

Me Each Other For Drug Trade, Poll Finds

By MARK HELM
 WASHINGTON, May 18, 1999
 -- Mexicans blame the United States for the illegal drug flow across the two nations' border and say the North American Free Trade Agreement has benefited Americans much more than people in their country, according to a Louis Harris survey released today.

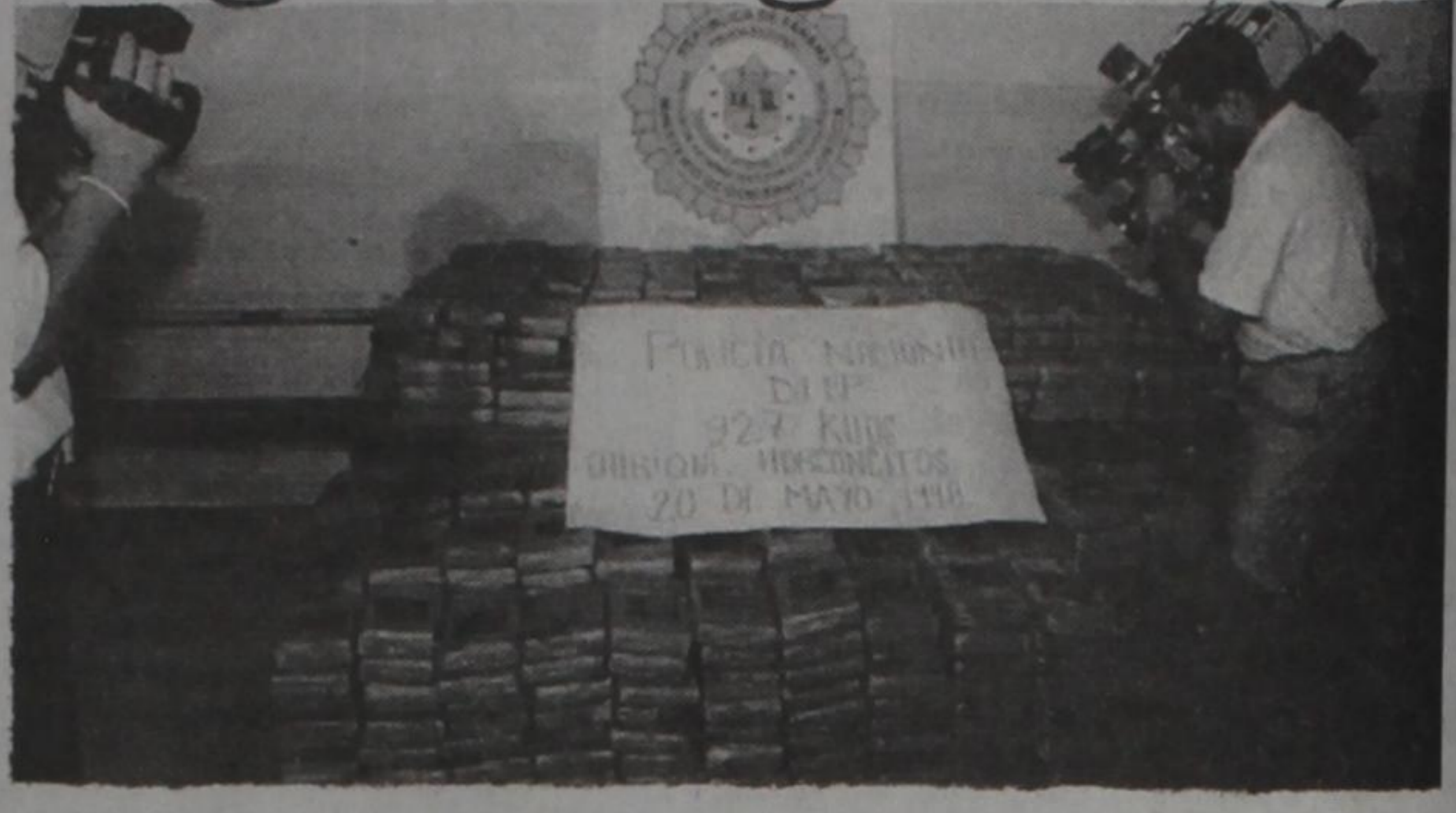
However, a second Harris survey of U.S. citizens showed that they took exactly the opposite view, blaming Mexicans for illegal drugs crossing the border and feeling that NAFTA is helping Mexico and hurting the United States.

"There's no doubt that Mexicans and Americans look at their relationship from two very different perspectives," said Humphrey Taylor, chairman of Louis Harris and Associates Inc., a New York-based polling company.

Half of the 4,500 Mexican adults surveyed between April 23 and May 3 said drug usage by Americans is the primary cause of the illegal narcotics flow across the border.

"In this case, Mexicans feel there wouldn't even be any drug lords if the United States wasn't buying their products," Humphrey said.

But in a separate poll of 1,006 American adults between April 8



and April 13, 48 percent said Mexico was more to blame for not arresting Mexican traffickers and closing down their drug business. About 4 in 10 said the United States was more to blame.

Mexicans and Americans also took opposite views of NAFTA, the 1994 trade pact that sought to eliminate all trade barriers between Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Nearly three out of four Mexicans surveyed said the trade agreement has been good for the United States while only 43 percent said it was also helping Mexico. In the United States, 57 percent of those asked said NAFTA was good for Mexico and only 39 percent thought it had benefited Americans.

Along with the issues of drugs and NAFTA, the Mexican survey also sought to gauge other Mexican attitudes toward the United States.

The results showed that the poll participants often took a negative view of their northern neighbor, Humphrey said. Among the findings were:

- * Seven of every 10 Mexicans surveyed said their country "has been treated unfairly" by the U.S. government in the last three or four years.
- * Fewer than a quarter of the poll participants thought President Clinton is a "friend" of Mexico.

Half of those surveyed believed the American government treats Mexicans who are legal U.S. residents unfairly.

More than 80 percent of poll participants also said the U.S. government gives unfair treatment to Mexicans who are caught illegally crossing into the United States or who are living illegally in this country.

"Basically, many Mexicans believe that the border should not exist at all, that it's illegal, and, therefore, Mexicans should be allowed to cross without any conditions," Vicente Licona, head of Harris' Mexico City office, said in a telephone interview.

He said many Mexicans view the border as illegal because they feel the United States stole much of the Southwest from their country after the Mexican-American War. Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war in 1848, the United States purchased nearly half of Mexico's territory - including California, Nevada, Utah and most of Arizona and parts of New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming - for \$15 million.

Both the U.S. and Mexican polls have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

News Briefs

Millions of U.S. Children Live in Deplorable Neighborhoods

Washington, - The current economic boom experienced by the United States is blinding people to the horrible living conditions of more than nine million children in this country, according to a report published Tuesday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Foundation President Douglas W. Nelson said, "Despite the improvements we have seen in U.S. society - in infant mortality, crime and teenage pregnancy - 13 percent of our children are facing great disadvantages."

"When we take care of the physical, intellectual and moral needs of our children, we also give them the skills and opportunities needed for success in their adult life," he pointed out.

In its 1999 report, entitled the "Kids Count Data Book," the Foundation explains that one out of seven U.S. children faces an uncertain future as an adult, due to such factors as poverty, unemployment and lack of formal education of the parents, lack of medical insurance or by the absence of one of the parents in the home.

The 9.2 million children under 18 years of age described in the report are made up of 24 percent Hispanics, 30 percent blacks and six percent whites.

According to the study, one third of these children live in neighborhoods having high indexes of crime, violence and extreme poverty - as well as a large number of liquor stores, beauty salons and fast-food restaurants. These areas seem to have been overlooked by the community investment programs promoted by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration.

The nationwide report says 25 percent of U.S. children live in rural areas and 44 percent in urban locations.

The strong U.S. economy is not taking into account the 21 percent of children living below the poverty line in this country, a figure that has changed very little in the past decade.

In the words of the foundation's report, if the various factors connected to poverty are not attended to, these children will end up in prison, without a job or high-school diploma, or even dead at a very young age.

U.S. Army Wants to Increase Number of Hispanics in Ranks

By Rosendo Majano
 Washington, - In response to concerns of Hispanic community leaders that Latinos are under-represented in the military, U.S. Army Secretary Louis Caldera said Tuesday that he wants to increase the number of Hispanics in the Army's ranks.

Caldera told EFE that in order to meet that goal, the Army may decide this year to suspend some enlistment requirements such as a high-school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

In order to prevent an increase in the high-school drop-out rate, only candidates over the age of 19 would be accepted, Caldera said. "This signifies that we would take responsibility for ensuring that new Hispanic recruits complete their education while on active duty," he explained.

Caldera made his remarks at a conference with other military and Hispanic community leaders - including National Council of La Raza President Raul Yzaguirre - on low Hispanic enlistment rates.

The conference, sponsored by La Raza and the Washington Center for Joint Political and Economic Studies, was designed to increase awareness of the negative effect of small numbers of Hispanics in the Army.

"We will tell Hispanic youths who have not graduated from high school that we are going to pay them to get their GED, and if they complete it, we will then send them in for (military) training," Caldera said. "We will begin this program sometime this year."

Caldera said that 45 percent of Hispanics do not finish high school, and that within the Army's ranks, they will have an opportunity to better prepare themselves for the future.

According to statistics provided by Caldera, Hispanics make up roughly 7 percent of the Army's 600,000 active-duty soldiers, and the same percentage of Army reserves.

Caldera dismissed the possibility that the quality of soldiers would diminish under his plan to accept students who do not have high school diplomas or GEDs. "Only those with the highest qualifications will be accepted," he maintained.

In order to give greater opportunities to Hispanics and other minorities, the Army will add 10 additional military occupational specialties, bringing the total available to 20, Caldera said, emphasizing that numerous other benefits and incentives already exist.

U.S. Hispanics Key to Airlines Expanded Growth

Miami, - Hispanics in the United States have become an important focus of the airlines because of their frequent flights to their countries of origin and their tendency to travel as families, according to an executive from United Airlines.

"According to our investigations, Hispanics in the United States fly about four times a year, and three of those trips are to visit family. They are a strong influence on the air-travel market," said Maria Sastre, vice president for United Airlines in Latin America.

In a meeting with foreign reporters, Sastre said that in Mexico "this type of air travel continues to increase flights because there is considerable focus on families that travel from the United States to Mexico or from that country to visit their families in the north."

An expanding Mexican economy has also boosted air travel between this country and the United States by 3 to 4 percent in 1998, the airline executive added.

Also characteristic of Hispanics is that they tend to travel together with family members, for example, parents normally bring their children to visit grandparents, which in turn raises the number of tickets sold, the executive said.

"This trend is also growing, in part, because the Hispanic population in some U.S. cities that remain in contact with relatives in Latin America and the Caribbean is growing," Sastre explained.

Due to these tendencies, United Airlines plans to offer more direct flights to Latin America from U.S. cities like Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington.

"The increase in direct flights to different destinations of Latin America will help passengers avoid stopovers in Miami," Sastre stated.

When asked about the company's prospects for the region, Sastre said they are positive, although a fall in the number of Brazilians traveling to Disneyworld (in Orlando, Florida), New York and Los Angeles was reported early this year.

Brazilian tourism fell 10 to 15 percent in the first quarter of 1999, but we are expecting a recovery by summertime, with figures similar to last year's, Sastre said.

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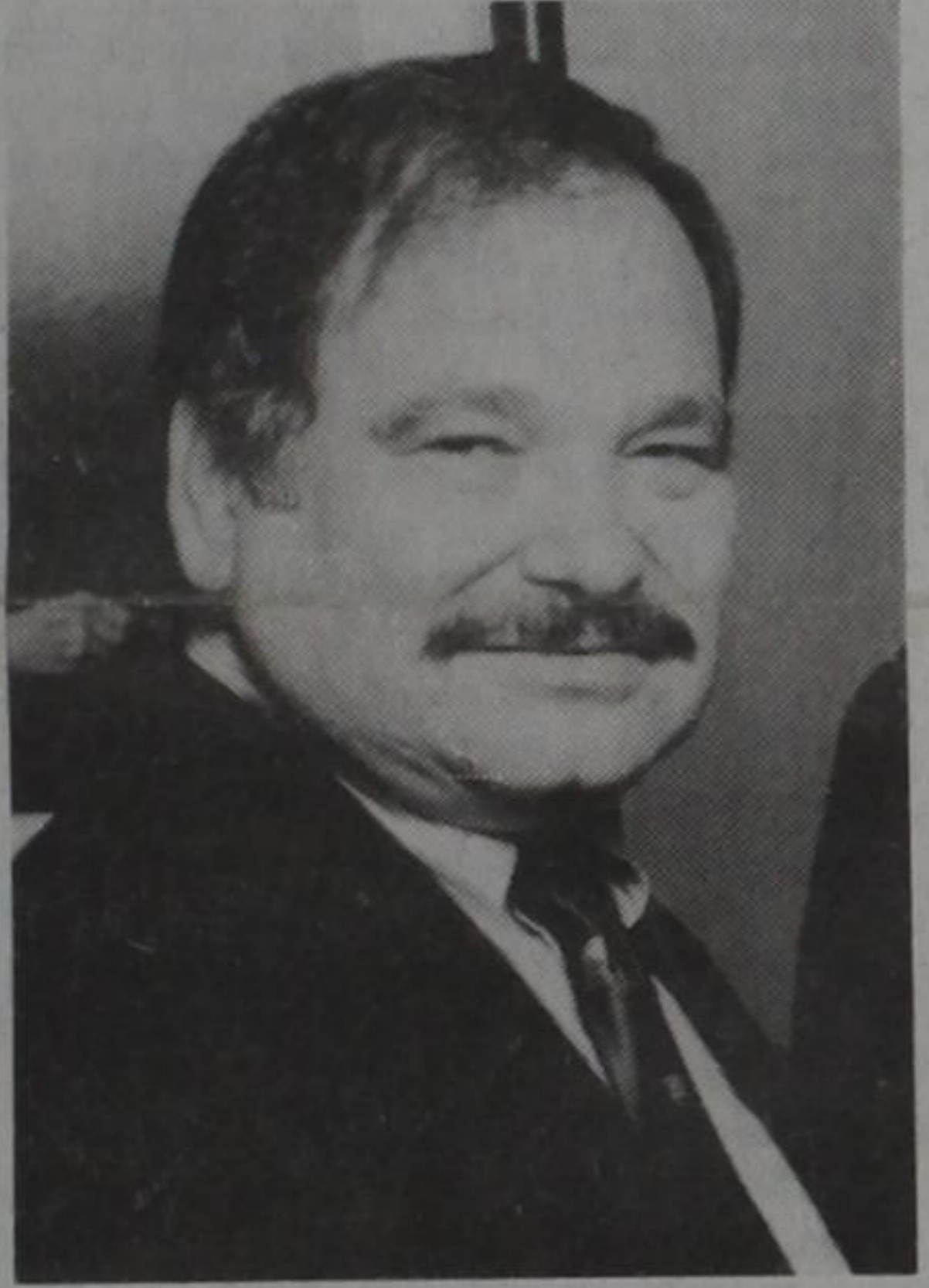
Vol XXII No. 34 Week of May 20 thru May 26, 1999 Lubbock, Texas
 Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

S.A. Farmers Union Opposes Immigration Program

El Paso, Texas, - Texas and New Mexico agricultural workers union leaders complained on Wednesday that the Guest Workers program under study by the U.S. Justice Department could damage the region's agricultural communities.

One of the complaints maintains that, as in the case of the "Braceros" (Farmhands) program, the workers could be victims of deceit, not receiving their work permits even after paying up to 1,000 dollars.

The program, which will enable thousands of Mexican workers to work at U.S. ranches, could result in the abuse of such workers, encouraging a black market in work permits, argued the union.



Raul Yzaguirre-NCLR

Department and a congressional committee are studying the possibility of implementing the so-called Guest Workers program, similar to the Braceros program implemented from 1942 through 1964.

If approved, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will be responsible for its application, giving Mexican workers permits to enable them to work for a given employer in the United States.

Carlos Marentes, the Border Agricultural Workers Union leader, said that such unions and other Hispanic organizations, such as the National Council of La Raza, oppose the proposal on the grounds that it does not discourage abuse of the workers.

"While the Braceros program

was in force, great abuses were committed and nobody guarantees that this will not happen again," he said.

He added that the draft bill did not provide for basic necessities, such as housing and medical care for workers enrolling in the program.

"There is also a danger that wages will be even lower, because the workers would be unable to change jobs once in the United States, thus leading to possible abuses," Marentes said.

"Farmworkers will keep silent about abuses for fear of losing their jobs," he added.

At present, U.S. farmworkers union leaders have launched an information campaign in rural areas of Mexico, giving details on the program.

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero
 The local TV stations are saying that Councilman Victor Hernandez isn't attending Council meeting. The attention to his absence was brought from a zoning hearing by Councilman McDougal. Today Councilman Hernandez took to the defense from one station saying that he asked the City to review all his absences to see if they were excused or not.

"Upon closer scrutiny, it seems that all the City Council meeting which I missed were due to being on City business, to being in State Court, in dealing with a family emergency or out due to illness."

Hernandez went on to say, "If NewsChannel 11 is truly interested in the public's interest in bringing this to light, then I challenge them to look to State Representative Isett and Jones' records, Senator Duncans' record, as well as all other elected officials' records on how many days they have been absent."

Hernandez claims that "NewsChannel 11 is not interested in unbiased, city-hall neutral reporting but rather on pleasing the power structure in Lubbock and in conducting witch hunts."



Sindicato De Campesinos En Contra De Nuevo Program Migratorio

Por Patricia Giovine
 El Paso (Texas), - Dirigentes del Sindicato de Campesinos de Texas y Nuevo Mexico denunciaron que el programa "Trabajadores Huéspedes" que analiza el Departamento de Justicia podría perjudicar a las comunidades agrícolas de la región.

Una de las quejas es que, al igual que el programa "Braceros", los campesinos podrían ser víctimas de engaños al no obtener los permisos de trabajo, aun después de pagar una cuota de hasta 1,000 dólares.

El programa, que permitiría a miles de campesinos mexicanos trabajar en un rancho en Estados Unidos, daría paso a la explotación de estos trabajadores y alentaría el mercado negro de los permisos de trabajo, argumentó el grupo sindicalista.

Actualmente el Departamento de Justicia y un comité del Congreso de Estados Unidos analizan la posibilidad de implementar el programa denominado "Trabajadores Huéspedes", muy similar al programa de braceros aplicado de 1942 a 1964.

De ser aprobado, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización determinaría la forma en que se aplique este nuevo programa, que daría a los campesinos de México un permiso para trabajar con un empleador específico.

Carlos Marentes, dirigente del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas de la Frontera dijo que los gremios campesinos y otras organizaciones hispanas como el Concejo Nacional de La Raza, se oponen a la propuesta porque no ofrece garantías contra los abusos a estos trabajadores.

"Durante el programa Bracero se cometieron grandes abusos y nada garantiza que en esta ocasión no se repitan", dijo Marentes.

Añadió que el proyecto de ley no previene, por ejemplo, servicios básicos de vivienda digna y cuidados médicos para el campesino que participe en ese programa.

"Existe el peligro además de que los salarios sean todavía más bajos ya que el campesino no podrá cambiar de empleador una vez en Estados Unidos, potenciando posibles abusos", comentó el dirigente sindicalista. "El trabajador del campo llamará los abusos ante el temor de perder su empleo".

Actualmente, dirigentes campesinos de Estados Unidos llevan a cabo una campaña de información en zonas rurales de México para dar a conocer los detalles de esta propuesta.

Marentes denunció que en estados como San Luis Potosí, Zacatecas y Chihuahua, hay contratistas que engañan a campesinos ofreciéndoles permisos de trabajo bajo el programa "Trabajadores Huéspedes" por hasta 1,000 dólares, aunque el programa no ha sido aprobado oficialmente en EEUU.

Las autoridades promueven esta medida como parte de una estrategia para frenar la inmigración ilegal hacia EEUU, y ya ha recibido el apoyo de la Asociación Nacional de Agricultores y de otros sectores de la frontera.

El alcalde de Douglas (Arizona), Ray Borane, favorece programas similares al de braceros para reducir el cruce de indocumentados por esa ciudad fronteriza, que ha experimentado un aumento en los problemas de seguridad.

Marentes dijo que el programa de braceros fracasó precisamente por la falta de mecanismos para proteger a los trabajadores agrícolas contra abusos y que a la vez garantizaran buenas condiciones de vida para ellos.

A Letter About Last Week
 Dear Mr. Agüero:
 Re: 60% of Hispanics say Cops are Bad News!
 In reference to your article in the May 13th through 19th edition of your newspaper. You quoted our Mayor, Ms. Wendy Sitton, as saying, "I am hurt" in regard to Hispanic's feelings toward police. Maybe the Mayor should call upon Joe DeLaRosa's mother and debate their interpretation of "hurt". This is just an assumption on my part, but, I would guess that Ms. DeLaRosa's "hurt" at having lost her son far outweighs Mayor Sitton's "hurt" feelings.
 Thank you.
 Teresa V. (Terri) Contreras

Violence Mounting Along Arizona-Mexico Border

Douglas, Arizona, - Violence has reached alarming levels along the Arizona-Mexico border, where thousands of Mexican nationals and people from other countries sit in camps awaiting an opportunity to enter the United States illegally.

In one week alone, 27 immigrants lost their lives as a result of violence in the Mexican town of Agua Prieta, across the border from Douglas, Arizona. Local authorities fear the violence is just the beginning of a war among members of roughly 100 alien smuggling rings that bring immigrants into the United States.

The mayor of Agua Prieta, Vicente Teran, called his city "the Mexican Kosovo," arguing that thousands of Mexicans arrested in San Diego, California, are now being deported to his town through Douglas.

Some of the immigrants deported back to Mexico from Arizona seem to have banded together, forming neighborhoods made up of cardboard houses on the outskirts of Agua Prieta, where the majority of incidents of violence and assaults reportedly occur.

Teran described for EFE at least three groups he said were responsible for the violence taking place in that area daily - the guides - or "coyotes" - who fight with each other for control of the market, the criminals who assault the immigrants and even the deportees themselves who sometimes try to steal from each other.

Violence in Agua Prieta is reportedly rising as the number of immigrants increases.

The mayor of Douglas, Ray Borane, even wrote President Bill Clinton recently, asking him for help in stopping ranchers living near the border from taking the law into their own hands and attacking the illegal immigrants who cross their land.

Some Advice To U.S. Mexicans Who Want To Send Their Votes Back Home

By Ray Rodriguez

There is an adage in Spanish that roughly translates: Where is my country? Where things go well for me.

I bring that thought to the attention of my paisanos who are living here in the United States. It's a question especially appropriate for those who may seek to vote, under Mexico's new, relaxed "nationality" definition, in that country's presidential elections next year.

There are 7.1 million Mexican-born immigrants and 2.7 of their adult children residing in this country who could, if and when the proposal gains likely final approval from the Mexican legislature and the Mexican President, be added to that country's voter rolls. Potentially, they could represent 15 percent of Mexico's electorate.

We of Mexican ancestry have enough challenges facing us here without meddling in presidential elections south of the border.

Contrary to the claims of the legislation's proponents, the intent isn't to empower mexicanos living abroad, or to extend democracy.

In truth, it is an attempt to mobilize Mexicans and their children residing in what is often referred to as Mexico de afuera -- Mexicans living abroad, for the sole purpose of dethroning the entrenched ruling party, commonly known as the PRI -- Institutional Revolutionary Party in

English.

Not surprisingly, the opposition liberal Democratic Revolutionary Party and conservative National Action Party support the idea. They believe the infusion of millions of new voters would swing the 2000 presidential election in their favor. They are already opening offices and campaigning here.

Actually, the idea of seeking votes and political support among Mexicans living in the United States is nothing new. When contemplating a run for the presidency in the late 1920s, noted scholar, philosopher and Minister of Education Jose Vasconcelos visited the U.S. Southwest to elicit support among Mexican immigrants.

It may have made sense then, because most immigrants retained their allegiance to Mexico. Less than 2 percent ever applied for U.S. citizenship.

However, the situation among U.S. Mexicans is different today. Most permanent residents are naturalized citizens. Additionally, U.S.-born offspring of all foreign nationals enjoy U.S. citizenship.

Regardless of how noble the proponents' intentions are or are not, my paisanos here should consider several factors before deciding to vote. They must ask themselves:

- Do I exercise all the privileges and responsibilities of Mexican citizenship?

- Is my allegiance first and foremost to Mexico?

- Do I pay taxes and help to support the Mexican government in fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations?

- Am I eligible to run for public office and share in the governance of Mexico?

Additionally, would these mexicanos de afuera submit to Mexico's legal code and be governed by its laws? Would they render either jury duty and military service if it became necessary for them to do so?

And, more broadly, are they willing to accept all the consequences and responsibilities that loyal citizens of any nation assume when they join in the voting process?

I have no quarrel with the right of Mexican citizens who are temporarily residing, going to school, or working in the United States to avail themselves of the opportunity to vote in their native country's elections.

In fact, I encourage them to do so. It is not only a privilege, but the duty of all citizens to participate actively in their government. The voices of the people who must respond to any government clearly should be heard in the voting booth. (A report by Mexico's Federal Election Institute suggested last year that U.S. polling stations could be established in Mexican consulates, in churches, and even in neighborhood businesses.)

Voting represents a commitment to a country, a government and its people. As the growing success of the PRI's opposition parties attests, the Mexican people are perfectly capable of correcting political inequities without outside interference.

Rather than muddying the political waters or meddling in Mexico's internal affairs, Mexicans permanently residing in the United States should mind their own business. They can serve as an inspiration to their counterparts back home by demonstrating that their active participation in our U.S. democracy can produce positive results.

Therefore, I would urge them to become U.S. citizens and take an active role in the political process of their adopted country. There is still much to be done to improve the situation of Latinos in the United States.

They should heed the sage advice:

My country is where things go well for me.

Then they should give that country their sole and complete allegiance.

(Raymond Rodriguez of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor of history. He writes a weekly column on Hispanic issues for the Long Beach Press-Telegram.)

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HISTORY OF RAMSEY MUNIZ

For those of you who do not know of Ramsey Muniz, I want to share some of his history with you. Ramsey is a man who has been actively involved since the 8th grade. During his early years he realized that there were no minorities in his school's student council.



He ran for Student Council Vice President and identified other candidates who would be sensitive to the needs of the Mexicanos. He not only got elected, and also filled the other council positions with candidates of his choice. In high school Ramsey was a talented football player. Corpus Christi Miller High School won the state championship during his years, and his athletic talent allowed him to attend Baylor Law School in Waco, Texas. Throughout his years as a law student, Ramsey realized that the profession of an attorney was not to be his only destiny. He embraced the plight of his people, the Mexicanos. He represented and helped many, and spoke out against the injustices that we faced.

Ramsey's political activism upset school board elections, city council elections, and state and federal elected positions throughout the state. He made it possible, during those times, for the first Mexican mayor to be elected in Waco, Texas. He believed, and still believes that only through

our own political party will we receive the kind of representation that is owed to us. In 1972 and 1974 Ramsey ran for governor of the state of Texas under a political party called the Raza Unida Party. In doing so, he and the Raza Unida Party activists changed Texas politics forever. Ramsey Muniz's conviction and hard work took him throughout the state of Texas and beyond. Ramsey ventured to organize Raza Unida Chapters in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, California. As a result of his efforts, we have better representation than we ever had before.

ANCIENT CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

About the study of our ancient roots, Ramsey states, "What has no past can have no future. The Mexico world of the 21st Century must be composed of our past. We are here not to divide, but to unite, and to heed the voices of the past and not allow our anger, passion, self-hate, ignorance and pride to cloud our focus and vision in reclaiming and honoring our sacred ancient spiritual, cultural, and indigenous identities. Isn't it amazing that after 500 years, as we face insurmountable odds and adversity, that we continue to fulfill the legacies and prophecies of our ancient sacred spirituality? It is our destiny! We will continue to profess and reclaim the right of our happiness and freedom, and the essence of this sentiment within us is eternal.

I have come to witness a massive Mexican awakening of the hearts and minds of Aztlan and our Holy Land of Mexico like never before. It is not a movement but rather an awakening of Mexico consciousness that is not dictated or controlled by the master and oppressor, nor the so-called political leaders that seek only to profit for themselves. This awakening comes like a tidal wave, from the heart of nature, which embraces strength, love, and sacrifice of the masses of our people. It is the Mexico spiritual and cultural awakening of the 21st Century. It is the Rising of the Sixth Sun, for truly we are the children of the sun. We must firmly believe that we must build our own nation (Aztlan), within a nation. We as Mexicanos have the unique intelligence that equals any other nation in the world.

We of the 21st Century have the God-given right as a free people to elect our own leadership and to govern ourselves as we did once before during our glorious ancient civilization. Remember that our roots and sense of humanity come from the blood of kings and queens as we once ruled all the Americas. After 500 years, we continue to reunite to experience and celebrate the ancient sacred cultural and spiritual history of our ancestors, to share the historic days of our more recent heroes who shed their blood and sacrificed their lives. They did this so that we could demonstrate that same courage, valor, and respect, and claim to all nations in declaring that we of the 21st Century have been awakened to what is God-given to us from birth - freedom, justice, and the liberation of our land. They provided us with a spiritual vision of Aztlan's future as prophesized in our ancient documents and symbols.

We, la raza, have discovered that our ancient Nahuatl name for God is Mexi (Me-Sheeek) - the Creator. We know from our ancient spiritual history that Mexi warned Ixtacmixcoatl (Ish-tak-mish-coh-ah-tl), "White Cloud Serpent" the Mexican Noah, that the flood would soon come and that he was to prepare his family and core of believers. He, Mexi, would be with them to watch over them and to see that they would live to build a new and eternal Aztlan. We know that Aztlan really means "the land of the risen." Yes, we of the 21st Century have risen! Mexi is watching to see that we live to build a new Aztlan for the youth and the future generations of tomorrow.

Aztlan is our identity. You cannot escape from that unless you escape from yourself. You must remember that nationhood is not only a piece of land. It's in your blood. By virtue of our spiritual and cultural history, we prevail with Mexico pride because we are an indigenous people. We are not aliens. Our brothers and sisters from the Holy Land of Mexico are not aliens. We are not agents of re-discovery. We discovered and are rightful owners of this land on which we stand. We were here first, we are home grown like the maize that our parents and grandparents planted. We have grown through solid rock in population, within the last thirty years, as cactus grows through stone. We Mexicanos are the faithful. Wear here today because we have men and women who have kept their covenant with Mexi. Some have sacrificed their lives through uncompromising commitment. Others still wait, though they have not changed in determination. For those who wait, we share the courage and strength that comes into our hearts from the spirits of the Rising of the Sixth Sun.

We, the Mexicanos of the 21st Century, believe and understand clearly in our hearts why we are here, even if the world does not. The oppressor cannot be allowed to inherit the earth. As Mexi's people, we are liberators and our duty is to humanity and not to inhumanity. Remember that a people who have reached a spiritual, cultural, political platform, such as our ancient Mexicanos, would not have accepted a philosophy of life without profound and significant values of humanity. Ever since we received our name from Mexi, we were given a spiritual and cultural mission, which was to conceive a new Aztlan - the mecca for Mexicanos in the 21st Century. This mission began thousands of years ago. One of the greatest ancient spiritual warriors, Italcéel, was supreme council to three Aztec kings who were responsible for the spiritual and cosmic process, which was the examination and liberation of humanity - the people of the Fifth Sun.

We must tell the world of the spiritual and cultural awakening of the Rising of the Sixth Sun, because many of us have been converted or otherwise taught to despise our ancestral spiritual and cultural history. By sharing our hearts we contribute to the understanding of our true selves. In so doing, we inspire others to gain a greater appreciation of our people. Those who reach will embrace noble principles and ideals, which have been passed down from the ancient peoples to our modern spiritual and cultural Mexicayoatl. Because of Mexicayoatl, Aztlan will live forever! The one great all-embracing quality that is vital for such a task is the awareness that our mission is coming only through the grace of a divine soul - the organ of a higher destiny - divinity. Such is Mexicayoatl. Nahuatl power, our culture and spiritual power, is divine in origin. To go from the spiritual to the political is but one step. Global power struggle in our age of absolute politics lies in culture. You cannot have Mexican politics without culture! The general line, strategy and tactics of a true Mexican political party of the masses must be Nahuatl conquest through our spirituality and culture.

In conclusion, our spiritual and cultural awakening of the 21st Century means "to build the temple" for the Rising of the Sixth Sun. Building the temple is the key to understanding ourselves as a people today. We are building the temple by establishing a spiritual foundation that was prophesized by ancient legacies, signs and symbols. The building of the temple of Aztlan is not only the condition of Nahuatl culture and its fruitfulness, but a necessity. It is the struggle for universal existence, which keeps Nahuatl culture alive, and opens to it the doors of creation. We, the Mexicanos, are the creators!"

Ramsey R. Muniz - Tezcattlipoca

No soy Latino - Americano. No soy Mexicano - Americano. Soy Hispano. Soy Mexica.

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Graduation Edition
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Algunos Consejos Para Los Mexicanos De Los EE.UU. Que Quieren Enviar Sus Votos A Casa

Por Ray Rodriguez

Hay un refrán que dice algo así: ¿Dónde está mi país? Donde las cosas me vayan bien.

Traigo ese pensamiento a la atención de mis "paisanos" que están viviendo aquí en los Estados Unidos. Es una pregunta especialmente adecuada para aquellos que puedan procurar votar, a tenor de la nueva definición aflojada de "nacionalidad", en las elecciones presidenciales de aquel país el año que viene.

Hay 7,100,000 inmigrantes nacidos en México y 2,700,000 de sus hijos adultos que residen en este país y que podrían, si y cuando la propuesta obtenga la aprobación de la legislatura mexicana y el presidente, ser agregados a las nóminas de electores de aquel país. Potencialmente, ellos podrían representar el 15 por ciento del electorado mexicano.

Nosotros, los de descendencia mexicana, tenemos suficientes retos a que enfrentarnos aquí sin meternos en las elecciones presidenciales al sur de la frontera.

Al contrario de los alegatos de los proponentes de esa legislación, la intención no es habilitar a los mexicanos que vivan en el extranjero, ni extender la democracia.

En verdad, es una tentativa para movilizar a los mexicanos y a sus hijos que viven en lo que a menudo se menciona como el "México de afuera" -- los mexicanos que viven en el extranjero, con el sólo fin de destronar al partido oficialista, Partido Revolucionario Institucional, el PRI.

No es sorprendente que los partidos de oposición, el Partido

Revolucionario Democrático, el PRD liberal, y el Partido de Acción Nacional, el PAN conservador, apoyen a la idea. Ellos creen que la infusión de millones de nuevos electores cambiaría el resultado de las elecciones presidenciales del año 2000 a su favor. Ambos partidos ya han abierto oficinas y han estado haciendo campañas aquí en Estados Unidos.

Realmente, la idea de procurar votos y apoyo político entre los mexicanos que viven en los Estados Unidos no es nada nuevo. Al contemplar una postulación a la presidencia, a fines del decenio de 1920, el renombrado erudito, filósofo y Ministro de Instrucción Pública de México, José Vasconcelos, visitó al suroeste de los Estados Unidos para producir apoyo entre los inmigrantes mexicanos.

Eso puede haber tenido sentido entonces, porque la mayoría de los inmigrantes conservaron su lealtad a México. Menos del dos por ciento solicitaron alguna vez la ciudadanía estadounidense.

Sin embargo, la situación entre los mexicanos de los Estados Unidos es distinta actualmente. La mayoría de los residentes permanentes son ciudadanos por naturalización. Además, los hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos a todos los extranjeros disfrutaron de la ciudadanía estadounidense.

Sin perjuicio de cuán nobles sean las intenciones de los proponentes o no, "mis paisanos" de aquí deberían considerar varios factores antes de decidir si depositan sus votos. Deben pregun-

tarse:

- ¿Practico todos los privilegios y las responsabilidades de la ciudadanía mexicana?

- ¿Es mi lealtad primera y primordialmente a México?

- ¿Pago impuestos y ayudo a apoyar al gobierno mexicano en el cumplimiento de sus responsabilidades y obligaciones?

- ¿Soy elegible para postularme a cargos públicos y compartir en el gobierno de México?

Además, ¿se someterían estos "mexicanos de afuera" al código legal de México y a ser gobernados por sus leyes? ¿Prestarían servicio en un jurado y servicio militar si fuera necesario que lo hicieran?

Y, más ampliamente, están ellos dispuestos a aceptar todas las consecuencias y responsabilidades que asumen los ciudadanos leales de cualquier nación cuando se unen al trámite electoral?

No tengo problema con el derecho de los ciudadanos mexicanos que están residiendo, yendo a la escuela o trabajando temporalmente en los Estados Unidos para aprovecharse de la oportunidad de votar en las elecciones de su país natal.

En verdad, les animo a que así lo hagan. No es solamente un privilegio, sino el deber de todos los ciudadanos a participar activamente en su gobierno. Las voces del pueblo que deben responder a cualquier gobierno claramente, deben oírse en la urna electoral. (Un informe del Instituto Federal Electoral de México sugirió el año pasado que podrían

establecerse colegios electorales en los Estados Unidos en los consulados mexicanos, en las iglesias y hasta en los negocios vecinales.)

El votar representa un compromiso con un país, un gobierno y su pueblo. Como lo atestigua el éxito cada vez mayor de la oposición al PRI, el pueblo mexicano es perfectamente capaz de rectificar las desigualdades políticas sin interferencia exterior.

Antes que enturbiar las aguas políticas, o meterse en los asuntos interiores de México, los mexicanos que residen permanentemente en los Estados Unidos deberían ocuparse de sus propios asuntos. Ellos pueden servir de inspiración a sus colegas de su país natal, demostrando que su participación activa en nuestra democracia estadounidense puede producir resultados positivos.

Por lo tanto, les insto a convertirse en ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y tomar un papel activo en el trámite político de su país adoptivo. Hay todavía mucho que hacer para mejorar la situación de los latinos en los Estados Unidos.

Ellos deberían poner asunto al consejo del sabio: Mi país es donde las cosas me van bien.

Entonces deberían dar a ese país su lealtad única y completa. (Raymond Rodriguez, de Long Beach, California, es profesor jubilado en historia. Escribe una columna sobre asuntos hispanos en el "Long Beach Press-Telegram".)

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EL EDITOR #1 In News For You!

Local - State - National - International!

Belgrade Diary

Reporter Among Those Killed in Chinese Embassy

BY TERENCE SHERIDAN, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia -- I knew, all too briefly, two of the people killed

in the Chinese Embassy Friday night -- Xu Xinghu, a reporter for Beijing's Guangming Daily, and his wife Zhu Yin. They had moved into the embassy three days before, thinking it would be safe.

Officials blame the strike on an "intelligence failure." The embassy, a distinctive 5-story building set apart from other buildings in the area, was built two years ago for one purpose only -- to be the Chinese Embassy. Three were killed and 20 injured -- one blinded -- when three "precision weapons" from a B-2 Stealth struck.

Xinghu, 31, and I got our Yugoslav credentials together last August, drinking coffee and Scotch with a tardy but affable Serbian policeman who made us wait most of the afternoon.

A hard-working reporter with a smile for everyone, Xinghu spoke only fair English but excellent Serbo-Croatian. We ran into each other from time to time. He tipped me off to a good Chinese restaurant, but since it was in suburban Zemun, and NATO missiles have a habit of parking on the main street there, I put off a visit.

We talked often about food and I thought he would be impressed with the open-air markets' variety and price, but he was not -- compared to China, he said, the produce was expensive small pickings. But he did admit that it would be difficult to equal the Serbian peasant vendor who says, "If these greens aren't fresh you can come back tomorrow and spit in my mouth."

In his last story, a few hours before the embassy was hit, Xinghu wrote, "Today is pretty relaxed." It was relaxed, in part, because of a NATO-imposed power outage. He and Zhu Yin, 28, arts editor of the Guangming Daily, were married last year.

The unfortunate bombing of the embassy may play a key role in plans to settle the Kosovo conflict. A peace plan has been cooking for weeks and the Group of Eight, the seven major industrial democracies and Russia, is close to presenting a draft to the U.N.'s Security Council.

The fear in Belgrade is that Russia is about to "sell out" its Slav brothers, who said they would not accept any plan that includes NATO troops in Kosovo. But China, as a permanent member of the

Security Council, has a veto vote. Meanwhile, the tiny Chinese community here has been parading with banners proclaiming solidarity with Serbs and loathing for the U.S.-led Operation Allied Force.

Nevertheless, both NATO and the Serbs seem ready for a deal. A canny political survivor, Vuko Draskovic -- president of the Serbian Renewal Party and deputy federal prime minister, until he was recently sacked for comments "embarrassing" to the government -- says "I have no reason to fear that Russia will accept anything in the Security Council that would not be in our best interests, and to say no to Russia today would be suicide."

No matter what NATO says, Belgraders angrily refuse to believe it was an accident, like a hit man going to the wrong house. A 40-year-old woman -- before the war, a translator in Serbian, English, French and Russian -- vows to buy a gun to use against NATO if it invades.

She tells this to her mother, a retired Yugoslav Army colonel, who now lives in Toronto (and who still has a Nazi bullet lodged in her back, a legacy of her youth with Tito's Partisans in Bosnia).

"A little gun wouldn't do you any good against NATO." "I don't want a little gun, I want a big gun; I plan to be attacking."

"My dear, you are a fool. If NATO attacks, no gun, big or small, is going to help you. You have become a chauvinist, like all the Serbs."

Two women and two men arrive at an outdoor cafe as a sonic boom rattles the windows. The younger of the two women immediately turns on her heel, saying, "That's it! I'm leaving!" The older woman screams after her, "Where are you going, you idiot? You're going to cross the bridge!" She is referring to NATO leaflets in Serbian, just dropped on Belgrade, warning that the city's bridges are potential targets. The young woman reluctantly joins the others at a table where they order a platter of small spicy sausages and a large pitcher of beer, while nervously eyeing a blue sky and fleecy clouds.

Speaking of NATO leaflets, the people writing them come off sounding like Serb nationalists to the right of Slobodan Milosevic. The leaflets claim that during the President's 10-year reign hundreds of thousands of Serbs have been run out of Croatia and Bosnia, and are about to lose Kosovo -- precisely the point of the nationalists who argue that if Milosevic had done a better job, Serbs today would be united and living together in a "Great Serbia."

Noticias Breves

CNN y Time Eligen Lideres Latino Americanos del Siglo XIX

Nueva York. - La cadena de televisión "CNN" y la revista "Time" eligieron los que a su juicio serán los 50 "Lideres Latinoamericanos para el nuevo milenio" en los campos de la política, la economía, las ciencias, las artes y el medio ambiente.

Los seleccionados este domingo tienen todos menos de 40 años y se han hecho conocidos por sus actuaciones públicas en sus países de origen y en toda la región.

A juicio de los medios de comunicación estos jóvenes serán en el siglo XIX marcarán las pautas del desarrollo de la región en sus respectivos campos.

La mayor cantidad de líderes se encuentra, según Time y Cnn, en Brasil (15), seguido de México (9), Argentina (7), Colombia (4), Perú y Chile (3 cada uno) y Guatemala (2).

Los otros países que también se destacaron con un líder para el nuevo milenio fueron Costa Rica, Cuba, República Dominicana, Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Uruguay y Venezuela.

Los seleccionados por Brasil son el especialista en ordenadores Rodrigo Baggio; los expertos en medio ambiente Marcelo Carvalho de Andrade y Carlos Peres; el hombre de negocios Pedro Moreira Selles; los políticos Antohny Garotinho, Luiz Marinho, Gilmar Mauro y Jorge Viana; los activistas de derechos humanos y ayuda a los desamparados Viviane Senna, Ana Valeria Araujo, el Padre Marcelo Rossi; los artistas Patricia Melo, Vik Muñoz y Carlinhos Brown; y el científico Glaucius Oliva.

Por México los seleccionados son los hombres de negocios Emilio Azcarraga, Miguel de Icaza, Enrique Gomez Junco; los artistas Guillermo del Toro, Salma Hayek y la banda de rock Café Tacuba; los políticos Ricardo Monreal y Luis Tellez y el científico Humberto Terrones.

Por Argentina los medios seleccionaron a los científicos Carlos Ballare, Rodolfo Coria y Juan Maldacena; los artistas Paloma Herrera y Guillermo Kuitca; el hombre de negocios Eduardo Elzstain y el político Gustavo Beliz.

En Colombia los posibles líderes seleccionados son los políticos Ingrid Betancourt y Mauricio Cárdenas; los artistas Silvana Peternostro y Doris Salcedo y el científico Jaime Cavelier.

Por su parte en Chile se escogió al científico Juan Luis Castro, al escritor Alberto Fuguet y al economista Andrés Velasco.

De Perú se seleccionó a los hombres de negocios Juan Infante y Susana de la Puente y a la parlamentaria Lourdes Flores.

Otros países representados en la selección final son Panamá con Juan Carlos Navarro (ecologista); República Dominicana con Sammy Sosa (beisbolista); Costa Rica con Jorge Cabrera (ecologista); Osvaldo Rey de Cuba (ecologista); Fernando Moscote y Fredy Peccerelli de Guatemala (antropólogos forenses).

De Honduras se seleccionó a la política Gabriela Nuñez; de Uruguay el hombre de negocios Fernando Espuelas y de Venezuela la luchadora por los derechos humanos Liliana Ortega.

Activistas Defienden Programs de Acción Afirmativa

Washington. - Celebrando el 45 aniversario de una decisión del Tribunal Supremo que terminó con la segregación racial en las escuelas públicas, más de un centenar de activistas anunciaron una campaña para preservar los programas de acción afirmativa.

Entre sus planes están el de ofrecer una alternativa para contrarrestar el efecto de la proposición 209 en California que prohibió las preferencias raciales o de género para programas educativos del gobierno estatal, que beneficiaban a hispanos y afroamericanos.

El anuncio fue hecho hoy en un foro organizado en la Casa Blanca por Americans for a Fair Chance (AFC), que agrupa seis organizaciones de mujeres y de derechos civiles.

La reunión contó con la participación de líderes sindicales, educativos, activistas estudiantiles y religiosos.

Una representante del Fondo para la Educación y Defensa Legal para los Méxicoamericanos (MALDEF), Maritza Demeo, dijo que "todavía existen grupos que quieren detener esos programas porque no quieren el avance de las minorías".

MALDEF es una de las organizaciones hispanas que se ha opuesto, especialmente en California, a la eliminación de los programas de acción afirmativa.

Anthony Samu, presidente de la Asociación de Estudiantes de Estados Unidos (USSA), señaló que la coalición busca convertirse en una poderosa herramienta para que las comunidades entiendan la importancia de preservar los programas de acción afirmativa en las universidades del país.

USSA, que reúne a estudiantes de 350 universidades, se unió a la AFC para llevar a cabo campañas de educación comunitaria y universitaria para terminar con los "mitos" alrededor de los beneficios y valor de los programas de acción afirmativa en la educación superior.

Quienes se oponen a este tipo de programas afirman que esta ley discrimina a los estudiantes blancos, mientras que los que apoyan la acción afirmativa afirman que debido a que aún existe la discriminación, es necesario que existan ciertas preferencias para las minorías étnicas y raciales del país.

Los organizadores del foro mencionaron por otro lado un reciente estudio que reveló que las dos terceras partes de los votantes registrados tienen una opinión favorable de los programas de acción afirmativa.

En otros anuncios relacionados a la decisión tomada hace 45 años por el Tribunal Supremo, el secretario de Educación Richard W. Riley propuso hoy una iniciativa para que los sistemas de educación pública que reciben fondos federales se aseguren de que todas las escuelas obtengan similares beneficios.

El plan busca disminuir la brecha que separa a los ricos de los pobres y a las minorías étnicas y raciales de los estudiantes blancos.

Gregory Nava Confirma Dos Proyectos Hispanos Para Su Productora

Los Angeles. - El realizador Gregory Nava ha confirmado los dos proyectos hispanos que piensa producir como parte del acuerdo firmado con la compañía New Line para aumentar la cinematografía latina en Hollywood.

Los títulos provisionales de los proyectos son "McFarland" y "Taco Truck: The movie", ambos rodados en inglés y centrados en historias de corte hispano.

En el caso de "McFarland", el guión escrito por Laura Simon narra la historia de un joven que tiene que decidir entre su éxito como estudiante o la supervivencia de su familia.

Basado en una historia real, el guión cuenta con Simon como autora, la profesora premiada por el documental "Fear and Learning at Hoover elementary".

En el caso de "Taco Truck: The movie" la historia trata en tono de comedia las vidas de cuatro amigos que consiguen su sueldo gracias a las comidas que sirven desde una camioneta ambulante que tiene un "taco" mexicano como sombrero.

Nava será el productor de ambos proyectos aunque por el momento no se ha determinado quien se encargará de la dirección de cualquiera de las películas.

"New Line se toma muy en serio su sello hispano", indicó Nava que firmó el acuerdo no hace ni cuatro meses, durante la celebración del festival de cine independiente de Sundance.

"Estos y otros proyectos desarrollados bajo mi productora están dirigidos para una audiencia hispana pero con historias universales que tengan atractivo para todos", añadió.

Texas Congressman Wants To Split Border Patrol From INS

By DANE SCHILLER

EL PASO, Texas, May 13, 1999 -- A congressman who made his name controlling the border here wants to divorce the U.S. Border Patrol from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and create a Bureau of Border Enforcement - an agency on par with the FBI.

"We can not afford to have such a large agency, receiving basically a blank check from Congress, that has failed," Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, said of the INS, which is the parent agency of the Border Patrol.

Reyes, who was a Border Patrol sector chief in El Paso and in McAllen, charged that INS lacks the commitment to continue as "America's front line of defense" against drugs, undocumented immigration and terrorists.

Within a month, legislation will be introduced which would create the Bureau of Border Affairs, which would report directly to the Department of Justice, Reyes said in an interview from his Washington office.

Under his plan, the new bureau would include the Border Patrol's law-enforcement mission plus the INS's law-enforcement work at ports of entry.

INS would be left with an almost exclusively bureaucratic mission of handling the millions of inquiries a year regarding citizenship and legal residence in this country.

"What we are doing is a dismal failure," said Reyes, whose criticism of the INS has grown in the wake of a February announcement that the El Paso border patrol sector would not gain any new agents this federal fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

His comments came a day after he and other members of Congress renewed the attack on the Clinton administration for not complying with a law requiring

an increase of at least 1,000 new Border Patrol agents this year.

A letter signed by 47 House members and a dozen senators accused Clinton of surrendering in the fight against drug traffickers and undocumented immigration.

Maria Cardona, a spokeswoman for the INS in Washington, reacted to Reyes's proposal and comments by saying the agency is committed to controlling the border.

"There are many demands from many sides that are constantly being put on the agency," Cardona said.

"The complexity of administering our nation's immigration laws requires there be a constant balance between enforcing the laws and facilitating legal entry," Cardona added.

To help the INS accomplish its mission, Cardona said, the administration has proposed splitting the INS in two camps, service and law enforcement, but keeping the border patrol under the INS.

As far as new agents go, Cardona said, the INS is trying to manage a border patrol that has tripled in size to almost 9,000 agents in the past few years. The problem is finding enough qualified agents and ensuring not too many rookies are put in the field at the same time.

Reyes and others have said they expect the patrol will need to be at least 20,000 agents strong to do its job.

In 1993, Reyes launched Operation Hold the Line, an initiative here which placed hundreds of agents side-by-side for approximately 20 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border east and west El Paso.

While controversial at the time, it was widely viewed as successful in stemming illegal immigration and became a model for operations in Southern California and the Rio Grande Valley.

Almost 500 new agents are headed to South Texas this year and will surpass this slice of West Texas as the state's hot spot for controlling the border.

An additional 500 agents will be spread among Arizona, California and New Mexico. They came as the latest, and perhaps

last installment on a plan that has boosted the patrol's strength by 1,000 agents per year since 1996.

However, the new agents would not mean an increase in strength because many of the 1,000 would replace those lost to attrition.



MAY 28 - 30

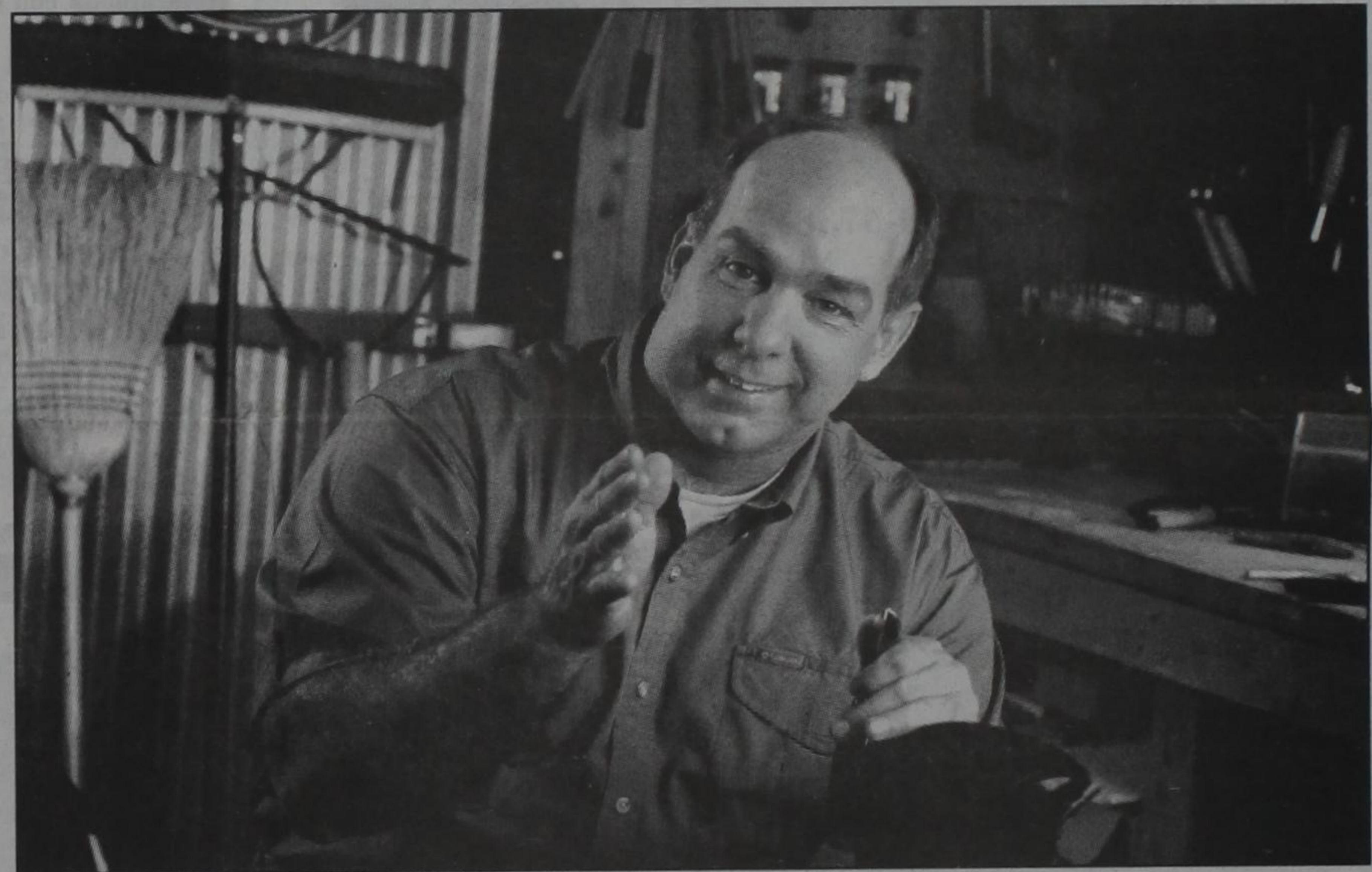
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One Doctor's Campaign

Against Traffic Orphans

By Jose R. Santana, M.D.

When I was 16 years old, my mother, Aidalis Rosado, una aficionada de flores, was returning from an annual flower festival in the Puerto Rican countryside. On the drive home, she was the victim of an alcohol-impaired driver. He rammed her car head-on. In an instant, Aidalis Rosado's three children - Sylvia, 17; Esteban, 14, and I - became motherless.

The crash was a revelation of sorts, and one of the reasons I became a doctor 10 years later. By studying to become a physician and learning about fancy tests, medications with long names, and complicated diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease, I reasoned, I could help my community.

Little did I know that my work would return to the issue of traffic safety, and that it would lead to a call to educate Hispanics about one of our greatest public health dangers.

I am one of the few Spanish-speaking doctors at Yale University. I have lost track of how many times I have had to call miembros de una familia at night or to gather with them in the emergency room to inform them that a loved one has died in a car crash. Or to inform grandparents, uncles or aunts that they are responsible for the care and future of yet another traffic orphan.

Most frustrating to me is knowing that the cure lies not in some fancy, expensive treatment, but often just in understanding that your loved one is more likely to survive a crash simply by wearing a seatbelt.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), every 14 seconds someone in the United States suffers a traffic-related injury; every 12 minutes someone is killed in a crash.

If that doesn't faze you, consider this: the number of individuals in the United States who

die from traffic injuries daily is equal to the total if a 120-passenger jet airliner plummeted into the ground every single day of the year.

Motor vehicle crashes have a particular impact in my community. Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death of Hispanics through the age of 24. They are the second leading cause among Hispanics ages 25-44.

Three out of five children under 16 who died in vehicle crashes were unrestrained. Children of color make up 42 percent of those who were improperly placed in infant car seats in the front seat.

Sadly, Hispanics are contributing to their own health crisis. The percentage of Hispanic drivers with blood alcohol levels above .10 doubled between 1973 and 1996. Although Hispanic male teenagers travel fewer vehicle-miles than their white counterparts, they are nearly twice as likely to die in a motor vehicle crash.

So how can you and I, as individuals and Hispanic health professionals, contribute to a solution?

It's not enough to say that seatbelts can save 9,500 lives each year, or that appropriate use of child car seats can reduce fatal injury to infants by as much as 69 percent.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the NHTSA are teaming with more than 100 ethnic organizations, including the National Hispanic Medical Association and the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations (COSSMHO), to put traffic safety on the national radar screen in Spanish as well as English.

They are partnering with us in developing culturally competent approaches to get the message across. Spanish-language media are helping by creating public service announcements

that tailor these messages culturally.

The most loving place for an infant in a car is not in his or her parents' arms. It's in a rear safety seat, riding backwards.

In one small Texas town a while ago, children's safety seats were distributed free to poor Mexican-American families. But the parents weren't using them. When questioned, the mothers responded that their children felt more secure in their arms. Only after the local priest blessed the safety seats did the families begin trusting and using them regularly.

This example is one of many being used by fellow health professionals such as NHTSA administrator Dr. Ricardo Martinez in our efforts to get the word out about the 1999 "Ponte el Cinturón de Seguridad" (Buckle Up America) traffic safety campaign, which is being launched this week.

My family's personal tragedy has inspired my passion to educate my community on this "curable plague." I hope that by sharing my experience and a few stark statistics, I can help others avoid having to face the loss that I bore as a boy, and the tragic consequences that families I counsel in my hospital's emergency room continue to endure.

Each of us can make a difference.

For more information on making your community safer, call 202-366-2683 or go to the NHTSA Web site: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

(Jose R. Santana, M.D., is a Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellow in Minority Health Policy and a staff physician at the Hospital of St. Raphael/Yale University School of Medicine.)

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Campana 'Cinturones de Seguridad'

La Campana De Un Medico Contra

Los Huerfanos De Trafico

Por el Dr. José R. Santana

Cuando yo tenía 16 años de edad, mi madre Aidalis Rosado, "una aficionada de las flores", estaba regresando de un festival anual de flores en el interior de Puerto Rico. En camino a casa, fué víctima de un conductor borracho. El se estrelló de frente contra el carro. En un instante, los tres hijos de Aidalis Rosado - Silvia, Esteban, y yo -- nos quedamos sin madre.

El accidente fué una clase de revelación, y una de las razones por las que llegué a ser médico 10 años después. Al convertirme en médico y aprender sobre exámenes raros, medicinas con nombres largos y enfermedades complicadas como la diabetes, el cáncer y las enfermedades del corazón, yo podría ayudar a mi comunidad.

Poco me imaginaba que mi trabajo regresaría al asunto de la seguridad en el tránsito, y que llevaría a un llamado para enseñar a los hispanos sobre uno de nuestros mayores peligros públicos.

Soy uno de los pocos médicos de habla hispana en la Universidad de Yale. He perdido la cuenta de cuántas veces he tenido que llamar a los miembros de una familia por las noches, o de reunirme con ellos en el salón de emergencia, para informarles que uno de sus seres queridos ha muerto en un accidente automovilístico. O bien para informar a los abuelos, los tíos o las tías de otro huérfano más, debido a accidentes automovilísticos.

Lo más desilusionador para mí es saber que la curación no depende de algún tratamiento raro y costoso, sino a menudo sólo de comprender que el ser amado tiene mayores probabilidades de sobrevivir a un choque sólo ajustándose su cinturón de seguridad.

Según la Administración Nacional para la Seguridad en el Tránsito en las Carreteras (NHTSA en inglés), cada 14 segundos alguien sufre una lesión relacionada con el tránsito en los Estados Unidos; cada 12 minutos alguien resulta muerto en un choque.

Si eso no le preocupa, consid-

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ere esto: La cantidad de personas que mueren en los Estados Unidos diariamente en accidentes automovilísticos es igual a la cantidad de personas que morirían si que un avión 727 se estrellara cada día del año.

Los accidentes automovilísticos tienen un efecto particular en mi comunidad. Los accidentes del tránsito son la causa principal de muerte de los hispanos hasta la edad de 24 años. Y son la segunda causa de muerte de los hispanos de las edades entre los 25 y los 44 años de edad.

Tres de cada cinco niños menores de 16 años que murieron en choques de tránsito no estaban sujetos a los asientos de seguridad para niños en los asientos delanteros de los autos.

Es triste el que los hispanos estén contribuyendo a su propia crisis de salud. El porcentaje de hispanos con niveles de alcohol en la sangre por encima de .10 (un décimo del uno por ciento) se duplicó entre 1973 y 1996. Aunque los adolescentes hispanos viajan menos millas por vehículo que los anglosajones de la misma edad, tienen casi el doble de probabilidad de morir en un accidente automovilístico.

De modo que, ¿cómo podemos, ustedes y yo, como personas y profesionales hispanos de la salud, contribuir al logro de una solución?

No es suficiente el decir que los cinturones de seguridad pueden salvar 9,500 vidas cada año, o que el uso adecuado de los asientos de seguridad para los niños puede hacer que disminuyan las heridas mortales en los infantes hasta el 69 por ciento.

La organización de las "Madres Contra la Conducción en Estado de Embriaguez"

(Mothers Against Drunk Driving, o "MADD") y organizaciones gubernamentales formaron una coalición con más de 100 organizaciones étnicas, incluyendo a la Asociación Médica Hispana Nacional (NHMA en inglés) y a la Coalición Nacional de Organizaciones Hispanas de Salud y Servicios Humanos (COSSMHO en inglés), para poner la seguridad automovilística en primer plano, tanto en español como en inglés.

Ellos están asociándose para desarrollar programas para la comunidad latina y los medios informativos en español están ayudando al crear anuncios de servicio público.

El mejor lugar para un infante que viaja en un automóvil no es en los brazos de uno de sus padres. Es un asiento de seguridad para niños fijado al asiento trasero del vehículo, mirando a la ventana trasera.

En un pueblito de Texas, hace algún tiempo, se distribuyeron asientos de seguridad para niños gratuitamente a las familias mexicanoamericanas de pocos recursos. Pero los padres no estaban usándolos. Al preguntarseles porqué, las madres respondieron que sus hijos se sentían más seguros en sus brazos.

Sólo después que el cura de la iglesia bendijo los asientos de seguridad para niños, fué que las familias empezaron a confiar en ellos y a usarlos constantemente.

Este ejemplo es uno de los muchos que usan mis colegas profesionales de la salud, tales como el Dr. Ricardo Martínez, Director de la Administración Nacional para la Seguridad del Tránsito en las Carreteras (NHTSA en inglés), en nuestros esfuerzos para dar a conocer la campaña de seguridad en el tránsito para 1999 titulada "Ponte el Cinturón de Seguridad" (Buckle Up, America) que está siendo lanzada en

continued on page 5

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Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc. seeks paralegal for its farm worker office in Plainview. Paralegal to serve as advocate for far workers with employment, civil rights, housing problems. Must speak, read, write Spanish and English fluently. Demanding job; travel and weekend and evening hours required to serve needs of clients. Duties include interviews, investigations, client representation before administrative agencies. Salary begins at \$14,800, with excellent fringe benefits. Mail resume to TRLA, P.O. Box 1658, Plainview, Texas 79073. Resumes accepted until June 15, 1999. For more information call 1-800-369-0585. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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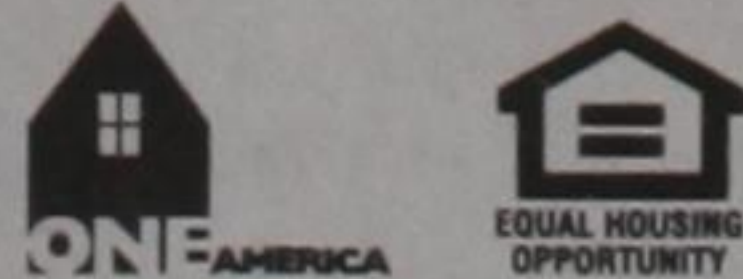
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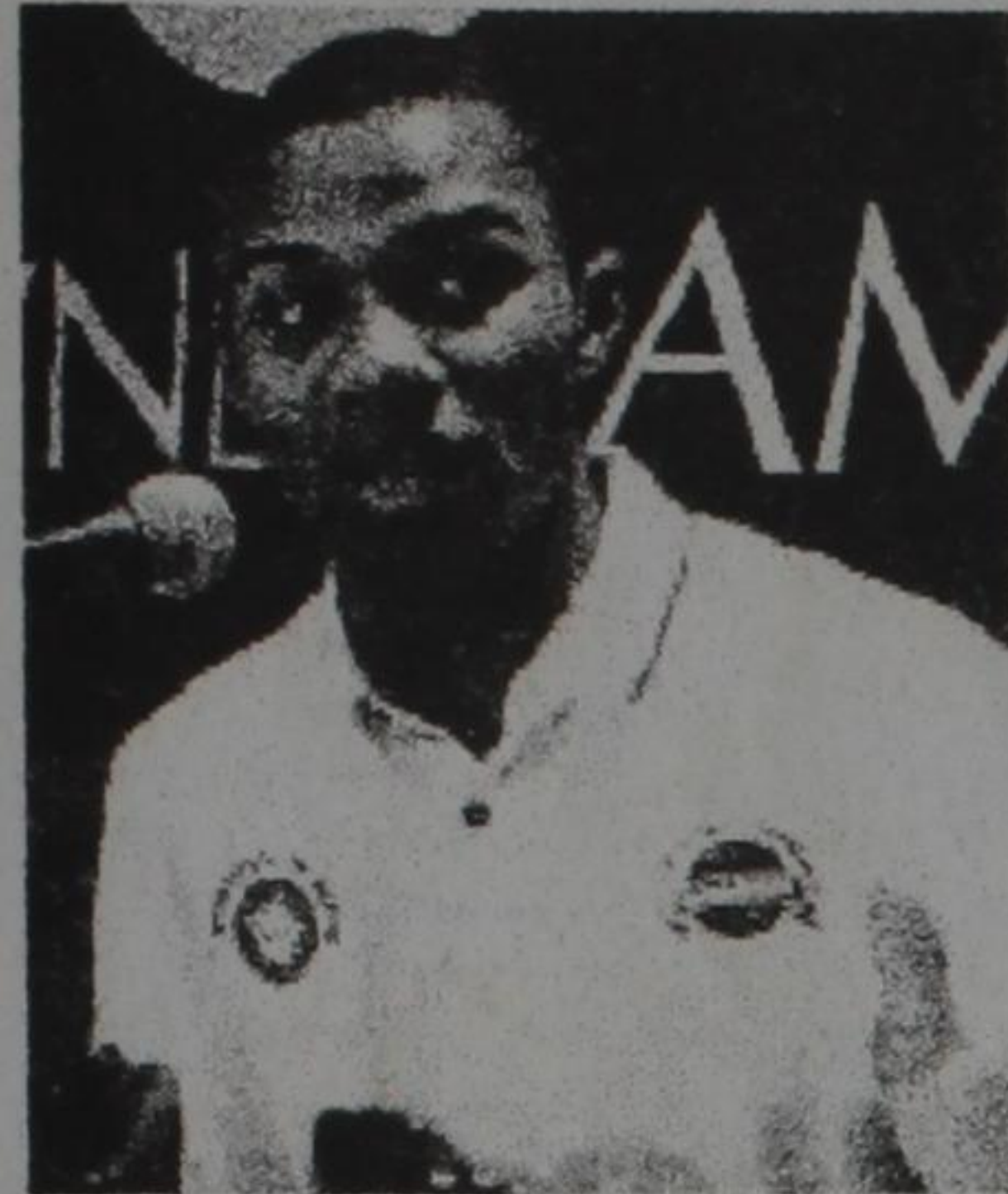
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De La Hoya, Trinidad Fight Getting Closer

LAS VEGAS -- A Sept. 18 fight between unbeaten welterweight champions Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad might happen after all.

Rival promoters Bob Arum and Don King exchanged new proposals for the 147-pound showdown, and Arum was encouraged enough to move back until Friday a deadline for Trinidad to sign for the bout.

"It appears to me that we're getting close," Arum said. "It's not there yet, but it is moving sufficiently that we may get an agreement."



Felix Trinidad could fight in September for the undisputed welterweight title. (AP)

Arum had given Trinidad, who is promoted by King, until 8 p.m. EDT Wednesday to accept a \$10 million offer for the fight. But, after getting a counteroffer from King for \$11 million, Arum extended the deadline until the same time on Friday.

ARUM SAID HE WAS sending King a new offer which makes some concessions on the points King raised in his counteroffer.

"Basically, the only issue is

money," Arum said. "We've made a compromise. Hopefully it will get done."

King spokesman Greg Fritz said the promoter wants a deal.

"He has said all along he wants the fight to be made for Sept. 18," Fritz said.

De La Hoya would make from \$12 million to \$15 million for the fight, which would be televised on pay-per-view. He suggested last week that Trinidad didn't really want to fight him and was using the money dispute to get out of the bout.

"It is too much money for him, but we're giving it to him," De La Hoya said. "If I were Trinidad I would sign that contract because he's never going to get another offer like this."

Trinidad's father, Felix Trinidad Sr., said Tuesday in Puerto Rico that his son would not fight for less than \$12 million. Trinidad said of the original \$10 million offer, King would pocket \$2 million.

"They want an excuse to not have to fight and so they are trying to make me the guilty party," the father said.

TALKS OVER THE FIGHT have overshadowed title defenses by both fighters, including a Saturday night WBC welterweight title defense by De La Hoya against Oba Carr in Las Vegas.

"We're keeping Oscar out of all of this," Arum said. "We want him to stay focused for Carr."

Trinidad fights a week after De La Hoya, defending his IBF 147-pound title against Hugo Pineda.

Both fighters are big punchers in their prime and both are looking to move up to 154 pounds, making the Sept. 18 date perhaps the last time they could meet at the welterweight limit. Trinidad is 34-0 with 29 knockouts while De La Hoya is 30-0 with 24 knockouts.

Cada uno de nosotros puede ayudar a hacer una diferencia. Para más información acerca de lograr que su comunidad sea más segura, llame al (202) 366-2683, o comuníquese con el lugar de la NHTSA en la Internet por el indicativo

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

(El Dr. José R. Santana es Becado del Commonwealth Fund de la Universidad de Harvard, para Cursos de Acción sobre la Salud de las Minorías, y médico del Hospital de St. Raphael, de la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Yale.)

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In The Zone Dallas Cowboys

The Cowboys are two months away from the start of training camp and they have no idea when, or if, Deion Sanders will play this season.

Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones said because the case of Deion's damaged digit is so "very unique," it would be inappropriate to establish a projected return date. Sanders' recuperation reportedly could take between four and six months.

"The surgery was performed to explore and repair what Dr. (William) Hamilton described as a 'rare and unusual variation of turf toe,'" Jones said. "The doctor has informed us that it is very difficult to compare Deion's condition to that of any other athlete."

Hamilton is the specialist who performed the surgery on San-



The Cowboys don't know when Deion Sanders can play again. (Allsport)

ders. Sanders injured the toe in the first period of the Cowboys' 35-28 victory over the Arizona Cardinals last Nov. 15 in Tempe. He played briefly in the next game against Seattle, and then was out until the Cowboys' play-off loss at the hands of Arizona on Jan. 2. Dallas went 2-3 during the five full games he sat out.

Team doctors said at the time there was nothing that could be done to help the toe except to wait. Sanders said he was ready to play just in time for the Pro Bowl on Feb. 7. Now, he might not be ready for training camp.

"We'll basically prepare the team as if he's not going to be there," Jones said.

It's something Dallas had to do in those seasons when Sanders was wrapping up his major league baseball season.

Jones said the team was not caught off-guard by the surgery. "The surgery was prescribed at this time -- and not an earlier date -- because an extensive evaluation period of healing and therapy had to first take place," Jones said.

The Personnel File

COMINGS & GOINGS: The team informed offensive lineman Nate Newton and running back Sherman Williams that they will not be re-signed and told receiver Billy Davis that he will be waived on June 1.

TOUGH TO TACKLE: The Cowboys didn't pick up a defensive tackle in the draft, and they're not in the free-agent market for one now.

"We're comfortable with our situation," said Stephen Jones.

There was a belief that Leon Lett's uncertain status would prompt the Cowboys to select a tackle or two in the draft. That didn't happen. Jones made it clear Tuesday the club didn't feel the need to strengthen the position with a veteran free agent at this time.

If Lett is suspended for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, Dallas would be left with Chad Hennings, Michael Myers, Darren Benson and Nathan Davis to rotate among the two tackle spots.

NEWTON OUT OF THE MIX: Left guard Nate Newton, a star member of the Cowboys' offense during their three Super Bowl wins in the '90s, probably won't wear a Cowboys uniform again.

Owner Jerry Jones said he has told Newton, an unrestricted free agent who spent the past 13 seasons with Dallas, that the Cowboys don't intend to re-sign him.

"Looking at the makeup of our offensive line right now, we've decided to go into the minicamps and training camp without Nate," Jones said. "He's had a great career with the Dallas Cowboys, and we want him to avail himself of any offers he has in the free-agent market."

Newton became expendable because the Cowboys are expected to move Larry Allen from left tackle to left guard and insert Flozell Adams at left tackle. Allen is widely considered the NFL's best offensive lineman, and the Cowboys believe Adams has Pro Bowl ability.

Noteworthy

There are those who swear Cowboys rookie Dat Nguyen is the hyperactive, hard-hitting reincarnation of Bill Bates.

The original is flattered. "I'm honored to have anybody say that he played like me," said Bates, now an assistant on the Cowboys' coaching staff.

STICK TO YOUR GUNS: There were a couple of defensive linemen available in the draft for Dallas in Texas Tech's Montae Reagar and Florida State's Larry Smith. Northwestern's D'Wayne Bates was still available at receiver as well.

LEANING ON LEON: The NFL has informed the Cowboys it will continue to monitor defensive tackle Leon Lett's performance in his after-care program before determining the severity of his suspension.

Although this keeps the Cowboys and Lett in limbo, it provides hope the Pro Bowl defensive tackle will not receive a one-year suspension for the second time in his eight-year career. According to sources, the NFL wants to see how well Lett adheres to the rigors of his after-care program, which includes counseling, meetings and drug testing, before making its judgment.

DANCE 'TIL YOU DROP: The hours are long, the pay is \$15 per game, but the competition for a position is tough. Everyone, you see, wants to be a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader.

"I'd watch the cheerleaders and say, 'I want to dance like her, and like her, and like her,'" said Kelli Robbins, 22, who failed to make the squad for the second year.

More than 500 women went through preliminary auditions, and 67 made it to Sunday's final audition. The 32 who survived the cut Sunday will go through several weeks of training before next year's squad is chosen.

From Page 4

esta semana.

La tragedia personal de mi familia ha inspirado mi pasión para enseñar a mi comunidad sobre esta "plaga curable". Espero que, al compartir mi experiencia y unas cuantas estadísticas aterradoras, pueda ayudar a otros a evitar el tener que enfrentarse con la pérdida que yo pasé de niño, y las trágicas consecuencias que continúan sufriendo las familias a las que asesoro en el sala de emergencia del hospital donde trabajo.

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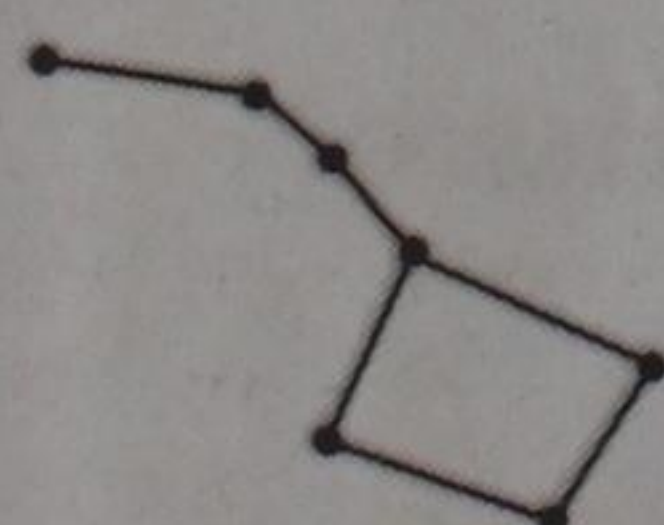
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