio del Interior, Jonathan Sumption, como el propio defensor de Pinochet, Clive Nicholls, argumentaron hoy en favor de que el informe siga siendo confidencial.

Sin embargo, durante la vista, el propio Sumption reconoció que Straw haría públicos los resultados de los exámenes a Pinochet si los jueces se lo ordenaran.

El magistrado que preside el caso, Simon Brown, dio el martes un rápido giro al proceso al anunciar que admitía a trámite la petición de estas dos partes litigantes, con lo que el tribunal se puso a considerar si el caso merece la revisión judicial solicitada.

El ministro del Interior, que tiene la última palabra, ha prometido reiteradas veces que no adoptará ninguna decisión definitiva mientras el proceso no agote la vía judicial.

El futuro del Caso Pinochet, pues, no se conocerá sino hasta mediados de la semana que viene.

Sumption Intenta Acotar Divulgación Informe Médico Pinochet

Londres. - El abogado del ministerio británico del Interior, Jonathan Sumption, intentó hoy en los tribunales acotar la divulgación del informe médico sobre la salud de Augusto Pinochet por si los jueces ordenaran hacerlo público.

Adelantándose a esta posibilidad, Sumption dijo durante la vista que se está celebrando en el Tribunal Superior de Londres que sólo a España, primer país que pidió la extradición del ex dictador chileno, le podría concernir el contenido del informe.

La sesión de esta mañana fue consumida, casi totalmente, por la intervención de este letrado, que argumentó una y otra vez la confidencialidad del informe médico sobre la salud de Pinochet.

Al principio de la vista, Sumption afirmó que al ministro, británico del Interior, Jack Straw, "sólo le preocupa actuar de acuerdo con la ley".

Dijo esto porque el juez que preside, Simon Brown, a quien acompañan otros dos magistrados, había preguntado la víspera, en voz alta: "¿Está desesperado el ministro con la resolución de este caso?"

"La respuesta es no", le contestó hoy Sumption.

A la reserva del informe médico de Pinochet se oponen Bélgica y los seis grupos pro derechos humanos que son partes litigantes porque creen que el ministro no ha actuado con transparencia y no les ha permitido plantear adecuadamente sus posiciones.

La divulgación de los resultados del examen médico que se hizo al acusado el 5 de enero es su estrategia fundamental para lograr que Caso Pinochet sea revisado judicialmente.

El juez Brown dio el martes un rápido giro al proceso al anunciar que admitía a trámite la petición de Bélgica y de las ONGs, con lo que el tribunal ya está considerando si el caso merece la revisión judicial solicitada.

La disputa sobre el informe es clave en el proceso porque se trata, al cabo, del documento en el que se ha basado Straw para "inclinarse" a denegar la extradición del general a España y, por tanto, a ponerlo en libertad.

Sumption volvió a reconocer que si los jueces lo ordenan, el ministro facilitará tal documento.

En otro momento de su alegato, el abogado dijo que, si bien había "cuestiones delicadas" en el caso, como las "relaciones armoniosas" entre Estados o los intereses de la diplomacia internacional, estas son, a su juicio, cosa de gobiernos y no de tribunales.

También intervino el propio abogado de Pinochet, Clive Nicholls, quien, como su colega Sumption, defendió la reserva del informe amparándose en la Convención Europea de Derechos Humanos.

Nicholls destacó que España, siendo el país más concernido en el caso, ya ha anunciado que no recurrirá contra la decisión del ministro del Interior, en cuyas manos acabará el caso cuando se agote la vía judicial.

Para el abogado de Pinochet, la publicación de tal informe podría llevar el proceso a "un litigio sin fin", cuando todas las partes se pongan a interpretar los resultados de los exámenes físicos y mentales que se le hicieron al acusado.

El abogado que representa a Bélgica, Nigel Fleming, se refirió a Pinochet como "un presunto enemigo común de la humanidad" y dijo que sería muy "sorprendente" que no se conociera públicamente toda la información disponible sobre el caso.

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The Year of Pedro Martinez

By Gordon Edes

It will be remembered as "El Año de Pedro," a fin de siècle performance by Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez that took its place among the greatest by any Sox pitcher while challenging the best of any modern-day pitcher, including Hall of Famers Sandy Koufax and Bob Gibson.

Martinez won 23 games while losing just four, and his earned run average of 2.40 was less than half of the league average (4.86). Martinez also struck out a league-leading 313 batters while walking just 37, and entered the realm of legend when, in the deciding game of the AL division series against the Cleveland Indians, pitched six hitless innings of relief despite a strained muscle in the back of his shoulder.

Boston, despite the loss of free agent Mo Vaughn, won 94 games and became the first Sox team since World War I to go to the postseason in consecutive seasons. For this achievement,

Jimmy Williams was named the American League's Manager of the Year, as he overcame a season-shortening injury to closer Tom Gordon and three trips to the DL by starter Bret Saberhagen to guide the Sox to the playoffs.

The Sox, who had not won a postseason series since 1986, staged an improbable comeback from a two-games-to-none deficit to win the AL division series against the Indians, outslugging the major leagues' highest-scoring team in the final two games.

In a year in which they hosted what many have called the most memorable All-Star experience ever - including an epic showing by Mark McGwire in the home run derby and a heart-tugging salute to Hall of Famer Ted Williams in a pregame ceremony - the Sox finished the year by meeting the Yankees for the first time ever in a postseason series. The Yankees won their AL Championship Series, four

games to one, but not before the Sox humiliated their former ace, Roger Clemens, in a matchup against Martinez that was promoted like a heavyweight title bout.

General manager Dan Duquette, who endured withering criticism after Vaughn's departure, was vindicated by the performance of newcomers Jose Offerman, who hit .429 in the postseason as the Red Sox leadoff man, and Brian Daubach, a minor-league journeyman who inherited Vaughn's role as

left-handed slugger and hit 21 home runs. Catcher Jason Varitek had a breakthrough season, and Derek Lowe became one of the league's best relievers, making their acquisition from Seattle two years before one of Duquette's finest hours. And shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, Duquette's first draft pick after he was hired by Boston in 1994, won the AL batting crown with a .357 average.

But the 1990s ended with the Red Sox going 81 years without a World Series title, and 2000 begins with plans for the construction of a new Fenway Park.

Don King Nombrados Mejor del Milenio

La Comisión de Boxeo Profesional de Puerto Rico nombró a Don King 'Promotor del Milenio', mencionando sus numerosos logros al llevar a los boxeadores de la isla a los 'más altos niveles' mediante sus eventos y promociones.

Al recibir la carta de felicitaciones de Eric R. Labrador Rosa, Secretario del Departamento de Deportes y Entretenimientos, King declaró que asistirá a una ceremonia de entrega de premios el 17 de febrero en San Juan, donde se le honrará a él y a otros profesionales que recibieron el premio "Profesionales Sobresalientes del Boxeo" otorgado por la comisión. King, de 69 años, se emocionó con el honor recibido. "A lo largo de los años he recibido muchos premios prestigiosos de los cuales me siento orgulloso, pero ser elegido el mejor promotor en los últimos 100 años es realmente algo especial y me motivará a trabajar más duro aún, no solo por los boxeadores de Puerto Rico, sino por el deporte en su totalidad."

King, quien actualmente promueve al campeón CMB (consejo mundial de boxeo) y FIB (federación internacional de boxeo) peso welter Felix Trinidad Jr., ha desempeñado un papel importante en lograr el reconocimiento y respeto para los boxeadores de Puerto Rico, incluyendo los ex campeones mundiales Wilfredo "Bazooka"

Gómez, Edwin "Chapo" Rosario, Esteban de Jesús, Carlos "Sugar" De León, Ozzie "Jaws" Ocasio, Alfredo Escalera y Héctor "Macho" Camacho.

Específicamente, Dommys Delgado, presidente de la Comisión de Boxeo Profesional de Puerto Rico, declaró que el liderazgo, innovación y visión de King fueron factores importantes para su selección. King fue precursor en presentar cinco peleas por títulos mundiales en una sola velada y lograr importantes ganancias para los competidores. Durante los 80 promovió una pelea por un título mundial cada mes en Puerto Rico, y continúa realizando en la isla peleas por títulos mundiales.

"Nunca ningún campeón de Puerto Rico fue recompensado monetariamente de la manera en que lo merecía hasta que tu llegaste," escribió Delgado en una carta a King. "Por todo esto y mucho más, te estamos agradecidos. Tus esfuerzos han colocado a nuestros atletas y nuestro país en el escenario mundial."

King también ha sido generoso al momento de contribuir con las organizaciones de caridad portorriqueñas. Recientemente, entregó un cheque por \$ 50,000 al Festival del Día Puertorriqueño en la Ciudad de Nueva York, que será destinado a programas de educación comunitaria y becas.

Free Speech and Winning Baseball

By Roger Hernandez

Is the punishment Major League Baseball meted out to John Rocker too harsh or too lenient?

Commissioner Bud Selig says that Rocker's bigoted comments to Sports Illustrated "brought dishonor to himself, the Atlanta Braves and Major League Baseball." He suspended the Atlanta Braves reliever until May 1, fined him \$20,000 and ordered him to attend a sensitivity training course.

What a joke. The suspension is with pay -- so what if he joins the team 28 days into the season? The fine is a drop in the bucket of Rocker's salary. And the sensitivity classes? Please. Does anyone actually think that a guy who calls a black teammate a "fat monkey" and hates New York City because of the "Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people up there" is going to be reformed by a feel-good liberal instructor who tells him things like "We should all respect one another" and "It's not nice to be prejudiced"? Come on. John Rocker is going to be counting the seconds until he's out of there.

But here's the thing: A longer suspension, and without pay, would have been even more inappropriate. So would a bigger fine. And the thought that any kind of training can rescue Rocker from his own empty-headed view of the world remains laughable.

The commissioner of baseball was wrong to have disciplined John Rocker in any way. Like you and me, Rocker has the right to espouse his opinions publicly no matter how inane. Official baseball violated the spirit of the First Amendment when it decreed that Rocker had to be punished somehow for what he said, even if the punishment was as mild as it turned out to be. Besides, Selig was wrong to say Major League Baseball and the Atlanta Braves were "dishonored" by Rocker's statements. Only Rocker himself was.

And there is the key. For the rest of his life, Rocker will be remembered less as a successful reliever than as the ignoramus who slurred just about every racial and ethnic group. That's one part of the punishment he brought on himself.

And then there is the matter of his teammates. Come May 1, how will Rocker be received in a clubhouse filled with blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic white players who abhor his statements? What should first baseman Randall Simon do when the man who called him a fat monkey walks into the locker room? Shake his hand? Punch him in the nose?

Rocker is obviously going to be a disrupting presence in the Atlanta Braves clubhouse. Disruptions are bad for winning. So Braves management should do with Rocker what teams usually do with disruptive players: Trade him. Which of course will be tough. What other team can possibly believe he can fit in? More pragmatically, what other team wants to be seen as the one willing to put up with Rocker? Rocker might well end up playing sandlot baseball down the road from a trailer park.

That would be the most fitting punishment. It avoids a formal ruling by Major League Baseball or the Braves that violates Rocker's First Amendment rights, and instead punishes him with the social ostracism that is a consequence of his own public statements. If Rocker has the right to say what he wants, society just as surely has the right to hold him in eternal contempt. And baseball clubs surely have the right to keep out of the team a relief pitcher who will have a malignant effect on team morale, even if he saves a couple of games in the late innings.

Roger Hernandez is a nationally syndicated columnist and Writer-in-Residence at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He can be reached via email at rogerh@prodigy.net.

Perez Was 'glue' of Big Red Machine

CINCINNATI, Ohio, - It's understandable that Tony Perez got overlooked.

In the 1970s, he played on a Cincinnati Reds team that had stars at virtually every position. Pete Rose had the head first slides and headlines. Johnny Bench redefined catching. Joe Morgan won two MVP awards.

Though he kept a much lower profile, Perez was just as valuable as any of them.

Fisk, Perez in baseball Hall of Fame

The best clutch hitter on the Big Red Machine, Perez was the guy they wanted up there with the game on the line. With his quiet confidence, he also was one of the biggest influences on one of baseball's best teams ever.

"Bench probably had the most raw baseball ability of any of us," said Morgan, a Hall of Fame second baseman. "Pete obviously had the most determination to make himself the player he was. Perez was the unsung hero."

Perez got his recognition, when he was voted into the Hall of Fame on his ninth try. He and catcher Carlton Fisk will be inducted into the Hall at Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 23.

Perez had a long wait for induction because he never had a standout season and was overshadowed by his teammates. Bench and Morgan already are in the Hall and Rose is barred by his lifetime suspension for gambling.

"Maybe it's because I didn't win any RBI titles, no home run titles or things like that," Perez said. "But I was very consistent over the years at knocking in runs and hitting home runs."

Consistency was his hallmark. He played 23 years and drove in at least 90 runs in 11 consecutive seasons from 1967-77. He finished with 1,652 RBIs, which ranks 18th, and hit 379 homers.

Bench, Morgan and Rose had bigger years, but none matched Perez's consistency in the clutch.

"Nobody drove in more runs than Tony, and he did it when it counted," Bob Howsam, the general manager who built the Big Red Machine, said Tuesday. "You don't see a lot of those hitters."

His biggest hit came in the 1975 World Series, which produced the first of Cincinnati's two consecutive titles.

Fisk's homer won Game 6 for Boston and provided one of baseball's most celebrated moments the catcher waving his shot fair. In Game 7, Perez produced another highlight by hitting a homer on a blooper pitch from Bill Lee that started the Reds toward a 4-3 win.

"I knew he had (a blooper) because he threw it to me before that," Perez said. "The first time he threw me one, the ball bounced and I swung. It was embarrassing. Then I faced him again and he threw me another one and I took it."

"I said in the back of my mind if he throws that one again, I'm going to hit it out, and he did. When he stopped his motion, I waited on it. I close my eyes and I can see it today."

The homer started the Reds' comeback and exemplified what Perez was all about. Perez remembers manager Sparky Anderson worrying as the Reds got ready to bat that inning.

"He said, 'We lost in '70, we lost in '72, we're losing now.' I said, 'Sparky, don't worry about it. Give me two men on or three men on, I'm going to hit a home run and we're going to win this,'" Perez said. "I only got one guy on, but I hit the home run and we came back and won."

Anderson said the best description of Perez came from Dave Bristol, who preceded him as the Reds' manager.

"I always thought that David

figured Tony out the best," Anderson said Tuesday. "He said, 'If you ever had the game-winner on second, your (opponent) is going to lose if Perez hits,'" Anderson said. "But then, he still wouldn't make any big deal out of it."

"No, Doggie is special to all of them. Doggie is the one person going into the Hall who earned it, but also earned something that very few people will get: never having anyone say anything bad about him."

There was more to the "Big Dog" than the RBIs. His easygoing personality made him a fan favorite and helped the Reds' star-packed clubhouse get through tough times.

"He didn't let you have a bad day," said Bench, who described himself as ecstatic over Perez's election Tuesday. "Tony Perez was everything."

"He was the glue," Howsam said. "When you have a team with as many fine people and with chemistry and balance I don't think you win without balance, and he was part of the balance."

Perez realized that he had a role in making the Big Red Machine run smoothly.

"They say I was the glue in getting along with everybody," Perez said. "I was doing jokes to make people relax. We played better, I guess."

The best measure of Perez's value came when he left. Howsam traded Perez to Montreal after the '76 World Series so Dan Driessen could take over at first base. Perez played three years in Montreal, three in Boston and one in Philadelphia before returning to the Reds, who didn't make the World Series again until 1990.

To this day, Howsam considers the Perez trade his worst move.

"I made a decision from my heart rather than my head," Howsam said. "When we traded him away, I feel in my heart that was one of the reasons we didn't win a third World Series title in a row."

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Bill Aims at Disparities In Minority Health Care

By Ismail Turay Jr.
A bill aimed at eliminating disparities in minority health care was introduced Wednesday by members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

The Health Care Fairness Act would improve research on minority health and the collection of data on race and ethnicity, as well as provide funding to make minorities aware of health conditions in their communities and resources that are available.

The bill, backed by other minority caucuses in Congress, would also set up a research center at the National Institutes of Health on minority health and address biases in health care through education.

"It is not justice for a person to be denied access to health care. It is not justice for a person to receive lower quality care simply because of the color of their skin or the weight of their wallet," said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. "I believe that health care is not a privilege, but a fundamental right."

"The issue of health care is every bit as important as those struggles we have already fought and won," Lewis said. "The fight for equal access to health care is the civil rights fight of the 21st century."

AIDS, diabetes, cancer, stroke, heart disease and other

severe health problems are the leading causes of death in minority populations, Kennedy said.

"These statistics are unacceptable. All Americans deserve quality health care," Kennedy said. "Finding solutions that can reduce disparities and change these outcomes must be a national priority. In order to effectively address this problem we must increase our understanding of minority health and improve the aspect of our health care system that are failing."

Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., D-Ill., blamed the disparities in minority health care on racism. He said the nation's best researchers fall victim to racism and don't study health issues that pertain to minorities.

Also supporting the bill are the Asian Pacific American Caucus and most of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Nearly 40 percent of Hispanics in the United States are uninsured and lack access to basic care, said Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez, D-Texas. The Health Care Fairness Act addresses many of the disparities in minority health discussed at a Hispanic caucus hearing last year.

The group is urging minorities to write their congressmen to support the bill.

La Medicina Llegó al Corazón Juan Ramón Romero

Washington - La investigación médica ha dado en 1999 pasos fundamentales en su lucha contra las enfermedades cardíacas y ha abierto la puerta a nuevas disciplinas que, como el cultivo de células precursoras o la angiogénesis, revolucionarán el tratamiento del cáncer y los trasplantes. Gran parte de la atención científica y pública la han acaparado este año las células "precursoras", también llamadas "totipotentes", cuando se conoció su potencialidad para ser cultivadas y desarrollarse en forma de cualquiera de los más de 200 tipos de tejidos que forman el organismo.

El mundo de los trasplantes va, sin duda, a ver una revolución en la próxima década con esta nueva disciplina, que podría permitir crear órganos enteramente humanos. Pero el uso de células precursoras ("Stem Cells" en inglés), es también polémico, porque las células proceden principalmente de los embriones, lo que ha motivado las críticas de grupos antiabortistas. Las enfermedades cardíacas han atraído el año pasado especialmente a los investigadores, porque los problemas del corazón son la causa número uno de mortalidad en los países desarrollados.

En mayo de 1999, la Universidad de Stanford, en California, junto a expertos japoneses, descubrió una nueva técnica que permitirá implantar tubos de acero y poliéster en los vasos sanguíneos dañados que van al corazón. Poco antes, se había descubierto la extraña relación que parece existir entre las bacterias y las dolencias

cardíacas, una posibilidad cada vez más evidente que, sin embargo, no ha permitido aún establecer una relación causal. El cáncer, el conjunto de enfermedades que más atemoriza a la población, descendió en 1999 en Estados Unidos, pero aún así, los cálculos médicos permiten estimar en más de medio millón las personas que cada año mueren. El cáncer de pulmón ha sido identificado como el más mortal entre hombres y mujeres, pero los más frecuentes son el de mama en las mujeres y el de próstata en hombres.

Pero quizás ha sido la angiogénesis, una técnica poco desarrollada en el pasado, la que más ha sorprendido a la ciencia en el año recién concluido, porque las posibilidades que ofrece para el tratamiento de tumores son realmente innovadoras. Las investigaciones del doctor Judah Folkman, del Instituto Infantil de la Universidad de Harvard, Massachusetts, conocidas a principios de 1999, provocaron una verdadera convulsión científica cuando anunció que había sido capaz de eliminar completamente con esta técnica los tumores de pulmón en ratones. La angiogénesis, que puede tener aplicaciones contra distintas dolencias, es capaz de "estrangular" los vasos sanguíneos que alimentan los tumores, mediante unos fármacos obtenidos de proteínas humanas, que se denominan "angiostatín" y "endostatín". La "apóstosis", otro sugerente término científico, que designa la muerte "programada" de las células, ha planteado un nuevo ángulo para las investigaciones médicas, porque permite identificar a los inhibidores de este proceso y quizás, operar sobre ellos. Detrás, están múltiples posibilidades porque la "apóstosis" explica por qué las células cancerígenas son capaces de sustraerse a esta muerte programada que afecta a todas las células de los seres vivos, pero además abre la puerta a la "piedra filosofal" de la medicina: alargar la vida de las células y, por tanto, de las personas.

El tratamiento contra el SIDA, algo que se remonta en el tiempo al menos una década, ha tenido en 1999 algunos hitos fundamentales. El descubrimiento del origen de la enfermedad, con la confirmación de que procede de unos chimpancés africanos que,



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JESUS Y EL DIABLO

"Entonces Jesús fué llevado al desierto, Para ser tentado del Diablo." Mt.4:1.

El primer evento que S. Mateo refiere del ministerio de nuestro Señor, después de su bautismo, es su tentación. Y parece que hay mucho en esta narración que no podemos explicar, o entender lo suficiente para explicarlo. Pero por encima de todo se presentan lecciones prácticas y sencillas, y que haremos bien en considerarlas. APRENDAMOS EN PRIMER LUGAR: El enemigo tan real y poderoso que tenemos en el Diablo. Que en su malignidad salta aún al mismo Jesús, y que tres veces ataca de diversos modos al Hijo de Dios. Y fue el Diablo el que al principio trajo el pecado al mundo. El fue quien hizo padecer a Job, y engañó a David, y causó a Pedro una grave caída. Por lo mismo la Biblia le llama asesino mentiroso, y león rugiente. Y que en su enemistad contra nuestras almas, jamás duerme. pues por cerca de 6,000 ha estado ocupado en aruinar hombres y mujeres para arrastrarlo al mismo infierno. Y amenudo se presenta como un ángel e luz (indecente). Velemos y oremos diariamente contra sus maquinaciones. Porque El, es nuestro más cruel enemigo, y aunque invisible, no des cansa en su malignidad y designios contra nuestras almas. Otra cosa: APRENDAMOS EN SEGUNDO LUGAR que no debemos considerar las tentaciones como una cosa extraña. "El discípulo no es más que su maestro, y ni el criado que su amo." Porque si Satanás se acercó a Cristo, se acercará también a los cristianos. Sería conveniente que todos los cristianos recordaran esto; porque están demasiado propensos a olvidarlo. ¡Cristianos; no olvidemos que hay un Diablo, y no nos maravillemos al hallarlo cerca de nosotros! y que hay que entender que ser tentado por él no es en sí mismo pecado. Pero ceder a la tentación y abrirla en nuestro corazón, es lo que debemos temer. APRENDAMOS EN TERCER LUGAR: que la gran arma que debemos emplear para resistir al Satanás es la Biblia. Tres veces el gran enemigo presentó tentaciones a nuestro Señor. Pero tres veces sus ofertas fueron rechazadas. Habló Satanás, y habló Cristo. Y habló Satanás y habló Cristo. Y habló Satanás y habló Cristo, y Cristo le ganó. Sirviendo en cada vez como arma para hecerlo así la Palabra de Dios. Está escrito; le dijo Jesús tres veces al Satanás. (Dijo una vez un principiante: Cristo se lo cateó, porque le aplicó la Palabra) he aquí una razón entre otras muchas, por las cuales debemos ser lectores y hacedores de la Santa Palabra de Dios. Porque la Biblia es la espada del Espíritu, porque en el cristianismo nunca libreremos una buena batalla si no hacemos buen uso de la Biblia, y la usemos como nuestra arma principal. Porque si no viajamos por su luz, nunca seguiremos rectamente por el camino real del cielo. Pero hoy día es de temerse que entre el cristianismo no se lea suficientemente la Biblia...Y ¡CUIDADO!

extrañamente, no sufren la dolencia, y los avances en el cóctel de drogas para combatir al Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH), han marcado los trabajos contra la denominada plaga de finales de siglo. En el capítulo de los fármacos, ha sido trascendental la aprobación del uso del "Xenical" para tratar la obesidad, pero quizás ha sido más importante la toma de conciencia social sobre este problema. Las estadísticas han revelado que en EE.UU., más que en ningún otro país desarrollado, una de cada tres personas es obesa y más de un 50% padece sobrepeso. 1999 ha traído también malas noticias, cuando se confirmó que la dieta rica en fibra no previene el cáncer de colon, una creencia que se había mantenido durante más de 30 años y había contribuido a una alimentación más saludable. Genes que regulan la presión sanguínea o que desencadenan el Mal de Alzheimer, proteínas que disuelven coágulos sanguíneos en el corazón han sido descubiertas como pequeños pasos de la investigación científica para la mejora de la salud humana. El año que pasó acabó con la esperanza de que el deseado Mapa del Genoma Humano se concluya en los próximos años. En este mapa puede radicar la mayor herramienta que la humanidad haya tenido nunca para combatir las enfermedades.

Creciente Numero de Hispanos Declaran Sus Impuestos Electronicamente

MIAMI- Los Hispanos en Estados Unidos Cuentan Ahora con un Nuevo Recurso Online Para sus Finanzas Personales.

El año pasado alrededor del 20 por ciento de la población en Estados Unidos, unos 24,6 millones de personas, realizaron sus reportes de impuestos de manera electrónica, y se espera que este año esa cantidad se eleve en virtud de los muchos beneficios que ello proporciona tanto a los contribuyentes como al IRS.

Como anticipo al gran número de reportes electrónicos que se esperan este año, Consejero.com, una división de Ilife.com (Nasdaq: ILIF) especializada en brindar a los hispanohablantes asesoría de finanzas personales por Internet, está ofreciendo gratuitamente recomendaciones y consejos sobre cómo hacer las declaraciones de impuestos a quienes deseen efectuarlas vía online.

Consejero.com ha inaugurado este servicio como parte de sus permanentes esfuerzos por informar cada vez mejor a la comunidad hispana y orientarla respecto a sus finanzas personales.

En la actualidad hay alrededor de 7 millones de hispanos con acceso a Internet en Estados Unidos, y esta cifra crece a una tasa anual estimada en 3,4 por ciento, lo que hace de este grupo una de las minorías étnicas que utilizan Internet en mayor proporción para labores tales como la declaración de impuestos sobre los ingresos.

Debido a los beneficios al alcance de quienes utilizan esta vía para declarar el pago de impuestos -entre ellos la

reducción de errores matemáticos en los reportes y reembolsos obtenidos con mayor prontitud-el IRS espera que el número de contribuyentes que presenten sus informes a través de Internet se triplique para el año 2007.

Ahora, los hispanos residentes en Estados Unidos pueden conectarse a www.consejero.com para obtener más información acerca de esta novedosa forma de hacer su

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Sobre Consejero.com

Consejero.com, un miembro de la familia de sitios web de ilife.com (Nasdaq: ILIF), es un sitio de finanzas personales en español dirigido a las personas de habla hispana en Estados Unidos, América Latina y España. El contenido editorial de Consejero.com se complementa con la posibilidad de que los usuarios actúen recíprocamente con el sitio por medio de charlas y correspondencia electrónica.

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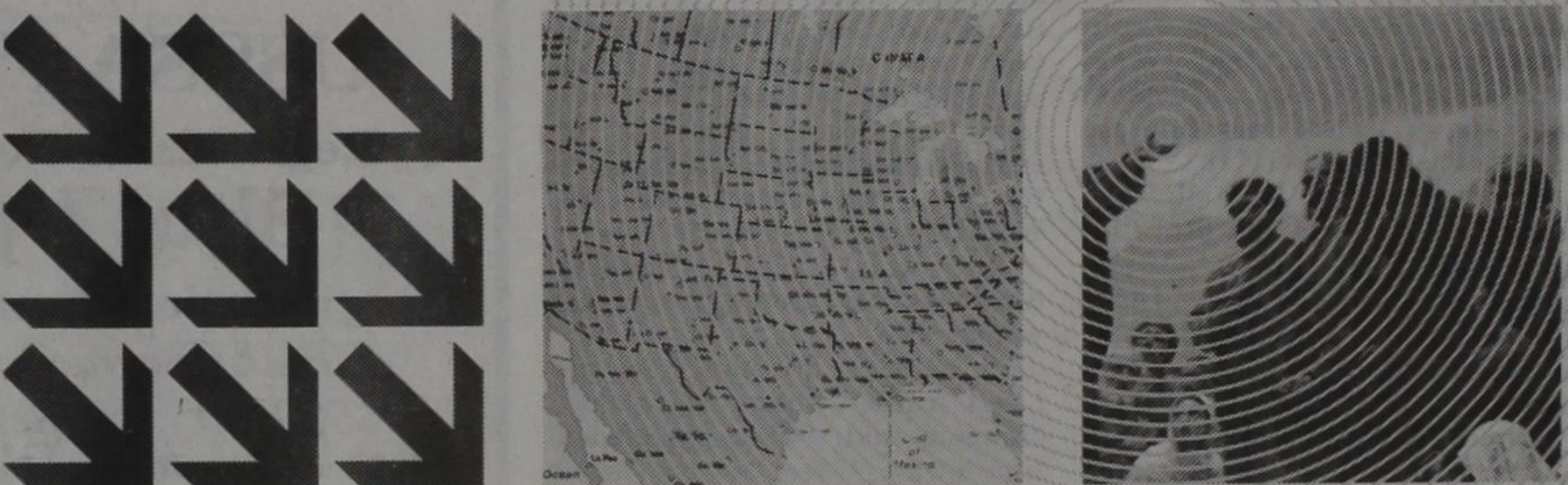
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